



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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April 16, 2022

Daily Times

Innovation in China's Agriculture

Muhammad Asif Noor

As the spring is about to meet in summer in China, the farming activities across the country are in full swing. In different regions of the country, farmers are preparing for cultivation using the latest technological and advanced methods resulting in value addition to the national economy. Based on these steps, China is offering tremendous support to countries on BRI and CPEC, especially Pakistan.

With the adoption of innovation, the latest technological ways, and robust indigenous policies, China is set to rejuvenate rural agriculture to achieve stability and increase agriculture production. This year, it is estimated that the CPC leadership aimed to develop nearly 6.67 million high-standard farmlands, as highlighted in the recently launched plans for agriculture development and progress.

The Chinese economy has transformed itself from agrarian to industrial revolution; however, the more substantial agriculture base has made this real progress possible. Over the past 30 years, there has been steady development in agriculture policies, adjustments, and scientific innovation and methods progress. These steps were meant to build new breeds, effective ways of water management, and training for farmers, and CSR has made tremendous progress.

The CPC leadership aims to develop nearly 6.67 million high-standard farmlands this year.

The steady rise in farmers' income and rural areas' resilience to cope with the shocks of the COVID-19 are a few of the primary aims and objectives of the government of China. As the innovation continues at the national level in China, this has enhanced the partnership between Pakistan and China over the CPEC, which is in the second critical phase of progress and development wherein agriculture cooperation is an important segment.

The contribution of agriculture to the GDP is facilitated by the government, which enables the manufacturing of advanced equipment, providing real-time data on products, weather patterns, and water availability. All these factors in unity create a massive potential in the agriculture sector of Pakistan as well, where agriculture cooperation is in full swing.

China has a considerable agricultural footprint and a manufacturing industry where Chinese farmers work tirelessly to provide the produce for their compatriots. Industrial advancement has revolutionized farming, enabling it to be a wholesome industry in China. As the temperature rises, farming activities get their pace across the Chinese mainland and autonomous regions.

The significant advancement of agriculture is the result of periodical reforms in China related to issues of agriculture, rural area, and farmers. China initiated policies of relief and subsidy targeted at farmers, including tax reduction, which facilitated 800 million Chinese farmers.

The subsidy is targeted at four items, including grain selling, seed purchase, machinery purchase, and transportation for the farmers. It helped the farmers to mechanise paddy and oilseeds enabling cash crops in China. At the same time, China developed the fruit farming, fishery, livestock, and other subsidiary agriculture sectors, which has given immense growth to the agricultural sectors of Pakistan.

China had to modernise and innovate its agriculture sector because it comprises 7% of global cultivated land, but it has to feed its most significant population. Realizing the constraint, China has made intensive investments and modernization to enable Chinese food requirements because food security has always been critical to Chinese policymakers who realize that the growth of agriculture is indispensable to the growth of the economy.

It is essential to mention that China's agricultural growth is critical for China and the world. China has gained momentum in agricultural production to balance the global grain supply and maintain stable prices. In 2020, China employed 23.6 % of the workforce in the agricultural sector, which produces 18% cereal grains, 29 % meat, and around 50% of vegetables in global agro-based industries. Overall, China contributes 20% of the global food only because of its farming and cultivation innovation.

There is ongoing cooperation related to skills and technical development and training progress for researchers, scientists, farmers, and officials. This cooperation has offered Pakistan an option to move towards a positive trajectory and set the direction for sustainable growth. With a substantial agriculture advancement and expertise, Pakistan is heavily benefiting from this vital progress with its economy having a strong agriculture base.

China's approach has always been to share the latest learning and technology with the partner countries, which has helped China as well in cross-learning. Chinese agriculture experts are helping the old agriculture practices in BRI countries, especially its neighbours. There is a strong urge from China to create a shared future where everyone has an equal opportunity to grow and live a better and peaceful life.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/920189/innovation-in-chinas-agriculture/>

Chinese technology based smart classrooms to invigorate education system

Chinese technology based smart classrooms will help to invigorate education system in Pakistan, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Now, a project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) called 'Smart Classroom' is growing vigorously in 50 universities across Pakistan, which may breathe new life into Pakistan's education system in the near future.

According to Chen Chun, project manager from China Railway Signal & Communication Shanghai Engineering Bureau Group Co., Ltd., in the smart classrooms, teaching can be realized both offline and online at the same time, overstepping the boundaries of time and space, and interaction between teachers and students will be much more enhanced.

Moreover, through advanced information and communication technology from China, an intelligent system of data sharing and assessment will be established.

“The smart classrooms will improve the accessibility of students from one location to the best teachers located at another place,” Umar Idrees, Pakistani site engineer of the ‘Smart Classroom’ project told CEN.

It’s learned that a total of 100 smart classrooms will be built at 50 public universities in 49 cities from Hunza in the northernmost to Karachi in the far south, covering all the provinces and regions of Pakistan, which means the state-of-the-art educational resources will be better utilized and distributed over the whole country.

It’s indeed inspiring for students who currently lack high-quality educational resources in the country. The construction of the ‘Smart Classroom’ project started from September, 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the team has risen to many challenges in equipment and material imports, customs clearance and construction, etc.

“Now all the equipment and materials of the project have arrived at our warehouse in Pakistan. We’re striving to complete the whole project by November,” Chen Chun said.

As CPEC entered the second phase of improving people’s livelihood, education has become one of the key areas to develop to help the Pakistan alleviate poverty and let more Pakistani people live a better life. “The Smart Classroom project will benefit the university students in Pakistan who are the pillar of the state in the future. It will greatly promote the development of higher education in Pakistan, supporting Pakistan to evolve into a knowledge-based economy,” Chen Chun concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/920218/chinese-technology-based-smart-classrooms-to-invigorate-education-system/>

The Express Tribune

Sesame seed exports to China surge 190%

Beijing-Islamabad trade increases after free trade agreement

BEIJING: Pakistan’s sesame seed export to China surged to \$42.88 million in the first two months of 2022, showing a growth of 190.48% on a year-on-year basis.

According to General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), China imported 28,662.66 tons of sesame seeds worth \$42.88 million, marking an increase of 141.37% by volume, while last year in the same period it was 11,874.82 tons worth \$14.76 million.

During the first two months of 2022, the bilateral trade has increased significantly and Pakistan’s exports to China crossed \$670 million, which recorded a nearly 23% increase.

In January, Rakesh Pal Khamuani, Director of Exports and Business Development, told China Economic Net that sesame seed trade increased between China and Pakistan after the free trade agreement took effect.

He said that China and Pakistan have always supported each other for better bilateral trade, and China is the biggest importer of sesame seeds whose demand is huge and increasing every year because they also do value addition and re-export.

“In the crop year 2021-22 (current), 90% of the crop production is exported from August 2021 to March 2022. This is the first time in history that the crop is finished earlier even before the new harvest starts, from which 80% has been exported to China with shipments from September 2021 to March 2022,” he added.

Khamuani stated that sesame seed trade has been very important recently in Pakistan.

On average Pakistan produces 100,000 tons of sesame seeds, of which 85% is exported and the rest is used in the local market for bakery and sweets during winter.

This year exports have crossed 85% of the total production in just seven months of current fiscal year and there are five more months until the new harvest crops of 2022-23.

“If we look into the year 2022, from January to March only 35% of the total production was exported to China, though we were expecting much more. However, if we compare September to December 2021, exports to China were 85% of the total production,” he mentioned.

He believes that due to the border and geographical location of Pakistan, transit time will be given priority. However, Pakistan must have good crops with both quantity and quality.

He added that weather plays an important role when it comes to the production of sesame seeds and said that it is too early to talk about the new crop in 2022-23 as sowing will start after April 2022.

It is to be noted that Pakistan’s export of sesame seeds to China achieved a historical figure of \$120.44 million in 2021.

China imported 92,516.55 tons in 2021 and was one of the main destinations for sesame seed exports from Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2352775/sesame-seed-exports-to-china-surge-190>

The Nation

CPEC: “Shehbaz Speed” Returns

The heydays of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are set to come back after the dramatic return of “Shehbaz Speed”, a famous title awarded by China a few years back to then CM Punjab Shehbaz Sharif, who is now the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

“Shehbaz Speed” had once become a symbol of rapidness and fervency on CPEC, which was acknowledged by the Chinese government with pride. Given the position of then CM Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif had smoothened development processes, completed projects even before the set deadlines, ushered in an era of a prolific working relationship with Chinese companies, fixed bureaucratic glitches, rejuvenated the chain of command to pull away stumbling blocks and achieved many milestones on the progress of CPEC that are still remembered by Chinese officials.

Recognising his meritorious performance on December 20, 2016, the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Minister Zheng Xiaosong, gave then Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif the title of ‘Shehbaz Speed’. Zheng said he and his delegation members were inspired by the unmatched pace of development in Punjab. “China is known throughout the world for completing development projects in short times but even by Chinese standards, the pace of work is exceptional.”

Later, on January 25, 2021, outgoing Chinese consul general Lahore, Long Dingbin sent a letter to Shehbaz Sharif heaping praise on him for achieving “Shehbaz Speed”. He lauded Shehbaz Sharif’s contributions as then Punjab’s chief minister for CPEC projects.

In the letter addressed to the PML-N president, he termed the former Punjab CM an “old friend of China” and added that he was impressed by his devotion for CPEC projects.

“You have seen CPEC projects realised, which not only created the impressive ‘Punjab Speed’ but embodied our profound bilateral friendship,” he wrote in a farewell letter.

The consul general said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz will always remain a “great friend” of China, whether “it’s in power or as an opposition party”.

“I am sure, as a leader of the National Assembly you [Shehbaz] will continue to work as always to promote the friendship of our two parties, our two nations and our two people,” the Chinese official added. The Chinese consul general concluded his letter wishing Shehbaz good health and success.

Many politicians termed the letter of the Chinese consul general to Shehbaz as a matter of pride for Pakistan. “A great friend like China is also testifying to Shehbaz Sharif’s transparency, honesty, integrity and hard work while he was chief minister,” they added.

Expressing emotional attachment with China and CPEC, as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif uttered the words “Shehbaz Speed”, a title awarded by China to him on his meticulous performance on CPEC during his former position as CM Punjab many years back.

In his first speech in the parliament after being chosen as 23rd PM Pakistan, he said categorically that “Shehbaz Speed” will become now “Pakistan Speed”, saying Pakistan-China relations are exemplary and phenomenally unmatched.

The “time-tested friendship with China has a long rich history and we will advance this bond to new heights,” he mentioned. China also felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the new prime minister of Pakistan.

Taking to Twitter, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said, “China looks forward to working with Pakistan to build a high-quality China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.”

He maintained that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic and comprehensive cooperation partners with rock-solid and unbreakable relations.

Later, Pang Chunxue, the Charge d’ Affaires at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, called on the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The meeting took place at the Prime Minister’s House. Pang Chunxue congratulated the Prime Minister and conveyed good wishes of the Chinese government and leadership on the assumption of office.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his part, conveyed warm greetings as well as an appreciation for the Chinese leadership. He reminisced about his many visits to China.

During those visits, he had also met with President Xi Jinping who took a personal stake in fostering ties with Pakistan. The Prime Minister of Pakistan appreciated the persistent progress of CPEC as the flagship project of President Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative.

The newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan also reaffirmed the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan as a cornerstone of Pakistan’s policy and factor for regional peace and stability.

China lived in the hearts of the Pakistani people and China was Pakistan’s closest partner and strongest friend. Lastly, the Prime Minister affirmed his government’s commitment to further advancing a win-win economic collaborative alliance between the two countries.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is also the President of the PML-N, the largest political party in Pakistan at the moment.

He is also the longest-serving chief minister of the Punjab province, having served on the post three times since he began his political career nearly four decades ago. I hope he can manage to achieve ‘Pakistan Speed’ in the shortest time frame possible.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/16/cpec-shehbaz-speed-returns/>

K2 Daily

کونے کی کاغذوں کے تازے کوئلے کیا۔ پاک فوج نے معاشرتی ترقی کے لئے پہلے پروگرام بھی شروع کیے جس میں تعلیم، صحت، مواصلات اور انفراسٹرکچر خصوصاً قومی دی گئی۔ بلوچستان کے نوجوانوں کو ملک بھر کے بڑے بڑے تعلیمی اداروں میں اپنی اعلیٰ تعلیم حاصل کرنے کی سہولت دی گئی تاکہ وہ اپنی اعلیٰ تعلیم حاصل کر سکیں۔ FC اور فوج کے ماتحت سکول اور کالجوں میں 30 ہزار سے زائد طلبہ زیر تعلیم ہیں۔ بلوچستان کے نوجوان بہت بڑی تعداد میں پاک فوج میں بھرتی ہو رہے ہیں اور انہیں فوج کے لئے اپنی خدمات انجام دے رہے ہیں۔ پاک فوج میں بلوچوں کی تعداد چار لاکھ ہے۔ اس وقت 30 ہزار بلوچ پاک فوج میں خدمات سر انجام دے رہے ہیں۔ جن میں 1800 آفیسر دہیپے کے ہیں۔ سپاہیوں اور آفیسروں کی بھرتی میں جوصلہ افغانی کے لئے Baloch اور ISSB اور Recruitment Center سے کام کر رہا ہے۔ 2019 میں خضدار سے تعلق رکھنے والے نوجوان شیب میں یونیورسٹی میں بلوچستان کے پہلے لیڈر منتخب ہوئے۔ انہیں پاکستان نل آئیڈیٹی (PNA) میں Sword of Honor کی گزشتہ سال انٹور میں کوئلے سے تعلق رکھنے والے 144 PMA ایک کورن میں ان اور بلوچ کو Sword of Honor دی گئی۔ ان کے دو بھائی پہلے سے پاک فوج میں ہیں۔ وفاقی حکومت نے بلوچوں کو قومی دھارے میں شامل کرنے کے لئے مختلف اقدامات کیے جس کا نتیجہ یہ نکلا کہ بہت سے بلوچ قانوں کی پاکستان کے حامی ہو چکے ہیں۔ حکومت کی استثنائی پالیسی کے نتیجے میں اب ہزاروں کی تعداد میں پاکستان مخالف سوچ رکھنے والے نوجوان پاک فوج کا حصہ ہیں۔ نوجوان بلوچستان پروگرام کا دس سالہ نتیجہ بھی منظر ساز کی عمر میں ہے۔ اس پروگرام کا آغاز بھی پاک فوج نے وفاقی حکومت کی مدد سے کیا۔ بلوچستان کی تمام اور سکولوں کی ترقی اور بلوچستان میں پانچ لاکھ سے زائد نوجوانوں کو تعلیم فراہم کرنے کے لئے اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے اور اس ادارے سے صوبے کی معاشی اور معاشرتی ترقی اور استحکام کے حصول کے لئے کوئی سرانجام نہیں رہی۔



گستاخوں اور سرکاری نظام منقطع کرنا تھا۔ مختلف اداروں اور اعزاز میں Greater بلوچستان کا فروغ لگ رہا ہے جسے بروٹی مدد حاصل رہی ہے۔ اعلیٰ ترقیوں کا فائدہ ملک دشمن قوتوں نے اٹھایا ہے پاکستان کو تھم نہیں دیکھتیں۔ بروٹی نے گرم پائوں تک رسائی کے نام پر جنوب کی جانب بڑھنا شروع کیا اور اس علاقے کے لوگوں پر اثر انداز ہونا شروع کیا۔ یہاں کے استثنائی نظام نظر رکھنے والے لوگوں کو بروٹی میں تعلیم کے مواقع فراہم کیے گئے اور وہاں ان کا brain wash کیا گیا۔ صوبے میں ترقیاتی کاموں کو نظر سمجھا جانے لگا اور پھر سربراہوں نے جہاں تک ہو سکے قدرتی وسائل اور اس کے ہوش راکھی مطالعہ کر کے کاموں میں رہنے والے کی کوشش کی۔ بلوچستان اپنے



تعلیمی قدرتی کی حد سے بہت عرصے سے بروٹی قوتوں کی مداخلت کا آثار دیکھنا تھا جس میں ترقی سے فوجیں ہیں خصوصاً گوارا بندرگاہ اور CPEC جو کران کے مفاد میں ہیں۔ ہاشمی میں بلوچستان نے پارلیمینٹ کے اٹن کا معاملہ اٹھایا، جو وہ خود اپنی ریاکتوں کے درمیان بین الاقوامی سرحد سے اس تنازعے کی وجہ سے بلوچستان نے پاکستان میں ہونے والی تمام بھارتیوں کو ہائی انداز، اسطر اور مختلف فرام کیا ہے۔ پاکستان اور افغانستان کے درمیان سرحد 2451 کلومیٹر طویل ہے، جس کا 1268 کلومیٹر علاقہ بلوچستان میں ہے۔ یہ سرحد بین الاقوامی قوانین کے مطابق پاکستان اور افغانستان کی قانونی سرحد ہے۔ طالبان کی حکومت کرنے کے بعد افغانستان میں بھارتی اثر و رسوخ بہت بڑھا۔ انہوں نے BLF, BRA, BLA, TPP اور JuH کی دہشت گرد تنظیموں کی مالی معاونت کی تاکہ وہ پاکستان میں دہشت گردی پھیلایا کریں۔ بھارت نے اپنے شہکار اور ہرات کے علاقوں سے 1976 میں بلوچستان کی جنگاریوں کو ہوا دی۔

صوبہ بلوچستان پاکستان کے کل رقبے کا 43.6 فیصد ہے۔ اس کے مغرب میں ایران اور شمال میں افغانستان ہے۔ مشرق میں ہاشمی سرحد سندھ، پنجاب اور شمال مشرق میں خیبر پختونخوا سے ملتی ہے۔ جنوب میں 760 کلومیٹر پھیلائیے ہوئے عرب کا ساحلی علاقہ ہے۔ صوبے کی انتظامیہ کو دو حصوں A اور B میں تقسیم کیا گیا ہے جسے پولیس اور یونین سمجھتے ہیں۔ یہاں مختلف قومیں آباد ہیں جن میں بلوچ، پشتون، ہزارہ اور آریہ قومیں شامل ہیں۔ یہاں کا نظام قبائلی ہے۔ بلوچ قبائل میں سربراہی نظام مشہور ہے جہاں بڑے بڑے اور لوہوں اور سرداروں کو بڑا رتبہ حاصل ہے۔ بلوچستان کے لوگوں نے پھر وہی آزادی میں بڑے بڑے حصہ لیا۔ کیم ہند کے موقع پر یہاں کے اہم کانگریس نے پاکستان میں شامل ہونے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ بلوچستان کو کم جوادی 1970 میں صوبے کا درجہ حاصل ہوا۔ بلوچستان بہت سے علاقوں سے اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ اول اس کے کل قریب کی وفاقی اہمیت، دوم اس کے مغرب میں گوارا کا ساحل جو کہ اگلے برس کے سامنے واقع ہے جہاں سے دنیا کا 40 فیصد تیل نکرتا ہے۔ سوم، اس کے تیل بھرا معدنیات ہیں اور تیل کے ذخائر ملک کی توانائی کے راز ہیں جس کو اہل درنگی کی کل پیداوار کا 40 فیصد بلوچستان سے حاصل کیا جاتا ہے۔ چارم یہ ہے مسابہ بلوچستان کی طرف راستہ فرام کرتا ہے جس کو سمندر تک رسائی حاصل نہیں۔ بلوچستان کے ذریعے افغانستان کو وسطی ایشیاء تک رسائی مل سکتی ہے۔ پنجم، CPEC منصوبے نے بلوچستان کی اہمیت میں گنا اضافہ کر دیا ہے اور یہی وجہ ہے کہ بین الاقوامی قوتیں اس منصوبے کو نقصان پہنچانا چاہتی ہیں۔ ششم، پاکستان کے کل ساحلی علاقے کا 70 فیصد حصہ بلوچستان کے پاس ہے۔ پورے ملک میں باقی تیری سے حاصل شدہ مچھلیوں کا 30 فیصد بلوچستان فراہم کرتا ہے۔ گوارا، کبھی، سوہانی اور اوماڑہ کے اہم ساحلی مچھلی بلوچستان میں ہیں۔ ریاست قلعے کے پاکستان سے الحاق کے معاملے کو بنیاد بنا کر یہاں کی قوم پرست جماعتوں نے پھوٹا پھند سرداروں کی سربراہی میں بھارت شروع کر دی۔ بھارت کی ایک اور بڑی وجہ بلوچستان کی اہلیوں کو تھم

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Editorial&Date=2022-04-16>

April 17, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan seeks China's help to modernize agri sector

The cooperation between China and Pakistan in the agricultural sector can greatly help Pakistan modernize and boom in this sector, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said.

According to Gwadar Pro, Ambassador Moin ul Haque held a virtual meeting with Professor Deng Xiuxin, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), and their counterpart from Pakistan, Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

Leading experts and faculty members of Huazhong Agricultural University also participated in the meeting. “Pakistan was keen to learn from Chinese experience and expertise for modernizing the agriculture sector in Pakistan, with a focus on corporate farming, new seed development for enhancing crop yield, the introduction of new varieties of agriculture products, establishing agro-industry and setting cold chain network,” Moin ul Haque stated. In his remarks, the ambassador highlighted the growing significance of the agricultural cooperation between the two countries as the agricultural sector of Pakistan is the backbone of the national economy and is important for food security.

The ambassador also praised China for its progress in the agriculture sector and believed Pakistan could modernize this sector under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During the meeting, the discussions focused on China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, and Special Agri Technology Zone was proposed to enhance the cooperation.

Professor Iqrar gave a detailed presentation about the ongoing cooperation between Faisalabad Agriculture University and Chinese universities, highlighting new areas of cooperation. He proposed the establishment of a Special Agriculture Technology Zone in Faisalabad and invited Chinese counterparts and enterprises for this project. Professor Deng positively noted the proposals and expressed full support of CAE for strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the agriculture sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/920768/pakistan-seeks-chinas-help-to-modernize-agri-sector/>

ML-I to transport over 20pc of freight business

Pakistan Railways is expecting to transport over 20pc of the country’s freight business after the completion of Main Line-I (ML-I) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which would help the department to make profitable entity.

Currently, Pakistan Railways was transporting only 4pc of freight traffic in the country, which was not sufficient for the department, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said the ML-I had been planned to be executed in three packages, adding, preliminary design of the project had been completed and a formal request for the loan for Package-I had been conveyed to the Chinese side.

ML-I is 1872-kilometer long track from Peshawar to Karachi, expected to create around 24,000 jobs, and would jump up train speed to 160 kilometers per hour, he added.

He said railway line would be upgraded from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian while a new track would be laid with improved sub grade for 160km per hour. Bridges would also be rehabilitated and constructed.

Moreover, he said, provision of modern signalling and telecom systems, conversion of level crossing into underpasses or flyovers, fencing of track, establishment of dry port near Havelian and up-gradation of Walton Training Academy (Lahore) were also the components of this gigantic project.

He said completion of the project would not only create direct (20,000 local labour/technical experts and 4,000 Chinese experts) jobs but also reduce travel time between Karachi to Lahore from 18 to 10 hours.

The official said the capacity of the line would also be increased from 34 trains to 170 trains per day and speed of the freight trains would be increased at 120 km/h.

After its completion, he said, the project would generate economic opportunities for daily wagers in main train stations of major cities and would also attract the foreign investment.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/920657/ml-i-to-transport-over-20pc-of-freight-business/>

Pakistan keen to learn from Chinese experience of modernising agri sector

Pakistan is keen to learn from the Chinese experience and expertise for modernising its agriculture sector with focus on corporate farming, new seed development for enhancing crop yield, introduction of new varieties of agriculture products, establishing agro industry and setting cold chain network.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque made these remarks in a virtual meeting with Professor Deng Xiuxin, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE). Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and leading experts and faculty members of Huazhong Agricultural University also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the discussions were focused on China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture. Ambassador Moin also highlighted the growing significance of agriculture sector for cooperation between the two countries and praised China for its progress in the agriculture sector.

Pakistan was keen to learn from Chinese experience and expertise for modernising agriculture sector in the country, with focus on corporate farming, new seed development for enhancing crop yield, introduction of new varieties of agriculture products, establishing agro industry and setting cold chain network.

Prof. Iqrar gave a detailed presentation about the ongoing cooperation between Faisalabad Agriculture University and Chinese universities highlighting new areas of cooperation. He proposed the establishment of a Special Agriculture Technology Zone in Faisalabad and invited Chinese counterparts and enterprises for this project. Prof. Deng positively noted the proposals

and expressed full support of CAE for strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the agriculture sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/920656/pakistan-keen-to-learn-from-chinese-experience-of-modernising-agri-sector/>

April 18, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC IPPs: MoF refuses to support Rs50bn supplementary grant

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Finance (MoF) has refused to support supplementary grant of another Rs50 billion for the power projects established under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), well informed sources told Business Recorder.

Power Division had sent a summary to the Finance Ministry in this regard for comments. The summary is yet to be considered by the new ECC, to be constituted after the new Cabinet takes oath.

On April 15, 2022, Finance Division wrote to the Power Division that earlier it was given to understand that the GoP at a higher level will engage CPEC IPPs to consider voluntary reduction in the tariff, as well as, excess profitability issue in line with settlement agreed with other IPPS. However, pending resolution of the issue with a view to address liquidity issues of these power projects, the Finance Division with the approval of ECC/ Cabinet has already provided an amount of Rs.50 billion to the Power Division.

Finance Division maintained that during a meeting with the IMF, the issue was raised specifically regarding different treatment in this case vis-à-vis other IPPs.

The sources said, Finance Division has requested the Power Division to provide the updated position during the meeting of the ECC.

Finance Division has further stated in view of tight fiscal space arising due to significant shortfall in recovery of Petroleum Levy and Sales Tax on petroleum products' as well as, provision of subsidy on price differential claims and reduced rates of consumer end electricity tariff, it does not support the proposal for a supplementary grant of another Rs.50 billion. Cabinet Division has also asked Power Division to submit the summary afresh for grant of Rs 50 billion supplementary grant for payment to CEPC projects, after seeking approval from the new Minister- in-Charge.

The cash strapped Power Division has sought Prime Minister's help to recover Rs 111 billion from provinces sans Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Power Division has initiated a country wide recovery campaign to enhance recoveries of Discos in order to improve their financial health and to enable them to timely pay-off power purchase

cost to avert unnecessary accumulation of supplementary charges which increase in the circular debt. For this purpose, Power Division has approached the concerned Secretaries and Federal Ministries/ Divisions, as well as, the Chief Secretaries of the Provincial governments for payment against the outstanding dues indicating the huge recoveries receivables of Discos against their respect departments.

Power Division maintains that the receivables on one hand are creating cash constraints for the Discos and on the other impacting cash flows/ performance of Discos. This trend has placed a heavy toll on performance of power sector, especially in shape of ever-increasing circular debt, which has severely impacted socioeconomic development in the country.

Power Division has also proposed that necessary instructions may be imparted by the Prime Minister's Office to the Federal Ministries/ Divisions and Provincial Governments for clearing their respective outstanding bills of electricity and for ensuring timely payment of electricity dues in future.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/18/1-page/926494-news.html>

Army, Chinese co distribute fishing nets in Gwadar

GWADAR: Management of Chinese Communication Construction Company (CCCC) and Pakistan Army organized a fishing net distribution ceremony for local fishermen of Gwadar as part of Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday.

The ceremony was attended by Liu Fangtao, project manager, Eastbay Expressway (EBEW) project, Brigadier Fahad Mansoor, Commander 440 Brigade, Assistant Commissioner Gwadar, representatives of GPA and GDA and fishermen community.

Liu Fangtao informed that the fishing nets are being distributed amongst most needy fishermen of Gwadar. He highlighted that completion of Expressway project will lead to early development of North Free Zone and ensure job opportunities for the locales.

Local fishermen raised Pakistan China Friendship slogans and expressed their gratitude to CCCC and Pakistan Army for their untiring efforts for the betterment of fishermen community.

At the end, Commander 440 Brigade thanked the Chinese Government and project management of CCCC for always being forthcoming in helping the fishermen and resolving their issues.—PPI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/18/5-page/926540-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar University key human resource generating institution for CPEC

Gwadar University has turned into a key human resource generating institution for CPEC, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting Chief Secretary Balochistan Mather Niaz Rana. He was addressing the participants of Laptop Distribution Ceremony held here at University of Gwadar.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Balochistan distributes 300 laptops to university students under CM's Balochistan laptop scheme.

The event was attended by Vice-Chancellor University of Gwadar Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 44 Special Security Division, Maj-Gen Inayat Hussain, Capt. (Ret'd) Jameel Ahmed Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Brigadier Fahad Mansoor, officers of Armed Forces, District demonstrative Officer heads of different departments, faculty members, admin staff and students of UoG.

Recipients of laptops include students of Department of Management Sciences, Commerce, Education, and Computer Science, University of Gwadar.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Balochistan Mather Niaz Rana congratulated all the students who received laptops. In his address, he said that the Balochistan government strives to provide higher education and the best facilities to students of Balochistan. He further said that the priority of all students should be to serve the country and the province.

In his welcome speech, Vice-Chancellor University of Gwadar Prof Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir thanked the Government of Balochistan and especially Chief Secretary Balochistan Mr. Mather Niaz Rana, for taking a keen interest in the flourishing University of Gwadar and extending unending support to set an environment for the promotion of quality higher education in this far-flung part of the country.

Major General Inayat Hussain GOC 44 SSD in his address said that no nation can develop without education and the promotion of quality education in Gwadar is one of his top priorities.

In this age of technology and innovation, it is commendable to provide such facilities to students to promote research culture in higher education institutions.

Deputy Commissioner Capt. (Ret'd) Jamil Ahmed Baloch and Brigadier Fahad Mansoor Commander 440 Brigade besides district administration officers, university students, and teachers also attended the function.

University of Gwadar Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Razzaq Sabir presented a commemorative shield of the university to the guests at the end of the ceremony and wore a Balochi shawl.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921113/gwadar-university-key-human-resource-generating-institution-for-cpec/>

PM to take CPEC forward with new vigour, vitality: Mushahid

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will take China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) forward with new vigour, vitality and in a rejuvenated manner ensuring multifaceted development of the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said on Sunday while discussing the future of Pakistan-China relations and future cross border collaboration in CGTN programme 'The Hub' with Wang Guan.

“In the first day in office as Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif met the Chinese Acting Ambassador and told her that Pakistan considers China as Pakistan’s closest friend and strongest partner and we will take the CPEC forward with new vigour, with new vitality and in a rejuvenated manner,” he said

Mushahid remarked that China has a very old and long standing relationship with PM Shehbaz Sharif. When the Belt and Road Initiative of President Xi Jinping was launched, the CPEC was its centerpiece, and that was taken forward by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shehbaz Sharif was then the Chief Minister of Punjab.

He said that under the new government, there would be a broad based acceleration in Pakistan-China relations in all domains.

“China is number one, in terms of a foreign policy priority, which the prime minister made clear when he listed the list of countries and his formulation has been very warmly welcomed in China. So, we have no doubt,” he added.

Senator Mushahid said that China was one country in Pakistan, on which there was across the board national consensus and the entire leadership agreed that China was the number one friend.

“So, China friendship is the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy, and I see this relationship being further developed and taken to new heights of development,” he added.

In response to a question about continued momentum in CPEC projects, he said that the first phase of CPEC was completed under the period when Nawaz Sharif was in power.

“The second phase is bigger. And you will see perhaps acceleration in the field of agriculture, in the field of Information Technology, in the field of tourism, and also infrastructure, especially the railway project,” he added.

He said that Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif had already announced during his visit to Karachi that his government would expand CPEC. So, there would be multifaceted development of CPEC.

Senator Mushahid opined that CPEC framework also united the federation of Pakistan through infrastructure and energy projects and it had resolved a lot of problems, adding, “So, we feel CPEC is the character of a better tomorrow for the people of Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921383/pm-to-take-cpec-forward-with-new-vigour-vitality-mushahid/>

PCJCCI for initiating low-cost energy projects in collaboration with China

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Sunday urged the government to initiate low-cost energy generation projects in collaboration with China to reduce cost of doing business in the country.

It was stated by Wang Zihai President PCJCCI, during an online think tank session held here at PCJCCI premises.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General, and a number of executive committee members of PCJCCI were present on this occasion.

Wang Zihai, referring to his recent meeting with representatives of Tianying Company Shanghai, said that low-priced energy was produced in China through incineration of waste materials. The company representatives had given a detailed presentation on how the Chinese waste-to-energy incineration model could prove to be a solution for energy crisis and environment pollution in Pakistan. He said that Chinese company Tianying is willing to invest in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration for power generation. The company is looking for suitable project agents to start the investment in Pakistan.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said, “We should adopt waste-to-energy incineration model in Pakistan in partnership with Chinese expert companies.”

In renewable energy resources, biogas can be used to fulfill the deficit, the shortfall of fuel and electricity in Pakistan is an indication for us to decrease our dependence on conventional fuel resources and find the new sustainable resources such as renewable energy means.

Pakistan has a huge potential for renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and biomass, which would also save our foreign reserves to be consumed on the high-cost energy, he said and observed that through these resources, we will be able not only to meet energy demand in low cost, but also minimize environmental contamination.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI said that in China waste-to-energy incineration is playing a vital role in waste management and energy production. He informed that in Pakistan about, 3000 MW electricity can be generated using agricultural residue and municipal solid waste. He added that Pakistan generates about 15 million tons of crops residue annually, which can be used as feedstock to generate 120- MW electricity.

Another important waste that can be converted into energy is municipal non-hazardous solid waste that is about some 60,000 tons on a daily basis in urban areas only and is increasing at the rate of 2.5 percent annually.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921366/pcjcci-for-initiating-low-cost-energy-projects-in-collaboration-with-china/>

The Express Tribune

Sorghum cooperation: a new milestone in CPEC

Experts call commodity ‘the camel of crops’ based on its numerous excellent qualities

As agricultural countries China and Pakistan are currently facing the same challenges – growing food demand and tight agricultural land jointly threaten food security.

In addition to the three major staple foods in the world, a crop has gradually attracted attention – sorghum.

As an indispensable dry food crop, sorghum is second only to wheat, corn, rice and barley in China in terms of planting area and output.

Agricultural experts call it “the camel of crops” based on its numerous excellent qualities such as resistance to pests and diseases, high temperature, cold, and salinity.

“Sorghum is a multi-purpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. At a time when the world is facing the dual challenges of the epidemic and food crisis, it is a win-win choice to incorporate this multi-purpose crop into the CPEC cooperation framework and add another layer of guarantee to the food security of China and Pakistan,” which was the consensus shared by experts on the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China and Pakistan organised recently.

According to Dr Shahzor Gul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University, Pakistan, as the climatic conditions are excellent for sorghum production and emerging water shortage has necessitated the production of sorghum on a wide scale, this cash crop means the most affordable option.

“In Pakistan, about 5.4 tonnes of sorghum is produced per hectare, more than wheat and rice, which have 3 and 2.2 tonnes per hectare, respectively. Meanwhile, because wheat is mainly a winter crop and sorghum is primarily a summer crop, demand for sorghum is significantly lower, and there is no direct competition,” Gul told CEN.

However, he pointed out that sorghum yields in Pakistan are still meagre due to the lack of better cultivators, an insufficient plant population, unscientific fertiliser application, lack of weed control techniques and water conservation procedures. In addition, Gul indicated that the consumption pattern of sorghum is quite traditional, and it is not available as a commercially processed food in the Pakistani market.

“This is mainly due to the lack of processing technologies and availability of machinery. And sorghum has not been used in our beverage and baking food industry due to a variety of factors including lack of awareness and taste.

“There are not much sorghum grain processing plants in Pakistan. This industry holds immense potential to offer employment to hundreds of thousands people.” Similar views are echoed by Dr Shahzad Sabir from the Punjab Agriculture Department. “Punjab and Sindh are the major sorghum producing provinces of Pakistan, contributing 47% and 26% respectively of the total,” he said.

“On the other hand, in 2019, we exported \$23,500 in sorghum, making Pakistan the 53rd largest exporter of sorghum in the world. In the same year, sorghum was the 91st most exported product in Pakistan. Obviously, it is far from meeting expectations, especially in the face of growing global food crisis. Countless opportunities are waiting for us to discover together.”

“In 2020-21, we have carried out planting trials of more than 10 sorghum varieties in Pakistan and achieved preliminary results. Of these, five varieties – 01, 02, 03, 04, and 12 – performed

better,” said Yuan Guobao, Vice Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Committee of Agricultural Experts at the NEXT Federation, in an exclusive interview with CEN.

“The tannin content of domestically grown sorghum is generally around 1.3% to 1.6%, however, according to trial data, benefiting from local excellent light and temperature conditions, the tannin number can climb up to 2.3%. Given that the important role of tannin in food processing and industrial production, we can promote the cultivation of these varieties in Pakistan, and then ship them back to China for further processing.”

At the symposium a few days ago, Yuan not only systematically introduced the preliminary results of planting trials, but also pointed out the multiple economic benefits brought by possible large-scale planting in the future.

“The superior drought, barren and saline-alkaline tolerance of Chinese hybrid sorghum varieties makes it a good choice for Pakistan’s water-deficient and saline-alkali areas.

“Secondly, Pakistan has a vast rice-growing area. In some areas in the south near the Indian Ocean, after rice is harvested, sorghum can be planted in autumn and winter, thus the income of local farmers can be increased by crop rotation. If the planting area can be expanded in the future, the offshore area means that our ships will be more convenient to transport the processed sorghum and save transportation costs. Beyond doubt, it is an excellent model of cooperation with multiple economic benefits, increasing Pakistan’s foreign exchange effectively.”

According to Yuan, if large-scale planting of China’s dominant varieties can be realised in Pakistan, it is conservatively estimated that the local production will increase by about 50%.

Even better, the high tannin content in sorghum means this kind of strong-smelling and astringent chemical has natural resistance to birds and insects. Similar to the pest control effect of garlic, it is of great benefit to the effective control of insect attack.

It is just a tip of the iceberg of opportunities for Pakistan’s sorghum industry. Yuan mentioned that China implements active quota management on the import of rice, corn and wheat. Sorghum is under non-import quota management and only needs a bilateral quarantine agreement for import.

According to statistics released by the General Administration of Customs of China, from January to December 2021, China’s sorghum import volume was 9.42 million tons, up 4.61 million tons or 95.8% compared with 2020.

The import amount was \$3.027 billion, an increase of \$1.871 billion or 161.9% compared with 2020.

Based on the planting, experts from China and Pakistan agreed that it is crucial to further develop downstream deep processing industries and create more employment opportunities in the future.

Although imports have surged, processed products have not been included. “If agricultural joint ventures are established in countries along the Belt and Road, subsidies will be provided to processing lines, which will benefit the sorghum processing industry,” Yuan told CEN.

Dr Shahzor Gul specifically stated, “Sorghum could be processed into bakery products, puffed food, beverages, porridge and so on. And introduction of new technologies can remove the constraints of traditional processing methods, at the same time improve the nutrient content and shelf-life of products. We are blessed with a wide scope for cooperation.”

At present, the blueprint of China-Pakistan sorghum cooperation has drawn a strong first stroke. “Our first step, the sorghum planting training programme for Pakistani students is progressing smoothly, with the high-quality seed sources as the top priority. People engaged in agricultural science often say that ‘seeds are the chips of agriculture’, and I believe that the day when China-Pakistan sorghum cooperation bear fruit is not too far away,” Yuan concluded confidently.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353070/sorghum-cooperation-a-new-milestone-in-cpec>

The News

Ideological war and China

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The concept of ideological competition, conflict or war is not new at all. It enjoys the same historical roots as the human civilisation. Ideological war kept on evolving and shifting from one sphere to another. Modern day world order was built on the principle of liberal values and designed to maximise the benefits for powerful in the name of openness, equality, values and sheer competition. The genesis of new world order is deeply rooted in exploitation and colonisation. There are many indicators e.g. western hegemony, monopoly over economy, technology and power, which suggest that it was designed around the colonisation concept and grabbing of resources at any cost.

The new system was built to counter negativity, whitewash atrocities of colonisation period and pave way for exploitation and maximisation of benefits. It gave birth to new powerful elite, the Industrial-Military Complex of West. They institutionalised exploitation through the institutions like IMF, World Bank, GATT and WTO etc. Institutions were designed to help the West squeeze the system in its favour. Political and social arms of liberal order like UN, UN’s agencies, non-government organisations and standard-setting agencies/organisations were assisted to consolidate the dominance of West. A set of western values (human rights, freedom of speech, rule of law etc.) was also crafted and declared as common values. These values were used, and are being used, to twist the arms of less developed countries to bend them for economic exploitation. UN system also lacks equality and was instrumental to keep countries pliant. Weak countries could not do anything except watching the West and powerful elite of the West (multinational companies, financial giants, banks, NGOs, arm producers and suppliers etc.) to grow.

Opposite ideologies like Islamic economic system and Communism could not stay long. Islamic system could not present any resistance. Although, it has all the ingredients to ensure welfare of society, it is not in practice anywhere in the world.

The system disappeared because the believers of the system themselves abandoned it. Communism showed some resistance for a few decades. USSR tried to implement it but could not sustain the pressure for long. It fell with the fall of USSR. Brezhnev Doctrine was considered one of the factors for fall of USSR, as it overemphasized the security dimensions and strengthened the control of security apparatus over economic decision-making. It weakened, as it is believe, the Communism and resulted in the fall of USSR.

Liberal world order celebrated the fall with a sense of proud and accomplishment. It was declared end of history. New world order was presented by keeping the Capitalism at the heart of the system. The West, under the leadership of US, declared hegemony and asked the countries to align with new world order. Economic hit men were unleashed and supported them by hard power. Wars to teach democracy were imposed on many countries. It was assumed that no ideology will be able to present any challenge to liberal world order and Capitalism.

21st century was declared century of complete dominance of liberal economic order supported by liberal values and democracy. However, the first decade of 21st century witnessed the emergence of new economic ideology in the form of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. The West did not give it any heed, as it was confident that no one can compete with the western ideology. Further, the West was busy in spreading democracy by attacking or sanctioning different countries.

But the financial crisis of 2007-08 jolted the western economic model. It was first the time that the West realised presence of Chinese model of Socialism. The model has four distinctive characteristics i.e. society first, adequate and equal growth, ecological sound and rule of law. It is supported by the role of state, whole process of democracy and philosophy of shared prosperity.

By realising the significance and ability of the Chinese model, western elite (Industrial-Military Complex) compelled their governments to launch stern programmes to oppose the Chinese model. The West, under the leadership of US, drafted policies of Pivot of Asia, Containment of China and QUAD etc. The US applied S-trap, Thucydides trap, middle-income trap and Kindleberger trap. President Trump introduced the trade war and imposed sanctions on different Chinese companies. EU joined hands by declaring China a strategic rival, which clearly means the rivalry of ideologies. Ideological challenge is complicated and bigger than the traps and anti-China policies.

Situation is becoming more complicated. On the one hand, liberal economic proponents are searching ways to sustain the dominance. The US and allies have worked out new programmes like Build Back Better World (B3W). It was designed to counter investment programmes of China like Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). On the political side, the US has launched the Democracy Summit and other programmes, which are being used to showcase the strength of

western-style democracy. The US and allies are asking countries not to join Chinese initiatives. The Chinese companies have also been banned/sanctioned to control the rapid development of China.

On the other hand, China is putting efforts to showcase the advantage of Socialism with Chinese characteristics. To showcase the relevance and strength, China has launched multiple programmes and initiatives. Belt and Road Initiative is one of them crafted to share the economic success formula and means of prosperity. The BRI has been joined by 142 countries and international organisations. China also launched Shanghai Import Expo (SIE). It is perceived that SIE will turn China into a hub of international trade. Recently China introduced the programme of Global Development Initiative for sustainable development.

In this context, it has become extremely important for countries to watch situation closely, and it is good to note that world is keenly watching this emerging rivalry. Concurrently, world is also pondering on some questions. First, will liberal economic forces compromise on their hegemony or trigger conflicts or wars like the one in Ukraine? Will they give space to new ideology? Second, will China adhere to values and principles of Socialism at the international level? Will China sustain its commitment to these values in the long run? If yes then how China will compete western hegemony?

However, developing and least developed countries are expecting a more balanced and equitable world as an output of this rivalry. These countries believe they cannot afford another misadventure or conflict, as they are already facing multifaceted problems.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=78900>

April 19, 2022

Daily Times

CPEC's 'Shahbaz Speed' Back with Bang

Yasir Habib Khan

Heydays for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are set to come back after the dramatic return of "Shahbaz Speed," a famous title awarded by China a few years back to the then CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, who is now Prime Minister of Pakistan.

"Shahbaz Speed" had once become a symbol of rapidness and fervency on the CPEC, which was acknowledged and revered by the Chinese government with pride. Given the position of the then CM Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif had smoothened the development works, completed projects even before the set deadlines, ushered in an era of prolific working relationships with Chinese companies, fixed bureaucratic glitches, rejuvenated the chain of command to pull away stumbling blocks and achieved many milestones on the progress of CPEC that are still remembered by Chinese officials.

Recognising his meritorious performance on December 20, 2016, International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China Vice-Minister Zheng Xiaosong gave then Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif the title of “Shahbaz Speed.” Zheng said he and his delegation members were inspired by the unmatched pace of development in Punjab. “China is known throughout the world for completing development projects in short times but even by Chinese standard, the pace of work is exceptional.”

Later on January 25, 2021, outgoing Chinese consul general Lahore Long Dingbin sent a letter to Shahbaz Sharif heaping praise on him as “Shahbaz Speed.” He lauded Shahbaz Sharif’s contributions as then Punjab’s chief minister for CPEC projects.

In a letter addressed to the PML-N president, he termed the former Punjab CM an “old friend of China” and added that he was impressed by his devotion to the CPEC projects.

“You have made the CPEC projects realised, which not only created impressive ‘Punjab Speed’ but embodied the profound bilateral friendship,” he wrote in a farewell letter.

The consul general said the Pakistan Muslims League Nawaz will always remain a “great friend” of China whether “it’s in power or as an opposition party”.

“I am sure, as a leader of the National Assembly you [Shahbaz] will continue to work as always to promote the friendship of our two parties, our two nations and our two people,” the Chinese official added. The Chinese consul general concluded his letter wishing Shahbaz good health and success.

Many politicians termed the letter of the Chinese consul general to Shahbaz as a matter of pride for Pakistan. “A great friend like China is also testifying to Shahbaz Sharif’s transparency, honesty, integrity and hard work while he was a chief minister,” they added.

Expressing emotional attachment with China and CPEC, in his first speech in the parliament after being chosen as the 23rd PM of Pakistan, he said categorically that “Shahbaz Speed” will become now “Pakistan Speed,” calling Pakistan-China relations exemplary and phenomenally unmatched.

“Time-tested friendship with China has a long rich history and we will advance this bond to a new height,” he mentioned.

China on Tuesday also felicitated Shahbaz Sharif on his election as the new prime minister of Pakistan.

Taking to Twitter, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said, “China looks forward to working with Pakistan to build a high-quality China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.”

He maintained that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic and comprehensive cooperation partners with rock-solid and unbreakable relations.

Later, Pang Chunxue, the Charge d' Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, called on the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's House. Pang Chunxue congratulated the Prime Minister and conveyed good wishes of the Chinese government and leadership on the assumption of office.

While Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on his part conveyed warm greetings as well as an appreciation for the Chinese leadership. He reminisced about his many visits to China.

During those visits, he had also met with President Xi Jinping who took a personal stake in fostering ties with Pakistan. The Prime Minister of Pakistan appreciated the persistent progress of CPEC as the flagship project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative.

Along these lines, he enunciated the importance of CPEC for the economic development and prosperity of Pakistan. He declared his government's determination to speed up the development of CPEC projects.

Likewise, he pledged to make it a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship and close collaboration. The Prime Minister emphasized the significance of enhanced investment from China in agriculture, industrialization, and digital technologies.

In addition, the newly-elected Prime Minister of Pakistan also reaffirmed the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan as a cornerstone of Pakistan's policy and factor for regional peace and stability.

China lives in the hearts of the Pakistani people. It is Pakistan's closest partner and strongest friend. Lastly, the Prime Minister affirmed his government's commitment to further advancing a win-win economic collaborative alliance between the two countries.

Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is also the President of the PML-N, the largest political party in Pakistan at the moment.

He is also the longest-serving chief minister of the Punjab province, having served on the post three times since he began his political career nearly four decades ago.

Sharif is the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister of Pakistan.

His foray into politics began in 1988 when he was elected as a member of the Punjab assembly (MPA). He served for a short stint, till 1990 when the assembly was dissolved.

The same year, he contested and won a national assembly constituency and became a member of the lower house of Pakistan's parliament. In 1993, he again returned to the Punjab assembly and was appointed leader of the opposition till 1996.

Then in 1997, he won a Punjab constituency for the third time and went on to become the chief minister of Punjab, Pakistan's most politically important province.

Returning in 2008 to politics, he was again elected as a member of the Punjab assembly and then became chief minister for a second term. This time he served his full term as chief minister.

After the general polls in 2013, he returned as chief minister of his home province. While in the 2018 polls, he decided to retain his national assembly seat and was nominated as the leader of the Opposition.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921634/cpecs-shahbaz-speed-back-with-bang/>

Pak-China Youth Exchange program inspires hope

To help poor families and deepen China-Pakistan ties, China-Pakistan youth exchange community launched a public welfare activity themed “Belt and Road, Passing the Love” in Pakistan.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday, the volunteers looked into the specific conditions of the local poor groups in advance and identified 200 families in dire need of help.

The community members allocated the daily necessities for each family, including rice, flour, oil, sugar, beans, dates, etc, that are enough to meet the needs for one to two months. Dressed in costumes with the “China-Pakistan Friendship” logo, the volunteers went through the rugged roads and delivered the supplies door-to-door.

Chinese friends are providing timely help. Now we can have a happy Ramadan with a peaceful mind, said a family member of Ms. Mayra who received the support. Mayra comes from Village Rajkandi in the hilly region of Azad Jammu Kashmir, goes through a monumental struggle in her life.

She has an elderly mother, four sisters, and a brother in her family. Her father died 13 years ago and she has been dependent on her uncle ever since. Three years ago, her uncle was paralyzed and the whole family had to rely on assistance to survive. Fortunately, the arrival of the China-Pakistan youth exchange community brought hope to her, who was mired in anxiety.

Upon receiving the supplies, Mayra’s uncle excitedly held the volunteer’s hand for a long time and said with tears in his eyes: “Chinese friends are providing timely help. Now we can have a happy Ramadan with a peaceful mind.”

There are many families like Mayra’s. Many people in this area are women, children, orphans, and the elderly, who cannot work and have no source of income. Due to the language barrier, the local recipients expressed their gratitude with simple words and smiles.

So far, the community has visited more than 1,400 poor families, poor primary schools, refugee camps, and orphanages to bring love to special groups such as the lonely elderly, the disabled, and impoverished students.

Since 2017, the public welfare campaign has won the support of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Chinese universities, Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan, Chinese enterprises, and overseas students.

Ma Bin, Secretary-General of Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan, said that Chinese enterprises and individuals in Pakistan actively assume social responsibility.

“At present, some Chinese enterprises have the intention to train local vulnerable groups and utilize cross-border e-commerce and other platforms to export their handicrafts to other countries,” Ma concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921688/pak-china-youth-exchange-program-inspires-hope/>

PM requests China for support in reviving Karachi Circular Railway

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday requested China for support for the planned revival of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project to end the woes of hundreds of thousands of commuters in the metropolis.

During an address at the inauguration of a mass transit bus project from Peshawar Morr to Islamabad International Airport, he said that KCR would be a “gift for the people of Karachi” and bring great dividends.

“I will take up this opportunity to convey my request to Beijing, NDRC (National Development and Reform Commission) and President Xi Jinping to reconsider [supporting] KCR for Karachi,” he said, adding that the project’s completion would lead to great feelings for China among the people of Karachi and the rest of the country.

During his speech, PM Shehbaz expressed gratitude towards China for “strengthening Pakistan’s economy” and supporting it on all international forums.

The premier blamed PTI for the delay in the launch of the project and regretted that the route plan for Islamabad was reduced abruptly to cut the cost from Rs16 billion to Rs12bn, which he said, caused immense loss to the project’s materialisation.

PM Shehbaz said that though development funds were available to complete public welfare projects during the PTI’s tenure, what the previous government lacked was the will to serve the masses.

The premier recalled that the PML-N government, during its previous tenure, had launched mass transit projects in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan. He claimed that PTI lawyers had made several attempts to halt those projects alleging corruption.

“The Orange Line mass transit train in Lahore faced litigation by PTI that caused its delay by over two years. In the end, other than a few technical points, the court gave a clean chit to the project and ruled that not an ounce of corruption was found,” he said.

PM Shehbaz also promised to ensure quick implementation on all the projects that were of public importance but were delayed or suspended.

He announced that during the month of Ramazan, the metro bus service for passengers would be free of cost. PM Shehbaz added that a mobile application was being launched for easy access to the buses that would come every five minutes and the shuttle that would arrive at the stop every 25 minutes. The blue line bus will be initiated on the Rawat-Islamabad Airport route, he further said.

“Former prime minister is panicking because I have been elected as the representative [...] I will work on a pace I am used to,” Shehbaz Sharif said. “You [Imran Khan] may be panicked due to my speed of work but the people have stopped panicking.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/921748/pm-requests-china-for-support-in-reviving-karachi-circular-railway/>

Pakistan Observer

Water supply project for Thar gets green light under CPEC

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan while sharing a good news said that a contract for Pakistan Nabisar Vajihar Water Supply Project has been signed for the water provision in the Thar under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The project will supply 28 MGD water to Thar’s Thermal Project under CPEC, Sindh Province upon completion in 2024. “Chinese companies are serving the social economic development of Pakistan,” the Chinese Embassy tweeted. PM Shehbaz Sharif in his inaugural speech on the floor of the House vowed to take the CPEC to its new heights and to complete the CPEC project—a symbol of friendship and brotherhood between China and Pakistan.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/water-supply-project-for-thar-gets-green-light-under-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

Using technology for development: likely inputs from China

The focus of technological change has to be on individuals, firms and government departments

Poor technological development is one reason why Pakistan’s economy is performing well below its potential. When technological development as a serious subject is internalised by those responsible for making public policy, it affects all aspects of a government’s involvement. Science, technology and innovation (STI) play an important role in economic development and modernising society. It also brings about greater integration in the global system. The state needs to be deeply involved in achieving these objectives. These include: first, the development of several public sector institutions that, in the case of Pakistan, were set up at various times to undertake STI work; second, there is also the need to rationalise the institutional structure that oversees technological development in the private sector; third, there is the need to invest in

improving both the reach of education and its quality. At the moment, there are several institutions that are involved in the government's effort in this area. Several of these have overlapping responsibilities creating considerable confusion among the members of the community of investors. As I will discuss in this article, Pakistan's approach towards improving the state of technology in its economy has been inconsistent and confusing. The focus of technological change has to be on individuals, firms and government departments.

Development economics literature identifies several sources of growth and modernisation. Among them three are given particular importance. They are the roles of the state and private enterprise and the application of technology. Having discussed the first two in an earlier article, I will now discuss the contribution technological improvements can and should play in accelerating growth and modernising society. Technological progress would also help to bring about Pakistan's integration with the world outside its borders. The country at this time is one of the world's most isolated nations. Let me first discuss the Chinese experience in developing the technological base of its economy since it has relevance for Pakistan.

Pakistan's need for improving the technological underpinning of its economy comes at a time when the foreign sources it could tap to move forward have diversified. For a long time, the United States and Western Europe had been the main sources of advanced technology. Alexander Gershenkron, the economic historian of great repute, studied how technology had gone from country to country in the western part of Europe within a few decades. The industrial revolution began in Britain and was based on using the steam engine as the main source of power. France and a bit later Germany borrowed from the British experience and began to apply new technologies to develop their economies. After the Second World War the United States took the lead. During the war, it had used the country's firms to produce the equipment the fighting forces needed to fight in Europe and Asia. The firms in changing the lines of products they were manufacturing by developing new technologies.

The point I am underscoring here is that technological development has come from transfers from the more developed to relatively less developed countries. These involved both the state and the private sector. The state created institutions that facilitated these transfers and also invested in improving human capital new technologies would need. At this time in world history, China has become a major source of both technological development as well as technological transfers. How has China worked to develop its own technological base?

I had personal experience of how the Chinese worked to access foreign technologies and then developed them to suit their purpose. When in 1987 I took charge as Director of the World Bank's rapidly growing China lending programme, Beijing requested our help to construct four coal-fired power plants near Shanghai, the country's largest city and also the one that was most developed in terms of industrial output. The coal for the power plants was to be brought in by rail that used a dedicated track the Chinese had constructed linking the coal-rich Shaanxi province in the northwest with Shanghai on the country's east coast. We agreed to finance the project applying the standard World Bank condition that the supplier would be identified through the use

of a process termed international competitive bidding (ICD). The Chinese added a condition of their own which was to have the first four plants to be brought in by the winner in the ICD process while the remaining three would be made in China by a joint venture between the supplier and a Chinese enterprise. The firm selected for the project would be required to transfer the technology it was using to manufacture the plants. I put some pressure on the Bank's procurement department to accept this arrangement. A good part of Chinese technological development took these types of arrangements.

The 1980 opening of the Chinese economy brought about by then Chairman Deng Xiaoping attracted large amounts of foreign direct investment. Most of the FDI came in with the promise of transfer of technology. Much of the advance the Chinese have made over the last half century in areas such as the manufacture of automobiles and aircraft and in producing telecom equipment including mobile telephones came from the United States. While following this approach, the Chinese invested great amounts of resources in educating and training their own people. Once again, the United States was the preferred destination. According to the Open Doors Report 2021 on International Exchange released on November 15, more than 317,000 Chinese students were enrolled in American institutions in 2020-2021.

During the presidency of Donald Trump (2017-2021), the United States lost its nerve. It feared that China was well on the way to overtaking it in the area of technological development. Beijing had made impressive advances in developing technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and payments systems. To deal with this developing situation, the Trump administration targeted several Chinese entities to check their development. Among those that invited Washington's attention was Huawei, the Chinese mega-technology privately owned firm that was leading in introducing 5G cellular networks.

There are lessons to be drawn for Pakistan from the way China made technological progress. Beijing's CPEC investment programme offers an opportunity where transfer of technology could become an important component of the projects China is developing and financing. This should be the focus of attention in the nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) China is committed to develop across Pakistan. Pakistan had begun to work in this area well before the Chinese included SEZs in the CPEC investment programme. Industrial Estates were set up in the 1960s followed by the establishment of Export Processing Zones in the 1980s. This programme has picked up with the arrival of the Chinese. Islamabad signed the industrial cooperation agreement for the second phase of CPEC. But even before that some institutional progress had been made. The SEZ Act was passed in 2012, a year before the Chinese government announced its plans to invest in what it called the Belt and Road Initiative. This was followed by the setting up of the Special Economic Zone Management Information System (SEZ-MIS) and the passage of Special Technology Zones Act (STEZA) in 2021. Using these acts, the Government of Pakistan should make technology transfer to be the main feature of the entities to be set up in the SEZs.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353057/using-technology-for-development-likely-inputs-from-china>

April 20, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC projects: meeting to be held today

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A progress review meeting has been convened on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday (today) by the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms.

Sources said that soon after assuming the office following oath taking of federal minister, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives has taken a briefing on the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) utilisation and also decided to convene progress review meeting on CPEC.

Sources further stated that the agenda of the meeting included presentation on overview of the CPEC portfolio by the CPEC Authority, briefing by conveners of following Joint Working Groups on implementation of decisions of the 10th JCC; (i) on energy; (ii) transport; (iii) infrastructure; (iv) industrial cooperation Gwadar; (v) socio-economic development; (vi) information technology; (vii) science and technology as well as agriculture.

All the relevant officials have been asked to participate in the meeting while out of station participants may participate virtually.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/20/7-page/926813-news.html>

Development of SEZs: China vows full support

ISLAMABAD: China on Tuesday assured its full support and cooperation to Pakistan in developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chinese Charge de Affaires Ms Pangchunxue gave the assurance in this regard during a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail here at the Finance Division. Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha was also present in the meeting, said a Finance Ministry press release.

The Chinese envoy extended her felicitations to the minister on assuming his new responsibilities and expressed her good wishes for the new government.

She also thanked the Government of Pakistan for facilitating Chinese companies in various projects in the country. Minister Miftah Ismail greeted the guest and extended his best wishes for the People's Republic of China. He thanked the charge de affaires and expressed his desire to further enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/20/13-page/926856-news.html>

Daily Times

Beijing praises PM's remarks on Pak-China relations, CPEC

China on Tuesday highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's positive remarks on Sino-Pakistan relations and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying they fully reflected the Pakistani side's emphasis on China-Pakistan all-weather friendship and all-round cooperation.

"China has noticed that for sometimes, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has made positive remarks on China-Pakistan relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on many occasions, which fully reflects the Pakistani side's emphasis on China-Pakistan all-weather friendship and all-round cooperation. China highly appreciates this," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question asked by APP during his regular briefing.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the mass transit bus project on Monday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said China had greatly contributed to strengthening Pakistan's economy and expressed gratitude to President Xi for launch of CPEC as a game-changer for the country.

Wang Wenbin remarked said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"Since its launch, it has made important contributions to Pakistan's economic development and improvement of people's livelihood, and has been widely praised and recognized by all walks of life," he added.

The spokesperson said the Chinese side was willing to work with the Pakistani side to ensure the continuous advancement of the projects under construction and the smooth operation of the completed projects, continue to release the positive effects of the corridor in promoting growth and improving people's livelihood, and make the corridor a demonstration project for high-quality development of the Belt and Road.

According to media reports, during his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also termed China a great friend that stood by Pakistan throughout history and appreciated the Chinese leadership's support for Pakistan at all international forums.

He also called upon China to support Pakistan in launch of the Karachi Circular Railway for the benefit of the people of the metropolitan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/922396/beijing-praises-pms-remarks-on-pak-china-relations-cpec/>

CPEC to take Pakistan's economy forward: Miftah

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail has expressed desire to further enhance bilateral cooperation with China in various fields.

The federal minister said this while talking to Pangchunxue, Charge D'affaires of the Embassy of People's Republic of China, who called on him at the Finance Division on Tuesday. Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha was also present in the meeting, according to a press statement issued by the Finance Ministry.

Referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the federal minister said that the corridor would play an important role in taking Pakistan's economy forward as well as cementing the bilateral relationship between both the countries. He further assured his full support for the assistance in that regard, the statement added.

He also extended his best wishes for the People's Republic of China and thanked the charge d'affaires.

On the occasion, Pangchunxue extended her felicitations to the minister on assuming his new responsibilities and expressed her good wishes for the new government. She assured full support and cooperation of the Chinese government in developing the Economic Zones (SEZs) as part of CPEC. She also thanked the government for facilitating Chinese companies in various projects in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/922197/cpec-to-take-pakistans-economy-forward-miftah/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC & Iron Clad Friendship of Pak and China

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

In his first speech, newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed his government's foremost priority to gear up China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the country. During his maiden speech he highlighted the strategic significance of friendship between Pakistan and China and termed it as vital for socio-economic prosperity and greater regional connectivity.

Unfortunately, somehow the various projects of CPEC could not be materialized during the previous regime due to which ultimate goals of economic stability and sustainability remained compromised.

The Chinese Foreign Minister appreciated the strong commitment of newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and considered it a good omen for the rapid growth of the CPEC in the country. It hopes that bilateral relations between two countries will be "worry-free" even if there is a political change in the country.

In this regard, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian described Pakistan as China's "iron-clad brothers true to the name. He reassured that China would give priority to Pakistan in its neighborhood diplomacy as always.

He pledged Chinese government readiness to work with the new Pakistani government to have close exchanges at all levels, substantiate and expand practical cooperation, build the China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) toward the sustainable, livelihood-oriented and high-standard objectives, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era for the well-being of the two countries and the two peoples. He further described the China-Pakistan relations as “rock-solid and unbreakable,” and said China looks forward to carrying on the traditional friendly cooperation.

He expressed appreciation to Sharif’s remarks and noted that China is ready to work with Pakistan to continue to further advance the high-quality development of CPEC and build it into a demonstration program of high-quality development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Moreover, the Chinese charge d’affaires met PM Shehbaz Sharif on the second day after he was sworn into office which vividly reflected close liaison and diplomatic comfort between the two countries.

While meeting with the Chinese Deputy Head of Mission, Premier Sharif said that the new government of Pakistan attached great importance to developing relations with China, and was ready to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and promote the building of the CPEC with stronger initiative and higher efficiency.

It is true that ever since Sharif was elected prime minister he has been speaking highly of China-Pakistan relations in his speeches. In Sharif’s inauguration speech, he promised to vigorously promote the construction of the CPEC, noting that China is a faithful, reliable and trustworthy partner of Pakistan, and the friendship between the two countries will last forever.

Sharif’s statements are also frequently echoed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The China-Pakistan friendship has been the top topic in the ministry’s past few news conferences, repeatedly stressed by the spokesperson. In this context, Qian Feng, Director of the Research Department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University spoke highly about Pak-China iron-clad friendship and considered it as important for achieving dreams of greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic integration.

Qian reassured positive, productive and participatory spirit in the bilateral relations of Pak-China in the future, because the China-Pakistan relationship was not built in a day or could be shaken by one or two people. Instead, it is based on the long friendship between the two countries at all levels. Thus gearing up CPEC and the start of CPEC Phase II would bring wonders to the country.

He was of the opinion that CPEC has been benefiting the Chinese and Pakistani people along the route and has entered the second phase of construction of high quality, and Sharif is expected to pay more attention to the positive social and economic benefits brought by the project, and continue to work with China to advance the project in the direction of high quality.

Furthermore, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the foreign ministers’ meeting between the three countries in Tunxi, East China’s Anhui Province on March 30 suggested that China, Afghanistan and Pakistan could jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI) extend the CPEC to Afghanistan, and help Afghanistan participate in regional connectivity.

Newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been labeled as “speed man” in China and that is why he remained very famous among the policy makers and government officials. Undoubtedly, Premier Sharif has diversified but integrated experience having strong political commitment will again stimulate CPEC in the country.

He has rich corporate expertise to deal with mega projects which would be useful to carry forward various projects of CPEC in the country. In the past, his rich negotiation skills proved productive to pursue approval of numerous CPEC projects on concessional rates from the Chinese government.

In this connection, while visiting the city of light and meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah PM Sharif assured that the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project will be included in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-related projects. Thus expected inclusion of KCR would further diversify the orientation of the CPEC in the country.

To conclude, it is suggested that the newly elected Prime Minister should immediately chalk out a holistic and comprehensive policy and road-map for the gearing up of the CPEC & CPEC Phase II in the country. In this regard, priority should be given to green industrialization through the widespread networking of special economic free zones. In this regard, reallocation of funds and befitting shifting of geographical territories is the need of the hour which would stimulate more foreign and domestic investment in CPEC projects.

Furthermore, massive but systematic development in the agriculture sector should be the priority of the newly elected premier of Pakistan. More focus should be given to hybrid farming, seeding, double cropping, fisheries, horticulture, animal husbandry, Halal food production & processing, agro-industry and last but not the least, plantation through drones, revival of forestry and green revolution in sandy and deserts must be strategic priority of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in which CPEC would play very important role in the days to come.

Health, education, poverty reduction, energy & food security, science & technology cooperation, media cooperation, ICT, digitalization, artificial intelligence technologies and last but not the least revival of SMEs should be included in the ongoing and upcoming CPEC Phase II.

Rapidly changing socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic trends should be eye opener for the policy makers of the country and that is why special attention should be given to build a series of “LNG Terminals” in the country under the flagship project of CPEC in the country. Further diversification of energy projects in terms of supply, production, scope and utility is the need of the hour. It is recommended that more small, medium and big projects of hydro-energy must be immediately included in the CPEC.

Close cooperation in tourism, civil aviation, banking & finance, pharmaceutical, organic food, sport items, construction, and infrastructural development should be part and parcel of the CPEC in which the die hard spirit of the newly elected Prime Minister would be a value addition.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-iron-clad-friendship-of-pak-and-china-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC & New Prospects

Zulkafil Hassan Khan

All the national and regional prominent experts termed current political change in the country would not derail various projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the country. Rather, it would be counterproductive and healthy for the future development of the same.

It is a living reality that both countries have iron-clad friendship which is time-tested and timeless, and there is a complete national consensus in Pakistan on the salience and significance of this relationship regardless of the change in government or leadership.

Newly democratically elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a trustworthy friend of China, who looks positive to further strengthening of bilateral cooperation with China in terms of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Pakistan's economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic, fighting terrorism and economic development in Afghanistan. Thus he has innovative tasks to be materialized under the flagship of CPEC.

Moreover, as Pakistan's leading and reputable politician, he has made valuable services for strengthening Pakistan-China friendship in the past. His services for the initiation, persuasion, approval, execution and implementation of the CPEC remained valuable. He is mesmerized with China's rapid development and economic progress and has worked closely with the Chinese government and private companies to complete many CPEC projects in the past. Thus his new political slot would bring many befitting propositions for both the countries and all main stakeholders.

Newly-elected Prime Minister Sharif is very famous for his hard working and strong commitment to the timely completion of CPEC projects. Previously as Chief Minister of Punjab, the biggest province of Pakistan he facilitated all kinds of political support and also closely supervised and stimulated implementation of all infrastructure and energy projects in Punjab. Resultantly, Pakistan succeeded to overcome shadows of darkness after the completion of many mega energy projects in the country.

It is hoped that completion of important projects of Phase-I including Main Line-I and key energy plants, the early operationalization of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would further stimulate the country's industrial output and high-quality development through enhanced cooperation in artificial intelligence, ICT, digitalization, information communication technology, science and technology, and agriculture would remain the priority of the government. In this

connection, the corridor of knowledge should be a strategic priority of the newly elected government in the country.

Moreover, rapid progress on the development of the Gwadar Port and Free Trade Zone (FTZ) should be promoted to further brighten the chances of regional connectivity through immense socio-economic integration.

Economic stagnation because of many complex and complicated socio-economic and geopolitical reasons has reaffirmed strategic importance, scope, utility and capacity building orientation of the CPEC which should be further streamlined and systematized. Although Pakistan is passing through difficult times in terms of financial resources, hopefully under the visionary leadership of newly elected Prime Minister Sharif the government may get a roll-over facility from Beijing. In this regard, the economic and financial collapse of Sri Lanka does not have any resemblance with Pakistan. Thus western propaganda does not have any credibility on the issue of so-called debt trap.

China has become Pakistan's largest trade partner and a major source of foreign direct investment. Moreover, it occupies an important position for Pakistan's economic revival and long-term development agenda which has brighter prospects under the flagship projects of CPEC in the country. Thus the premiership of Sharif would be a blessing for the country and of course CPEC projects.

It is hoped that investment by Chinese state-owned enterprises and private enterprises under the flagship projects of CPEC would be conducive to Pakistan's economic growth and create job opportunities in the days to come. Additionally, as a leading agrarian country, Pakistan looks forward to expanding the export of its agro and food products to China.

There is an urgent need to revisit our security policy and scheme of arrangement for the easy and smooth functioning and protection of CPEC in the country. In this context, valiant law enforcement agencies and defence forces remain vigilant to counter all nefarious designs of regional enemies against CPEC. Pakistan had put in place an elaborate security mechanism to ensure the safety and security of all CPEC projects and personnel.

It seems that a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Afghanistan is vital to the shared development of the region. Pakistan stands ready to cooperate with China in this endeavor through the extended connectivity of the CPEC in Afghanistan and beyond. Pakistan, China and Afghanistan have also shown interest in extending CPEC to Afghanistan. This would pave way for Afghanistan's infrastructure development and its connectivity and integration with the region.

I conclude that as agricultural countries China and Pakistan are currently facing the same challenges of food security. New crop sorghum has gradually attracted attention. It is an indispensable dry food crop, the second only to wheat, corn, rice and barley in China in terms of planting area and output. It has been labeled as the camel of crops" based on its numerous excellent qualities such as resistance to pests and diseases, high temperature, cold, and salinity.

It is a multi-purpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. At a time when the world is facing the dual challenges of the epidemic and food crisis, it is a win-win choice to incorporate this multi-purpose crop into the CPEC cooperation framework and add another layer of guarantee to the food security of China and Pakistan. Thus it must be included in the further development of CPEC projects in the country.

Even tea plantation has become a new profitable crop in the country. As all potential tea growing areas lie on both sides of the CPEC route, providing easy access to markets, China is fully engaged with Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan can easily benefit from Beijing's expertise and resources. Furthermore, China has already developed NTRI in Shinkhari and would welcome the opportunity to use it for a B2B agricultural enterprise. Moreover, CPEC will further expand chilli farming over 5000 acres in Pakistan which is good omen for the agriculture development.

Interestingly, Chinese companies are going to step up pharmaceutical cooperation with Pakistan. Many companies including Luye Life Sciences Group, Guangzhou Baiyunshan Zhongyi Pharmaceutical, and Guangzhou Qixing Pharmaceutical expressed their intention to cooperate with potential Pakistani partners. Thus it should also be included under the flagship of CPEC.

Political change in the country will not create any hurdle in the ongoing projects of the CPEC, rather hopefully it will be useful for its rapid growth.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-new-prospects-by-zulkafil-hassan-khan/>

Pakistan's fish meal exports to China topped 13,866 tons

Pakistan's fish meal export to China topped 13,866 tons with a value of over US\$15.68 million, witnessing a year-on-year increase of 250.59% in the January-February period, Chinese customs data showed, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports to China stood at US\$ 670.72 million in January- February of FY22, up 22.77 per cent from US\$ 546.30 million in the same period of the previous year.

According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), flours & meals of fish, used in animal feeding commodity code (23012010) from Pakistan, crossed US\$ 15.68 million with a total volume of 13,866 tons, while last year it was US\$ 4.47 million with a total volume 4,917 tons in the January- February period.

Data showed that in 2021, the total fish meals used in animal feeding, imported from Pakistan was 40,654.92 tons, worth US\$40.53 million. Khurram Naseeb, A-One Fish Meal in Karachi, told Gwadar Pro that there are several reasons for the growth, including a short supply from other countries: almost all suppliers including Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the USA, Ecuador, Mauritania and Morocco limited fishmeal export, whereas only Pakistan, India and Peru are exporting to China.

“At the beginning of this year, prices for other agricultural commodities increase a lot, such as soybean meal, corn, rapeseed meal, due to the pandemic and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-fish-meal-exports-to-china-topped-13866-tons-2/>

The Express Tribune

M-6 to be completed under CPEC, says CS

Federal and provincial governments are paying close attention to it

KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Secretary, Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput held an important meeting at the Sindh Secretariat and discussed Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway.

The meeting was attended by Secretary General Administration, Muhammad Hanif Channa and Secretary Implementation and Coordination, Riaz Hussain Soomro. Deputy commissioners including commissioners of Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad and Sukkur attended the meeting through video link.

Speaking during the meeting Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput said that 306-km Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway would be constructed under CPEC and this six-lane M-6 Motorway would pass through Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Matiari, Shaheed Benazirabad, Nowshero Feroze, Khairpur and Sukkur districts. He added that a bridge would also be built on the M-6 at the Indus River between Jamshoro and Hyderabad.

The Sindh chief secretary further said that M-6 is a very important project. The federal and provincial governments are paying close attention to it.

During the meeting, officials of irrigation department informed that a study is being carried out for the bridge and the NHA will be notified about it soon.

The Sindh chief secretary directed all the deputy commissioners concerned to complete the acquisition of land for the Motorway by July.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353417/m-6-to-be-completed-under-cpec-says-cs>

Express News

کراچی کے لیے جدید بسوں کی پہلی کھیپ چین سے روانہ

شہر قائد میں ٹرانسپورٹ کے مسئلے کو حل کرنے کے لیے جدید بسوں کی پہلی کھیپ کو چین سے روانہ کر دیا گیا ہے۔ : کراچی

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق صوبائی وزیر ٹرانسپورٹ اویس قادر شاہ نے کہا ہے کہ کراچی کیلئے ڈیزل ہائبرڈ بسوں کی پہلی کھیپ چین سے روانہ ہو چکی ہے، چین کی بندرگاہوں سے بحری جہاز 120 سے زائد بسیں آج لیکر روانہ ہو گئے ہیں۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ یہ بسیں انٹرسٹی پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ منصوبے کے تحت چلائی جائیں گی، کراچی کے 6 اضلاع میں 15 سے زائد روٹس پر بسیں چلائی جائیں گی۔

اویس شاہ کا کہنا تھا کہ ڈیزل ہا سبر ڈائنر سٹی منصوبے کیلئے مختلف علاقوں میں بس اسٹاپ قائم کیے جائیں گے، منصوبے کے تحت 240 بسیں کراچی اور 10 لاکھ میں چلائی جائیں گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2313151/1/>

سی پیک کے تحت 306 کلومیٹر حیدرآباد سکھر موٹروے بنایا جائے گا

چیف سیکریٹری سندھ ڈاکٹر محمد سہیل راجپوت نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت 306 کلومیٹر حیدرآباد سکھر موٹروے بنایا جائے گا۔ کراچی موٹروے کے متعلق بریفنگ دی گئی۔ M6 چیف سیکریٹری سندھ ڈاکٹر محمد سہیل راجپوت کی زیر صدارت اہم اجلاس سندھ سیکریٹریٹ میں منعقد ہوا۔ اجلاس میں حیدرآباد سکھر M6 اجلاس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے چیف سیکریٹری سندھ ڈاکٹر محمد سہیل راجپوت نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت 306 کلومیٹر حیدرآباد سکھر موٹروے بنایا جائے گا اور یہ 6 ملین موٹروے جامشورو، حیدرآباد، ٹیاری، شہید بینظیر آباد، نوشہرہ و فیروز، خیرپور اور سکھر اضلاع سے گزرے گا۔ بہت اہم منصوبہ M6 موٹروے پر پل بھی بنایا جائے گا۔ چیف سیکریٹری سندھ نے مزید کہا کہ M6 انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ جامشورو اور حیدرآباد کے درمیان دریائے سندھ پر ہے اس پر وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتوں کی خاصی توجہ ہے۔

اجلاس میں حکام محکمہ آبپاشی نے بتایا کہ دریائے سندھ پر پل کے لیے ہائیڈرو لک اسٹڈی کی جارہی ہے بہت جلد این ایچ اے کو پل کے متعلق آگاہ کر دیا جائے گا۔ موٹروے کے لیے زمین کے حصول کو جو لائی تک مکمل کریں۔ چیف سیکریٹری M6 اجلاس میں چیف سیکریٹری سندھ نے تمام متعلقہ ڈپٹی کمشنرز کو ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ سندھ نے کہا کہ رمضان المبارک میں ضروری اشیاء کی قیمتوں پر کنٹرول کیا جائے اور حکومت کی طرف سے جاری کردہ نرخوں پر مکمل عملدرآمد کروایا جائے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2312804/6/>

Jang News

امیروں کی غذا 'چلغوزے'؛ چین نے پاکستان سے 1 کروڑ ڈالر کے چلغوزے خرید لیے

چین نے مینگے ترین خشک میوہ جات میں شامل چلغوزے پاکستان سے درآمد کیے ہیں۔ عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی کسٹمز کی جرنل ایڈمنسٹریشن (جی اے سی سی) کے مطابق چین نے رواں سال کے پہلے دو مہینوں میں پاکستان سے چلغوزے درآمد کیے ہیں جن کی مالیت 17 اعشاریہ 67 ملین امریکی ڈالر ہے۔

کے پہلے دو مہینوں میں، چین نے 17 اعشاریہ 67 ملین ڈالر مالیت کے 1,606 اعشاریہ 51 ٹن چلغوزے درآمد کیے۔ 2022 مجموعی طور پر چین نے 42 اعشاریہ 35 ملین ڈالر کے چلغوزے درآمد کیے ہیں جن میں سے 42 فیصد پاکستان سے درآمد کیے گئے۔ چین میں مقیم پاکستانی تاجر عبداللہ آفریدی کا بتانا ہے کہ پاکستانی چلغوزے چین میں بہت مقبول ہیں کیونکہ یہ بہت خوش ذائقہ ہوتے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں چلغوزوں کو 'رائل ڈرائی فروٹ' سمجھا جاتا ہے اور لوگ اسے سردیوں میں کھانا پسند کرتے ہیں لیکن ان کی قیمت زیادہ ہونے کی وجہ سے اسے صرف امیر لوگ ہی برداشت کر سکتے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1076812>

April 21, 2022

Business Recorder

Pakistan-China data exchange system to help detect trade-based money laundering: UBG

KARACHI: The data exchange mechanism will help Pakistan and China to detect under- or over-invoicing and also counter trade-based money laundering in bilateral trade, said Patron-in-Chief S.M. Muneer and President Zubair Tufail of the United Business Group (UBG). Lauding the decision taken by the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and Customs People's Republic Of China to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) on single window cooperation and integration, which will devise a coordination mechanism and facilitate technical discussion between the two sides for proposed integration, they pointed out that China is Pakistan's biggest trading partner, being the top country of origin for import of industrial and consumer goods and Pakistan's third biggest export destination after the United States and EU. Therefore, the integration between the two countries' single windows would expand the scope of economic activities and facilitate expeditious clearance of goods.

They further said that China is a major investor in Pakistan, especially in infrastructure and energy sectors, and that the formation of JWG will boost the confidence of the business communities of both the countries, which is the need of the hour in the backdrop of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/21/5-page/926938-news.html>

Daily Times

China Culture Center in Pakistan celebrates 7th anniversary

Seven years ago on a state visit to Pakistan, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, and the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif jointly inaugurated the China Cultural Center in Pakistan at Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad. The China Cultural Center has since been officially inaugurated.

The establishment of the China Cultural Center in Pakistan marks as an important milestone of the further deepening of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, aiming to strengthen cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and Pakistan. Since the establishment of the center, it has actively carried out various cultural activities including different types of theatrical performances, visual art exhibitions, teaching and training, and lectures. China Cultural Center in Pakistan has successfully organized more than 30 large-scale offline exhibitions and more than 200 online activities. "China-Pakistan Friendship Retrospective Photo Exhibition", "Beautiful China Photo Exhibition", "The Belt and Road in My Eyes-Pakistani Student's Painting Competition Exhibition", etc organized by CCC attracted more than 200,000 people.

More than 30 grand theatrical performances such as “Happy Chinese New Year”, “China Tourism and Culture Week”, and “Mid-Autumn Festival”, attracted more than 100,000 audiences. Eleven training and teaching activities such as Chinese martial arts, Chinese cooking classes, Chinese paper-cut art, etc witnessed the participation of more than 3000 people. China Cultural Center in Pakistan also participated in the “8th and 9th National Book Festival” of Pakistan displaying Chinese cultural elements. Pakistani President H.E Dr. Arif Alvi also visited China Cultural Center in Pakistan’s stall and highly praised the friendship between China and Pakistan. The two National Book Fairs attracted more than 500,000 people. China Cultural Center in Pakistan organizes series of “Happy Chinese New Year” each year bringing the local community together. Series of lectures such as “Traditional Chinese Medicine”, “One Belt One Road”, and Chinese and Western art exchanges and mutual learning are organized in the Pakistani universities. These activities helped to provide interaction opportunities for teachers and students, gaining good results.

To recall our seven-year journey, China Cultural Center in Pakistan will launch the “Beautiful China in Postage Stamps” photo exhibition, “Meet Hebei”, “Great Laborers” art exhibition, “Chinese Solar Terms”, “Poetic Life-Handmade in China” (8 issues in total) and other online activities. In the future, the China Cultural Center in Pakistan will effectively utilize center’s social media platforms and various resources to narrate China’s story, spread Chinese voices, make positive efforts to spread excellent Chinese culture, strengthen cultural and tourism exchanges between two countries, and opening a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/922856/china-culture-center-in-pakistan-celebrates-7th-anniversary/>

11 enterprises setting up industrial units in Rashakai SEZ

Eleven enterprises are setting up industrial units in Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The development of Rashakai SEZ, commercially launched on 28th May 2021, is in progress steadily. Construction of industrial units is on the way including Century Steel, which is a Chinese-owned conglomerate and will be a state-of-the-art steel manufacturing facility.

Besides, 11 enterprises have been allotted land with an area of 42 acres to establish industrial units with an expected investment of Rs11.826 billion and 2,500 employment opportunities in the SEZ,” Hassan Duad Butt, CEO of KP-BoIT stated in an interview with Gwadar Pro. He further added that the SEZ construction will last 6 to 7 years in 3 phases. Provision of electricity to the zone has also been planned in three phases.

In Phase One, 10 Mw was provided in Sept 2020; in Phase Two, 160 Mw will be provided, and 90% of work has been completed and in Phase Three, 50 Mw will be provided.

The gas requirement of the zone is 30-Mmcf/d which has also been approved by the Federal Government and the gas transmission line pipe-laying was completed in December 2021.

Dr Hassan further introduced that the external road network including the provision of utilities is moving as per schedule as well. Chinese state-owned enterprise China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) is actively involved in its marketing to develop the SEZ. The investment plan is focused on high-tech, export-led industries that can add value to the local natural resources and food industry.

Rashakai SEZ is the flagship industrial project of GoKP under CPEC. The SEZ is ideally located on the M1 motorway and is spread over an area of more than 1000 acres.

It is also called Gwadar of the North as it connects Pakistan to neighbouring countries, presenting significant opportunities for both local and international companies to come and establish their industrial setups.

“The location and management strategy makes it a suitable investment initiative. This coupled with the incentives and tax holidays give a suitable platform to invest and benefit from the zone,” he emphasised.

Hassan stated that the SEZ, due to its ideal location and easy access to Afghanistan, can largely enhance Pak-Afghan trade volume with export-led manufacturing industrial units being established at the SEZ, which is currently US\$833.42 million.

There is a large consumer market for fast-moving consumer products (food, beverages & dairy), light engineering products, and textile and garments that can be manufactured in Rashakai and exported to Afghanistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/922804/11-enterprises-setting-up-industrial-units-in-rashakai-sez/>

Dawn News

Ahsan laments slow progress on CPEC projects

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a top priority, Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed serious concern over the sluggish progress on CPEC-related projects.

The minister showed displeasure over the waste of time and resources over the last four years at a meeting he presided over to review the progress on CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by secretaries of various ministries.

Executive Director, CPEC, Qammar Sarwar Abbasi gave a briefing on the so-far progress in executing the projects which is a game-changer for the region.

The minister directed that progress on CPEC should be reviewed twice a month and all Joint Working Groups (JWG) of CPEC to pursue their sector-specific projects and initiate work on them immediately, the Planning Commission said in a statement.

“How pathetic the delay on CPEC projects which is the potential game-changer for the regions, said the minister while directing the official concerned to hold a meeting to review the progress every fortnight. There is zero progress on the Industrial Zones of Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur which is unfortunate. “When you don’t value your investors why they would come for investment”, lamented the minister.

In 2017, the excitement around SEZs was so high that all major foreign direct investors were lining up to be a part of it. However, due to an inordinate delay in projects Chinese investors moved away, said the minister.

The minister noted that further delay in projects will not be acceptable and directed the officials to ensure the expedite the work. “How would you attract our investors when we fail to complete such important projects in time, the minister said while directing the concerned official to hold a separate meeting over SEZs so that it could be streamlined.

As per the initial plan, CPEC plan, the SEZs were supposed to be ready by 2020 but unfortunately, in the last four years, there has been zero progress on SEZs, said the minister, adding that Interior Division should ensure foolproof security of the Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. During the briefing, the minister directed the officials to complete Zhob-Quetta Road which was initiated under the CPEC project. “Infrastructural development in less developed regions will contribute towards uplifting quality of life of the locals and generation of socioeconomic activity,” he added.

The minister stressed that all line ministries and departments divert their immediate attention towards SEZs. In this regard, all potential foreign direct investors are to be engaged as well to hear their perspective and requirements which can be accounted for in SEZs design.

The minister also directed the officials to address the bottlenecks, especially in Early Harvest Projects, including infrastructure and energy projects. There is a dire need of the hour for developing quality human capital that can take benefit of socioeconomic opportunities, opening up due to CPEC, he added.

He also added govt plans to train more than 100,000 young students in various fields like Artificial Intelligence, Oracle, Big Data and others. He also directed HEC to extensively engage with industry to ensure that Pakistani graduates are acquiring an education that is relevant to industrial needs.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1686037>

Dunya News

Planning Minister directs to expedite work on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has expressed serious concern over the slow pace on projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Presiding over a high level meeting in Islamabad, he said there is zero progress on Industrial Zones of Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur which is unfortunate.

The Minister directed the officials to ensure expedite of work on these projects.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/649751-Planning-Minister-directs-to-expedite-work-on-CPEC-projects>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan keen to further expand economic ties with China: Sanjrani

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Wednesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to the role of China in global and regional affairs.

Sadiq Sanjrani said that the government of Pakistan is keen to further expand economic ties with China. “Multilateral partnership between Pakistan and China is an important aspect of Pakistan’s foreign policy”, he emphasized.

He said that both the countries have always supported each other’s position at international forums on important issues and Pak-China friendship is embedded in the hearts of the people of both the countries.

Senate Chairman said that Chinese investment in industrialization, agriculture and digital technologies needs to be further enhanced. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that CPEC would prove to be a game changer for the region which would usher in a new era of development.

Chinese Charg d’Affaires appreciated Pakistan’s efforts for regional peace and stability and expressed satisfaction over the progress on CPEC. Ms Pang Chunxue assured to play her role in further enhancing diplomatic relations with Pakistan at all levels.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-keen-to-further-expand-economic-ties-with-china-sanjrani/>

China’s 3-day Gwadar Iftar Program

In the sacred month of Ramazan, a three-day Iftar reception is being organized for hundreds of local common people of Gwadar by the Chinese embassy in collaboration with Helping Hand Foundation Gwadar and China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) on Wednesday (today).

According to Gwadar Pro, the Chinese Embassy wished the local people of Gwadar a very blissful Ramadan. COPHC is sponsoring the Iftar program which will last for three days – Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

More than 200 people of Gwadar belonging to the lower strata of society will be served at Iftar time daily for three days. Elaborate Iftar will include fresh water, drinks, traditional delights (sweet and salty), meals, and local dishes.

A COPHC official said that under the CSR framework, COPHC is arranging the special Iftar receptions for Muslim residents of Gwadar, considering them brothers.

“A few days back, COPHC also held an Iftar reception for local journalists and office bearers of Gwadar Press Club,” he added. After Iftar dinner, Gwadar Press Club officials paid respectful remarks to China and COPHC, saying such a heart-winning gesture would help connect Gwadar people to the government of China and Chinese companies.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-3-day-gwadar-iftar-program/>

Ejecting CPEC: Back to the future

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

LAST week, China commended Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s remarks on the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that Beijing was ready to work with Islamabad.

The Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif had previously spoken highly of the CPEC several times, calling it an ambitious blueprint to transform Pakistan into a major emerging economy so that the less developed parts of the country could enjoy the dividends of development.

” China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a strategic economic project to enhance economic connectivity between Pakistan and China.

We estimate the impact of CPEC related economic activities on overall energy consumption and its saving potential for Pakistan by 2030”.

Being technically slowed down in the past, hopefully, the CPEC is to move towards a remarkable direction and speed.

The foundations of the Pakistan-China flagship project—CPEC (part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative(BRI)— were formally laid during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang’s visit to Islamabad in May 2013, but it registered an identical resonance during the reign of the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Progressively, there were four stages of the CPEC: (i) early harvest, it covered the period 2015-2019.

In this stipulated schedule, the mega energy-related projects were set to be completed by 2019-adding approximately 7000 MW electricity to national grid and thus easing the energy shortage and load shedding that had crippled the industry and exports (ii); focusing on short-term projects up to 2022 mainly Roads, Gwadar Development, Optic fiber network and the Hydel, coal mining and power projects (iii); focusing on medium projects up to 2025 Railways and Industrial zones; (iv) Long term projects up to 2030, completion of Industrial zones, Agriculture, Tourism etc.

The eastern part covers the construction of highways and railway line linking Gwadar with Kashgar and the Mass Transit systems within big cities.

The rehabilitation and upgrading of Main Railway Line with High speed trains would relieve the businesses of high cost of domestic transportation of goods to and from Karachi as at present bulk of the freight is carried by trucking fleet.

Inner city Mass Transit systems in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta would provide safe and affordable public transport to the citizens who face a lot of inconveniences and spend a lot of time and money in commuting to work.

And yet, the Western route would open up the backward districts of Balochistan and Southern KP and integrate them with the national markets.

The communities living along the route would be able to produce and sell their mining, livestock and poultry, horticulture, fisheries output to a much larger segment of consumers.

Pakistan's vision 2025 also projects rapid urbanization (50–60%) and high GDP growth rate (8%) by 2025. The boost in economic activity and rapid urbanization will derive the demand for fuel and energy at an exponential rate.

As Pakistan's economy is already facing severe energy crisis, robust increase in economic activity and the energy consumption is expected to have a lasting impact on the energy supply security in the economy.

With the reduction in power outages due to enhancement in electricity generation capacity and investment in other production sectors of the economy, GDP growth rate of Pakistan is targeted to increase to 7.5% by 2030 with the addition of about two million jobs in the job market.

Whereas, CPEC-related projects are also aimed at constructing new routes and overhauling existing road infrastructure, thereby facilitating the trade and increasing accessibility to markets.

Transport infrastructure will involve the road network, railways, highways and energy tunnels. 2500–3000 km roads will connect Gwadar port with Kashgar at a cost of 9784 million USD.

In the eight projects related to road and railway infrastructure, one railway project has been completed and operational and 70% work on Karachi-Lahore motorway has been completed.

While creating the free industrial zones is one of the key areas of economic cooperation under CPEC and are justifiably considered as a trustworthy strategy to foster the economic growth and employability into an economy—exclusively galvanized by nine special economic zones—characterized by specific products or services, will be established in all of the provinces in Pakistan along the corridor.

As a consequence, local production accompanied by local raw material and labour under the economic zones will speed up the urbanization process and the employability (expected 2 million jobs) with expected increase into high standard of living, reduced imports and price stability.

Moreover, on March 10, 2022, the signing ceremony of 1.2 million gallons per day water treatment plant took place at China Business Centre. It is a grant from the government of China for the people of Gwadar.

China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) has been granted the contract. Mr. Wu Ping represented CHEC.

Speaking on the occasion he presented a brief description of CHEC and the achievements they have attained in Pakistan so far.

As CPEC evolves, natural selection may decide the winners and losers. And here we may see federalism work to Pakistan's benefit.

Equally, each Economic Zone is seeking Chinese investment via an inter-provincial competition.

After a lull last year because of the exigencies entailed by geopolitical developments in the region provided vigour to CPEC projects in Pakistan.

As a result, two new deals for hydropower projects in Pakistan-administered Jammu & Kashmir were signed in quick succession, along with an agreement on a special economic zone (SEZ) in Faisalabad.

And most importantly, in order to cater to its growing energy and water needs, Pakistan may build more hydropower projects under the CPEC programme.

There are 11 under-construction hydel power projects under the CPEC. Geopolitically put, with the new tapestry of global alliances such as the QUAD, AUKUS, and the US-Japan-India—containing the ascendancy of China, on the one hand, while the South Asian archrivals] India and Pakistan regional competition on the other, has given a boost to the CPEC trajectory.

Yet geoeconomically, the OBOR-affiliated CPEC will tremendously impact the globe. This trans-regional connectivity at its peak would further enhance the competitiveness of Chinese goods and services by reducing the transaction costs and expediting delivery time.

The BRI is China's great soft power paradigm versus Western three seas trajectory. The CPEC will provide great connectivity between Central Asia, Eurasia, the Gulf and beyond.

While criticism regarding the slowness in CPEC-related activities is nonetheless valid, an unbiased insight warrants that concerns around debt sustainability, tepid economic growth and overall economic and social instability in Pakistan predate CPEC.

And above all, it is the lack of long-term " structural reforms that has stymied equitable socioeconomic progress in Pakistan".

Yet China-Pakistan resilience will overcome the challenges for translating the CPEC vision.

—The writer, an independent 'IR' researcher-cum-international law analyst based in Pakistan, is member of European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on IR, Critical Peace &

Conflict Studies, also a member of Washington Foreign Law Society and European Society of International Law.

<https://pakobserver.net/ejecting-cpec-back-to-the-future-by-syed-qamar-afzal-rizvi/>

The Express Tribune

Busses for Karachi leave Chinese port

Two ships carrying 121 public transport vehicles to reach Karachi Port next month

KARACHI: A ship carrying busses for Sindh government's public transport project lifted anchor from a port of China. The ship carrying first 50 buses is expected to drop anchor at Karachi Port within two weeks, while another vessel hauling 71 busses is scheduled to dock here in the next three weeks, said Sindh Transport Minister Syed Awais Qadir Shah.

The diesel hybrid buses will cover over 15 different routes in the six districts of Karachi.

The transport department said that total 240 buses have been allocated for Karachi city while 10 buses will be for Larkana city to overcome the public transport issues of Sindh's major cities. Shah said that last year, the department pledged to launch 250 diesel-electric hybrid buses on six different routes in the city from January 2022 but the delay occurred due to lockdowns.

It has also planned to further facilitate the citizens of other major cities of the province with improved public transport system by providing buses with the latest technology.

The minister said that keeping in view the rising demand for public transport in the port city, as many as 240 out of 250 buses will run in the city. Route chart The transport experts have designated six routes in the city. Route 1 will cover a distance of 29.5km from Model Colony to Merewether Tower via Malir Halt, Colony Gate, Natha Khan Bridge, Drigh Road Station, PAF Base Faisal, Laal Kothi, Karsaz, Nursery, FTC, Regent Plaza, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Cantt Station, Metropole, Regal Chowk and Aram Bagh. Route 2 will cover a distance of 32.9 km from North Karachi to Indus Hospital via Nagan Chowrangi, Shafiq Morr, Sohrab Goth, Gulshan Chowrangi, NIPA, Johar Morr, COD, Drigh Road Station, Colony Gate, Shah Faisal Colony, Singer Chowrangi and Landhi.

Route 3 will cover a distance of 33 km from Nagan Chowrangi to Singer Chowrangi via Anda Morr, North Nazimabad Town, KDA Chowrangi, Nazimabad Town, Liaquatabad 10, Essa Nagri, Civic Centre, National Stadium, Karsaz, Nursery, FTC, Korangi Road, KPT Interchange and Shan Chowrangi. Route 4 will run from Mosamiyat to Dock Yard, passing through Gulzaree-Hijri, Motorway M-9, AlAsif Square, Ayesha Manzil, Federal B Area, Liaquatabad No 10, Lalu Khait, Guru Mandir, Society Chowrangi, Empress Market, Sindh High Court, Arts Council, I.I. Chundrigar Road and Merewether Tower.

Route 5 will start from Surjani Town to Masroor, covering New Karachi, Shafiq Morr, KMDC, Ziauddin Chowrangi, KDA Chowrangi, Musa Colony, Mangophir, SITE Area and Gulbai. Route 6 is from Gulshane-Bihar, Orangi Town to Singer Chowrangi, via Banaras, Paposh Nagar, SITE

Area, Golimar, Garden, PIB Colony, Jail Chowangi, Bahadurabad, Baloch Colony, Mehmoodabad, Manzoor Colony, DHA Phase-1, KPT Interchange and Shan Chowrangi. Buses in Larkana will cover stops from Larkana Bus Terminal to Larkana Junction, covering areas like Indus Highway, 7 Naka Bridge, Gharib Nagar, Naudero Chowk, Shahi Bazaar, Ansari Mohalla and Station Road.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353576/busses-for-karachi-leave-chinese-port>

Govt to wind up CPEC authority

Planning minister passes instructions to begin process of its abolishment

ISLAMABAD: The new government has decided to abolish the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority amid disclosure that Chinese power producers have shut down 1,980 megawatts of production capacity due to non-clearance of their Rs300 billion dues.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has passed instructions to the concerned officials to begin the process for abolishing the authority.

We will move a summary seeking Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's approval to abolish the CPEC Authority, Iqbal confirmed to The Express Tribune. "It is a redundant organisation with a huge waste of resources which has thwarted speedy implementation of the CPEC", said the minister.

The decision to wind up the CPEC Authority was in line with the Pakistan Muslim League-N's old policy that was never in favour of establishing a parallel setup. Even the PTI government took over two years to set up the authority but it largely remained dormant as the last political dispensation was too not in favour of having another bureaucratic structure.

The last PTI government had reluctantly enacted the CPEC Authority Act in May 2021 but it never filled the chairman position after former chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday took his government's first briefing on the state of CPEC affairs and the same officials who in the past used to defend CPEC progress told the new regime how things were bad on the ground.

It was revealed during the meeting that over 37% of the installed capacity of the CPEC power projects, or 1,980 megawatts, was out of order due to non-payment of dues to Chinese investors. The meeting was informed that total receivables of the 10 Chinese IPPs have shot up to Rs300 billion, out of which the overdue amount was Rs270 billion.

The three imported coal-fired power plants, Hubco, Sahiwal and Port Qasim have closed one of their two units due to non-availability of the fuel, a senior former official who was responsible for the CPEC told The Express Tribune on condition of anonymity.

He said that the matter had been brought to the knowledge of the then finance minister Shaukat Tarin but the ministry only made partial payment of Rs50 billion.

Similarly, the establishment of a revolving account was pending since the signing of CPEC Energy Projects Framework Agreement in 2014. A day before departure to China to seek a big bailout, the then government had announced to open the account but when a summary was presented before the Economic Coordination Committee for approval on April 1, 2022, Shaukat Tarin deferred the final approval, according to a briefing given to Ahsan Iqbal.

The CPEC projects were also facing delays due to change in taxation policies by the last government in violation of commitments given to China. The PTI government had last year withdrawn the sales tax exemption on imports.

The Supplementary Finance Bill 2021 had introduced 17% on imports, which affected all on-going CPEC IPPs like Azad Pattan, Kohala, Suki Kinari, Gwadar, TEL, ThalNova, Thar Coal Block-I) and, other non CPEC Chinese IPPs, the minister was informed.

These IPPs were exempted from the sales tax during the construction phase, through various power generation policies.

The planning minister on Wednesday showed displeasure over the “sluggish progress” on the CPEC projects.

“How pathetic the delay on CPEC projects which is the potential game changer for the regions, ‘ said the minister while directing the officials concerned to hold a meeting to review the progress at fortnight.

He added that there was zero progress on industrial zones being set up at Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur, terming the development “unfortunate”. “When you do not value your investors, why would they come for investment”, lamented the minister.

In 2017, the excitement around SEZs was so high that all major foreign direct investors were lining up to be a part of it. However, due to delay in projects Chinese investors moved away, said the minister.

The minister noted that further delay in projects will not be acceptable while directing the officials to ensure the expedition of the work.

The minister also directed all Joint Working Groups (JWGs) of CPEC to pursue their sector specific projects and initiate work on them immediately. The government is planning to hold the next JCC meeting in May.

As per initial CPEC plan, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were supposed to be ready by 2020 but unfortunately, in the last four years, there has been zero progress on SEZs, said the minister while adding that the Interior Division should ensure the fool proof security of the Chinese in Pakistan.

During the briefing, the minister directed the officials to complete Zhob-Quetta Road which was initiated under the CPEC project.

Minister Iqbal stressed that all line ministries and departments divert their immediate attention towards SEZs - In this regard, all potential foreign direct investors are to be engaged as well to hear their perspective and needs which can be accounted for in SEZs design.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353506/govt-to-wind-up-cpec-authority>

The Nation

Ahsan Concerned Over Sluggish Progress On CPEC Projects

ISLAMABAD – Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has expressed serious concern over the sluggish progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

“How pathetic the delay on CPEC projects which is the potential game changer for the region,” said Ahsan Iqbal while chairing a high level meeting to review the progress on projects CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by Secretary PD&SI, secretaries of various ministries and other relevant officials. Executive Director, CPEC, Qammar Sarwar Abbasi gave a briefing to the minister over the so far progress in executing the projects which is a game changer for the region. While showing his displeasure over the slow progress, the minister directed the official concerned to hold a progress review meeting fortnightly. The minister observed that there is zero progress on Industrial Zones of Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur which is unfortunate. “When you don’t value your investors why they would come for investment”, lamented the minister. In 2017, the excitement around SEZs was so high that all major foreign direct investors were lining up to be a part of it. However, due to delay in projects Chinese investors moved away, said the minister. The minister noted that further delay in projects will not be acceptable and directed the officials to expedite the work. “How would you attract our investors when we fail to complete such important projects in time, the minister said while directing the concerned official to hold a separate meeting over SEZs so it could be streamlined. The minister also directed all Joint Working Groups JWG of CPEC to pursue their sector specific projects and initiate work on them immediately. As per initial plan, CPEC plan, the Special Economic Zones SEZs were supposed to be ready by 2020 but unfortunately, in last four years, there has been zero progress on SEZs, said the minister while adding that Interior Division should ensure the fool proof security of the Chinese in Pakistan. During the briefing, the minister directed the officials to complete Zhob-Quetta Road which was initiated under the CPEC project. The minister stressed that all line ministries and departments should divert their immediate attention towards SEZs and in this regard, all potential foreign direct investors are to be engaged as well to hear their perspective and needs which can be accounted in SEZs design. The minister also directed the officials to address the bottlenecks, especially in Early Harvest Projects, including infrastructure and energy projects.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/21/ahsan-concerned-over-sluggish-progress-on-cpec-projects/>

USA, China, UK Remain Top 3 Destinations Of Pakistani Exports

ISLAMABAD – The United States remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first eight months of financial year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the USA during July-February (2021-22) were recorded at \$4410.593 million against the exports of \$3079.375 million during July-February (2020-21), showing growth of 43.23 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1841.113 million against the exports of \$1165.949 million last year, showing increase of 57.90 percent. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$1472.599 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1308.686 million, showing growth of 12.52 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$1180.538 million against \$944.576 million during last year, showing an increase of 24.98 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$1131.971 million against \$989.878 million last year, the data said. During July-February (2021-22), the exports to Holland were recorded \$916.795 million against \$715.361 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$651.691 million against \$483.830 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$699.382 million against the exports of \$512.644 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded \$295.866 million against \$ 629.787 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$559.118 million against \$375.669 million, showing growth of 48.83 percent, according to SBP.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$334.009 million against \$287.618 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$459.587 million against \$357.658 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$260.260 million during the current year compared to \$326.668 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$255.500 million against \$192.843, to Malaysia \$268.693 million against \$127.265 million. Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed an increase of 28.11 percent in eight months, from \$16.092 billion to \$20.616 billion, the SBP data revealed.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/21/usa-china-uk-remain-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports/>

The News

Former govt draws fire for dragging down CPEC

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Voicing utter dissatisfaction over the progress made on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in the last four years, Federal Minister for Planning Dr

Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday comfortably hanged the failure on the previous government's incompetence and mismanagement.

"No Special Economic Zone, initially envisaged to become operational by 2018, could be made operational till now," said the new planning minister in his maiden meeting to review the status of CPEC projects.

"The CPEC's delay played havoc on the country's economy."

The meeting was attended by Secretary PD&SI, Secretaries of various ministries and other relevant officials.

Executive Director, CPEC, Qammar Sarwar Abbasi gave a briefing to the minister over the progress made so far in executing the projects.

"How pathetic is the delay on CPEC projects, which is the potential game changer for the region," said the minister while directing the officials to hold fortnightly meetings to review the progress.

"There is zero progress on Industrial Zones of Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur which is unfortunate. When you don't value your investors why would they come for investment," the minister said.

In 2017, the excitement around SEZs was so high that all major foreign direct investors were lining up to be a part of it, the minister said adding however, due to the holdup the Chinese investors pulled out.

The minister noted that further delay in projects would not be acceptable and tasked the officials to ensure speedy work.

The minister said it was next to impossible to attract investors if the projects were taking an eternity to complete.

The minister also directed all Joint Working Groups of CPEC to pursue their sector specific projects and initiate work immediately.

As per initial plan, Special Economic Zones under CPEC were supposed to be ready by 2020, but unfortunately, in the last four years, the progress on SEZs remained zero, the minister said, adding that the Interior Division should ensure the foolproof security of the Chinese in Pakistan.

The minister directed the officials to complete Zhob-Quetta Road, initiated under the CPEC project.

"Infrastructural development in less developed regions will contribute towards uplifting the quality of life of the locals and generation of socioeconomic activity," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that all line ministries and departments must divert their immediate attention towards SEZs and in this regard, all potential foreign direct investors needed to be engaged.

He also directed the officials to remove bottlenecks, especially in Early Harvest Projects, including infrastructure and energy projects.

“There is a dire need for developing quality human capital that can take advantage of socioeconomic opportunities, opening up due to CPEC,” he added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=79625>

April 22, 2022

Business Recorder

Pakistan, Afghanistan can ease concerns through talks: China

BEIJING: The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on Thursday said that Afghanistan and Pakistan were traditional friendly neighbours of China and believed that the two countries could properly resolve their respective concerns through dialogue and consultations.

“Afghanistan and Pakistan are both traditional friendly neighbours of China. We believe that the two countries can properly resolve their respective concerns through dialogue and consultation, and jointly maintain regional peace and stability,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here.

In response to the experts’ claim that the recent incident along Pak-Afghan border caused a setback for the Afghan interim government’s efforts to seek international recognition, as well as China’s efforts to engage with the Afghan interim government, he said, ‘The so-called ‘experts’ you quoted are completely deliberately slanderous words without impartiality or professionalism.’”

When asked to comment over the recent incident and related retaliatory remarks, he said, “We believe that Pakistan and Afghanistan can properly resolve their respective concerns through dialogue and consultation, and jointly maintain regional peace and stability.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/22/2-page/927041-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan-China JWG discusses cooperation in science and technology

The second meeting of Pakistan-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Science and Technology under Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held via video link to discuss cooperation in science and technology.

According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, the meeting was co-chaired by Humaira Ahmed, Federal Secretary for Ministry of Science and Technology and Dai Gang, Director-General of Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

The JWG meeting expressed that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners, and that China and Pakistan will work together to deepen cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), and provide sci-tech support for the development of CPEC.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of STI cooperation as a central pillar for the social and economic development of both countries. Executive Director of CPEC Authority appreciated the progress of CEPC and expressed hope that the deliberations of the meeting will result in initiation of some projects in the area of Science and Technology.

The JWG acknowledged achievements made by Chinese Academy of Sciences and Higher Education Commission (HEC) in jointly building China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad.

Furthermore, it commended outcomes achieved by China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) through cooperation in STEM education, China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor, people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation in science and technology. It also appreciated Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Chinese Association of Science and technology (CAST) on the progress on Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for mutual recognition of engineers.

The JWG decided to support Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA) in the development of Special Technology Zones across Pakistan and also support other programs related to development of knowledge ecosystem, such as training and capacity building of policy-makers on STI, incubation programs and knowledge exchange events.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/923621/pakistan-china-jwg-discusses-cooperation-in-science-and-technology/>

CPEC Phase-2 contributing to socio-economic development of Pakistan: Ambassador Haque

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered its second phase, with a focus on industry, agriculture, technology, tourism thus contributing to overall socio-economic development in the country, said Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

The flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is also helping in the development of remote areas, creation of jobs, and improving the livelihoods of people, he said in a recent interview with Sun Chao, Head of Belt and Road Ambassador Interview Program, the Author of Global Leaders on the Belt and Road Initiative.

Sharing his views on many important topics, including China's Belt and Road Initiative, Ambassador Haque termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a transformational project for Pakistan.

He said, the CPEC has facilitated the upgrade of our physical infrastructure, addressed our acute energy needs, and contributed to the development of Gwadar Port. It is very much in sync with Pakistan's renewed focus on geo-economics and economic security.

About the development of innovative sectors in Pakistan, he said, the emerging technologies like AI, robotics, 5G, big data, and quantum computing are having a huge impact on our lives. The useful applications of these technologies in sectors like trade, industry, agriculture, health and education cannot be denied. Consequently, this area has the necessary attention of the government of Pakistan.

Ambassador Haque informed that an initiative called Digital Pakistan has been launched. The government has announced new policy package to promote innovation and research in IT areas. A number of incubation centers in the country have been established to assist new start-up companies.

He said that a Special Technology Zones Authority has been set up with the mandate to promote and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, ensure facilitation to technology players through a collaborative approach between government, industry and academia.

It is a fast-growing area of cooperation between China and Pakistan. Many Chinese technology companies are already working in Pakistan. Realizing the potential of our bilateral cooperation in IT sectors, we have established a Joint Working Group on IT under CPEC, he added.

He informed that the two countries have recently agreed to launch China-Pakistan Digital Corridor to further enhance cooperation in this regard.

In response to a question regarding people-to-people exchanges, he said that last year, the two countries celebrated 70 years of our diplomatic relations – an important milestone in our friendship journey of seven decades.

We together organized more than 140 events, an extraordinary and unprecedented feat. Most of these events were in the field of culture, including art exhibitions, fashion shows, food festivals, literary gatherings and film festivals, he added.

Ambassador Haque informed that the two countries also established 20 new sister province and sister city relations. These friendly agreements between our provinces and cities are now more than 40, and provide a solid framework for practical cooperation in the fields of trade, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

He said that Pakistan and China are also promoting linkages between their academic institutions. There are a number of Pakistan study centers as well as Urdu Study Centers in many Chinese universities. Similarly, China has established Confucius Institutes in Pakistan. Chinese language is also gaining popularity in Pakistani schools and colleges.

We must build on the current momentum and further broaden and intensify our ties in these areas, he added.

Ambassador Haque informed that in order to further foster a better understanding, the two countries are also focusing on the area of tourism. An MoU on promoting tourism was signed in November 2021, and the Year 2023 will be celebrated as Year of Tourism Exchanges between our two countries.

To a question about goal for future Pak-China relations and friendship, he said that as one of the special relationships in the world, our friendship is based on enduring trust, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. Whatever the circumstances, and whatever the regional and international environment, this relation has remained constant.

He believed that the future of this relationship will be exceedingly bright, not only for our two countries, but also contributing to peace, progress and prosperity of our region and beyond.

Ambassador Haque observed that there is complete consensus in our two countries to strengthen our all-weather strategic partnership; promote cooperation in the areas of industry, agriculture and IT, and continue our joint efforts to increase cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

Regarding China's fight against poverty, he said that China's remarkable progress in its poverty-alleviation programme is indeed impressive. Lifting more than 800 million people from absolute poverty is a miracle of modern times.

This has been possible due to vision and wisdom of CPC leadership, meticulous planning and sustained efforts. It was a 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach, he added.

About the valuable experience in China's epidemic prevention and future challenges, he said that the way China handled the pandemic is particularly impressive.

He congratulated the people and government of China for the decisive victory against the pandemic. You have basically controlled the epidemic in an effective, disciplined, and united manner, and to put it in Jinnah's word, you have defeated the pandemic through, "Unity, faith, and discipline.

He remarked that throughout this health crisis, China and Pakistan have supported each other and collaborated closely. Pakistan was the first country to get vaccine donation from China and added, to date, over 180 million doses have been provided, which are mainstay of Pakistan's vaccine drive. Both the countries also jointly cooperated in the development of COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 has shown that we require international cooperation and collective efforts to address global challenges. President Xi puts it that instead of sailing in different smaller boats, we should sail together in one big ship in order to weather bigger storms, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that he considers it as a privilege to serve as Pakistan's Ambassador to China, and contributes towards the growth of the most significant bilateral relationship that Pakistan has.

This relationship is time-tested and timeless. It is only because of the nurturing by successive generations of our leadership and people that the friendship between Pakistan and China has remained unparalleled in inter-state relations, he added.

The relationship between our two countries is currently at a historic juncture, and it is incumbent on both our sides to seize this opportunity, build upon it and further strengthen the bilateral ties, building China-Pakistan community of shared future, he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/923561/cpec-phase-2-contributing-to-socio-economic-development-of-pakistan-ambassador-haque/>

The News

UN Chinese language Day marked

Islamabad : In connection with commemoration of The UN Chinese Language Day observed on 20th April annually, celebrations are solemnized with zeal and zest in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Chinese Acting Consul General in Lahore Peng Zhengwu said that The UN Chinese Language Day is to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is believed to be the inventor of the Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago. "Characters and languages are the symbols of civilization. With the growing demands of communication between peoples, Chinese language has been spread to a world-wide range," he added.

In Pakistan, he said, there are several Confucius Institutes in local universities offering Chinese language teaching and certification. "Moreover, lots of local schools, such as Atchison College, Grammar School and Lahore American School have Chinese language courses, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

There are more and more people in Pakistan taking Chinese language as the key to the life and work of the coming era. With the peaceful and dynamic development of China, they believe, those who can master Chinese well will share the benefits of a stronger China and become the leaders of future generation," he explained.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=80086>

K2 Daily

سی پیک پر عملدرآمد کیلئے موثر انتظامی ڈھانچہ تشکیل دینگے، احسن اقبال
 طویل مدتی انتظامی امور پر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ صدر سینیٹ اور گورنر جنرل نے پریزیدی
 وفاق وزیر کوئی پیکیشن سے متعلق بریفنگ، وزیر اعلیٰ ایک قرارداد کو منظور کرنے کی اجازت
 اسلام آباد (این این آئی) وفاقی وزیر برائے غیر ملکی امور نے پریزیدی اور گورنر جنرل سے
 منصوبہ بندی ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال کہا ہے کہ سی پیک پر عمل درآمد کے لیے موثر انتظامی
 لے سی پیک کی ضرورت پر کام کرنے والے ادارہ کو ڈھانچہ تشکیل دیا (آئی سٹیو 6 اپریل 53)

بقیہ
 53
 جانے گا کہ سی پیک کو پلانے کیلئے طویل مدتی انتظامی
 امور پر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ جمہوریت کو
 وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے ڈویژن سٹیٹ پلاننگ سے
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 اقبال کا اجلاس سٹیٹ پیک کے سٹراٹجی پلاننگ
 سے متعلق بریفنگ دی گئی۔

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

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

April 23, 2022

Business Recorder

Shujaat's son Salik made CPEC Authority chief

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appointed PML-Q MNA Chaudhry Salik Hussain as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority chairman.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain has replaced Khalid Mansoor as CPEC authority chief. The appointment comes after PML-Q parliamentarian on Friday morning took as federal cabinet minister. Former president Asif Ali Zardari, a day earlier, met Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to seek his consent for inclusion of his son in the federal cabinet. Similarly, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) MNA Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Khalid Magsi also congratulated Ch Shujaat.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/23/1-page/927168-news.html>

CPEC authority: less authoritative

How typical that the same officials that defended the progress of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) till the last days of the previous government are now telling the new one just how bad things have actually become on the ground. It turns out that Chinese power plants have shut down approximately 2,000 megawatts of production capacity due to non-clearance of dues to their investors; and total receivables of 10 Chinese IPPs (Independent Power Producers) have shot up to Rs300 billion, out of which Rs270 billion is overdue. It's also been reported in sections of the press, and not yet denied by the government, that the three imported coal-fired power plants — Hubco, Sahiwal and Port Qasim — have also closed one of their two units due to unavailability of fuel. And when these matters were brought before the last finance minister, Shaukat Tarin, he could do little more than extend a partial payment of Rs50 billion. Given the circumstances it makes sense for the government to proceed with abolishing the CPEC Authority because it's clearly "a redundant organisation with a huge waste of resources which has thwarted speedy implementation of CPEC," according to Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal. But PML-N would probably have axed it anyway because it was against a parallel setup even when the project took off. And the Authority remained largely dormant although the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) government invested a good two years in setting it up. It only very reluctantly enacted the CPEC Authority Act in May 2021 but even then it never filled the position of the chairman after Lt-Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) first made it controversial and then resigned from it.

There are also lingering issues about setting up a revolving account, which Pakistan was supposed to do but never came round to doing, and delays in certain projects arising from sudden change in taxation policies by the last government in clear violation of commitments made to Beijing. Under pressure from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), most likely, the government simply withdrew sales tax exemptions on imports. Ahsan Iqbal had a lot more to say as well about how the PTI administration allegedly ran this rare game-changing opportunity into the ground; like making “zero progress on industrial zones being set up at Port Qasim, Islamabad, and Mirpur.”

While details about what exactly went wrong over the last few years are only beginning to trickle through, it's been pretty clear for a while that Pakistan's inability to make timely payments to Chinese investors and provide adequate safety to their workers is a big part of the problem. With terrorist attacks on the rise and the financial squeeze getting worse by the day, it's not immediately clear how long the new government is going to need to solve these issues. But it has already sounded the alarm, and also a very serious warning, because if this precious chance is also wasted then there's no way that Pakistan is going to be able to bring its infrastructure up to speed with the 21st century.

The CPEC is truly a game-changing opportunity for Pakistan and the only reason it's such an integral part of China's much bigger BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) is our strategic geographic location that no other country can match; not some notions of higher-than-mountains and deeper-than-oceans friendship that we have with the Chinese. Sadly, so far we've just wasted this opportunity to give the country's social overhead capital a desperately needed facelift; and now even excited foreign investors are losing interest. SEZs (Special Economic Zones) for example, prompted investors to line up to be part of the project in 2017. But needless delays that forced them to miss the 2020 deadline to be up and running also disappointed a lot of investors and now the tide has almost completely turned.

Hopefully, the corrective measures will not end just with scrapping the CPEC Authority. It has to be not just about identifying mistakes and oversights, but also correcting them. Short of that, no amount of noise about who did what wrongly and why, is going to revive China's interest or get the project back on its feet. Only dotting all the Is, crossing all the Ts, and blocking all the holes will work.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/23/4-page/927191-news.html>

Daily Times

PTI govt failed to timely complete CPEC projects

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) failed to complete the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the dates agreed between the Chinese side and PML-N government.

Addressing media persons here, he said that the PML-N government had set the target for completion of all the nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) identified under CPEC, by 2025. However, he added that so far the PTI government could start work on only four out of nine SEZs that too had not been completed yet while work on the remaining five SEZs had not initiated yet.

He said according to the five years' plan (2020-25), the government was to focus only industrial development under CPEC and it was expected that during that period some \$40 billion foreign investment would be poured in to the country's SEZs. "Imran Khan's government has put irreversible loss to CPEC that is the project of national interest," he said adding that the coalition government was committed to revive the mega project.

Ahsan Iqbal said the previous government of PTI had played havoc with the country's economy as the country's debt and the inflation reached to record high levels. Every family's domestic budget, he said had disturbed during that period.

He said despite the fact that Imran Khan was the most powerful Prime Minister, he could not manage the country on every front special in economy and foreign diplomacy. "All institutions were supporting him, he had government in three provinces but despite that he failed to deliver," Ahsan Iqbal said. He said before the PTI government, the country owed Rs 25000 billion worth of loans, but during three years and nine months' tenure of the PTI, the country was indebted with additional Rs 20,000 billion loans.

He highlighted that the development budget of the country had been cut to half from Rs 1000 billion to only Rs 500 billion. During that period the important projects of national level such as education and health were ignored in the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) but only small projects with less importance were promoted during that tenure. He said the ML-1 railway project under CPEC could also not be initiated in four years which was a game changer project for Pakistan Railways.

The minister said in 2018, Pakistan did not import sugar, cotton, and wheat but rather the country was used to produce these commodities in sufficient amount to meet the domestic needs. But he said now the country is importing all these commodities. "This year, we have wheat shortage of two million tons which would be imported to meet the domestic needs," he added.

He asked Imran Khan to show a sense of responsibility and if wants early elections, then he would have to sit in the National Assembly's electoral reforms committee to ensure that the process should be completed in time and also to ensure that the next elections should be held free, fair and transparent.

<https://dailymail.com.pk/924141/pti-govt-failed-to-timely-complete-cpec-projects/>

Dawn News**Ahsan directs winding up of CPEC Authority***Khaleeq Kiani*

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday called for immediate removal of problems faced by the Chinese investors and contractors working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including swift processing of their visa cases.

During a visit to CPEC Authority offices, the minister also directed the authorities concerned to prepare a structure so that the CPECA could be wound up and integrated into the Ministry of Planning and Development because it was in conflict with rules of business of the various ministries.

Mr Iqbal told Dawn that the CPECA was dysfunctional and was in conflict with the role of line ministries. Under the rules of business, ministries had the basic roles in the implementation of policies and projects under the CPEC but a parallel organisation only created duplication of work and lack of ownership.

Asad Umar

Responding to some media reports that the CPECA's chairmanship had been given to newly sworn in federal minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain of PML-Q, the minister said he was not aware of any such move and added that it was illogical to have a parallel set up.

Meets Chinese investors next week; invites Asad Umar for briefing on key initiatives

He recalled that PML-N had strongly opposed the creation of CPECA through an act of parliament because it was unnecessary and superfluous as the planning ministry had discharged the role very diligently and effectively in the past.

He said the opposition members had dissented to the act because it appeared to be a parallel Planning Commission with little utility and become a "white elephant".

Mr Iqbal in his dissenting note had recalled that more than \$29 billion worth of investment had been channelised by the Planning Commission successfully without any authority and with the support of various ministries which should continue for successful implementation.

Meanwhile, Mr Ahsan invited his predecessor Asad Umar to a farewell briefing on the development initiatives of greater public importance that PTI started and should continue in public interest. Mr Umar could not be reached for comments.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1686352>

The Express Tribune**Local company signs LNG agreement with Chinese firm**

CNCEC will design, construct and finance offshore LNG terminal in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The transition to liquefied natural gas (LNG) from diesel and oil is the correct way forward for Pakistan in terms of making the shift to renewables, remarked Daewoo Gas Chief Executive Officer Shahid Karim.

He was speaking during a ceremony held to mark the signing of a Master EPCF (engineering, procurement, construction and finance) contract between Daewoo Gas and China National Chemical Engineering Company (CNCEC).

“We look forward to the continued cooperation of the government of Pakistan to help us achieve the goal of delivering LNG to Pakistan’s industrial and domestic consumers at the earliest,” he said.

Under the contract, CNCEC would design, construct and finance an offshore LNG terminal with topside equipment to enable LNG filling into ISO containers (intermodal containers) for use in Pakistan.

The specialised LNG containers would be moved by trucks all over Pakistan, where LNG would be re-gasified at client sites, according to a statement.

“At its peak, Daewoo Gas’ terminal will handle 10,000 tons of LNG per day, improve Pakistan’s energy supply, create thousands of jobs nationally and reduce carbon emissions,” the statement added.

The total foreign investment in this project including the terminal, facilities, LNG logistics and supply infrastructure was estimated to be around \$300 million.

“The project is based on the innovative design of transporting LNG on trucks and bowsers loaded with ISO tanks rather than through the pipeline system.”

“This technology is referred to as ‘Virtual LNG’ (VLNG) pipeline and is common in China,” the statement said.

Detailing about the plan, Karim mentioned that the vision was to operationalise the terminal within a year – before summer 2023 – at Pakistan’s LNG zone in the Arabian Sea.

He voiced hope that the project would not only help meet the energy needs of Pakistan, but would also contribute towards upgrading the natural gas industry in the country with innovative technology.

The project would develop a gas supply-chain in parallel to the fixed pipeline supply network “at no risk or cost to the government of Pakistan”, he emphasised.

“Facilitating re-gasification at their sites, all customers nationwide will be supplied gas through specialised LNG tanker trucks,” he noted.

He was of the view that the project would augment the government’s efforts to optimise “gas supply to far-flung areas that are not connected to the national gas transmission network”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353807/local-company-signs-lng-agreement-with-chinese-firm>

Great scope of Sino-Pak PV cooperation

K-P energy department is constructing solar stations to energise business centres

PESHAWAR: With the inauguration of the solar grid station, traders in Jandola Bazaar will begin to obtain uninterrupted, cheap and clean energy, said shopkeeper Muhammad Khan Mehsood.

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation (PEDO) is constructing solar mini-grid stations (photovoltaic solar system) to provide uninterrupted electricity to business centers in the newly merged districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

One of these solar mini-grid stations is located in Jandola, subdivision tank in southern K-P. Construction of the mini-grid station is almost complete and the power transmission will be accomplished shortly, according to PEDO.

“It will supply electricity to hundreds of shops in Jandola Bazaar, where unannounced load shedding has been a longstanding issue for local traders,” Mehsood said, adding that it would help boost business activity in the bazaar.

The capacity of the mini-grid is 175 KW. About 390 solar panels, with a capacity of 450 watts each, have been installed in the station.

As per the government’s plan, a total of 13 mini-grid stations would be set up in the tribal districts of the province. The solar mini-grid stations in Jandola, Orakzai and Mohmand tribal districts are in the final stages of their completion and soon the business community will start enjoying uninterrupted, cheap, green and clean energy.

A PEDO official, working on Jandola solar mini-grid station, said that the technology used in the station mainly comes from China. “The solar panels, lithium batteries and inverters are made in China,” he said.

“China is a champion in solar photovoltaic technology and we are lucky that China and Pakistan are friendly neighboring countries,” he said, adding that Chinese panels are durable and above all economical.

Besides grid-stations, the government of K-P is in the process of the solarisation of 8,000 schools, 4,000 mosques and 187 basic health units (BHUs) as per ‘Access to Clean Energy Program’. PEDO is currently executing the clean energy program in different parts of the province. Under this program, 370 schools have been fully energised through solar system in the district of Swat.

With the completion of programs, 12 MW load will be shifted from national grid station to alternate solar energy, according to officials.

PEDO has recently completed the solarisation of the Government Primary School Topsin, Swat. The school is located at a distant hilly area in Janoo Chamtalai union council. “Now we have lights and fans and there is no issue of electricity,” said Muhammad Ijaz, a teacher of the school. “Students are happy while their parents are delighted to see their children in peaceful study environment,” he said, adding that due to scorching summer heat and prolonged power outages, in many areas of the province parents stop sending their children to schools.

PEDO has also installed a solar system in BHU Madyan Swat. “The solar system is a relief for medical staff, patients and their attendants,” Dr Fazal Rabi said, and he appealed to the government to do the solarisation of all health facilities. “Pakistan can avail China’s help for the solarisation of the hospitals,” he added.

Many Pakistani families have started using solar power. Well-off people have proper solar system at their homes while poor people simply use solar panel connected to a small DC fan during the day. Thanks to Chinese technology, even gypsies carry solar panels with them from place to place to run fans and charge their cellphones with them. Some farmers use a solar-powered fans to separate the grains from the husks. The use of solar energy has become an integral part of life, especially in rural Pakistan.

According to information available, ‘Access to Clean Energy Program’ of K-P is mainly based on Chinese technologies. The solar panels, lithium batteries, inverters and other equipment have been imported from China. The rechargeable li-on batteries used in the projects are the productions of pylon tech China while crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules are produced by Shanghai JA Solar Technologies, China. Similarly, the inverters used in the solar mini-grid stations are made in China. The majority of them are the products of Voltronic Power Technology (Shenzhen), China.

“We import solar panels from different companies from China such as JA Solar, Yingli, Suntech, Longli and SUOER and many others,” said Ihsan Khan, who deals in solar panels in Peshawar. “We are executing projects in both public and private sectors,” he said.

Pakistan is currently reporting a major shortcut to households and industries. Instead of buying expensive coal and natural gas to fuel its power plants, the country should focus on increasing renewable energy production.

According to Muhammad Aziz, an engineer, power generation under CPEC should focus on the development of renewable energies such as solar, wind and hydropower. “The transfer of technological innovations and skills from Chinese companies to the local renewable energy manufacturer can also help Pakistan,” Aziz said, adding that “investors from both countries should enter into joint ventures in photovoltaic technology in SEZs”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353793/great-scope-of-sino-pak-pv-cooperation>

The Nation

Ahsan Iqbal To Visit Gwadar After Eid To Review CPEC Projects

ISLAMABAD – Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that ownership of the CPEC projects should remain with the concerned line ministries while the role of the Planning Ministry is to facilitate stakeholders from both the sides.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal stressed that working relations with line ministries should be streamlined to give them greater ownership of CPEC projects. "Our role is to facilitate the stakeholders from both sides" he added.

The minister on Friday visited the CPEC Authority Secretariat where Executive Director, CPEC, Qammar Sarwar Abbasi gave a briefing to the minister over the so far progress in executing the projects. The CPEC Authority was established by the previous government amid great controversy. The Authority is dysfunctional due to duplication in role with line ministries.

The minister said that Gwadar is one of the central points in the CPEC and it has a huge impact on the country. "Soon after Eidul Fitr, I will visit Gwadar to personally review the projects of CPEC and my top priority is to expedite all the pending projects which remained on slow pace, " he added.

During his visit, the minister will also inaugurate the installation of Solar Project Generation System for households in various parts of Gwadar. The project was launched by the Chinese companies in the city to support the poor household. During the briefing, ED, CPEC, Qammar Ababsi informed the minister that a total of 3,000 panels will be installed in order to facilitate the residents and so far 940 solar generation systems have been installed for households.

During the meeting, the minister also directed the Executive Director, CPEC to invite all Chinese companies working on CPEC projects. "I want to meet them next week to listen to their problems so that bottlenecks can be removed to streamline their working," Ahsan Iqbal said.

The minister also directed to ensure the fool proof security of the Chinese working on various projects and issues pertaining to their visas will be resolved on a priority basis through the Ministry of Interior.

The minister further stressed that working relations with line ministries should be streamlined to give them greater ownership of CPEC projects.

He said that government officials played a very active and positive role in realizing \$29b investment under CPEC. Unfortunately, the previous government created an atmosphere of intimidation which took away the initiative of government officials. The new government will restore the confidence of government officials, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/23/ahsan-iqbal-to-visit-gwadar-after-eid-to-review-cpec-projects/>

April 24, 2022

Daily Times

China's ZIEC among successful bidders for N-25 Dualization

The National Highway Authority (NHA) has declared China's Zhongding International Engineering Co. Ltd (ZIEC) and its JV partner, one of the successful bidders for the dualization of Khuzdar-Kuchlak section of National Highway (N-25). According to Gwadar Pro, the NHA announced the evaluation report under Rule-351 of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) for the dualization of Khuzdar-Kuchlak Section of N-25 section III from km 102+000-km 171+900. The JV of ZIEC and Progressive Technical Association Pvt. Ltd. is the top qualified bidder. Zhongding International Construction Group Co., Ltd also known as Zhongding Group is a comprehensive multinational management group accumulating over sixty years of domestic and over two decades of international engineering contracting and overseas resources investment experiences. Last May, Central Development Working Party Meeting (CDWP) had approved the 'Dualization of Khuzdar Kuchlak' section of N-25 with a length of 330.52 km. In September 2021, NHA had invited e-bidding for the project and provided an online platform to carry out procurement to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in the process.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/924633/chinas-ziec-among-successful-bidders-for-n-25-dualization/>

PBIT's efforts to facilitate Chinese investors appreciable: Ambassador Haque

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has appreciated Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) for its efforts in facilitating the Chinese investors. In a virtual meeting with Ahmer Malik, CEO, and other senior members of PBIT, the Ambassador assured them of the Embassy's full supported. The meeting was also attended by Hussain Haider, Consul-General of Pakistan in Shanghai. The interaction was a part of Embassy's regular outreach to government institutions in Pakistan in an attempt to review ongoing Pakistan-China cooperation, and to explore further opportunities in diverse areas. In his remarks, Ambassador Haque acknowledged the significance of Punjab in overall development agenda of Pakistan and its vital role for Pakistan-China economic ties. The CEO PBIT briefed the Ambassador about the policies of the Punjab government and various steps undertaken by PBIT to facilitate Chinese investments. He expressed satisfaction on the ongoing Chinese projects in Punjab and invited more investments in infrastructure, housing, agriculture, textile and tourism sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/924887/pbits-efforts-to-facilitate-chinese-investors-appreciable-ambassador-haque/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC workers all ‘ambassadors’ of Pakistan-China

Pakistani and Chinese employees are all ‘ambassadors’ between Pakistan and China,” said Zulqarnain Haider, an outstanding Pakistani worker for a project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Haider, a financial manager of Matiari-Lahore ±660kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project, under the framework of CPEC, has been working for this project for five years.

Haider is responsible for Accounts and Finance, supervising audits and leading tariff documentation team for tariff petition in National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-workers-all-ambassadors-of-pakistan-china/>

China-Pakistan Trade, Energy, Investment Center to be set up in Shenzhen

The Global Innovation Center (GIC) is planning to set up an office in Pakistan, as well as establish a China-Pakistan Trade, Energy, and Investment Center in the organization’s Shenzhen office.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was briefed by Director General, GIC, Zhao Gang during a meeting held at the embassy of Pakistan, Beijing.

GIC is focused on five core businesses: international cooperation in Technology; incubation of new businesses; scientific and technological industrial Zones; training of entrepreneurs; and investment and capital financing. It has offices in ten countries, including the U.S., UK, Germany, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

Zhao briefed the Ambassador about GIC and its desire to cooperate with Pakistan in science and technology, focusing on the incubation of new businesses, the development of electricity storage devices, semi-conductors, and New Energy Vehicles.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-trade-energy-investment-center-to-be-set-up-in-shenzhen/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China cooperation in sorghum can boost local economy

Expert believes there is plenty room to expand export of commodity to Beijing

BEIJING: Sorghum is an excellent source of food and feed and plenty of products can be made from it therefore, there are ample opportunities for the sorghum industry in Pakistan and help of China would definitely improve the local economy, said, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Senior Scientist (Sorghum) Dr Qamar Shakil.

Shakil said that mutual cooperation between the two countries can be strengthened by long-term and short-term cooperation, seeking the future opportunities for expansion of sorghum production, export and development in Pakistan. There is a need to take advantage of Chinese technology and experience under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in this field. Since China is a major importer of sorghum grain for manufacturing of various products, there is plenty room to expand the export of the commodity to China. Secondly, the quality of sorghum grain produced in Pakistan for processing and extraction of different products is far better than that of other countries. Qamar stated that the environment of Pakistan was most suitable for developing quality sorghum crops for grain, green chop, silage, haylage, and hay purposes.

“As sorghum is a kharif (summer) season crop, therefore it does not compete with our staple crop (wheat), so there is plenty of cushion for its cultivation in Pakistan for export purposes,” he added. “Finally in order to boost the economy by virtue of exports sorghum crop can play a pivotal role.”

Shakil said that sorghum hybrids were used worldwide for the production of grain and green chop but unfortunately, very little research was being done in Pakistan on it. China has made massive advancement in this regard therefore its expertise can be used for the development and improvement of research regarding hybrids development. He further said that flood irrigation was mostly used in Pakistan. Due to the scarcity of water, there is a need to develop new reservoirs for water storage (small scale) and efficient utilisation of available water through improved irrigation techniques.

Creation of farmers’ union

Experts believe that in order to produce sorghum crops on a large scale, there is a need to create farmers’ associations for understanding the problems involved in sorghum production on a large scale and for resolving these issues. Likewise establishing farmer-based associations would allow for the pooling of acres and farms into large entities that would benefit from technology.

For fetching out higher sorghum grain and fodder tonnage from unit area, there is a need to educate the farmers regarding adaptation of sorghum production plan. Dr Qamar Shakil further said that for meeting the sorghum grain and green chopped world standards, especially for export to China, there is a dire need to develop state of the art internationally accredited research laboratory to facilitate the rapid export of sorghum grain to China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2353969/pak-china-cooperation-in-sorghum-can-boost-local-economy>

April 25, 2022

The News

China Culture Centre celebrates 7th anniversary

Islamabad: China Cultural Centre in Pakistan celebrated its 7th anniversary.

Seven years ago today, on a state visit to Pakistan President of the People's Republic of China H.E Xi Jinping, and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif, jointly inaugurated the China Cultural Center in Pakistan at Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad. The China Cultural Center has since been officially inaugurated.

The establishment of the China Cultural Centre in Pakistan marks as an important milestone of the further deepening of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, aiming to strengthen cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and Pakistan. Since the establishment of the centre, it has actively carried out various cultural activities including different types of theatrical performances, visual art exhibitions, teaching and training, and lectures. China Cultural Centre in Pakistan has successfully organized more than 30 large-scale offline exhibitions and more than 200 online activities.

"China-Pakistan Friendship Retrospective Photo Exhibition", "Beautiful China Photo Exhibition", "The Belt and Road in My Eyes-Pakistani Student's Painting Competition Exhibition", etc organised by CCC attracted more than 200,000 people. More than 30 grand theatrical performances such as "Happy Chinese New Year", "China Tourism and Culture Week", and "Mid-Autumn Festival", attracted more than 100,000 audiences. Eleven training and teaching activities such as Chinese martial arts, Chinese cooking classes, Chinese paper-cut art, etc witnessed the participation of more than 3000 people.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan also participated in the "8th and 9th National Book Festival" of Pakistan displaying Chinese cultural elements. Pakistani President H.E Dr. Arif Alvi also visited China Cultural Center in Pakistan's stall and highly praised the friendship between China and Pakistan. The two National Book Fairs attracted more than 500,000 people. China Cultural Center in Pakistan organizes series of "Happy Chinese New Year" each year bringing the local community together. Series of lectures such as "Traditional Chinese Medicine", "One Belt One Road", and Chinese and Western art exchanges and mutual learning are organized in the Pakistani universities. These activities helped to provide interaction opportunities for teachers and students, gaining good results.

To recall our seven-year journey, China Cultural Center in Pakistan will launch the "Beautiful China in Postage Stamps" photo exhibition, "Meet Hebei", "Great Laborers" art exhibition, "Chinese Solar Terms", "Poetic Life-Handmade in China" (8 issues in total) and other online activities.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=81118>

MoU inked for Pak-China student exchange programme

PESHAWAR: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between China Window, a centre of Pak-China friendship in the provincial capital, and the Harbin Engineering University of China for cooperation in various fields and student exchange programmes. The

agreement was signed by the Dean of the University, Zhang Qingbin, and Naz Parveen, Director, China Window, said a press release.

Under the agreement, the two institutions will exchange students, faculty, researchers and administrative staff. Both the institutes will promote extra-curricular activities. Harbin University Dean Zhang Qingbin termed the agreement as a milestone and said that not only affordable education opportunities will be made available but university scholarships issued as well. The dean said that both sides would play a positive role to strengthen the exemplary friendship between the two brotherly countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=81252>

Why CPEC Authority?

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

After the successful execution of first phase of CPEC, it was perceived that there is a need for a strong central body which can facilitate smooth implementation of second phase of CPEC. A strong body can help overcome the challenges of coordination and bridge the gap between investors and institutions during the second phase of CPEC. It was required to expedite the process of industrialisation and agriculture cooperation along with other sectors.

As we know, industrialisation and agriculture modernisation are entirely different from the infrastructure-building. It requires involvement of multiple ministries, departments and agencies. It led to establishment of CPEC Authority.

Since the inception of CPEC Authority, it is working hard to engage all the stakeholders and acting as centre of interaction among all. Although, political tug-of-war hampered performance and pace of work in the initial stages, the CPEC Authority did not compromise on its perceived objective. It continued to deliver, and during the brief stint of Gen Asim Bajwa it became focal point for CPEC cooperation.

The CPEC Authority earned respect of all stakeholders due to its dedicated work and delivery on its promises. It even did not compromise on its work during COVID-19 and ensured smooth working of all CPEC projects. That was a huge success by keeping in mind the global shutdown of business, and it was duly appreciated by all the stakeholders.

Howbeit, the present set-up and structure of CPEC Authority will not be able to fulfil the needs of second phase of CPEC. Presently, it is acting as focal node for facilitation and a watchdog by keeping an eye on the ongoing work. To fulfil the requirements of second phase, there is need for a more powerful and vibrant authority. Thus, the authority should be reformed. Following are a few suggestions for the consideration by the government.

First, the status of CPEC Authority should be elevated. It is good to note that government is appointing new person with status of federal minister. However, for a meaningful contribution during the second phase, the CPEC Authority should be given power to make decision and implement decisions in close collaboration with relevant ministries and departments.

Second, there is need for consolidating services and work related to CPEC under the CPEC Authority, especially for industrialisation and agriculture. Currently, activities are quite scattered and time-consuming. For example, to get license or for registration of company or business or avail services, investors have the deal with multiple ministries and departments at federal, provincial and local levels. On top of that provincial governments have different policies for taxes and investment, which is quite disturbing for investors.

In a nutshell, it is a cumbersome process which discourages investors and industrialists to invest in Pakistan. Thus, work should be consolidated at the CPEC Authority and be empowered to give licence, connections of service like electricity, gas etc. and tax services.

Third, the Authority should not confine itself only to management. It should also work to create a vision for future of CPEC and related interventions. Thus, there is a need for restructuring the Authority to perform dual role. The Authority should have two main departments supported by relevant wings.

A department of governance needed which would work to ensure smooth execution of programmes, transparency and accountability. It should be supported by the management, facilitation, execution and implementation wings.

There is a need for a specialised research department to look for innovative ways to attract investment and execute existing programmes. It should be supported by policy and analysis wings. The major tasks should be to devise new policy frameworks, analysis of international markets, investment policies of world and monitoring of programmes and projects.

Fourth, make the CPEC Authority apolitical body. It would not be a difficult job, as all the political parties and stakeholders have consensus on the CPEC. They consider it essential for the economic revival of Pakistan and transformation of its economy. So, all the political parties and stakeholders must ensure that it is immune from politics and change of governments. For that purpose, there is a need of special legislation from the parliament.

Fifth, for inclusiveness and to ensure participation of all provinces, the government must formulate a powerful committee with the name of National CPEC Committee (NCC) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Pakistan. The committee must include five leading political parties, leader of opposition, services chiefs and chief justice of Pakistan. This committee will help tackle challenges which have emerged after the 18th Amendment. The committee should also provide vision and direction for strengthening the cooperation.

Sixth, to ensure higher standards of work and transparency, there would be a need for strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms. For that NCC can create a sub-committee and depute the work of transparency and accountability to it. It would be the most suitable forum as it has representation of all major stakeholders. The sub-committee should have the mandate to monitor all the activities and extend support for smooth functioning of CPEC projects without any politics or political point-scoring.

In conclusion, the CPEC Authority must be stuffed with genuine economic experts with background and understanding of China. The experts must have comprehensive knowledge of the Chinese model of economic growth and development, governance, international relations and political system. It is required because western experts do not understand China as they try to compare apples with oranges.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=81361>

April 26, 2022

Daily Times

CM Murad visits Chinese Consulate to express solidarity

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday visited Chinese Consulate to express sorrow and grief with Consul General Li Bijian over loss of Chinese faculty members in the suicide attack at a van in Karachi University (KU).

The chief minister shared the details of the incident with the Consul General and assured that the incident would be investigated properly and the culprits would be brought to justice. Murad said the partnership of China in the overall development of Pakistan, particularly of Sindh, was important and such incidents could not affect the strong relationship between the two nations.

He expressed his condolences with the families of Chinese nationals, who had lost their lives in the suicide blast. His government would make all arrangements to send the dead bodies to China for which he needed the consulate's guidance, he added. Murad also conveyed the condolence messages of Pakistan Peoples Part President Asif Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto to the Chinese Consul General.

He said they had condemned the incident in strong words. The CM told the Chinese Consul General that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had talked to him on telephone and got details of the incident.

He had also condemned the incident and expressed his solidarity with the aggrieved families of Chinese nationals killed in the incident, he added. Consul General Li Bijian thanked the chief minister for his visit and said he was in contact with the families of three Chinese nationals killed in the blast. "Whatever decision is taken in respect of shifting the dead bodies back to China will be informed to the Sindh government," he added.

Earlier, Inspector General of Sindh Police Mushtaq Maher told the chief minister that at about 14:30 hrs a blast took place in a van near Commerce Department of Karachi University. "Initial report indicates four casualties which include Chinese nationals." The chief minister directed the IGP to conduct a security audit of Chinese nationals living in Sindh under CPEC and non-CPEC related projects and report to him.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926203/cm-murad-visits-chinese-consulate-to-express-solidarity/>

Dunya News

Pakistan determined to strengthen partnership with China: Hina Khar

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar says Pakistan is committed to further strengthen its all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China.

She was talking to Deputy Head of Mission of the Chinese Embassy Ms Pang Chunxue who called on her in Islamabad on Monday.

Hina Rabbani Khar appreciated China's long-standing support for Pakistan's fundamental issues and development.

Welcoming growing Chinese investment in special economic zones under the CPEC, the Minister of State said Pakistan is desirous of speeding up the pace of work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/650242-Pakistan-determined-to-strengthen-partnership-with-China:-Hina-Khar>

Karachi University blast is to sabotage Pak-China ties, says Imran Khan

LAHORE (Dunya News) The Former Prime Minister and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan on Tuesday said that the attack targeting Chinese teachers at Karachi University is a part of an agenda to damage the Pak-China strategic partnership.

In a statement on Twitter Imran Khan strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Chinese teachers at Karachi University.

PTI Chairperson mentioned that the attack was linked to the agenda of causing damage to strategic partnership between the two countries.

We must ensure defeat of this foreign-backed agenda of our enemies, tweeted Imran Khan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/650343-Karachi-University-blast-is-to-sabotage-Pak-China-ties-says-Imran-Khan>

The Express Tribune

PM assures Chinese officials of swift probe into KU attack

Premier Shehbaz visits Chinese embassy to condole deaths, announces reviewing security measures for Chinese nationals

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited the Chinese embassy and offered condolence over the sad demise of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack at Karachi University earlier in the day.

At least four people including three Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide attack inside the premises of Karachi University.

The prime minister met Chinese Charge'd Affaires Pang Chunxue and sympathised with the government and the people of China as well as the bereaved families.

He was accompanied by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Rana Sanaullah and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar.

On the occasion, he assured the Chinese officials of a swift probe into the tragedy to take the culprits to task.

“I want to assure you on my behalf, on behalf of the government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, that we will hunt down the perpetrators, culprits and killers,” he said in his remarks.

“We will not rest until they are caught and given exemplary punishment,” the prime minister said while talking to the Chinese media at the embassy.

Shehbaz also instructed the authorities concerned to provide foolproof security to Chinese nationals as well as organisations.

Calling it an attack on the China-Pakistan cordial relations, he resolved that the government would not let the bilateral ties be undermined through such acts.

He further announced that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah would visit Karachi on Wednesday (tomorrow) to assist the Sindh government in the investigation and extend all required cooperation from the federal government to nab the culprits.

The prime minister also said that the government would review entire security risks to Chinese people and take all possible measures to strengthen their security in the country.

“We will not allow any disturbance in this friendship, come what may. We will cut their hands and stop them from creating any differences,” he remarked.

In his condolatory remarks at the embassy, PM wrote, “We are deeply shocked and distressed at this dastardly attack. All Pakistanis mourn their loss and offer their condolences to the bereaved families.”

Concluding, Shehbaz reiterated the government’s commitment to eliminating all militants and terrorists from Pakistani soil. “We won’t rest until the culprits are hunted down and given exemplary punishment.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354329/pm-assures-chinese-officials-of-swift-probe-into-ku-attack>

CPEC DG yet to start working

Previous govt failed to create 404 HR positions due to internal rifts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, which was eyeing \$10 billion Chinese investment and 420,000 new jobs in just four Special Economic Zones (SEZs), could not make the Directorate General of

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) operational for swift handling of cargoes as 400 positions could not be filled in the body.

Despite creating a legal provision to set up the directorate four years ago, the last government of prime minister Imran Khan could not provide the required human resources to make the department operational due to internal rifts and usual bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Official record showed that the last government did not create 404 human resources positions, including the head of the new department, in the past four years. The file work to create these positions began in 2020 when the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) requested the Establishment Division to sanction 719 posts.

However, the Establishment Division, after delaying the process for almost a year, sanctioned 404 positions in October last year, according to the documents. But these positions could not be created as the file remains stuck at the desk of FBR chairman, according to sources.

The FBR chairman never forwarded the file to the Ministry of Finance for further processing, said the sources. The delay in making the directorate operational, which had been planned as a 'uniform enforcement' arm of Pakistan Customs, highlights the indifference of bureaucracy that has contributed to keeping the country underdeveloped.

FBR spokesman's version was awaited till the filing of the story. Former PM Imran Khan had directed to make the one-window service portal for the CPEC SEZs operational aimed at ensuring unhindered operation of these zones including the industries being set up there.

The PML-N government had created the enabling legal provisions for setting up a fully dedicated Directorate General of CPEC through the Finance Act 2018. The various areas in which the directorate general was supposed to play a role included the resolution of issues of industries working in SEZs, business process re-engineering, and development of an end-to-end automated clearance system for CPEC cargoes that integrates all stakeholders, such as government departments, traders, clearing agents, transporters, central and commercial banks, according to the FBR's office memorandum.

The Directorate General of CPEC would develop and implement a holistic trade, transit and multi-model monitoring system that will track cargo under CPEC, thus greatly expediting the Customs process, monitoring cross-border movement of CPEC cargo and curbing illegal trading practices, it added.

The Directorate General was also required to develop an electronic data interchange to facilitate the timely and accurate exchange of information to properly monitor the progress of various projects. The Directorate General was supposed to be a uniform enforcement arm of Pakistan Customs. In September last year, the FBR noted that full operationalisation of all nine CPEC SEZs first required operationalisation of the CPEC Directorate. Under CPEC, Pakistan had requested China to set up at least nine SEZs, which would usher in second phase of

industrialisation in Pakistan. However, both sides had agreed to first make four zones operational.

The CPEC Authority has estimated investment in the four zones – Rashakai in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal Zone in Punjab, Dhabeji in Sindh and Bostan in Balochistan – at \$10.3 billion. This investment will create at least 420,000 jobs, according to government estimates.

A dormant CPEC Directorate General is not the only hurdle in making these zones operational. Pakistani authorities also could not address other issues, including the lack of consistency in taxation policies. A senior FBR official said that in the absence of the Directorate General of CPEC, the Customs Department could not efficiently handle the CPEC cargo.

The establishment of SEZs has already been delayed by almost four years against the original schedule.

The Rashakai zone will be developed in three phases by 2025. Electricity and gas services are being provided.

Bostan zone's first phase of 200 acres is being developed and so far 19 industrial plots have been allotted. But gas and electricity projects are still in the implementation phase. The development work on the Allama Iqbal zone started in January 2020 but progress has remained slow. The zone is expected to be completed by 2024.

Short-term electricity and gas connections have been provided by Fesco and SNGPL but internal gas and electricity networks are yet to be developed by the zone authority.

Similarly, the Dhabeji zone is also falling behind schedule. Its concession agreement was signed in February 2022 and the zone will not be ready before 2027.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354208/cpec-dg-yet-to-start-working>

Cauliflower opens up new chapter for China-Pak agri tie up

Grower says Chinese varieties increasing their incomes

TIANJIN: “Pakistan imports more than 90% of the cauliflower seeds. Hybrid varieties are what we are badly in need of. Now, the major market share belongs to China. They can provide comparatively cheaper seeds,” noted Muhammad Muzaffar Raza, a science officer of Vegetable Research Institute at Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (AARI).

His viewpoint was echoed by a leading grower Farman Khan, “since we planted Chinese varieties, our income has greatly increased. Our market is in short supply of Chinese cauliflower seeds frequently.”

As a main vegetable on the table of Pakistanis, local cauliflower varieties in Pakistan have a long growth cycle and low yields, while high-end hybrid varieties are mostly monopolised by Western

developed countries. However, cauliflower seeds of high quality from Tianjin have spanned a distance of nearly 4,500 kilometres and took root in Pakistan.

“Since 2016, we have cooperated with Pakistan on cauliflower hybrid planting by carrying out experiments, demonstrations and promotions in multiple growing seasons. So far, our orders have doubled several times,” said Sui Liying, Executive Deputy General Manager of Tianjin Tianlong Zaitian Agricultural Science and Technology Company, in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net.

“The yield per mu (0.067 hectares) of local varieties is 600-700 kilograms, while that of our varieties is basically 1,300-2,000 kilograms with certain late maturing variety even reaching 3,000-4,000 kilograms.”

“In the past, Pakistan used to think the quality of Chinese seeds seemed to be not as good as that of European countries and the US, but now they have changed this perception.”

“Our seed variety has a germination rate of 90%, above the international standard of 85%. You buy the seeds at a low price, but their survival rate is high. Farmers can get a double advantage.”

Pakistani farmers choose Chinese seeds not only because of low prices. “If you only rely on low prices to occupy the market, but the quality is not guaranteed, you will soon be eliminated from the market.” In this regard, Liying also proposed corresponding measures.

“Pakistan is located in South Asia, where the temperature is relatively high, so insects multiply rapidly, resulting in pests and diseases that seriously affect agricultural output.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354216/cauliflower-opens-up-new-chapter-for-china-pak-agri-tie-up>

The Nation

China Imports 13,866 Tonnes Of Fish Meal From Pakistan In Jan-Feb

BEIJING – China has imported 13,866 tonnes of fish meal with a value of over \$15.68 million from Pakistan in the first two months of this year, registering a year-on-year increase of 250.59 percent, according to Chinese customs data.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly. Pakistan’s exports to China stood at \$670.72 million in January- February of FY22, up 22.77 per cent from \$546.30 million in the same period of the previous year.

According to the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), flours and meals of fish, used in animal feeding commodity code (23012010) from Pakistan, crossed \$15.68 million with a total volume of 13,866 tons, while last year it was \$4.47 million with a total volume 4,917 tons in the January- February period.

Data showed that in 2021, the total fish meals used in animal feeding, imported from Pakistan was 40,654.92 tons, worth \$40.53 million, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Khurram Naseeb, A-One Fish Meal in Karachi, said that there were several reasons for the growth, including a short supply from other countries: almost all suppliers including Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the USA, Ecuador, Mauritania and Morocco limited fish meal export, whereas only Pakistan, India and Peru were exporting to China.

“At the beginning of this year, prices for other agricultural commodities increase a lot, such as soybean meal, corn, rapeseed meal, due to the pandemic and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Therefore, many animals feed relies heavily on fish meal, which comes from juvenile fish usually”, Khurram added.

He mentioned that Pakistan’s fishery processing industry needs improving to enhance exports although due to the 2nd China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in which more than 313 items are now enjoying duty-free access to China including fisheries; there is still a need to build jetties for local fishermen.

“We can increase our export and prices by improving our boats, loading time from boats to trucks and transportation of raw fish from port to factories because Pakistan has more potential than what they are achieving now, roughly 85,000 tons per year”, Khurram stated.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/26/china-imports-13866-tonnes-of-fish-meal-from-pakistan-in-jan-feb/>

Ambassador Invites Chinese Investors To Tap Pak Potential

ISLAMABAD – Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has invited Chinese investors to invest and take advantage of friendly policies offered by the Pakistani government.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the Ambassador was holding a meeting with Director General of Global Innovation Center (GIC) Mr. Zhao Gang who called on him at the Pakistan embassy in Beijing on Monday.

During the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted the expanding science and technology cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He also invited the Center to benefit from the initiatives and incentives taken by the government of Pakistan to facilitate investment in Pakistan in ICT, New Energy Vehicles and emerging technologies, and he also assured of the Embassy’s full support in this regard.

Zhao Gang briefed the Ambassador on GIC and its desire for cooperation with Pakistan in science and technology, focusing on incubation of new businesses, developing electricity storage devices, semi-conductors and New Energy Vehicles.

He informed that GIC was planning to set up an office in Pakistan, and as well as establishing a China-Pakistan Trade, Energy and Investment Center in its Shenzhen office.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/26/ambassador-invites-chinese-investors-to-tap-pak-potential/>

Express News

جامعہ کراچی: خود کش حملہ آور لڑکی کے اعضاء لیبارٹری ٹیسٹ کیلئے بھیجوا دیئے گئے

تفتیشی ٹیم نے جامعہ کراچی میں چائیز اساتذہ پر خود کش حملہ کرنے والی لڑکی کے اعضاء جائے وقوعہ سے تحویل میں لیکر فارنزک کیلئے لیبارٹری بھیج دیئے۔ کراچی ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق پاکستان کی بڑی تعلیمی درسگاہ جامعہ کراچی میں ہونے والے ہولناک حملے کی تحقیقات کرنے والی پولیس کی تفتیشی ٹیم کو خود کش حملہ آور لڑکی کا ایک سیدھا پاؤں، سر کے بال اور سر کی کچھ ہڈیاں جائے وقوعہ اور اسکے اطراف سے تحویل میں لے کر لیبارٹری کے لیے بھیج دیئے۔ پولیس افسر نے بتایا کہ سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج کی مدد اور دہشت گردوں کی طرف سے جاری کردہ خود کش حملہ آور لڑکی کی تصویر اور تفصیلات سے لڑکی کی عمر ایک اندازے کے مطابق 16 سال کے درمیان معلوم ہوتی ہے۔ 8 سے 1 تفتیشی افسر کا کہنا تھا کہ حملہ آور لڑکی کو باقاعدہ کراچی یونیورسٹی اور چائیز ہائی اسکول وین کی باقاعدہ ریکی کرائی گئی تھی اور جیسے ہی وین موڑ کاٹنے لگی تو لڑکی نے خود کو دھماکے سے اڑالیا۔

پولیس سے موصولہ اطلاعات کے مطابق خود کش حملہ آور لڑکی کو اس کے ساتھی دہشت گرد جامعہ کراچی کے اندر چھوڑ کر گئے تھے، جن کی گرفتاری کے لیے جائے وقوعہ کے اطراف اور تمام سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج حاصل کی جا رہی ہیں تاکہ دہشت گردوں تک پہنچنے میں آسانی ہو۔ جامعہ کراچی: خود کش دھماکے میں 3 چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد جاں بحق: مزید پڑھیں خیال رہے کہ جامعہ کراچی میں چینی زبان کی تعلیم دینے والے کنفیو شس انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے گیٹ پر خاتون بمبار کے حملے میں تین چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد ہلاک ہوئے جب کہ متعدد زخمی ہیں۔ رپورٹس کے مطابق جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملے کی ذمہ داری کا عدم بلوج لبریشن آرمی نے قبول کی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2315476/1/>

جامعہ کراچی میں دھماکے کی فوٹیج منظر عام پر آگئی

جامعہ کراچی میں وین میں ہونے والے دھماکے کی سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج منظر عام پر آگئی، امکان ہے کہ حملہ خود کش تھا جو کہ برقع پوش خاتون نے کیا۔ کراچی ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق جامعہ کراچی میں چینی اساتذہ کی وین پر ہونے والے حملے کی فوٹیج سامنے آگئی جو کہ سوشل میڈیا پر وائرل ہو گئی۔ ویڈیو میں دیکھا جاسکتا ہے کہ وین کی آمد سے قبل کنفیو شس ڈپارٹمنٹ کے دروازے پر ایک برقع پوش خاتون موجود ہے جس نے ماسک بھی لگایا ہوا ہے۔ کراچی یونیورسٹی کے اندروین میں دھماکا، تین چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد ہلاک: یہ پڑھیں

وین جیسے ہی خاتون کے قریب سے گزرتی ہے دھماکا ہو جاتا ہے، شبہ ہے کہ خاتون خود کش حملہ آور تھی جس نے وین کے قریب آنے پر خود کو دھماکے سے اڑالیا۔ دریں اثنا تفتیشی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ دھماکا خود کش معلوم ہوتا ہے، دھماکے میں 4 کلو سے زائد بارودی مواد استعمال کیا گیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2315418/1/>

جامعہ کراچی: خود کش دھماکے میں 3 چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد جاں بحق

وین پر خود کش حملے میں 3 چینی اساتذہ سمیت 4 افراد جاں بحق اور متعدد زخمی ہو گئے۔ کراچی یونیورسٹی میں جامعہ کراچی میں چینی زبان کی تعلیم دینے والے کنفیو سشس انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے گیٹ پر خاتون بمبار نے عین اس وقت خود کو دھماکے سے اڑا لیا جب چینی اساتذہ کی وین اندر داخل ہونے والی تھی۔

دھماکا اتنا زور دار تھا کہ اس کی آواز دور تک سنائی دی، قریبی عمارتوں کے شیشے ٹوٹ گئے اور لوگوں میں خوف و ہراس پھیل گیا جبکہ وین میں آگ لگ گئی۔ واقعے میں چار افراد جاں بحق اور کئی زخمی ہو گئے۔ کالعدم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی نے حملے کی ذمہ داری قبول کر لی۔

واقعے کی اطلاع ملتے ہی، ریجنل، پولیس، فائر بریگیڈ اور دیگر امدادی ادارے جائے وقوعہ پہنچ گئے جنہوں نے لاشوں اور زخمیوں کو اسپتال منتقل کیا۔ جامعہ کراچی کے رجسٹرار نے کہا ہے کہ دھماکے میں تین چینی اساتذہ اور وین ڈرائیور جاں بحق ہو گئے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2315348/1/>

Jang News

دفتر خارجہ نے کراچی دھماکے کو پاک چین دوستی پر براہ راست حملہ قرار دے دیا

کی شدید الفاظ میں مذمت کرتے ہوئے اسے پاک چین دوستی اور جاری تعاون پر براہ راست حملہ قرار دیا۔ دفتر خارجہ نے جامعہ کراچی میں ہونے والے بم دھماکے ترجمان دفتر خارجہ عاصم افتخار نے کہا ہے کہ کراچی میں ہونے والے قابل مذمت دہشتگرد حملے کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ حملے میں کنفیو سشس انسٹیٹیوٹ میں کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں سمیت دیگر معصوم افراد کی جانیں گئیں۔

ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت پاکستان اور عوام جاں بحق ہونے والوں کے اہلخانہ سے دلی تعزیت اور ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتے ہیں۔

عاصم افتخار نے کہا کہ قانون نافذ کرنے والے ادارے واقعے کی تحقیقات کر رہے ہیں، دھماکے میں ملوث ملزمان کو انصاف کے کنہرے میں لایا جائے گا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ بزدلانہ واقعہ پاک چین دوستی اور جاری تعاون پر براہ راست حملہ ہے، پاکستان اور چین قریبی دوست اور آہنی بھائی ہیں۔

ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق پاکستان چینی شہریوں، منصوبوں اور پاکستان میں اداروں کی حفاظت کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079313>

Nawaiwaqt News

ڈائیوگیس اور چینی کمپنی کے درمیان معاہدہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) ڈائیوگیس اور چائنہ نیشنل کیمیکل انجینئرنگ کنسٹرکشن کمپنی کے درمیان ایک ماسٹر انجینئرنگ پروکیورمنٹ کنسٹرکشن اینڈ فنانس معاہدے پر دستخط ہو گئے، معاہدے کے تحت سی این سی ای سی ایک آف شور ایل جی ٹریڈ میٹل ڈیزائن، تعمیر اور فنانس کرے گی۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق پاکستان میں استعمال کے لیے آئی ایس او

کنٹینرز میں ایل این جی بھرنے کے قابل بنانے کے لئے ٹرمینل آلات سے لیس ہوگا۔ خصوصی ایل این جی کنٹینرز کو ٹرکوں کے ذریعے پورے پاکستان میں منتقل کیا جائے گا جہاں ایل این جی کو کلائنٹ کی لوکیشن پر دوبارہ گیس فراہم کی جائے گی۔ ڈائیوڈ کے مطابق اپنے عروج پر ڈائیوڈ گیس کا ٹرمینل یومیہ 10,000 میٹرک ٹن ایل این جی ہینڈل کرے گا، پاکستان کی توانائی کی فراہمی کو بہتر بنائے گا، قومی سطح پر ہزاروں ملازمتیں پیدا کرے گا، اور کاربن کے اخراج کو کم کرے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-04-26/page-10/detail-15>

April 27, 2022

Business Recorder

PM visits China's embassy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited Chinese Embassy in Islamabad and expressed resolve to investigate the terrorist attack on Chinese nationals expeditiously and take the culprits to the task.

During his visit to the embassy, he met Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue. He also wrote a special message of condolence to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Prime Minister expressed sorrow and grief over the death of Chinese nationals in the van blast at Karachi University. He said the entire Pakistani nation is in shock and grief over the brutal attack on its iron brothers. He said the people of Pakistan extend their heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the government, people and families of the victims.

Condemning the incident, Shehbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's determination to eradicate all forms of terrorism and terrorists from its soil. He directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to reach Karachi on Wednesday. He said we will not sit idle until criminals are arrested and punished. He said those who took the lives of Chinese nationals will be hanged. The Prime Minister said all arrangements will be made for shifting of dead bodies back home and return of injured with honour and respect.

He also ordered to increase the security of Chinese nationals and organizations working in Pakistan. He said no stone will be left unturned to bring the culprits to justice. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also recorded his impressions in the condolence book at the embassy. —NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/27/1-page/927603-news.html>

Gwadar's 300MW coal-fired power plant to help end energy scarcity by 2023

ISLAMABAD: The longstanding vagaries of the port city of Gwadar due to growing energy scarcity would end by October, 2023 after the completion of the 300 megawatts coal-fired power plant.

The 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired Gwadar Power Plant would cater the needs of some 150,000 local people by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar, said an official source while sharing exclusive updates of the project.

The power plant of an independent power producer was one of the key energy projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he added.

The project aimed at improving reliability on local power supply that would help gradually solve the problems in current economic development and urban construction in Gwadar region, which was being restricted by the shortage of power.

“We are currently spending millions of dollars per annum to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant would be operationalised soon to solve the port’s power scarcity issues. The power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic development in Gwadar Port.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/27/7-page/927662-news.html>

Ahsan tells China

Progress in CPEC expedited by new govt

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal told China that progress in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been expedited since the new government came into power and regular meetings are being held for the implementation of the development projects.

The minister expressed these views in a meeting with Chinese Charge d’ Affairs to Pakistan, Pang Chunxue on Tuesday.

“My top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore the confidence of the Chinese investors,” the minister said.

Pang Chunxue appreciated the steps taken by the minister since he took charge of the ministry. The minister stressed that the incumbent government will maintain lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013.

He said it is unfortunate that during the last four years there was no Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which lead to downturn in investment from Chinese investors. During the meeting, the

minister also said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already requested China to add Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project in CPEC.

He also urged the Chinese official to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China. In this connection, 200 students are being issued visas, so that they complete their studies in China, he said.

Similarly, the minister also suggested that Pakistan and China should start working on Space Technology and said that Pakistani astronauts should be given the opportunity to go to space with the Chinese. This act will further take the relationship between the two countries to new heights higher than the skies, he added. The minister also pointed to the shortage of water in Karachi and asked the Chinese official to collaborate in establishing of desalination plants in the city to overcome paucity of clean drinking water.

Pang Chunxue assured to extend full support of China to uplift the water-related projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/27/12-page/927708-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan seeks Chinese support for developing world-class varsities

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, LUMS Vice Chancellor, gave a keynote address on ‘Cooperation and Exchange Between Universities in Hubei and South Asia in a Post-Epidemic era’, at the recently held 2022 Presidents’ Forum of Hubei-South Asian Universities.

Participating at the Forum were 27 universities from many South Asian countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. Also in attendance were Mr. Yu Xuemin, Deputy Director-General of Hubei Provincial Department of Education, Prof. He Weijun, Party Secretary of China Three Gorges University (CTGU), Mr. Wang Junchang, CEO of Yunnan Nam Tabak Hydropower Development Co., Ltd., and Prof. Huang Yingping, Vice President of CTGU.

Dr. Ahmad spoke about the lessons one can draw from Chinese advancements and successes. “As partners in China’s Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan, we look to China’s Double First-Class University Plan to provide inspiration to create and develop world-class universities and disciplines in Pakistan. In our case, China has been a good teacher,” he shared.

He elaborated that regional cooperation in high-impact sectors will play a key role. “The pandemic has made it clear that educational solutions must come through collaboration and through multidisciplinary expertise. Universities like LUMS are positioned to become more relevant and contribute more meaningfully to improve the human condition.”

Sharing the many successes of LUMS, Dr. Ahmad noted that the University’s vision for the first 35 years was to become one of the top universities in Pakistan. “Having achieved that, for the next 35 years we aim to become a top university in South Asia. With this vision, we know in our

hearts that China wants us to succeed because strong neighbours are essential for mutual and reciprocal success.”

Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy, Pakistan, Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on Medical Education in Pakistan. “We need to teach our students that there is no ‘best’ health system. We now know that partnerships are key for all kinds of large-scale responses and that this response must come from a mix of disciplines which interact with medical systems,” he said.

Dr. Ahmad also participated in the 2018 1st Presidents’ Forum of Hubei-South Asian Universities held in Wuhan and Yichang, sponsored by Hubei Provincial Department of Education and organised by Hubei University and CTGU.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926310/pakistan-seeks-chinese-support-for-developing-world-class-varsities/>

Cauliflower opens up new chapter for China-Pak agri cooperation

Cauliflower opens up new chapter for China-Pak agricultural cooperation, says a report published by China Economics Net (CEN) on Tuesday. Since 2016, we have cooperated with Pakistan on cauliflower hybrid planting by carrying out experiments, demonstrations and promotions in multiple growing seasons.

So far, our orders have doubled several times,” said Sui Liying, Executive Deputy General Manager of Tianjin Tianlong Zaitian Agricultural Science and Technology Co., Ltd., in an exclusive interview with CEN. “Pakistan imports more than 90 percent of the cauliflower seeds. Hybrid varieties are what we are badly in need of. Now, the major market share belongs to China. They can provide comparatively cheaper seeds,” noted Muhammad Muzaffar Raza, a science officer of Vegetable Research Institute at Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (AARI).

His viewpoint was echoed by leading grower Farman Khan, “since we planted Chinese varieties, our income has greatly increased. Our market is in short supply of Chinese cauliflower seeds frequently.”

As a main vegetable on the table of Pakistanis, local cauliflower varieties in Pakistan have a long growth cycle and low yields, while high-end hybrid varieties are mostly monopolized by Western developed countries.

However, cauliflower seeds of high quality from Tianjin have spanned a distance of nearly 4,500 kilometers and took root in Pakistan.

“The yield per mu (0.067 hectares) of local varieties is 600-700 kilograms, while that of our varieties is basically 1,300-2,000 kilograms with certain late maturing variety even reaching 3,000-4,000 kilograms.

In the past, Pakistan used to think the quality of Chinese seeds seems to be not as good as that from European countries and the U.S., but now they have changed this perception.

Our seed variety has a germination rate of 90 percent, above the international standard of 85 percent. You buy the seeds at a low price, but their survival rate is high. Farmers can get a double advantage.”

Pakistani farmers choose Chinese seeds not only because of low prices. “If you only rely on low prices to occupy the market, but the quality is not guaranteed, you will soon be eliminated from the market.”

In this regard, Sui also proposed corresponding measures. “Pakistan is located in South Asia, where the temperature is relatively high, so insects multiply rapidly, resulting in pests and diseases that seriously affect agricultural output.

The heat and disease resistance of Chinese early-maturing varieties are more suitable for Pakistan’s climate. We have a special pest and disease nursery, that contains various pests and diseases that have accumulated for many years.

We first select varieties here without using any pesticides, so the varieties that can grow have better resistance. Then we choose those varieties that perform well to transplant in other nurseries for selection.”

Regarding this, Sui Liying also mentioned the impact of the cauliflower harvest season on market price fluctuations. As a cold-loving cruciferous crop, a particularly hot climate may stunt the emerging curd of cauliflower, so heat-resistant cauliflower varieties are crucial to compensate for the reduced yield caused by the climate.

The growing cycle is also another key factor that affects the price of the cauliflower market in Pakistan. Although cauliflower is available throughout the year in Pakistan, the early-maturing variety is more expensive.

Cauliflower available in October can get higher earnings. In December-February when its yield reaches peak, losses may occur.

“We have about 6,000 copies of cauliflower germplasm resources in Tianjin. Short-duration ones take 40-50 days, medium-duration ones 70-80 days, and long-duration varieties mature in 100 days plus.

At present, Pakistan hopes that the weight of the single cauliflower is relatively large, over one kilogram, with short-duration,” Sui told CEN, “It is also our main breeding direction for the local market.”

In 2019, the Tianjin Academy of Agricultural Sciences completed the world’s first genome sequencing of cauliflower, with China ranking top in global cauliflower’s research. Last year, the cauliflower seeds exported from Tianjin accounted for more than 20 percent of Pakistan’s annual planting volume, effectively helping the local area solve the problem of the cauliflower industry being monopolized by developed countries. Nevertheless, the pace of cooperation goes far beyond that. “We have already achieved our first victory in the field of cauliflower. In the future, we plan to carry out joint breeding with large enterprises in Pakistan firstly, aiming to establish

the largest vegetable seed R&D center in Pakistan, and bring varieties and technology together to Pakistan.

Second, we will combine quality germplasm resources from China and Pakistan for joint breeding and directional breeding to cultivate varieties more suitable for planting in Pakistan,” Sui made an outlook on future development plans, which was endorsed by Muhammad Muzaffar Raza, “Because of our good relations with China, except for seed technologies, we can import agricultural machineries like the transplanter, picker or harvester for any vegetable or crop at a reasonable price.

By promoting these techniques and machinery to progressive farmers firstly, definitely we can increase the pace of our agricultural modernization.”

“In addition to cauliflower, we will also export Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, melons and other high-quality seed resources to Pakistan in the future. We look forward to the complementary advantages of China and Pakistan’s industries to bring new vitality to the Belt and Road agricultural cooperation,” Sui concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926286/cauliflower-opens-up-new-chapter-for-china-pak-agri-cooperation/>

Dawn News

Attack on Chinese

A NEW wave of terrorism has been unleashed in the country. While the attacks are mostly aimed at our border regions by religiously motivated terrorist groups based in Afghanistan, there are frequent reminders that Baloch militancy, too, is on the rise.

Yesterday’s shocking suicide bombing that targeted a van carrying Chinese academics near the Confucius Institute in Karachi University was not the first time Baloch militants have attacked Chinese interests in the city.

In 2018, Karachi police foiled an attack by insurgents of the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army on the Chinese consulate. Another attack, also claimed by the BLA, was similarly stymied in 2020 at the Pakistan Stock Exchange where the Chinese have major investments.

Both the attacks indicated that the militants’ strategy was evolving as the attackers appeared ready to adopt fidayeen tactics. However, with the deployment of a woman suicide bomber, the BLA attack on the university premises has added yet another dimension. It was from the terrorists’ point of view a far more effective attack than the previous two had been, as it killed at least three Chinese nationals.

As the clouds of terrorist violence in Karachi start to gather once more, it is time for law enforcement to assess their own capabilities — even if they had managed to thwart the two earlier attacks.

The Chinese are no stranger to attacks in other parts of the country either, where the development projects they have initiated are viewed with suspicion by many of the locals as well as militants. Because of this, security has been provided to them as it had been to those at the university yesterday.

The Chinese faculty were being escorted by Rangers personnel. The university itself has been under the paramilitary force's vigilance for decades now, on account of student violence. However, over time, the security system has become lax — otherwise, how could the suicide bomber, with her bag of explosives, have entered the university?

For years, the Baloch insurgency had been regarded as a low-intensity conflict. But this is no longer the case. The attacks are growing more audacious — as seen earlier this year when 10 soldiers lost their lives in an attack on an FC post in Kech. The militants' reach is also growing as an earlier attack in Lahore demonstrated.

Meanwhile, disparate Baloch militant groups are coming together in a bid to restructure the insurgency and beef up their numbers and fine-tune their tactics.

While issues such as the underdevelopment of Balochistan, the Baloch missing persons, and the military footprint stamped on large parts of the province must be addressed, these should not provide a pretext to whitewash such violence. Indeed, the nexus between poverty and violence runs deep. But that should not stop the mainstream Baloch nationalist parties from coming forward to roundly condemn such attacks, even as they continue to put pressure on the centre to ensure Balochistan's welfare.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1687052>

‘Chinese teachers were here to educate us about language, culture’

Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The charred Toyota Hiace van stood where it was halted in its tracks at the entrance of the Confucius Institute at Karachi University, just a little distance from IBA campus, due to the blast. Its front grille mostly disintegrated with a portion of it lying behind the vehicle. The driver's door was ajar and broken. Only the metal frames of the seats were left, the foam, the covers all gone. Pieces of window glass lay shattered all around though the front and back windscreens also lay on the road, one at the back of the van and another near the smouldering motorcycle of the Rangers officer, who was riding behind the van for security purposes.

The windscreen glass was not shattered, but burnt black and stuck to the road like a shiny layer of coal tar.

“The bomber must have been carrying five to 10kg of explosives,” a Bomb Disposal Squad official, investigating on the spot, shared with Dawn.

The strong impact of the explosion, said to be carried out by a female suicide bomber waiting for the van to appear at the institute's gate before the afternoon class, had also shattered all the

windows of the Department of Commerce that also houses the Confucius Institute on its second floor.

Sad and depressing scenes at institute named after philosopher who taught virtue, kindness and peace

The nearby K-Electric substation doors also flew open in the blast.

Chaudhry Hadi, a private guard posted at the Confucius Institute, was found praying for his colleague, the injured guard who used to accompany the Chinese staff from their living quarters to the Institute. He was injured badly in the blast.

“The van driver Khalid Bhai couldn’t make it but please pray for Hamid Chachu,” he said. “He is not just a senior colleague, but also our supervisor. He used to ride in the van with the Chinese with a gun to protect them. Still, who would have known that he wouldn’t even get the time to take out his gun or get them all to a safe place? It was all so sudden, so unexpected. No gun can save you from a bomb blast,” said the gate guard.

Asked where he was at the time of the blast, Mr Hadi said that he was upstairs in the institute. “The entire building shook. The windowpanes also broke. The shattered glass from there fell on the feet of some girl students below who were screaming as they got cuts on their feet and toes,” he said.

Getting over our shock, we helped vacate the building, though there were not many there as yet. The staff used to arrive around 2pm after leaving for lunch following their morning 11am sessions.

The afternoon class would commence at 2.30pm and that’s when most of the students in that session would reach here, too. Thankfully, they had not arrived as yet, otherwise there would have been many more casualties,” he added.

“Still as soon as he could, one student, though not from the Confucius Institute as we would have recognised him then, jumped into the flames to break open the driver’s door to pull him out. But seeing that it was futile and all in vain, he backed off to save himself from getting engulfed in the fire too,” he added.

Another young man watching quietly from a little distance as the guard talked spotted a chair near the parking area of the Confucius Institute to then slowly walk towards it to sit down. Every now and then he would get tears in his eyes, which he wiped with his shirt sleeve.

“These teachers were here to educate us about their language, their culture, they died doing all that. They may not be Muslim, but does that not make them martyrs? They were our guests here. I wish we had taken more care of them, provided them tighter security,” said Mustajab Hussain, the young man, who introduced himself as a student of the Confucius Institute.

Student Mustajab Hussain shows a photo saved in his phone of him and his teacher Chen Sai standing at the very spot outside the Confucius Institute where she lost her life in the tragic bomb blast on Tuesday. —Photo by the author

“I live not far from here in the students’ hostel because I originally belong to Gilgit-Baltistan. I have been getting constant calls from home after the blast to know if I’m okay since my family knew I would be here around this time,” he said.

He said his favourite teacher, Chen Sai, also died in the attack. “Today, I lost my calligraphy teacher Ding Mufang, our director Huang Guiping and my favourite teacher Chen Sai,” he said with a lump forming in his throat.

“All these educators were not just our teachers, they were our friends. It was only the last night that I messaged Chen Sai that I had not been able to complete my assignment. And she had replied that it was fine and that I should still show up in class even though I would not be handing in my assignment. And here I am, to find her gone,” he said quickly wiping off another tear, slightly embarrassed to be crying.

He then took out his phone in which he had several of their photographs together. “Chen Sai was my teacher but she was so young. I think she was in her early twenties. The others were older than her but also so kind to us. There kind of teaching does not include scolding or punishment,” he shared, adding that the Confucius Institute is a great place for anyone interested in learning about China, and not just the Chinese language.

“They offer diploma courses in language, which I had enrolled in. They also have a longer four-year BS course in language for which students can study two years here and two years in China,” he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1686945/chinese-teachers-were-here-to-educate-us-about-language-culture>

Minister orders steps to resolve issues faced by Pakistani students in China

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and other stakeholders to resolve visa and travel-related issues being faced by Pakistani students in China due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The minister issued the direction at a meeting with a delegation of Pakistani students who returned from China in the middle of their studies after the Covid-19 outbreak two years ago and remain stuck in Pakistan since then.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HEC, Aviation Division and senior officers of the ministry were present.

The representative of the foreign affairs ministry informed the meeting that in the first phase China had given a list of 251 students to Pakistan out of which 60 per cent students were reached out.

The minister directed the HEC to use all resources in reaching out to the students who have not yet been contacted and also to set up an effective coordination mechanism between stakeholders for the exchange of necessary details.

Considering the financial constraints of the students, the minister directed the authorities of the education ministry for working out a mechanism whereby the government will assist the students by sharing related costs involved.

He also directed Pakistan's education attaché to Beijing to play a central coordinating role and follow up with the Chinese authorities to resolve the issues of the students.

It is pertinent to mention that due to the zero Covid-19 tolerance policy of the Chinese government, air space for regular flights and option of road travel are restricted.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1686991/minister-orders-steps-to-resolve-issues-faced-by-pakistani-students-in-china>

Dunya News

Progress on CPEC expedited by new govt: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been expedited since the new government came into power.

Talking to the Chinese Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan, Pang Chunxue in Islamabad, he said regular meetings are being held for implementation of the CPEC projects.

The Minister for Planning said his top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore confidence of the Chinese investors.

He said the incumbent government will maintain a lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/650378-Progress-on-CPEC-expedited-by-new-govt-Ahsan-Iqbal>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan ties enter a heyday as new PM takes office

Islamabad (Global Times Exclusive): On April 11, Pakistan's parliament elected Shahbaz Sharif as the country's new prime minister. As the new leader took office, relations between China and Pakistan are set to enter a heyday leveraging a long track record of deep harmony.

Back in 2015, when Sharif served as the Chief Minister of Punjab, the two countries jointly launched the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a signature project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Sharif was then widely recognized for his performance in pushing China-Pakistan ties into a higher gear, especially when it came to CPEC.

Close economic ties are manifested in bilateral trade flow. In the first two months of 2022, Pakistan's exports to China crossed the \$67 million mark, a 23 per cent increase year-on-year. The prospects of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan are unlimited, underpinned by an existing multi-dimensional and enduring strategic, economic partnership based on mutual trust, respect and harmony.

The two neighbouring countries have eyed numerous development goals. Among others, the main thrust in future will be on modern industrialization and tech-enabled science and technology joint-ventures. Petrochemical, hydro-energy projects, oil refineries, biodiversity and electrical vehicles and infrastructure are all considered priority areas.

Over recent months, economic turmoil has swept through several South Asian countries including Sri Lanka and Nepal. With blatant opposition to BRI due to its characteristics as a lone challenger to imperial powers, India and Western countries try to undermine Chinese loans as a “debt trap.” And prompted by their cold war mentality, Western politicians and media outlets keep rolling out misinformation targeting BRI.

For instance, their venom includes that Pakistan – being a BRI country in South Asia that is facing economic challenges and political instability – is struggling to meet its financial debts because Chinese loans include a high markup, which has exacerbated Pakistan's financial crunch.

However, Western propaganda has been exposed when former planning and development minister of Pakistan Asad Umar said that Pakistan did not have a “China debt” problem pertaining to loan financing from the CPEC project. In reality, the majority of loans are taken at a concessional rate of two per cent interest, and China has bestowed many grants as well for different CPEC projects.

Chinese debt comprises only 10 per cent of Pakistan's general debt (domestic and foreign) and 26 per cent of its external debt, according to Asad Umar. So the 74 per cent of the loan Pakistan took from the rest of the world — mostly from the West and multilateral agencies — somewhat doesn't endanger Pakistan but it faces a threat from this 26 per cent? This is a completely upside-down argument. The same is true in Sri Lanka and Nepal, which have also become victims of the insidiousness of Western negativity.

Dismissing China's practical vision of shared prosperity through the BRI, India – being a strong ally of the US – has been duped into believing that China is a threat to its integrity and a stumbling block on its way to economic ascendancy. And New Delhi has always looked to expand its influence in South Asia by dismissing China's normal economic cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Regarding CPEC projects, India's hostility has been on the show for a while. It has refused to join the BRI citing sovereignty concerns. Flying in the face of RCEP, India is promoting its Act East Policy aiming to further enhance and strengthen India's ties with the ASEAN nations and the neighbouring countries through culture, commerce, connectivity and capacity building.

Further, in a bid to disregard the scope of BRI, India has supported the US-led new global infrastructure initiative "Build Back Better World."

On the other hand, China always heralds a vision of shared destiny, win-win cooperation, a rules-based international law, a co-existence philosophy and a non-interference policy. Since the emergence of game-changer BRI, South Asia has unleashed its effort to be part of shared destiny.

Propelled by the CPEC, Pakistan manages to ease its energy crisis that had been afflicting industries, businesses and most importantly, the daily lives of ordinary people. Under the CPEC, a total of nine energy projects including the Sahiwal coal-fired power plant added 5,320 megawatts to the national grid. As part of the CPEC, a nearly 1,100-kilometre-long road network has been constructed while a further 850 kilometres is under construction. Gwadar Port, a jewel of the CPEC, once was a small fishing town, is now fully functional and emerging as an economic and logistics hub. On a whole, the CPEC has generated direct 75,000 jobs and half a million indirect jobs to date.

Under the BRI, Chinese companies have also completed more than \$15 billion worth of infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, having positively contributed to its maritime sector. Chinese efforts are also afoot to assist South Asian countries to manage economic challenges. According to a statement on the website of the Pakistan government, two facilities worth \$4.3 billion matured in March, of which China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange deposits worth \$2 billion, have been rolled over.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency vowed on Tuesday to offer emergency humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka, and China is willing to help the country confront current difficulties as a long-standing friendly neighbour, according to Xu Wei, a spokesperson for the agency.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-ties-enter-a-heyday-as-new-pm-takes-office/>

Gwadar's 300MW coal power plant to end energy scarcity by 2023

The longstanding vagaries of the port city of Gwadar due to growing energy scarcity would end by October, 2023 after the completion of the 300megawatts coal-fired power plant.

The 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired Gwadar Power Plant would cater the needs of some 150,000 local people by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar, said an official source while sharing exclusive updates of the project.

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The project aimed at improving reliability on local power supply that would help gradually solve the problems in current economic development and urban construction in Gwadar region, which was being restricted by the shortage of power.

“We are currently spending millions of dollars per annum to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant would be operationalised soon to solve the port’s power scarcity issues. The power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic development in Gwadar Port.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadars-300mw-coal-power-plant-to-end-energy-scarcity-by-2023/>

KU van blast: CM Murad visits Chinese CG to express solidarity

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Tuesday just after receiving the report of the blast in a van at Karachi University which claimed four lives, including three Chinese faculty members, visited Chinese Consulate to express sorrow and grief with the Chinese Consul General Li Bijian.

The Chief Minister shared details of incident with the Consul General and said the incident would be investigated properly. Murad Ali Shah assured the consul general that the culprits would be brought to book. He said the partnership of China in the overall development of Pakistan, particularly of Sindh was important and such incidents could not affect the strong relationship between the two nations. The CM expressed his condolences with the families of Chinese nationals who lost their lives in the blast.

Murad Ali Shah told the consul general that his government would make all the arrangements to send the dead bodies to China for which he needed consulates guidance. Shah conveyed the condolence messages of PPPP President Asif Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto to Chinese Consul General. He said that they have condemned the incident in strong words.

The CM told Chinese Consul General that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif talked to him on telephone and got details of the incident. He has also condemned the incident and expressed his solidarity with the aggrieved families of Chinese nationals killed in the incident.

Chinese Consul General Li Bijian thanked the chief minister for his visit and said he was in contact with the families of three Chinese nationals killed in the blast. “Whatever decision is taken in respect of shifting the dead bodies back to China would be informed to the Sindh government,” Li Bijian said.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Mushtaq Maher told the chief minister that at about 14:30 hrs a blast took place in a van near Commerce Department of Karachi University. “Initial report indicates four casualties which include Chinese nationals.”

The chief minister has directed IG Police to conduct a security audit of Chinese nationals living in Sindh under CPEC and non-CPEC related projects and report him. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah shaping up development portfolio for next financial year, 2022-23 has decided to launch Rescue Helpline ‘1122’ with a fleet of fire tenders and ambulances to meet any untoward incidents. “I want local government department to prepare a scheme of around 200 fire tenders and ambulances and get it approved at the earliest so that it could be launched in the next financial year,” directs the CM.

This he said while presiding over an important meeting to finalize proposals for next ADP-2022-23 here at CM House. The meeting was attended by Minister Works Zia Abbas Shah, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, Principal Secretary to CM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Finance Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary Works Imran atta Soomro, Secretary Local Govt Najam Shah, Special Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh, member P&D Fatah Tunio.

Mr Shah said that in future to avoid Mehar-like fire incidents; we would have to prepare a fleet of fire tenders so that timely action could be taken. “These fire tenders and ambulances would put on the disposal of Rescue 1122 so that they could rush to the spot in case of any untoward incident,” he said and added the parking place of the fire tenders and ambulances would be decided in consultation with district administration.

Minister Local govt dept briefing the chief minister said that his department has launched 555 schemes of Rs25, 500 million against which Rs16,972 million has been released and the utilization has been recorded at Rs11843.48 million. The chief minister directed the local government department to focus on completion of on-going schemes in the next financial year. “We would focus on completion of mega projects launched in Karachi next year,” the CM said.

<https://pakobserver.net/ku-van-blast-cm-murad-visits-chinese-cg-to-express-solidarity/>

Significance of CPEC and Regional Connectivity

Ms. Iram Zahid

CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. It is a strategic economic project to improve economic connectivity between Pakistan and China. The development of CPEC will be a game changer not only for Pakistan but for the entire region.

It is a voyage towards economic cooperation and regionalization at the international level. Pakistan wishes participation of other countries to be a part of this project which will improve the interests of regional countries in the project by easing the conflicts and rivalries.

Pakistan and China are not the only countries that get benefits from CPEC, it can also benefit Afghanistan, Iran, and the Central Asian Republics. It is a huge jump forward to integrate Central Asian landlocked states, Western China, and Iran.

It is also planned to connect the Arabian Peninsula and the continent of Africa by establishing a maritime bridge between Gwadar and ports all along the Western Indian coast. Its positive outcomes depend upon the cooperation among regional states strategically.

India claims that CPEC project impinges on its sovereignty which is flagrant propaganda, but India also fears that once CPEC becomes operational and accomplished, Pakistan will overcome its economic challenges.

Pakistan's importance and influence will increase in the region and India will lose the support of Afghanistan and CAR.

All CPEC projects of phase 1 are completed and now CPEC Phase 2 has commenced. CPEC phase-1 supported Pakistan to develop infrastructure projects and address energy requirements.

The projects accomplished in Phase 1 have already produced dividends and substantial socio-economic advantages whereas CPEC Phase-2 involved multi-billion-dollar investments in Pakistan as most of the Chinese stakeholders had shown their joint interest in investment in Pakistan. Chinese companies are keen to promote their relationships between businesses and the manufacturing industries.

Chinese companies like Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Company, China Communication Construction Company, Zhejiang Seaport, and Huazhang Technology have also premeditated the investments in 'Low Carbon Recycling Park,' in the Gwadar free zone. Even the European/American companies have shown interest to invest in the projects of CPEC.

In a recent First Multi-model Logistics Conference 2022, President of Pakistan Arif Alvi stated that "The regional countries are eager to transport their goods to Gwadar port, and hence Pakistan needs to put in place a smooth supply-chain system at the earliest." He also highlighted that Pakistan is required to modify its logistic infrastructure too rather than only developing human resources, to fully utilize the trading prospects offered by growing regional connectivity.

CPEC is an essential project for the future and economy of Pakistan. Regarding CPEC project Phase 2 in the agriculture sector, collaboration and cooperation is needed with China in germplasm resources, capacity building, agricultural product processing, fishery science and technology, aquaculture, aquatic product processing, and agriculture commerce for the agricultural progress under CPEC. Chinese companies are interested in assisting Pakistan to improve the seed quality and per acre yield on smart lines.

In-fact, Chinese companies are also concerned about growing soya beans in Pakistan. Due to the opening of various industrial zones under CPEC, the volume of trade will expand manifold. Although, in Pakistan, fresh steps were being taken for the rehabilitation of industries and industrial growth.

Pakistan and China are also working to increase telecom traffic with new optic fiber connections. In 2018, Special Communication Organization (SCO) initiated the Pak China OFC project which

is the first-ever inland telecommunication linkage between two countries. OFC consists of multifaceted opportunities for future ICT enhancements in CPEC trade in Pakistan.

Pakistan and China are considering higher volumes of traffic from several international destinations in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa through Optic Fiber Cables (OFC) implemented under CPEC. Uzbekistan has also shown concern in transporting its products through Pakistan, whereas Iran and Turkmenistan were concerned about the supply of natural gas.

As per Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC, PM Imran Khan issued special orders to assist Chinese investors. Economic Coordination Committee has approved refunds of Pakistani Rs 100 billion to CPEC Independent Power Producers (IPPs). “Out of which Rs 50 billion have already been paid while remaining Rs 50 billion would be paid soon.”

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will expedite the development of mutual ventures in manufacturing which would incorporate the firms from both borders. Relevant divisions have been directed to step up the work on SEZs, particularly those at Rashakai, Dhabeji, and Faisalabad where some establishment has been done.

At an international level, economic challenges have emerged due to the pandemic over the last two years which has caused an unbelievable loss to the economy. But despite Covid 19, CPEC achieved major progress and both countries achieved huge advancements on CPEC projects without any gaps to boost regional connectivity.

The timely accomplishment and implementation of the CPEC projects was one of the indications of cooperation between Pakistan and China that even COVID 19 could not impact CPEC progress.

Under the joint efforts of government, enterprises, and companies from China and Pakistan, CPEC has gained a great achievement and made a tremendous contribution to the development of Pakistan and regional connectivity.

CPEC will bring integration and prosperity to the entire region. Pakistan needs to enhance its economic relations with the US/Europe and other countries by inviting them to invest in the projects of CPEC.

Pakistan should facilitate all local and foreign investors to invest in the projects of CPEC and remove all bureaucratic hurdles, one window operation is needed.

Due to CPEC this region can be a hub of economic activities and may be the biggest economic bloc in the world. There is a dire need to address the Maritime component of CPEC otherwise we will not be able to take full advantage of CPEC.

Gwadar and CPEC could play as agents of regional connectivity between China, the Middle East, and Africa which is also helpful and advantageous for promoting Pakistan’s maritime interests.

<https://pakobserver.net/significanceof-cpec-and-regional-connectivity-by-ms-iram-zahid/>

CPEC's New Phase of Rapid Development

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now entered into a new phase of rapid development in the country. It seems that the change of gears in the policy making and decision making have once again put the CPEC and Pak-China bilateral relations on the roll coaster which is good omen for both the countries and their people alike.

In this regard, rigorous mutual consultations, collaborations and coordination at the highest political, diplomatic, official, bureaucratic and last but not least, ministerial levels have been kicked off between the two brotherly countries for the further development of CPEC. Even serious meetings have been held for the early start of its phase-II in the country.

In the past, the newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif played a key role in setting up many energy and infrastructure projects in the CPEC's initial stages, and definitely resuming work on the scheme will be like a homecoming. Sharif as the former chief minister of Punjab province was deeply involved in negotiating infrastructure projects built during the early harvest phase of the 15-year CPEC scheme. He has now been dubbed as strategic value-addition for the rapid development of the CPEC especially, initiation of CPEC Phase-II in the country.

During his maiden speech Shehbaz Sharif the primer made clear his intention to breathe new life into the estimated US\$60 billion CPEC. It was no coincidence that a Chinese embassy delegation was among the first callers on Sharif when he attended his first day in the Prime Minister Office. Even Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian termed the premiership of Sharif as positive for the development of CPEC and of course further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Unfortunately, the pace and productivity of the CPEC projects could not be up to the mark because of numerous but complex and complicated reasons during the previous government in the country. In this connection, Beijing and the Pakistan establishment conveyed serious concerns to ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and his PTI-led government which never embraced the CPEC during its three and a half-year rule.

Resultantly, most under-construction projects fell far behind schedule, while no new major projects were launched in the country. The establishment of three special economic zones during the previous government has not yet received any substantial attention from the Chinese businesses looking to relocate their manufacturing facilities. The response from Chinese firms was underwhelming, because of having no clarity of purpose and mechanism of implementation in which even the CPEC Authority also played an unproductive role which seemingly is going to be wrapped-up very soon.

Rather, Chinese diplomats and executives became increasingly vocal in their complaints about red tape holding back private and CPEC projects alike.

Actually, they were disturbed by undue bureaucratic bottlenecks preventing the payment of hundreds of millions of dollars owed to the state-owned enterprises which operate the power generation plants built during former Nawaz's government. Unfortunately, the tragic incident of killing of its nationals working for the China Gezhouba Group Corp on Dasu hydropower angered the Chinese policy makers and afterwards, comfort zones of mutual trust and promise of so-called immaculate security have been eroded.

It proved fatal for the development of the CPEC project in the country. Despite the Khan administration's best efforts, China did not make funding available for a US\$6.8 billion overhaul of Pakistan's crumbling railways network.

It is hoped that the leadership of Sharif will be instrumental in accelerating the work on the CPEC. The hopes of the Chinese are quite high as are the expectations. Shehbaz has become Pakistan's prime minister amid the rolling out of the second phase of the CPEC.

Furthermore, eventually troubleshooting some of the problems that Chinese companies operating in Pakistan have faced in the past few years will be amicably settled and resolved.

In this context, inaugurating a metro bus line connecting Islamabad with its new Chinese-built international airport on Monday, Shehbaz publicly appealed to President Xi Jinping to fund the revival of a mass transit railway system in the populous port city of Karachi by adding the project to the CPEC.

For the easy and smooth sailing of the CPEC project the Prime Minister Shehbaz's appointed Ahsan Iqbal as the Minister for Planning and Development which would be a good omen for the development of CPEC. He had good working relations with Chinese officials when he held the post between 2015 and 2018, and experienced the implementation of the early harvest phase of the CPEC on behalf of the Nawaz administration.

In this connection, the newly appointed minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal termed the CPEC a top priority however expressed serious concern over the sluggish progress on CPEC-related projects.

While attending the maiden review briefing meeting the minister showed displeasure over the waste of time and resources over the last four years on CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by secretaries of various ministries.

The minister directed that progress on CPEC should be reviewed twice a month and all Joint Working Groups (JWG) of CPEC to pursue their sector-specific projects and initiate work on them immediately, the Planning Commission said in a statement.

The minister labeled the CPEC as a potential game-changer for the regions but showed serious concerns about zero progress on the Industrial Zones of Port Qasim, Islamabad and Mirpur which is unfortunate.

In 2017, the excitement around SEZs was so high that all major foreign direct investors were lining up to be a part of it. However, due to an inordinate delay in projects Chinese investors moved away, said the minister.

The minister noted that further delay in projects will not be acceptable and directed the officials to expedite the work. As per the initial CPEC plan, the SEZs were supposed to be ready by 2020 but unfortunately, in the last four years, there has been zero progress on SEZs, said the minister, adding that the Interior Division should ensure foolproof security of the Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.

To conclude, speedy revival of CPEC should be the mantra of the newly formed government in which burning issues of security, delay in payments, incidents of mismanagement and overlapping of bureaucracy should also be plugged-in as soon as possible.

In this connection, Pakistan's paradigm shift from geopolitics to geo-economic should be transmitted and translated in true letter and spirit. Early initiation of the CPEC Phase-II is the need of the hour. Ideal combination of public-private partnership by involving even the domestic banking & financial institutes would stimulate FDI in the CPEC projects.

It is suggested that new government should focus on massive green industrialization, agro-economy, innovative service sector, climate change and biodiversity, water conservation, de desertization, multi-cropping, hydro-energy, artificial intelligence technologies, health and last but not least education in the sphere of CPEC Phase-II.

Diversification of commercial diplomacy and connectivity options is the way forward in which even reformation and reaffirmation of diplomatic ties with ASEAN would be a value addition for the rapid development of CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-new-phase-of-rapid-development-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China asked to finance ML-I project

Beijing seeks upward revision in cost of railway scheme

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday again requested China to consider financing the single largest China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project – the \$6.8 billion Mainline-I (ML-I) project – after the Railways Ministry disclosed that Beijing was not willing to fund the scheme due to objections over the approved cost.

The request was made by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with the Chinese Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan Miss Pang Chunxue.

Iqbal also assured the Chinese diplomat that his government would resolve issues of a delay in payments of Rs300 billion to Chinese independent power plants (IPPs), which led to shutting down 1,980 megawatts generation capacity.

Miss Pang assured Iqbal that her government would consider the proposal to fund the ML-I project during the review meetings, said an official of the ministry.

After resuming office, Ahsan Iqbal held the first CPEC review meeting last week and took many decisions to put the CPEC back on track. During the meeting the Ministry of Railways had informed that “the PC-I of the ML-I project was not feasible as costs were not agreeable to the Chinese side”, showed the documents.

Iqbal had also directed to bring the matter of Chinese concerns to the knowledge of the new Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and also sought a detailed report.

The construction of the ML-1 project in three phases had been approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in its meeting held in August 2020.

The actual cost of the project was \$9 billion initially, including the equity amount of the government of Pakistan. But later, it was reduced gradually to \$6.8 billion, which was not liked by the Chinese side. In March last year, Beijing also conveyed its concerns about Pakistan’s ability to repay the \$6 billion debt for the ML-I project. China also highlighted the dilapidated financial condition of Pakistan Railways that does not allow it to take \$6 billion in new debt on its books.

Pakistan’s public debt had jumped to 87.2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of the last fiscal year and the country is consuming over 60% of tax revenues in debt servicing.

It was 72.5% of the GDP when the PML-N tenure ended about three years ago. After rebasing the economy, the debt-to-GDP ratio dropped to 72% as of last year.

The ML-I project includes dualisation and upgrading of the 1,872-km railway track from Peshawar to Karachi and is a major milestone for the second-phase of CPEC and its construction is facing a delay of over four years.

The negotiations to secure the loan have been going on for the last over two years but so far no conclusion has been reached.

The project is facing delays of over four years against the original schedule agreed between the two countries.

Pakistan wants to expand and modernise its dilapidated rail infrastructure through \$7 billion Chinese investment. But the project is facing delays due to lack of financial closure of the project.

“My top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore the confidence of the Chinese investors,” said the Minister during a meeting with Pang Chunxue, Chinese Charge d’ affairs. Miss Pang Chunxue appreciated the steps taken by the minister since he took charge of the ministry.

The minister stressed that the incumbent government will maintain a lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013.

This is unfortunate that during the last four years there were no Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which led to a downturn in investment from Chinese investors, said Iqbal.

During the meeting, the minister also said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had already requested China to add the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project in CPEC.

The minister also urged the Chinese official to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China. In this connection, 200 students are being issued visas so that they complete their studies in China. Similarly, the minister also suggested that Pakistan and China should start working on Space Technology and said that Pakistani astronauts should be given the opportunity to go to space with the Chinese.

This act will further take the relationship between the two countries “to new heights higher than the skies”, he added.

The minister pointed to the shortage of water in Karachi and asked the Chinese official to collaborate in establishing desalination plants in the city to overcome the paucity of clean drinking water.

Miss Pang assured to extend full support of China to uplift the water-related projects, according to a statement issued by the Planning Ministry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354357/china-asked-to-finance-ml-i-project>

KU attack: 'Attempts to undermine ironclad Sino-Pak ties won't succeed'

Chinese FM spokesperson vows to support Pakistan in fighting against 'common scourge' of terrorism

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Wednesday said that “ironclad friendship” between China and Pakistan was unbreakable and any attempt to undermine the bilateral cooperation, mutual trust and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would not succeed.

Wang Wenbin made these remarks during his regular briefing in response to questions about the Karachi University terrorist attack.

A shuttle van of the Confucius Institute of Karachi University was hit by a suicide bomber a day earlier, leaving three Chinese teachers and a Pakistani dead.

The spokesperson said that terrorism was a common scourge and the blood of the Chinese people would not be shed in vain in terrorism.

"Once again, we mourn the passing of the Chinese and Pakistani nationals and extend our sincere sympathies to the victims and to the injured and the bereaved families," he added.

Terming the bombing a premeditated suicide attack targeting Chinese citizens, Wenbin said Beijing supported Pakistan in fighting terrorism and those behind the incident would surely pay the price.

He observed that the target of the egregious and heinous attack was teachers as they were inheritors of human civilisation and promoters of cultural exchange.

The spokesperson also said that people and life come first, adding that the Chinese government attached great importance to the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions overseas.

He highlighted that after the attack, the Chinese foreign ministry and embassy and consulate in Pakistan following the guidance of China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi immediately activated the emergency response mechanisms and requested the Pakistani side to take proper efforts to treat the injured, handle the follow up matter and conduct a thorough investigation, apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The Pakistani side, he maintained, was also asked to take stronger measures to keep Chinese citizens and institutions safe and make sure such incidents don't happen again.

Wenbin further said Chinese embassy and consulate also reminded Chinese institutions and personnel to strengthen their safety awareness and ramp up security.

The Chinese departments and local governments are taking actions in coordination while the Consul General in Karachi yesterday visited the injured Chinese teacher.

Noting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to the embassy to convey his condolences, the spokesperson said that he offered condolences and instructed the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. He expressed the confidence that the government would spare no efforts to apprehend the perpetrators and hold them accountable.

The government promised to take further measures to strengthen security for Chinese people, projects and institutions and it would not allow any enforce to undermine the two countries friendship and cooperation.

Wenbin further observed that Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah also visited Consulate General in Karachi to convey condolences and took prompt actions in the rescue and investigation. He also said leaders of many political parties and people from all walks of life had conveyed their condolences following the attack.

"We will work together with Pakistan to crack down on terrorist forces and make sure the culprits behind the attack will pay a heavy price," the spokesperson concluded.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354474/ku-attack-attempts-to-undermine-ironclad-sino-pak-ties-wont-succeed>

Pak-China friendship bond unshakable: CM

Murad visits Chinese consulate, assures of thorough investigations into KU blast

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, after receiving the report of the blast in a van at Karachi University which claimed four lives, including three Chinese faculty members, visited the Chinese Consulate to express condolence with the Chinese Consul General Li Bijian.

The chief minister shared the details of the incident with the consul general and said the incident would be investigated properly. Shah assured the consul general that the culprits would be brought to book.

The CM said that the partnership of China in the overall development of Pakistan, particularly Sindh was important and such incidents would not affect the strong relationship between the two countries.

He expressed his condolences with the families of the Chinese nationals who lost their lives in the blast.

Murad Ali Shah told the consul general that his government would make all arrangements to send the bodies to China for which he needed consulates guidance.

Shah convey the condolence of PPP President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto to the Chinese consul general. He said that they have condemned the incident in strong words.

The CM told the Chinese CG that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif talked to him on telephone and got details of the incident. He has also condemned the incident and expressed his solidarity with the aggrieved families of Chinese nationals killed in the incident.

The CG thanked the chief minister for his visit and said he was in contact with the families of three Chinese nationals killed in the blast. "Whatever decision is taken in respect of shifting the bodies to China would be informed to the Sindh government," Li Bijian said.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police Mushtaq Maher informed the chief minister that at about 2.30pm a blast took place in a van near Commerce Dept of Karachi university. The chief minister directed the IG to conduct a security audit of Chinese nationals living in Sindh under CPEC and non-CPEC related projects and report him.

Sindh ministers visit blast site

Provincial Ministers including Sharjeel Inam Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Mukesh Kumar Chawla inspected the site of a suicide bombing at the gate of Confucius Institute on Tuesday.

In-charge CTD Omar Khattab, Deputy Commissioner East Asif Jan Siddiqui and SSP East briefed the provincial ministers about the incident and preliminary findings.

Talking to media, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon termed the incident an act of terrorism. "People behind the cowardly act are the enemies of our country," he said.

The provincial minister mentioned, "We have competent police force that is capable of solving all such cases of terrorism," the minister said, adding that I am sure this case will also be handled in the same manner at the earliest. He said that police and other law enforcement agencies would not spare terrorists involved in the blast and all those responsible for the incident would be brought to the book.

Karachi Commissioner, Muhammad Iqbal Memon has strongly condemned the blast and expressed deep sorrows and grief over the incident. He visited the blast site and spoke to the security personnel. The commissioner offered sympathies with the bereaved families of Chinese nationals who were killed in the blast. He also directed the authorities concerned to provide all possible medical facilities to the people injured in the incident.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354415/pak-china-friendship-bond-unshakable-cm>

The Nation

Pakistan Requests China To Add KCR Project To CPEC Portfolio

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan has requested China to add Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project to CPEC portfolio and sought Chinese collaboration for establishing desalination plant in the country's most populated port city.

“My top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore the confidence of the Chinese investors,” said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal during a meeting with Ms Pang Chunxue, Chinese Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan, on Tuesday. Federal Minister for Planning told Chinese Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan Ms Pang Chunxue that progress in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been expedited since the new government came into power and regular meetings are being held for the implementation of the projects.

The minister stressed that incumbent government will maintain lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013. This is unfortunate that during that last four years, Special Economic Zones were not developed which led to downturn in investment from Chinese investors.

During the meeting, the minister also said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had already requested China to add Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project in CPEC. The minister also urged the Chinese official to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China. In this connection, 200 students are being issued visas so that they complete their studies in China.

Similarly, the minister also suggested that Pakistan and China should start working on Space Technology and said that Pakistani astronauts should be given the opportunity to go to space with the Chinese. This act will further take the relationship between the two countries to new heights higher than the skies, he added.

The minister also pointed to the shortage of water in Karachi and asked the Chinese official to collaborate with Pakistan for establishing desalination plants in the city to overcome paucity of clean drinking water. Ms Pang Chunxue assured to extend full support of China to uplift the water related projects.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/26/pakistan-requests-china-to-add-kcr-project-to-cpec-portfolio/>

The News

No SOP formed at KU despite official correspondence on security of Chinese faculty

Arshad Yousafzai

KARACHI: After the suicide attack at the University of Karachi (KU) on Tuesday that claimed the lives of four persons, including three Chinese faculty members, it emerged that the Pakistani director of the Confucius Institute at the KU had demanded security for the Chinese faculty as the institute.

KU Confucius Institute Director Dr Nasiruddin Khan had on April 6 written a letter to KU Security Adviser Dr Muhammad Zubair to ask for security arrangements for the Chinese faculty members. The letter was written in response to an earlier letter sent by the security adviser to the varsity high-ups regarding security concerns for the Chinese faculty.

On March 30, Dr Zubair wrote to the KU vice chancellor, registrar and Bhattai Rangers 72 wing commander to bound the Chinese faculty members of the varsity not to move without the Rangers and police' protection.

“It has been observed that Chinese teachers often move from foreign faculty guest houses outside the campus without Rangers and police protection,” the letter read. The security adviser further wrote that in case any mishap occurred, the KU security would not be responsible.

As the Confucius Institute director came to know about the security adviser's letter, he wrote a letter in response to it to Dr Zubair on April 6.

“I would like to appreciate your concerns. Being Pakistani, we know that our beloved country and China have an extraordinary relationship and the security and safety of the respected Chinese faculty, posted at the Confucius Institute, are our collective prime objective,” read the letter penned by Dr Khan.

The Confucius Institute director then reminded the security adviser that it was his responsibility to look after all the matters related to the security of the students, faculty and university property with the assistance of the Rangers and police. “Therefore, it is important to realize that rather than shifting the responsibility to another, we should devise standard operating procedure for the smooth and secure movement of Chinese faculty and share it with the concerned agencies for its effective implementation.”

Dr Zubair was appointed as the KU security adviser last month after Prof Dr Nasira Khatoon took the charge of the KU acting vice chancellor following the removal of Prof Dr Khalid Iraqi from the acting VC's post on court orders.

Prof Nasira removed then security adviser Dr Moez Khan and handed over the security responsibilities of the campus to Dr Zubair of the Islamic studies department.

When Dr Zubair was contacted after the blast, he said he had arrived in Bahawalpur a day ago and he was on leave till May 5.

Inefficient security

In 2015, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan had approved security grants ranging from Rs30 million to Rs50 million for security arrangements at the campuses, but a majority of those funds were spent on other means.

As a result, security guards at the varsity are untrained. They are also armless and unable to thwart such incidents.

A majority of the security guards are working on a daily wages. The varsity has not upgraded even its boundary wall while construction of search towers has also been delayed. Security guards have no security tools such as walkie-talkies while in some parts, CCTV cameras are also dysfunctional.

The security guards and campus security officers seem unaware about security rules. Last year, guards at the KU had staged a protest demanding uniforms, water coolers and basic increment in their salaries.

It is worth mentioning here that during the past year, incidents such as snatchings, theft, and harassment of students were reported on the campus but no concrete steps were taken by the KU administration to improve security.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=82060>

PM visits Chinese embassy, vows to bring accused to book

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday assured China that his government would not rest until terrorists involved in the suicide attack on the Chinese nationals in Karachi were brought to justice. He expressed these views when he met Chargé d’Affaires Pang Chunxue at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to offer condolences on the death of Chinese citizens in Karachi. During the visit, the premier also sent a special condolence message to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

According to the PM's Office, the premier expressed grief over the death of Chinese nationals in the suicide blast at the Karachi University. “The entire Pakistani nation is in shock and grief over the brutal attack on its iron brother,” he said and extended heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the Chinese government, its people, and the families of victims. “We condemn the terror attack in the strongest words and are determined to eradicate all forms of terrorism and terrorists from Pakistani soil,” he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the Chinese diplomat that his government would investigate the incident expeditiously and award an exemplary punishment to the culprits. He also added that he had directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to visit Karachi tomorrow. “We will not sit with

ease till the criminals are arrested and punished and we will hang the culprits who took the life of Chinese nationals,” he added.

The premier said the Pakistani government would make all-possible arrangements for the repatriation of bodies and injured to China. “I have ordered foolproof security for Chinese citizens and institutions,” he added. He also wrote his message in the condolence book at the embassy. He was accompanied by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyam Aurangzeb, Rana Sanaullah and State Minister Hina Rabbani Khar.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=81948>

PU, UET tighten security for Chinese faculty members

LAHORE: After Karachi’s tragic incident in which three Chinese faculty members lost their lives, Punjab University administration has beefed up security around its international hostel housing Chinese teachers.

The University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Lahore has also tighten security for its Chinese faculty members at the university’s China Desk.

On the other hand, PU administration has also called a meeting of police and law enforcement agencies on Wednesday (today) to review the security arrangements for around 20 Chinese faculty members at the university’s New Campus.

Like Karachi University, PU also has a Confucius Institute where Chinese faculty teaches a number of Chinese language courses. Unlike PU, the UET has a China Desk under which two Chinese teachers are engaged in teaching language courses at the university. According to PU website, Confucius Institute is a non-profit public educational organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China whose aim is to promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally, and facilitate cultural exchanges.

Rescue 1122, boy scouts: Rescue 1122 has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) to improve emergency preparedness and response and establishment of socially responsible safer communities.

Rescue DG signed the MoU with Chief Commissioner, PBSA, Sarfraz Qamar Daha here at National Headquarters PBSA Islamabad.

According to the MoU, both the organisations shall support each other in terms of life-saving skills, camp management training, community development, and safety initiatives through Rescue Scouts. Rescue shall provide training opportunities to scouts in all districts and tehsils at their rescue stations, while PBSA will provide support to Rescue 1122 in term of camp management training, community development and other scouting activities.

The PBSA shall provide opportunities to Rescue Scouts for national and international scouting programmes.

Furthermore, both the organisations shall jointly organise scout hikes and desert hikes in different regions of Pakistan with a prior understanding of case to case.

They also agreed to exchange different training programmes for the management of emergencies and safety promotions. The central coordination regarding all activities shall be done through the focal person of both organisations.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=82050>

Karachi University attack: Three Chinese nationals killed by woman suicide bomber

Faraz Khan

KARACHI: Three Chinese nationals and a Pakistani van driver lost their lives and four others, including a Chinese national and a Rangers personnel, were injured in a suicide bombing carried out by a female member of an outlawed group, Balochistan Liberation Army, on the premises of the University of Karachi on Tuesday afternoon.

The powerful blast took place at around 1:58pm when the van carrying the foreigners entered the university's premises from the Maskan Chowrangi gate and reached near the Chinese-built Confucius Institute, a non-profit institute teaching the Chinese language to local students in the port city. The blast was heard miles away and shattered the windowpanes of nearby buildings. The van also caught fire following the blast.

Zone East Police Chief Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muqaddas Haider while talking to journalists after visiting the blast site confirmed that four people were killed and four others were wounded. The deceased Chinese nationals were identified as the director of the Confucius Institute Huang Guiping, Ding Mupeng, Chen Sai, and their Pakistani driver, Khalid. Police investigators also obtained the CCTV footage of the blast, showing that a female suicide bomber self-detonated near the van when the vehicle reached near the gate of the Confucius Institute. The footage shows a burqa-clad woman standing outside the entrance of the Confucius Institute.

Following the blast, law enforcement agencies, including police and Rangers, reached the area and cordoned it off. Ambulances from different welfare organizations also reached the spot and transported the casualties to the hospital.

A spokesperson for the university also confirmed that three of the victims were Chinese nationals, adding that the blast took place near the Chinese faculty van which was coming from the foreign faculty hostel in the university to the Confucius Center near the Commerce Department. "When the van was entering the center, a blast took place which killed three Chinese faculty members, including the newly-appointed director, and two teachers," a KU spokesperson said. "The driver also lost his life in the incident."

The spokesman added that one security guard who was sitting in front seat survived and one Chinese faculty member sitting near the door on the left side also survived. Two Rangers

personnel, who were on security duty behind the van on motorcycle, were also injured. The injured were taken to the Patel hospital.

“Circumstantial evidence, CCTV footage and BLA claims suggest that it was a suicide attack carried out by the terrorist organisation,” senior counter terrorism officer Raja Umer Khattab agreed while talking to The News. “The attack was carried out after proper surveillance.”

Bomb Disposal Squad also issued its initial report, declaring it a suicide attack. The BD report suggests that the three to four kilograms of high explosives with around one and a half kilograms of medium size steel ball bearings were used, adding that the suicide jacket or belt was exploded with the electric push button. Later, some three suspects were also taken into custody from the University by the law enforcement agencies.

Police sources suspected that the female suicide attacker was a former student of the Karachi University while the relevant departments are checking the records. The BLA, while claiming responsibility for the attack through social media, also shared a picture of the purported female terrorist identified as Shari Baloch.

Following the incident, the University of Karachi, in a notification, announced the suspension of classes on Wednesday, April 27.

The Karachi University had expressed security concerns before the incident, sending a letter to the Confucius Institute and had expressed concerns related to the security of foreign teachers. In the letter, which was sent to the institute 26 days ago, the university had written that the foreign teachers were often seen travelling outside of the university premises without accompanying security personnel.

Taking notice of the incident, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah directed the deputy commissioner (DC) East and Superintendent of Police (SP) East to reach the spot of the blast immediately.

The Sindh CM issued directives to shift the injured to the Dow University Hospital, situated near the University of Karachi. He directed officials to ensure all facilities to prevent any casualties. The chief minister has also asked the Karachi commissioner for a detailed report of the blast. CM Shah also reached the Chinese Consulate and briefed the consul general on the explosion at the University of Karachi. He expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of three Chinese nationals in the explosion and assured the consul general of a thorough probe into the blast.

Shah vowed that the suspects involved in the blast will be brought to justice. “Some conspiring elements do not like the Pakistan-China partnership,” he said, adding that the elements will be dealt with an iron hand. The chief minister said that the government assigns great value to the services of Chinese expatriates in the country and the province.

The Chinese CG Li Bijian thanked the chief minister for his visit and said he was in contact with the families of three Chinese nationals killed in the blast. “Whatever decision is taken in respect

of shifting the dead bodies back to China, the Sindh government would be informed," Li Bijian said.

"The Government and people of Pakistan extend their deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of victims, who lost their lives in the incident," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement. He said the law enforcement agencies were investigating the incident to apprehend the culprits and bring them to justice.

The spokesperson said the cowardly incident was a direct attack on the Pakistan-China friendship and ongoing cooperation. "Pakistan attaches great importance to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in Pakistan," he remarked.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar also expressed condolence over the loss of lives in the attack. "Shocked and saddened at the loss of innocent lives in a cowardly terrorist attack in Karachi," wrote Hina on Twitter, adding, "I offer my deepest condolences to the Chinese government, people and families of victims."

In addition, President Dr Arif Alvi also strongly condemned the University of Karachi attack and expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident. "Pakistan will take the terrorists involved in the incidents to task," said the President, adding, "Our hearts go out to the Chinese people in this hour of distress."

Condemning the blast incident, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives in the attack. "I am sure the Sindh Police will ferret out the terrorists and they will soon be in the clutches of law," said Bilawal, adding that fool-proof measures should be taken to ensure security of the Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday strongly condemned the suicide attack at the Karachi University. In a message, he offered his condolences to those foreigners and compatriots who were killed in the suicide attack.

Maulana Fazl said he was equally feeling the pain and suffering of the victims and their families at this crucial hour. He asked the government to make foolproof arrangements for the safety of foreigners, especially Chinese brothers.

Also, provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Mukesh Kumar Chawla inspected the site of the suicide bombing at the gate of Confucius Institute on Tuesday. In-charge CTD Omar Khattab, Deputy Commissioner East Asif Jan Siddiqui and SSP East briefed the provincial ministers about the incident and preliminary findings. Talking to media, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon termed the incident tragic. He said police and other law enforcement agencies were investigating the incident thoroughly. The provincial minister mentioned that they had capable police officers who had resolved all such incidents of terrorism that had occurred in the metropolis in the past.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan strongly condemned the Karachi University blast and expressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident. The minister sought a report from chief secretary and IGP Sindh into the incident. The interior minister said the Centre would work with the provincial governments to ensure safety of foreigners.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb also condemned the act of terrorism in Karachi and said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's priority was to improve the law and order situation in the country. "We will work with the Sindh government to prevent such incidents in future," said Marriyum.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=81944>

Express News

جامعہ کراچی خودکش حملہ؛ وفاق کی سندھ کو ہر ممکن تعاون کی یقین دہانی

وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ اور وفاقی وزیر داخلہ رانا ثنا اللہ کو جامعہ کراچی میں چینی باشندوں پر ہونے والے خودکش حملے پر بریفنگ دی گئی جس میں وزیر داخلہ نے: کراچی سندھ کو ہر ممکن تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کو خوش آمدید کہا بتایا کہ یہ بد قسمت واقعہ تھا جس میں دوست ملک کے تعلیمدانوں کو نشانہ بنایا گیا جبکہ سیکورٹی مزید بہتر کرنی ہوگی۔

علاوہ ازیں رانا ثنا اللہ نے کہا کہ ہمیں مل کر اس ملک کو اس قسم کی دہشت گردی سے پاک کرنا ہے، وفاقی حکومت ہر طرح کی سندھ حکومت کو مدد کرنے کے لیے موجود ہے۔

بعد ازاں کراچی یونیورسٹی واقعہ پر اجلاس کو بریفنگ دی گئی جس میں بتایا گیا کہ واقعہ 26 اپریل کو 2 بجے کے قریب پیش آیا، یہ خودکش دھماکہ تھا اور خودکش حملہ آور خاتون شہری بلوچ تھیں، دھماکے میں 3 کلو بال بیگزنگ ایکسپلوژو استعمال ہوا جس میں 4 افراد جاں بحق ہوئے جس میں 3 چائینیز اور ایک پاکستانی باشندہ تھے۔

بریفنگ کے مطابق مزید ایک چینی اور تین پاکستانی زخمی ہوئے ہیں اور واقعہ کے کچھ دیر بعد بی ایل اے مجید بریڈ میز نے سوشل میڈیا کے ذریعے حملے کی ذمہ داری قبول کی، شہری بلوچ شادی شدہ تربت کی رہائشی اور دو بچوں کی ماں تھی۔

بتایا گیا کہ کراچی پولیس اور سی ٹی ڈی ٹیم دو ٹیم تحقیقات کر رہی ہیں اور سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج حاصل کر کے تحقیقات کی جا رہی ہے اور ابتدائی تحقیقات میں کچھ مزید گاڑیاں مشکوک نظر آ رہی ہیں، خاتون خود گلستان جوہر میں رہائش پذیر تھیں اور 20 مارچ کو کراچی آئی تھیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2315981/1/>

جامعہ کراچی خودکش حملہ کیس میں پیشرفت، نجی ہوٹل سے مشتبہ شخص گرفتار

انسداد دہشت گردی فورس (سی ٹی ڈی) سندھ نے کراچی یونیورسٹی خودکش حملہ کیس میں ایک مشتبہ شخص کو نجی ہوٹل سے گرفتار کر لیا۔: کراچی

ایکسپریس نیوز کو سی ٹی ڈی ذرائع سے ملنے والی اطلاع کے مطابق سی ٹی ڈی سندھ نے مشتبہ شخص کو موبائل فون کے لنک سے ٹریس کیا اور اُسے نجی ہوٹل سے گرفتار کر کے شامل تفتیش کر لیا۔

تفتیشی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ پولیس نے منگل اور بدھ کی درمیانی شب شہر کے مختلف علاقوں گلستان جوہر، صفورہ چورنگی، گلشن حدید اور اولڈ سٹی ایریا سمیت دیگر مقامات پر چھاپہ مار کارروائی کے دوران ایک درجن سے زائد مشتبہ افراد کو پوچھ گچھ کے لیے حراست میں لیا، جس میں سہولت کاری کے الزام میں بیسگارا مدد نامی مشتبہ شخص بھی شامل ہے جسے تفتیشی افسران نے موبائل فون کے لنک کی مدد سے حراست میں لیا ہے۔

جامعہ کراچی خود کش حملے کا مقدمہ بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کارندوں کیخلاف درج: مزید پڑھیں

تفتیشی ٹیم کے مطابق مشتبہ شخص سے خود کش بم دھماکے کے حوالے سے مزید تحقیقات کی جا رہی ہے، ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ جائے وقوعہ کی جیو فینسنگ کا عمل بھی جاری ہے اور اس دوران مشتبہ موبائل فون نمبرز کو شارٹ لسٹ کیا جا رہا ہے، ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ خاتون خود کش بمبار کے سوشل میڈیا اکاؤنٹ سمیت دیگر حوالے سے مزید معلومات جمع کی جا رہی ہیں۔

قبل ازیں سی ٹی ڈی پولیس نے کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چائینز لینگویج انسٹیٹیوٹ کے باہر خود کش بم دھماکے کا مقدمہ بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کارندوں کے خلاف درج کر لیا جس میں علیحدگی پسند کالعدم دہشت گرد تنظیم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کمانڈر بشیر زیب اور مجید بریگیڈ کے کمانڈر رحمان گل اور ترجمان جیند بلوچ سمیت دیگر نامعلوم دہشت گرد اور سہولت کاروں کو نامزد کیا گیا ہے۔

جامعہ کراچی خود کش حملہ؛ وفاق کی سندھ کو ہر ممکن تعاون کی یقین دہانی: یہ بھی پڑھیں

کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم ڈپارٹمنٹ (سی ٹی ڈی) کی جانب سے ایس ایچ او مبینہ ٹاؤن سب انسپکٹر بشارت حسین کی مدد میں مقدمہ نمبر 23 سال 2022 بجرم دفعات 302، 324، 427، 109/34 ایکسپلوژو ایکٹ اور انسداد دہشت گردی کی دفعہ سیون اے ٹی اے کے تحت درج کیا گیا۔

مدعی سب انسپکٹر کا مقدمے میں کہنا ہے کہ خود کش دھماکے کے نتیجے میں تین چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد جاں بحق جب کہ چینی استاد، ریسٹورنٹ اہلکار اور سیکورٹی گارڈ زخمی ہوئے۔

خود کش بمبار شاری بلوچ دھماکے سے قبل کس سے ملتی رہی

پولیس کو جامعہ کراچی میں چینی باشندوں پر ہونے والے خود کش حملے سے متعلق تفتیش میں انتہائی اہم شواہد مل گئے۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق خود کش حملہ آور شاری بلوچ روزانہ کی بنیاد پر اپنے دیور کے ہاں شوہر سے ملتی تھیں جبکہ ڈاکٹر ہیبتان بشیر بلوچ کئی ماہ سے کراچی کے نجی ہوٹل میں مقیم تھا اور شبہ ہے کہ ہیبتان بشیر بلوچ دھماکے میں سہولتکار ہو سکتا ہے۔

کراچی پولیس کے مطابق شاہراہ فیصل پر نجی ہوٹل سے پولیس کو مکمل تفصیلات مل گئیں، شاری بلوچ گلستان جوہر میں اپنے دیور کے گھر کئی ماہ سے مقیم تھی جبکہ خاتون حملہ آور کے 2 بچے بھی ساتھ تھے۔

پولیس کے مطابق ایس ایس پی ایسٹ کی جانب سے کل گلستان جوہر گھر پر چھاپہ مارا گیا، روزانہ رات شاری بلوچ کا شوہر اپنے بھائی کے گھر گلستان جوہر چلا جاتا تھا، کراچی ڈاکٹر ہیبتان بشیر بلوچ نے حملے سے ایک روز قبل ہوٹل چھوڑ دیا جبکہ حملے میں لوکل سہولتکاروں کو بھی استعمال کیا گیا۔

سی ٹی ڈی نے جامعہ کراچی خود کش حملے میں ملوث خاتون کا فلیٹ سیل کر دیا

جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش دھماکے کی جاری تحقیقات میں سی ٹی ڈی پولیس نے خاتون خود کش حملہ آور کے گلستان جوہر کے فلیٹ کا سراغ لگا کر تلاشی کے بعد اسے سیل کر دیا۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ فلیٹ کی تلاشی کچھ شواہد بھی ملے ہیں مذکورہ فلیٹ چند سال قبل کرائے پر حاصل کیا گیا تھا، خاتون خود کش بمبار شاری حیات بلوچ عرف برمش نے مذکورہ فلیٹ گلستان جوہر بلاک 13 میں واقعہ گرے اسکائی لائن اپارٹمنٹ کی تیسری منزل پر لیا تھا۔

ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ خاتون کا کسی پڑوسی سے ملنا جلنا یا بات چیت نہیں تھی، فلیٹ کی تلاشی کے دوران صرف ضرورت کا سامان پایا گیا جبکہ کوئی فرنیچر نہیں تھا اور شبہ ہے کہ یونیورسٹی میں خود کش دھماکے کے لیے خاتون مبینہ طور پر اسی فلیٹ سے روانہ ہوئی جبکہ اس حوالے سے قریبی کلوز سرکٹ کیمروں کی فوٹیجز بھی حاصل کرنے کی کوششیں جاری ہیں۔

ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ کمپنوں نے بتایا کہ مذکورہ فلیٹ میں کئی کئی روز تک تالا لگا رہتا تھا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2316022/1/>

جامعہ کراچی خود کش حملے کا مقدمہ بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کارندوں کی مختلف درج

سی ٹی ڈی پولیس نے کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چائیز لیٹنگونج انسٹیٹیوٹ کے باہر خود کش بم دھماکے کا مقدمہ بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کارندوں کے خلاف درج کر لیا۔ کراچی ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق انسداد دہشت گردی فورس (سی ٹی ڈی) مقدمہ میں علیحدگی پسند کا عدم دہشت گرد تنظیم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کمانڈر بشیر زیب اور مجید بریگیڈ کے کمانڈر رحمن گل اور ترجمان جیند بلوچ سمیت دیگر نامعلوم دہشت گرد اور سہولت کاروں کو نامزد کیا گیا ہے۔

کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم ڈپارٹمنٹ (سی ٹی ڈی) کی جانب سے ایس ایچ او میڈیا ٹاؤن سب انسپکٹر بشارت حسین کی مدد میں مقدمہ نمبر 23 سال 2022 بجرم دفعات 302، 324، 427، 109، 34/4 ایکٹو یو ایکٹ اور انسداد دہشت گردی کی دفعہ سیون اے ٹی اے کے تحت درج کیا گیا ہے۔

مدعی مقدمہ کے مطابق خود کش دھماکے کے بعد اس کی ذمہ داری کے حوالے سے سوشل میڈیا پر علیحدگی پسند کا عدم دہشت گرد تنظیم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی (بی ایل اے) ”مجید بریگیڈ“ کے ترجمان جیند بلوچ نے قبول کی اور دھماکے کی مبینہ خود کش دہشت گرد کا نام شاری حیات بلوچ عرف برمش بتایا گیا۔

مدعی مقدمہ میں مؤقف اختیار کیا کہ علیحدگی پسند کا عدم دہشت گرد تنظیم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کے کمانڈر بشیر زیب اور مجید بریگیڈ کے کمانڈر رحمن گل اور ترجمان جیند بلوچ و دیگر اسم و سکونت نامعلوم دہشت گرد اور سہولت کاروں نے دہشت گردی کی غرض سے جامعہ کراچی کے اندر چینی اساتذہ کی وین کو خود کش بمبار کی مدد سے نشانہ بنا کر دہشت گردی پھیلائی۔

مدعی سب انسپکٹر کا مقدمے میں کہنا ہے کہ خود کش دھماکے کے نتیجے میں تین چینی اساتذہ سمیت چار افراد جاں بحق جب کہ چینی استاد، رینجرز اہلکار اور سیکورٹی گارڈ زخمی ہوئے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2316000/1/>

پاک چین آہنی دوستی کو نقصان پہنچانے کی کوششیں کامیاب نہیں ہوں گی، چین

چین کے وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے دو ٹوک الفاظ میں کہا ہے کہ جامعہ کراچی جیسے واقعات سے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان قائم آہنی دوستی کو نقصان پہنچانے کی کوششیں کامیاب نہیں ہوں گی۔

عالمی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چین کے وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان وانگ وین بن نے پریس کانفرنس میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی آہنی ہے اور کوئی بھی مذموم سازش اسے ختم نہیں کر سکتی۔

چین کے وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات اٹوٹ ہیں۔ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوطرفہ تعاون، باہمی اعتماد اور پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کو نقصان پہنچانے کی کوئی بھی کوشش کامیاب نہیں ہوگی۔

جامعہ کراچی میں دھماکے کی فوجی منظر عام پر آگئی: یہ بھی پڑھیں

چینی ترجمان وانگ وین بن نے یہ بھی کہا کہ دہشت گردی ایک عام لعنت ہے اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں چینی عوام کا خون رازیں گانے نہیں جائے گا۔ دہشت گردوں کو چینی عوام کے خون کی قیمت ادا کرنا ہوگی۔

ترجمان وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ جامعہ کراچی کے گھٹاؤ نے حملے کا ہدف اساتذہ تھے کیونکہ اساتذہ انسانی تہذیب کے وارث اور ثقافتی تبادلے کو فروغ دینے والے تھے۔ ہم دہشت گرد قوتوں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کرنے کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کریں گے۔

جامعہ کراچی خود کش حملہ آور کی خاتون سہولت کار کا انکشاف: یہ خبر بھی پڑھیں

واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ روز کراچی میں ایک خود کش خاتون نے اس وقت خود کو دھماکے سے اڑا لیا تھا جب وہاں سے چینی اساتذہ کی گاڑی گزر رہی تھی۔ دھماکے میں 3 چینی اساتذہ اور پاکستانی ڈرائیور ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2315982/10/>

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جامعہ کراچی دھماکا، خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان نے تصدیق کر دی

کراچی (ٹی وی رپورٹ) چیونیز کے پروگرام ”آج شاہزیب خانزادہ کے ساتھ“ میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے میزبان شاہزیب خانزادہ نے پروگرام میں تجزیہ پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش دھماکے کی ذمہ داری دہشتگرد علیحدگی پسند تنظیم بلوچ لبریشن آرمی مجید بریگیڈ نے قبول کر لی ہے، تشویشناک بات ہے کہ پہلی دفعہ اس دہشتگرد جماعت کی طرف سے ایک خاتون کو خود کش حملہ آور کے طور پر استعمال کیا گیا، چیونیز کے نمائندے واجد بلوچ نے کہا پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہ جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان کو خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان نے مجید بریگیڈ کی طرف سے جاری تصویر کو کفرم کر دیا ہے کہ یہ خاتون ہمارے خاندان سے ہیں، کراچی پولیس چیف غلام نبی مین نے کہا کہ جامعہ کراچی میں دہشتگردی کا واقعہ افسوسناک ہے، بی ایل اے مجید بریگیڈ نے جامعہ کراچی میں حملے کیلئے وہاں کی ایک طالبہ کو استعمال کیا، جامعہ کراچی میں پڑھانے والے چینی باشندوں کی سکورٹی کیلئے انتظام کیا گیا تھا، ہمارے پاس خود کش حملے خصوصاً کسی خاتون کے ذریعہ خود کش حملے کی کوئی اطلاع نہیں تھی، فرح خان کے سرچوہدری محمد اقبال نے پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ احسن جمیل گجر کی دوسری شادی کو میں نے کبھی قبول نہیں کیا، فرح خان کا ہمارے گھر میں بالکل آنا جانا نہیں ہے، اس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں، میرے اثاثوں میں اضافہ نہیں بلکہ کمی ہوئی ہے، تحقیقاتی نمائندہ دی یوز فخر درانی نے کہا کہ فرح خان اور احسن جمیل گجر نے ٹیکس ریٹرنز میں مختلف تحفوں اور قرضوں کی مد میں لیئرنگ کی ہوئی ہے، اس طریقے سے منی ٹریل کو مشکل بنایا جاتا ہے تاکہ پیسے کو ٹریس نہ کیا جاسکے، ٹیکس اتھارٹیز کی تحقیقات کے بعد ہی پتا چلے گا کہ فرح خان اور احسن جمیل گجر کے اثاثے ذرائع آمدنی سے مطابقت رکھتے ہیں یا نہیں رکھتے، مجھے لگتا ہے فرح خان اور

احسن جمیل گجر کے مالی معاملات میں کافی چیزیں وضاحت طلب نکلیں گی، مجھے حیرت ہے کہ جب فرح خان اور احسن گجر ٹیکس ریٹرنز فائل کر رہے تھے اس وقت ایف بی آر نے اتنی زیادہ بے قاعدگیوں کا نوٹس کیوں نہیں لیا۔ شاہزیب خانزادہ نے تجزیے میں مزید کہا کہ عمران خان سے جڑی ایک کے بعد ایک مبینہ اسکینڈل کی خبریں سامنے آ رہی ہیں جو ان کے امیج کو متاثر کر رہی ہیں، پہلے تو شہ خانہ کیس سامنے آیا پھر عمران خان کی اہلیہ بشری بی بی کی قریبی دوست فرح خان پر الزام لگا کہ انہوں نے کروڑوں روپے لے کر پنجاب میں ٹرانسفر پوسٹنگ کیس پھر وہ بیرون ملک چلی گئیں، پھر خبر آئی کہ عمران خان کے تین سال دور حکومت میں فرح بی بی کے اثاثوں میں کئی گنا اضافہ ہوا، فرح بی بی کے 23 کروڑ کے اثاثے بڑھ کر 97 کروڑ ہو گئے، یہ بات اس لحاظ سے بھی اہم ہے کہ فرح خان کے ہی گھر پر عمران خان اور بشری بی بی کا نکاح ہوا تھا۔ قبل ازیں جیونیوز کے نمائندے واحد بلوچ نے کہا پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہ جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان کے مطابق حملہ آور خاتون ڈیڑھ ماہ پہلے اپنی بہن کی شادی کیلئے کیچ آئی تھی، خاتون خود کش حملہ آور مزید تعلیم کیلئے چھ ماہ پہلے اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ کراچی شفٹ ہوئی تھی، خاتون ایم فل کر رہی تھی جبکہ ان کے ڈاکٹر شوہر کوئی ڈپلومہ کر رہے تھے، خاندان کے دیگر افراد سرکاری عہدوں پر فائز ہیں، خاتون کے والد کچھ عرصہ پہلے تک بلوچستان یونیورسٹی تربت کے رجسٹرار رہے ہیں، ان کے ایک بھائی تحصیلدار جبکہ ایک بھائی ڈپٹی میجر ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079460>

خاتون کا خود کش حملہ، 3 چینی ہلاک، جامعہ کراچی میں کنفیویشنس انسٹیٹیوٹ کے باہر وین کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، ڈرائیور بھی جاں بحق

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر، اے ایف پی، جنگ نیوز، خبر ایجنسیاں) جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملہ، 3 چینی ہلاک، یونیورسٹی میں کنفیویشنس انسٹیٹیوٹ کے باہر خاتون نے وین نے کو نشانہ بنایا، ڈرائیور بھی جاں بحق، دھماکے میں 3 سے 4 کلو بارودی مواد استعمال کیا گیا، حملہ آور خاتون رکشے میں آئی، ریکی کے بعد گاڑی کو ٹارگٹ کیا گیا، سیکورٹی پر مامور ریجنرز نے ذمہ داری قبول کر لی، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی ناظم الامور سے تعزیت اور چینی صدر کے نام پیغام میں کہا کہ چینی باشندوں پر حملے سے IBLA ہلاک بھی زخمی، کالعدم پوری قوم صدمے میں ہے، مجرموں کو پھانسی پر لٹکائیں گے، انہوں نے وزیر داخلہ کو کراچی پہنچنے کی ہدایت کر دی، ادھر وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے چینی توصلیٹ جا کر اظہار تعزیت کیا اور توصل جزل کو مکمل تحقیقات کی یقین دہانی کروائی۔ چینی سفارتخانے نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چینی شہریوں و منصوبوں کی سیکورٹی یقینی بنائے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق جامعہ کراچی میں خاتون نے خود کش دھماکے کے ذریعے چینی باشندوں کی وین کو نشانہ بنایا جس کے نتیجے میں 3 چینی باشندوں سمیت 4 افراد ہلاک اور 3 زخمی ہو گئے، پولیس کے مطابق ہلاک ہونے والوں میں 2 چینی خواتین اور ایک مرد شامل ہے، جاں بحق افراد کی شناخت ڈائریکٹر کنفیویشنس ہوانگ گیو پنگ، ڈنگ مو پینگ، چین سائی اور خالد کے نام سے ہوئی، دھماکے کے تین زخمی نجی اسپتال لائے گئے، زخمیوں میں دو پاکستانی اور ایک چینی باشندہ ہے، اسپتال انتظامیہ کے مطابق پاکستانی زخمی باشندوں کے نام حامد حسین اور تصور حسین کے نام سے ہوئی، دونوں پاکستانیوں میں ایک ریجنرز ہلاکار اور ایک پرائیویٹ سیکورٹی ہلاکار ہے، تیسرا زخمی چینی باشندہ ہے جس کا نام وو نگ ہے، تینوں زخمیوں کی حالت خطرے کے قریب آتے ہی ہوا، وین کنفیویشنس BB-0173 سے باہر ہے۔ ابتدائی رپورٹ کے مطابق دھماکا جامعہ کراچی کے اندر واقع کنفیویشنس انسٹیٹیوٹ کے پاس وین نمبر انسٹیٹیوٹ کی ہی تھی، دھماکے کے بعد ریسکیو اور سیکورٹی ادارے جامعہ کراچی پہنچ گئے اور علاقے کو گھیرے میں لے کر امدادی کارروائیاں شروع کیں، دھماکے کے بعد وین میں آگ لگ گئی تھی جسے بجھا دیا گیا۔ سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج میں دیکھا جاسکتا ہے کہ سفید ہائی ایس وین جامعہ کراچی کے متعلقہ شعبہ کی طرف آرہی ہے، گاڑی کے عقب میں موٹر سائیکلوں پر ریجنرز ہلاکار بھی آتے ہوئے دکھائی دیتے ہیں، اس دوران شعبہ کے باہر ایک لڑکی کو کھڑے دیکھا جاسکتا ہے، جو نہی ہائی ایس گاڑی لڑکی کے قریب پہنچتی ہے تو خاتون خود کش دھماکا کر لیتی ہے، دھماکے سے گاڑی بری طرح تباہ ہو جاتی ہے، گرد و غبار کے ساتھ ہی کیمرہ بند ہو جاتا ہے اور گاڑی میں آگ لگ جاتی ہے۔ بم ڈسپوزل اسکواڈ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق دھماکے میں 3 سے 4 کلو بارودی مواد استعمال کیا گیا ہے، ہائی ایسپوزوڈ دھماکے کے لیے اسٹیل کی بال بیرنگز استعمال ہونے، بم ڈسپوزل اسکواڈ کے مطابق خود کش حملہ ایک میٹر کے فاصلے سے کیا گیا، خود کش بمبار کے جسمانی اعضا اور برقعے کے حصے حاصل کر لیے ہیں۔ تفتیشی حکام کے مطابق خود کش حملے میں مکمل طور پر خاتون

خود کش بمبار نے یونیورسٹی آنے کیلئے رکشہ استعمال کیا، خاتون نے جامعہ کراچی میں داخل ہونے کیلئے مسکن گیٹ کا راستہ استعمال کیا، ممکنہ طور پر خاتون جامعہ کراچی میں دوپہر ایک بج کر 56 منٹ پر داخل ہوئی اور دھماکہ 2 بجے کے بعد کیا۔ تفتیشی حکام کے مطابق رکشے کی تلاش نمبر پلیٹ کے ذریعے کی جا رہی ہے۔ بعد ازاں وزیراعظم شہباز شریف اسلام آباد میں قائم چینی سفارتخانے پہنچ گئے، وفاقی وزراء رانا ثنا اللہ، احسن اقبال، وزیر مملکت حنا ربانی کھر وزیراعظم کے ہمراہ تھیں، وزیراعظم نے چینی ناظم الامور سے ملاقات کی اور چینی باشندوں کی ہلاکت پر تعزیت کی جبکہ انہوں نے چین کے صدر کیلئے خصوصی تعزیتی پیغام بھی تحریر کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کراچی دھماکے میں چینی باشندوں کی آرزو برادر پر وحشیانہ 'ہلاکت پر اپنے تاثرات لکھے اور ان کے اہلخانہ سے تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستانی سرزمین سے دہشت گردی کو ختم کریں گے، اپنے حملے پر پوری پاکستانی قوم صدمے میں ہے، پورا پاکستان چین کی حکومت، عوام اور متاثرہ خاندانوں سے دلی ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتا ہے، واقعے کی تیزی سے تحقیقات کریں گے، مجرموں کو قانون کے مطابق عبرت کا نشان بنائیں گے۔ وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیر داخلہ رانا ثنا اللہ کو آج (بدھ) کو کراچی پہنچنے کی ہدایت کر دی ہے اور مجرموں کی گرفتاری اور سزا دلانے تک چین سے نہیں بیٹھیں گے، چینی باشندوں کی جان لینے والوں کو پھانسی کے پھندے پر لٹکائیں گے۔ یہاں وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ بھی دھماکے کے بعد چینی قونصلیٹ پہنچ گئے، ترجمان وزیر اعلیٰ کے مطابق مراد علی شاہ نے چینی قونصل جنرل کو دھماکے پر بریف کیا اور 3 چینی شہریوں کی ہلاکت پر افسوس کا اظہار کیا، ترجمان کے مطابق وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے قونصل جنرل کو واقعے کی مکمل تحقیقات کی یقین دہانی کرائی اور کہا کہ دھماکے میں ملوث افراد کو کیفر دار تک پہنچایا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ ہم چینی ماہرین کی ملک و صوبے میں خدمات کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں، کچھ سازشی عناصر کو پاکستان اور چین کی شراکت داری پسند نہیں، اس قسم کی سوچ اور کرداروں سے آہنی ہاتھوں سے نمٹا جائے گا۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ نے آئی جی پولیس کو سی پیک اور نان سی پیک سے متعلقہ منصوبوں کے تحت سندھ میں مقیم چینی شہریوں کا سیکورٹی آڈٹ کر کے رپورٹ دینے کی ہدایت کر دی۔ مراد علی شاہ نے قونصل جنرل کو بتایا کہ ان کی حکومت میں چینی بھیجنے کے تمام انتظامات کرے گی جس کے لیے انہیں قونصلیٹ کی رہنمائی کی ضرورت ہے۔ مراد علی شاہ نے آصف زرداری اور بلاول بھٹو کے تعزیتی پیغامات بھی چینی قونصل جنرل کو پہنچائے، وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے چینی قونصل جنرل کو بتایا کہ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے ان سے ٹیلی فون پر بات کی اور واقعے کی تفصیلات حاصل کیں۔ چینی قونصل جنرل مسٹر لی بی جیان نے کہا کہ میتوں کو چین منتقل کرنے کے حوالے سے جو بھی فیصلہ کیا جائے گا اس سے سندھ حکومت کو آگاہ کیا جائے گا۔ ادھر سابق وزیراعظم اور پاکستان تحریک انصاف کے چیئر مین عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ وہ کراچی یونیورسٹی کے چینی اساتذہ کو خود کش حملے میں نشانہ بنانے کی سختی سے مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ متحدہ قومی موومنٹ پاکستان کی رابطہ کمیٹی، چیئر مین مہاجر قومی موومنٹ آفاق احمد، چیئر مین ایچ ای سی سندھ سید محمد طارق رفیع، ایڈمنسٹریٹر کراچی، مشیر قانون اور ترجمان حکومت سندھ میر سٹر مرثیٰ وہاب و دیگر نے جامعہ کراچی میں دھماکہ کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ دھماکہ کے نتیجے میں چینی باشندوں کی ہلاکت پر بے حد افسوس ہے۔ انہوں نے دھماکے نتیجے میں جاں بحق ہو جانے والوں کے لواحقین سے دلی تعزیت کی اور زخمی ہونے والوں سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے زخمیوں کی جلد و مکمل صحتیابی کی دعا کی۔ اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارت خانے نے اپنے شہریوں کو خبردار کیا کہ وہ سیکورٹی پر پوری توجہ دیں اور جب تک ضروری نہ ہو باہر نہ نکلیں۔ ساتھ ہی، سفارت خانے نے بیان میں کہا کہ پاکستانی حکام سے درخواست کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ پاکستان میں چینی شہریوں، اداروں اور منصوبوں کی حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش کرنے کے لیے عملی اور موثر اقدامات کریں اور اس بات کو یقینی بنائیں کہ ایسے واقعات دوبارہ نہ ہوں۔ بعد ازاں سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ پر جاری بیان میں بلوچ لبریشن آرمی کی مجید بریگیڈ نے چینی باشندوں پر حملے کی ذمہ داری قبول کر لی ہے، بیان میں کہا گیا کہ یہ چینوں پر خاتون حملہ آور پہلا خود کش حملہ تھا، حملہ بلوچ خاتون شاری بلوچ عرف برمش نے کیا، خاتون خود کش بمبار نے اپنے ٹوٹے ٹوٹے ٹونٹ پر 10 بجکر 12 منٹ پر ٹونٹ کیا جس میں "رخصت اف اور ان سنگت" کے الفاظ لکھے گئے ہیں، بی ایل اے کی جانب سے خاتون بمبار کی تصویر بھی جاری کی گئی ہے۔ جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملہ کرنے والی حملہ آور شاری بلوچ 6 ماہ قبل کراچی منتقل ہوئی، تفتیشی زرائع کے مطابق خود کش حملہ آور خاتون ایم فل کی طالبہ رہی ہے، شاری بلوچ کا شوہر ڈاکٹر ہے، خود کش بمبار شاری بلوچ کے کئی رشتے دار سرکاری ملازمین ہیں، خود کش حملہ آور درمیان میں ایک بار اپنی بہن کی شادی کیلئے آبائی شہر گئی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079357>

کراچی یونیورسٹی دھماکے کی ابتدائی رپورٹ ڈی آئی جی ایسٹ کو موصول

رپورٹ کے مطابق ایک بج کر 55 منٹ پر گاڑی کو دھماکا خیز مواد سے نشانہ بنایا گیا، دھماکے میں 3 چینی باشندوں سمیت 14 افراد ہلاک ہوئے۔
ابتدائی رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا کہ دھماکے میں گاڑی کا ڈرائیور خالد بھی جاں بحق ہوا، دیگر مرنے والوں میں 2 چینی خواتین اور پروفیسر ہونگ شامل ہیں۔
رپورٹ کے مطابق دھماکے میں ریجنرز کے سیکورٹی اہلکار حمید اور جاوید نامی شخص بھی زخمی ہوئے۔
رپورٹ کے مطابق واقعہ اس وقت ہوا، جب گاڑی یونیورسٹی ہاسٹل سے انسٹی ٹیوٹ میں داخل ہو رہی تھی، گاڑی کو پاکستان ریجنرز کے جوان اسکو اڈ کر رہے تھے۔
ابتدائی رپورٹ کے مطابق عینی شاہدین اور تکلیفی بنیادوں پر یہ حملہ خود کش حملے کا اشارہ کرتا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079341>

چینی اساتذہ سے متعلق اٹلی جینس رپورٹ تھی، غلام نبی مین

جیونیوز کے پروگرام آج شاہ زیب خان زادہ کے ساتھ میں بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ اس لیے چینی اساتذہ کو سیکورٹی بھی دی گئی تھی، مگر خاتون کو استعمال کر کے خود کش حملہ کیا جائے گا، یہ اطلاع نہیں تھی۔
انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ کراچی یونیورسٹی کی طالبہ کو استعمال کیا گیا، بارودی مواد اندر کیسے پہنچا، اس حوالے سے تحقیقات کر رہے ہیں۔

واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ روز جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش بم دھماکے میں چینی باشندوں کی وین کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، جس کے نتیجے میں 3 چینی باشندوں سمیت 4 افراد ہلاک اور 3 زخمی ہوئے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079359>

خاتون خود کش بمبار کے نام سے منسوب ٹوسٹر اکاؤنٹ ہمیں کیا بتاتا ہے؟

یہ دھماکا جہاں ملک کے متعلقہ حلقوں کی توجہ حاصل کر رہا ہے اس کی ایک وجہ تو غیر ملکیوں کو نشانہ بنانہ ہے تو دوسری اور اہم وجہ خود کش بمبار کا خاتون ہونا ہے۔
اس سے بھی زیادہ حیران کن بات یہ ہے کہ خاتون حملہ آور ایک پڑھے لکھے خاندان سے تعلق رکھتی تھی۔
جب شری عرف برمش نے دھماکے کے وقت اپنے ٹوسٹر ہینڈل پر الوداع کا پیغام پوسٹ کیا، تو کوئی بھی واقعی اس بات سے واقف نہیں تھا کہ وہ آگے کیا کرنے جا رہی ہے یا اس کے مستقبل کے کیا ارادے ہیں۔

خاتون خود کش بمبار کا آخری ٹویٹ

برمش کے ٹوسٹر اکاؤنٹ پر اگر سرسری نگاہ ڈالی جائے تو انہوں نے 26 اپریل یعنی کراچی دھماکے والے دن، دوپہر 2 بج کر 10 منٹ پر ایک ٹویٹ شیئر کیا جس میں اس نے الوداعی پیغام جاری کیا۔

اس ٹوٹ کی ٹائٹنگ کا بغور جائزہ لیا جائے تو جامعہ کراچی دھماکے کی سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج بتاتی ہے کہ دھماکا 2 بج کر 6 منٹ پر ہوا، تو سوال یہاں یہ پیدا ہوتا ہے کہ اس خاتون کے اکاؤنٹ سے 'الوداعی ٹوٹ' کس نے شیئر کیا؟

:خاتون خود کش حملہ کے ٹوٹس کا جائزہ

اگر اس اکاؤنٹ پر طائرانہ نگاہ ڈالی جائے تو خاتون کتابوں کی شوقین لگتی ہے، اور پڑھائی میں بھی آگے آگے رہتی ہے، معروف شخصیات کے اقتباس بھی ہمیں کہیں کہیں دکھائی دیتے ہیں۔

یاد رہے کہ خاتون حملہ آور کی تفصیلات سامنے آنے پر یہ انکشاف ہوا کہ خاتون کوئی ان پڑھ نہیں تھی بلکہ اعلیٰ تعلیم یافتہ تھی جبکہ خاندان کے کسی فرد کا بھی کوئی کرمنٹل ریکارڈ نہیں۔

خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان کے مطابق حملہ آور خاتون ڈیڑھ ماہ پہلے اپنی بہن کی شادی کیلئے کیچ آئی تھی، خاتون خود کش حملہ آور مزید تعلیم کیلئے چھ ماہ پہلے اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ کراچی شفٹ ہوئی تھی۔

خاتون خود کش بمبار ایم فل کر رہی تھی جبکہ اس کے ڈاکٹر شوہر کوئی ڈپلومہ کر رہے تھے، خاندان کے دیگر افراد سرکاری عہدوں پر فائز ہیں۔

خاتون حملہ آور کے والد کچھ عرصہ پہلے تک بلوچستان یونیورسٹی تربت کے رجسٹرار رہے ہیں، اس کے ایک بھائی تحصیلدار جبکہ ایک بھائی ڈپٹی مینجر ہیں۔

جامعہ کراچی میں خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان کو خاتون کی سرگرمیوں کے بارے میں پتا نہیں تھا، خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کے خاندان نے مجید ریگڈ کی طرف سے جاری تصویر کو کنفرم کر دیا ہے کہ یہ خاتون ان ہی کے خاندان سے ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1079660>

Nawaiwaqt News

گو بھی کے چینی بیج، کاشتکار کی آمدن بڑھانے میں مددگار

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان گو بھی کے 90 فیصد سے زائد بیج درآمد کرتا ہے۔ ہمیں باہر ڈاکس بیج کی سخت ضرورت ہے۔ چین یہ بیج نسبتاً سستا فراہم کر سکتا ہے۔ یہ بات ایوب ایگریکلچر ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ کے سبزی تحقیقی ادارے کے سائنس آفیسر محمد مظفر رضانے بتائی۔ کاشتکار فرمان خان نے کہا جب سے ہم نے چینی اقسام کاشت کی ہے، ہماری آمدنی میں بہت اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ ہماری مارکیٹ میں چینی گو بھی کے بیجوں کی کثرت سے کمی ہے۔ تاہم تیانجن سے گو بھی کے اعلیٰ معیار کے بیج تقریباً 4500 کلو میٹر کا فاصلہ طے کر کے پاکستان میں جڑ پکڑ چکے ہیں۔ تیانجن تیان لونگ زمینان ایگریکلچرل سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی لمیٹڈ کے ایگزیکٹو ڈپٹی جنرل مینجر سوئی لینگ نے بتایا کہ 2016ء سے ہم نے متعدد تجربات کے ذریعے گو بھی کی باہر ڈاکس پودے لگانے پر پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کیا ہے، اب تک ہمارے آرڈرز کئی گنا بڑھ چکے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-27/page-12/detail-6>

قائم مقام چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، سی پیک منصوبوں میں رکاوٹیں دور کریں گے: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگر + نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال نے احتساب عدالت کے باہر میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ نارووال سپورٹس سٹی ریفرنس میں دوبارہ عدالت پیش ہو اہوں۔ عمران خان کی حکومت نے ملک کی ترقی، عوام کی فلاح کیلئے ایک بھی قدم نہیں اٹھایا۔ عمران نیازی نے پونے چار سال پاکستان کے مضبوط ترین وزیر اعظم کے طور پر کام کیا۔ تمام ادارے انکی پشت پر کھڑے تھے۔ عمران خان نے میڈیا کا گلا گھونٹ کر خاموش کروا دیا تھا، انہیں شرم آنی چاہئے جو چار دنوں میں ہی حساب مانگ رہے ہیں۔ عمران خان کی نالائقی کو پاکستان سپیڈ سے بدلے گی، الیکشن کمیشن پر دھاوا بولنا بلیک میلنگ ہے۔ اگر دامن صاف ہے تو فارن فنڈنگ کیس میں رسیدیں دکھاؤ۔ احسن اقبال سے چین کی قائم مقام سفیر نے ملاقات کی۔ باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ طلباء کے ڈگری پروگرام کی تکمیل پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ پہلے مرحلے پر 200 طلباء کے ویزے جاری کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ ملاقات میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر ہم نے 15 دن بعد جائزہ لینے کی تجویز دی گئی۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں میں حائل تمام رکاوٹوں کو دور کیا جائے گا۔ سی پیک سے پاک چین تعلقات کو مزید وسعت ملی۔ سی پیک سے روزگار اور اقتصادی ترقی کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ ادھر احتساب عدالت کے جج سید اصغر علی کی عدالت میں زیر سماعت نارووال سپورٹس سٹی کمپلیکس ریفرنس میں وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال کی جانب سے بیرون ملک جانے والی درخواست واپس لئے جانے پر نمنا دی گئی۔ گذشتہ روز سماعت کے دوران احسن اقبال کی جانب سے دائر ادائیگی عمرہ کیلئے جانے کی اجازت سے متعلق دائر درخواست ان کے وکیل مدثر ملک نے واپس لینے کی استدعا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ احسن اقبال کا نام نیب حکام کے کہنے پر ای سی ایل میں ڈالا گیا، احسن اقبال کا نام عدالتی حکم پر ای سی ایل میں نہیں ڈالا گیا۔ عدالتی حکم پر ای سی ایل میں نام نہ ڈالنے کی وجہ سے درخواست واپس لیتے ہیں۔ پینگ چوزو ہی نے احسن اقبال کو مبارکباد دی، وفاقی وزیر نے رانا تنویر کے ہمراہ تعلیمی نصاب کے جائزہ اجلاس کے صدارت کرتے کہا عالمی معیار کا ٹیچرز کی ٹریننگ کا ادارہ قائم کیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-27/page-1/detail-6>

April 28, 2022

Business Recorder

Bilawal visits China's embassy, interacts with FO officials

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday said that terrorists made a failed attempt to strike on the basis of the Pakistan-China friendship and vowed that their malicious intentions cannot sabotage the friendship between the two countries.

Bilawal, who sworn in as Pakistan's youngest Foreign Minister at the age of 33, paid a visit to Embassy of China in Islamabad soon after assuming the charge of his office, where he expressed condolences with the government and people of China over loss of lives in the terrorist attack on Chinese residents in Karachi on Thursday.

The foreign minister was accompanied by Minister of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. He expressed sorrow over the loss of lives in the terrorist attack on Chinese residents in Karachi. "The relationship between Pakistan and China is a series of loyalty across generations," Bilawal said, adding that the terrorists made a failed attempt to strike on the basis of the Pakistan-China friendship.

He vowed that the malicious intentions of terrorists cannot sabotage Pakistan-China friendship. The foreign minister also recorded his impressions in a guest book at the Chinese Embassy. Earlier in the day, Bilawal assumed the charge of his office as the youngest 37th Foreign Minister of the country. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood welcomed him at the Foreign Office.

Following assuming the charge, Bilawal interacted with senior officers of the Foreign Office. The Foreign Secretary was also present at the meeting. Senior officers of the Foreign Office briefed Bilawal on Pakistan's relations with the rest of the world.

Earlier, Bilawal was sworn in at the age of 33 years, seven months and six days. His grandfather late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was 35 years, five months and 10 days old when he was sworn in as the foreign minister while Hina Rabbani Khar was 33 years, eight months and one day old.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/28/3-page/927773-news.html>

Minister briefed about attack on Chinese teachers

KARACHI: Minister for Universities and Boards Muhammad Ismail Rahoo on Wednesday said that the security of universities in the province would be reviewed and authorities would be taken on board to revive the Standard Operating Procedures designed for the educational institutions, particularly where foreign faculty is present.

Muhammad Ismail Rahoo said this during his visit to the University of Karachi here. He met the KU acting vice chancellor Professor Dr Nasira Khatoon, acting Registrar Professor Dr Maqsood Ali Ansari, Pakistani Director of Confucius Institute for the Chinese Language at the University of Karachi Professor Dr Nasir Uddin Khan, Campus Security Advisor Dr Muhammad Zubair, Dr Abdul Jabbar and others. On this occasion, Professor Dr Nasira Khatoon briefed Sindh Minister for Universities and Educational Boards Muhammad Ismail Rahoo about the unfortunate incident. He also said that a new security plan would also be discussed in light of the attack on the Chinese teachers at the University of Karachi. He observed that China has a key role in Pakistan's economic development and commented that such vicious attempts are being made to spoil the Pak-China relations.

Later, while talking to the media at the site of the incident, Muhammad Ismail Rahoo mentioned that concerned departments are investigating the matter and whoever is found involved will be brought to justice.

Responding to a question, provincial minister Muhammad Ismail Rahoo said that at present the University of Karachi needs more than 250 cameras to ensure integrated surveillance of the long area of the university. Ismail Rahoo said that ample security arrangements had been made on the KU's campus and added that foolproof security was provided to the Chinese faculty members at the KU. He said that private security guards and four rangers' personnel were deployed to secure the movement of the Chinese faculty on the KU campus as two of rangers personnel were injured in the incident. He shared that eight Chinese faculty members reside in the KU's campus whose security had been tightened.

Meanwhile, a meeting regarding the security plan was held at the KU Vice Chancellor's Secretariat under the chairmanship of the acting Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Nasira Khatoon, acting Registrar Professor Dr Maqsood Ali Ansari, Campus Security Advisor Dr Muhammad Zubair, Dr Abdul Jabbar, Students' Advisor Dr Syed Asim Ali, Dr Muhammad Farhan Siddiqui, Dr Muhammad Salman Zubair, Security Officer Muhammad Asif, Pakistani Director of Confucius Institute for the Chinese Language at the University of Karachi Professor Dr Nasir Uddin Khan, and rangers' and others participated.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/28/3-page/927774-news.html>

China condemns suicide attack on teachers

BEIJING: China on Wednesday strongly condemned a suicide attack in Karachi University that claimed lives of four people including three Chinese teachers at the varsity but said that nothing could undermine China-Pakistan friendship.

A spokesman for the China' Foreign Ministry said that they strongly condemn the terrorist attack targeting Chinese teachers at University of Karachi and express their condolences to the victims.

“Nothing will undermine China-Pakistan friendship,” the spokesman added.

It is pertinent to mention here that four people including three Chinese nationals were killed while several others were injured as a van caught fire after an explosion near Confucius Institute at University of Karachi on Tuesday.

According to initial reports, a van carrying teachers-mostly Chinese nationals- caught fire after a blast near the Confucius Institute leaving a number of passengers and security personnel injured.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/28/3-page/927776-news.html>

Daily Times

Attempts to undermine Sino-Pak relations won't succeed: China

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Wednesday said that “ironclad friendship” between China and Pakistan was unbreakable and any attempt to undermine the bilateral cooperation, mutual trust and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would not succeed.

Wang Wenbin made these remarks during his regular briefing in response to questions about the Karachi University terrorist attack.

A shuttle van of the Confucius Institute of Karachi University was hit by a suicide bomber a day earlier, leaving three Chinese teachers and a Pakistani dead.

The spokesperson said that terrorism was a common scourge and the blood of the Chinese people would not be shed in vain in terrorism. “Once again, we mourn the passing of the Chinese and

Pakistani nationals and extend our sincere sympathies to the victims and to the injured and the bereaved families,” he added.

Terming the bombing a premeditated suicide attack targeting Chinese citizens, Wenbin said Beijing supported Pakistan in fighting terrorism and those behind the incident would surely pay the price. He observed that the target of the egregious and heinous attack was teachers as they were inheritors of human civilisation and promoters of cultural exchange.

The spokesperson also said that people and life come first, adding that the Chinese government attached great importance to the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions overseas. He highlighted that after the attack, the Chinese foreign ministry and embassy and consulate in Pakistan following the guidance of China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi immediately activated the emergency response mechanisms and requested the Pakistani side to take proper efforts to treat the injured, handle the follow up matter and conduct a thorough investigation, apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The Pakistani side, he maintained, was also asked to take stronger measures to keep Chinese citizens and institutions safe and make sure such incidents don’t happen again.

Wenbin further said Chinese embassy and consulate also reminded Chinese institutions and personnel to strengthen their safety awareness and ramp up security. The Chinese departments and local governments are taking actions in coordination while the Consul General in Karachi yesterday visited the injured Chinese teacher.

Noting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to the embassy to convey his condolences, the spokesperson said that he offered condolences and instructed the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. He expressed the confidence that the government would spare no efforts to apprehend the perpetrators and hold them accountable.

The government promised to take further measures to strengthen security for Chinese people, projects and institutions and it would not allow any enforce to undermine the two countries friendship and cooperation.

Wenbin further observed that Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah also visited Consulate General in Karachi to convey condolences and took prompt actions in the rescue and investigation. He also said leaders of many political parties and people from all walks of life had conveyed their condolences following the attack. “We will work together with Pakistan to crack down on terrorist forces and make sure the culprits behind the attack will pay a heavy price,” the spokesperson concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926919/attempts-to-undermine-sino-pak-relations-wont-succeed-china/>

Attack on Chinese Nationals

Trying to wash hands off the shocking suicide bombing that targeted Chinese nationals in Karachi on Tuesday by dismissing it as a “cowardly attack of terrorism” cannot work for the

present government. Had it just been locals whose charred remains needed to be meticulously pieced together, optics would have been an ideal game and crocodile tears from the government machinery might have long drowned the chaotic flames. However, it is China, our “real iron brother,” and the last resort to resuscitate our gasping-for-breath economy. And when one of most benevolent friends point-blankedly asks Pakistan to address the “root causes of the problem,” those sitting in the government are bound to move heaven and earth to get to the bottom line.

Having had numerous brushes with death in Karachi alone (at the hands of the same organisation that smugly accepted the responsibility for blowing up the star-crossed 16-seater), Beijing has every right to leap up, press for answers and lay claim to fool-proof security. After all, no country indulges in soft diplomacy to live through the terrors of the battlefield. There remain no qualms about the urgency to realise the precarious safety situation and open eyes to the number of Hydrean serpents rearing their heads.

For a banished organisation like the Balochistan Liberation Army to find support in the poshest of institutions and have the capacity to smuggle parts of the suicide vest right underneath the nose of well-equipped checkpoints in a city with a large police force and a sizeable Ranger’s presence is no joke. Rather, it is the manifestation of the worst terrors of the country’s gut-wrenching nightmare. Unless Pakistan plugs all the loopholes in its law enforcement narrative and strikes at the heart of the shambolic breakdown of law and human rights ravaging all across Balochistan, we would be forced to witness even deadlier bloodbaths orchestrated by Baloch militancy. Nevertheless, to lend them an ear should not be equated with offering them the other cheek. Pakistan should rightfully smell the making of yet another looming threat to its very foundation and roll up its sleeves for emergency information-gathering and counter-operations. What Karachi Police, the Sindh government and Speed Shehbaz intend to roll out in order to rise to the occasion (or at least, do some face-saving) remains to be seen, but one thing’s certain: shuffling faces won’t fit the bill. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926827/attack-on-chinese-nationals/>

Express News

چینی باشندوں پر حملہ بلوچ قوم کو دشمن عناصر میں شامل کرنے کی سازش ہے، خواتین ارکان اسمبلی

بلوچستان کی خواتین ارکان اسمبلی نے کراچی میں چینی باشندوں پر خودکش حملے کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بیرونی طاقتوں نے کوشش کی ہے کہ بلوچ اقوام کو ملک کو یٹہ دشمن عناصر میں شامل کیا جائے۔

یہ بات بلوچستان عوامی پارٹی کی خواتین اراکین صوبائی و قومی اسمبلی نے پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ رکن صوبائی اسمبلی بشری رند نے کہا کہ دو روز قبل کراچی یونیورسٹی میں افسوس ناک واقعہ پیش آیا جس میں ہمارے چینی مہمانوں کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، بیرونی طاقتوں نے کوشش کی ہے کہ بلوچ اقوام کو ملک دشمن عناصر میں شامل کیا جائے۔

رکن اسمبلی بشری رند نے کہا کہ خاتون خودکش بمبار کے شوہر نے بیان دیا ہے کہ اس کی بیوی ذہنی مریضہ تھی اور وہ ذہنی مرض کی ادویات بھی استعمال کر رہی تھی، یہ واقعہ انتہائی قابل مذمت ہے، میں خود بلوچ ہوں اور ہمیں یہ تربیت دی گئی ہے کہ مہمانوں کو تکلیف نہ پہنچے۔

تیار ہیں۔ چینی سفارتخانے نے ابھی مزید سیوریٹی کیلئے نہیں کہا۔ نیٹا کو فعال کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم اس حوالے سے اجلاس بلائیں گے۔ صحافی کے سوال پر کہ خود کش حملہ آور خاتون کا شوہر گرفتار ہوا؟ رانا ثناء اللہ نے کہا کہ تحقیقات چل رہی ہیں، اس حوالے سے کچھ نہیں بتا سکتا۔ فرح فرنٹ پرسن کے طور پر کام کرتی رہی، پیسا اکٹھا کر کے فرار ہو گئی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-04-28/page-1/detail-15>

چینی اساتذہ کی ہلاکت نے پاکستانیوں کو سوگوار کر دیا: شوکت ورک

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) دین فائونڈیشن کے مرکزی چیئرمین ڈاکٹر شوکت ورک نے کہا کہ سانحہ کراچی نے پاکستانیوں کو سوگوار کر دیا۔ چینی قوم کو دکھ اور کرب کی اس گھڑی میں تنہا نہیں چھوڑیں گے۔ پاکستان کے فرض شناس محافظ چینی اساتذہ کا خون رائیگاں نہیں جانے دینگے، مرکزی کردار کا انجام دینا دیکھے گی۔ پاکستان اور چینی عوام کے دکھ سکھ سانچے ہیں، چین کا دشمن پاکستانیوں کا دوست اور پاکستان کا دشمن چینی عوام کا خیر خواہ نہیں ہو سکتا۔ پاک چین دوستی کئی دہائیوں سے کچھ ملکوں کی آنکھوں میں کھٹکتی ہے اور وہ مسلسل اس قابل رشک دوستی میں دراڑ پیدا کرنے کیلئے سازشیں کر رہے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-04-28/page-2/detail-9>

چینی اساتذہ پر حملہ پاک، چین تعلقات خراب کرنے کی سازش ہے: ناصر عباس جعفری

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) مجلس وحدت مسلمین پاکستان کے مرکزی سیکرٹری جنرل علامہ راجہ ناصر عباس جعفری نے کراچی یونیورسٹی میں خود کش دھماکے کی شدید الفاظ میں مذمت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے چینی اساتذہ کو نشانہ بنانے جانے پر افسوس کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے اسے پاکستان اور چین کے برادرانہ تعلقات خراب کرنے کی سازش قرار دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ملک دشمن قوتیں ارض پاک کے امن کو تباہ کرنے کا کوئی موقع ہاتھ سے جانے نہیں دیتی۔ ہمیں ان عناصر سے چوکنار ہونا ہو گا جو ملکی سالمیت و بقا کے سنگین خطرات پیدا کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ کی بھاری قیمت چکانی ہے۔ عالمی استخباراتی طاقتیں اس خطے کو عدم استحکام کا شکار رکھنا چاہتی ہیں۔ اگر ان کا راستہ نہ روکا گیا تو مادر وطن کی سالمیت و بقا کے لیے مشکلات کھڑی ہو جائیں گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-04-28/page-3/detail-2>

کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چینی باشندوں پر حملہ سفاکیت ہے: مرید حسین نقوی

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) وفاق المدارس الشیعہ پاکستان کے نائب صدر علامہ سید مرید حسین نقوی نے کہا کہ کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چینی باشندوں پر خود کش حملہ غیر انسانی فعل اور سفاکیت ہے۔ تعلیم و تدریس کے محترم شعبہ سے منسلک غیر ملکی مہمانوں کی حفاظت ہمارا قومی فریضہ ہے۔ امن و امان کے متعلقہ اداروں کو بہت پہلے اپنے بے گناہ شہریوں، نمازیوں پر ہونے والے خود کش حملوں کے محرکات سامنے لا کر سخت اقدامات اٹھانا چاہئیں تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-04-28/page-3/detail-8>

April 29, 2022

Business Recorder

Wrist watches from China: FBR fixes import values

SOHAIL SARFRAZ

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi, for the first time fixed the values of the wrist watches (low-end brands) from China to control evasion of duties and taxes at the import stage.

In this connection, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Directorate has issued valuation rulings on Thursday.

The import values of wrist watches have been fixed within the range of \$1.50 per piece to \$6.6 per piece.

The said values are not applicable on known brands such as Casio, Citizen, Roamer, Alba, Seiko, Omax, Onyx, Westar, FavourLuba, Rolex, Rado, Calvin (CK) Tissot, Titan, Raymond Well, Swatch, Tag Heuer, Cartier, Baunce& Mercier, (B&M), Sonex, Longines, Forecer21, Prestige, etc.

According to the ruling, it was brought to the notice of the Directorate that the values of the wrist watches (low-end brands) from China are being declared to Customs at much lower values than their current international values in absence of Valuation Ruling in the field. Verification by this Directorate General reaffirmed this stance.

Keeping in view this prevailing price of the subject goods, an exercise for determination of the Customs values of wrist watches (low-end brands) in terms of under Section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969.

Finally, clearance data, raw material prices, international prices through internet were examined thoroughly and the information so gathered were utilized and analyzed for determination of Customs values of wrist watches (low-end brands), the directorate added.

The directorate has also increased Customs values on the import of hand bags, shoulder bags, purses and clutches of artificial leather (low-end brands) from China. This Valuation Ruling is only for hand bags/shoulder bags /purses/clutches and wallets, made of artificial leather only (i.e. not genuine or composition leather). The clearance data, raw material prices, international prices through internet were examined thoroughly and the information so gathered were utilized and analyzed for determination of custom values of hand bags, shoulder bags, purses and clutches of artificial leather (low-end brands) under section 25(9) of the Customs Act, 1969.

As per a new valuation ruling, the directorate has enhanced Customs values on the import of playing cards (made of paper/plastic coating/plastic) from China, Taiwan, and USA.

Another valuation ruling has revised the Customs values on the import of Latex Rubber Threads from China, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Earlier, the Customs values of Latex Rubber Threads were determined under section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969 Customs values of vide Valuation Ruling in 2019. However, representations were received from importers and manufacturers for revision and rationalisation of the existing valuation ruling in the light of transitional values prevailing in the international market. Accordingly, an exercise was initiated in this Directorate General to determine Customs values of subject goods in terms of Section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969. Density Polyethylene

The directorate has also determined the Customs values on the import of Un-Plasticized PolyVinyl Chloride (UPVC) Pipes; Chlorinated Poly Vinyl Chloride(CPVC) pipes; High / Polyethylene (HDPE/PE) Pipes Fittings and Pipe Fittings under section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969.

Earlier, the Customs values of pipes and pipe fittings were determined vide valuation ruling No 1259/2018. Representations for fresh determination of Customs Values were received in this Directorate General being more than four years old.

Furthermore, Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry filed representations before the FBR.

A meeting was held in FBR headquarters which was chaired by the Chairman FBR and attended by Member (Customs-Policy), Director General Customs Valuation and other participants including the representatives of both the chambers.

Keeping in view difference between freight from land and sea routes, quality of goods and other socio-economic factors, the Board forwarded a record note. In view of the foregoing, an exercise was undertaken by this Directorate General to determine afresh the Customs Values of subject goods in terms of Section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969.

The reduction of eight percent shall be admissible on a total of above value on account of freight charges, if goods are imported through land route, the new ruling added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/29/1-page/927898-news.html>

Daily Times

Investigators make headway in KU suicide attack probe

A major development occurred in the investigation into the suicide attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi University after law enforcers raided the house of the alleged suicide bomber's father in Scheme 33, Karachi, a private TV channel reported.

Four people, including three Chinese nationals, were killed and four others sustained injuries in a suicide attack carried out by a burqa-clad woman outside the Confucius Institute in KU's premises on Tuesday. Laptops and other evidence, including documents, were taken into custody

during the raid. Sources privy to the matter said movement of a car bearing a government number plate to and from the raided house was observed.

Meanwhile, the investigators also searched the apartment of the alleged suicide bomber in Gulistan-e-Johar block 13 and sealed it afterwards, the sources said. They said that the apartment is rented and the bomber had been living there for the last three years.

The KU reopened for the first time after the suicide attack. The varsity's spokesperson said that administrative affairs and the teaching process in the university will continue as usual. However, the Confucius Institute will remain closed until clearance from the Chinese Embassy. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, who visited Karachi after the attack on Wednesday, refrained from commenting on the arrest of suicide bomber's husband. The minister neither denied nor confirmed the arrest of Habitan Bashir Baloch, who was staying at a hotel near Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre but had fled long before the attack. However, the rickshaw driver who transported the bomber inside the university has been caught.

The woman – who was involved in the Karachi terrorist attack – belonged to a family with an educated background and was pursuing MPhil. The woman belonged to Kech District in Balochistan's Turbat and was married to a doctor. She moved to Karachi along with her husband for higher education and last visited the Kech District at her sister's wedding. She was also a government teacher.

Meanwhile, Balochistan's Parliamentary Secretary for Information Bushra Rind on Thursday said the detained husband of the alleged Karachi University suicide bomber claims his wife was "mentally ill".

CCTV footage of the attack showed a burqa-clad woman standing outside the entrance of the Confucius Institute. The woman detonated herself just as the van neared the institute's entrance. The banned Baloch Liberation Army had later claimed responsibility for the attack. Investigators identified the bomber as Shari Baloch, a married mother of two. On Wednesday, CTD official Raja Umar Khattab said that her husband, who he identified as Dr Haibatana, was missing and that raids were being carried out to find him and other facilitators.

Addressing a press conference in Quetta, Rind confirmed that the husband had been arrested by law enforcement and that he made the revelation of his wife's mental state in the course of interrogation. She quoted the husband as saying his wife was receiving medications for her mental illness.

Rind said "external forces" were attempting to involve Baloch nations in anti-national activities in a "cowardly attempt" to discredit and portray the community in a bad light. "The Baloch nation won't be affected by such hostile conspiracies," she vowed.

She said the suicide blast was a "tragic incident" targeting Chinese teachers and strongly condemned the attack. A day ago, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, in a video message, had said targeting Chinese teachers outside Karachi University was "highly

reprehensible” and against Baloch tradition. “This is the first time we have seen such an event,” he added. Bizenjo said the nation would emerge victorious in its fight against terrorism.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/927554/investigators-make-headway-in-ku-suicide-attack-probe/>

International forum underlines Pak-China space cooperation

With the approaching of the 7th Space Day of China, International Forum on Aerospace Education & Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) 5th Anniversary Conference successfully concluded online, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Prof. ZHANG Weihong, member of the Chinese Academy of Science and Vice President of Northwestern Polytechnical University(NPU), Ms. FENG Chunping, Vice Chairman of Governing Board of Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA), Mr. LIU Baoping, Deputy Director of Education Department of Shaanxi Provincial Government, Ms. JIANG Hui, Counsellor of China National Space Administration to Russia, Ms. YU Qi, Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

Over 100 representatives of BRAIA members and international organizations, including the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs attended the meeting. The conference was presided by Prof. Zhang Fuli, Director of Office of International Cooperation and Dean of International College, NPU.

Experts and scholars from Pakistani universities, which are important partners of NPU in South Asia, attended the conference and made reports. Dr. Adnan Maqsood from National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) made a work report, indicating that NUST has achieved fruitful results through close cooperation with BRAIA and a group of Chinese universities including NPU in the past five years.

For example, since October 2020, scholars from Pakistani universities have been actively engaged in joint research seed fund projects initiated by BRAIA in aerodynamics, composite and microsatellite.

Moreover, during the difficult time of fighting against COVID-19, the Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA has been keeping close touch with NUST. The Permanent Secretariat office in NPU managed to offer a batch of masks to NUST, hoping that BRAIA members will overcome the difficult time hand in hand.

Besides, Dr. Adnan Maqsood also promoted an upcoming internship program for international students this summer. “Essentially, the notion of this internship for international students is to acclimatize them with hi-tech research labs. Moreover, the opportunity will also enable foreign students to learn from the industry experts besides gaining hands-on experience.”

The program is open to university students from all BRAIA members, and plays a huge role in promoting talent exchange in aerospace and other fields among different countries. In addition, on the conference, Mr. Rehan Abdul Baqi, Rector of Institute of Space Technology (IST), Pakistan also sent his wishes to celebrate the 5th anniversary of BRAIA.

Prof. Najam Abbas Naqvi from IST made an academic report on the theme of Exploration and Practice of Multilateral Scientific Research and Aerospace Talents Cultivation. Regarding the cooperation between NPU and Pakistani universities and research institutes, both sides have achieved fruitful results. Nowadays, NPU has maintained a close tie with National Engineering and Scientific Commission and more than ten universities including NUST, IST and Air University in Pakistan.

As the Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA, NPU has strongly supported NUST to take the leading role in South Asia as the first BRAIA Regional Development Center. This also demonstrates that Pakistan is one of the important countries that NPU endeavors to collaborate with according to its envisioned global footprint. NPU aims to enhance the competence building for Belt and Road countries and regions based on the consensus achieved and the joint efforts made together with BRAIA and partners in Pakistan.

Till now, BRAIA has 74 members from 22 countries on 6 continents around the world. It has held 33 large-scale cultural, scientific and technological exchange activities, from which more than 4500 teachers and students have benefited directly. Looking into the future, as BRAIA Permanent Secretariat, NPU will further strengthen cooperation with Pakistani universities and research institutes in fields of scientific research, joint educational institutions, college-enterprise collaboration, etc. to deeply implement the Belt and Road initiative.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/927459/international-forum-underlines-pak-china-space-cooperation/>

China, Pakistan have capabilities to cut off claws of terrorists: Wang

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that China and Pakistan had the resolve and capability to cut off the claws of terrorists who carried out attack on a van of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi and make them pay the due price. “China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to cut off the claws of the terrorists and make them pay the due price” Wang Wenbin said at a regular news briefing in response to a question about Tuesday’s terrorist attack in Karachi which killed three Chinese citizens and injured one. He said, Yesterday, I already talked about Chinese position on the terrorist attack in Karachi. The injured is being treated and follow up work is being handled properly, he added. Terming terrorism as a common scourge of all mankind, he said that the Pakistani side was taking all out efforts to investigate the attack and apprehend the perpetrator.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/927552/china-pakistan-have-capabilities-to-cut-off-claws-of-terrorists-wang/>

Pakistan Observer

Winning trust of Chinese investors first priority: Ahsan

“My top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore the confidence of the Chinese investors,” said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI)

Professor Ahsan Iqbal during his meeting here with Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Ms. Pang Chunxue, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Mr. Iqbal told Ms. Pang Chunxue that the progress in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been expedited since the new government came into power and regular meetings are being held for the implementation of the projects.

Ms. Pang Chunxue appreciated the steps taken by the Minister since he took charge of the Ministry.

The Minister stressed that the incumbent government will maintain the lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013.

During the meeting, the Minister also said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already requested China to add Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project in CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal also urged the Chinese official to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China. In this connection, 200 students are being issued visas so that they can complete their studies in China.

Similarly, the Minister also suggested that Pakistan and China should start working on space technology and said that Pakistani astronauts should be given the opportunity to go to space with Chinese.

This act will further take the relationship between the two countries to new heights higher than the skies, he added.

The Minister also pointed to the shortage of water in Karachi and asked the Chinese official to collaborate in establishing desalination plants in the city to overcome paucity of clean drinking water. Ms. Pang Chunxue assured to extend full support of China to uplift the water related projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/winning-trust-of-chinese-investors-first-priority-ahsan/>

The Express Tribune

Rs36b approval for ML-I delayed

Funds sought for providing security to Chinese who will be working on railway project

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday again postponed approval of Rs36 billion project that had been designed to provide security to the Chinese nationals who would be engaged for the construction of multibillion-dollar Mainline-I (ML-I) project.

The project has been lingering for the past almost two years and could not win the nod of the authorities after the previous government excluded the security component from the \$6.8 billion ML-I project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Rs36 billion worth of security provision for the up-gradation of Pakistan Railways' ML-I project was presented to the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) for endorsement.

However, the CDWP referred the scheme back to the Pakistan Railways with the direction to first address objections to the scheme and also take China into confidence.

The enemy forces' attacks on CPEC – the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative – have increased in recent months, which led to the killings of both Chinese and Pakistani nationals. This has created resentment in the Chinese government.

However, despite the gravity of the situation, the bureaucracy is still treating the matter as business as usual.

Headed by Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Dr Jehanzeb Khan, the CDWP that held meetings almost on a weekly basis did not take the security project on priority.

The main purpose of the Rs36 billion project is to provide foolproof security for the construction camps and the Chinese nationals, who will be deployed during the course of construction work for the up-gradation of ML-I project.

The last PTI government had approved the PC-I for up-gradation of ML-I project in August 2020 at a rationalised cost of \$6.8 billion. While rationalising the cost of PC-I, the CDWP deleted the cost of providing security, which was equal to 1% of the project cost or nearly \$80 million.

However, China has also already objected to the \$6.8 billion project cost and is not willing to fund the scheme until the cost is adjusted upwards.

The ML-I project is planned to rehabilitate Pakistan's Railways network of 1,733 kilometres from Karachi to Peshawar.

China had expressed concern over the deletion of security components from the approved PC-I for the up-gradation of ML-I.

Similarly, Pakistan Army also conveyed its reservations to the Prime Minister's Office regarding removal of security components, saying there were serious implications of deleting the security costs.

The General Headquarters had said the exclusion of the overall security mechanism due to non-availability of critical security enablers also carries implications for the overall CPEC security.

This would increase pressure on the army's Special Security Division of the CPEC due to shortage of local and private security guards during construction, according to the GHQ.

Another major concern was that in absence of any structured mechanism, neither the military nor the Pakistan Railways would be ready to bear the security cost.

Due to these reservations, the Prime Minister's Office in March last year had directed the Ministry of Railways to evaluate its security needs for up-gradation of ML-I project in consultation with stakeholders.

However, the previous government did not take the matter seriously and the project remained unapproved.

According to the proposed PC-I, about 118 administrative camps and 33 barracks will be constructed for provision of security to Chinese workers.

Pakistan and China have not yet agreed on the loan terms for \$6 billion that Islamabad is seeking to construct the ML-I project. Due to this delay, the bidding process for any of the three packages has not been initiated and that has also delayed the civil works.

Meanwhile, the CDWP has cleared three development projects worth Rs15.8 billion, while recommending another scheme to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for approval.

The CDWP recommended the Torkham Jalalabad road project at revised cost of Rs10.6 billion linking the Central Asian Republics with Pakistan. This project is aimed to help the government of Afghanistan in its efforts for the reconstruction of roads to link Torkham with Jalalabad.

The forum approved establishment of a 132KV grid station at Bin Qasim Industrial Park in Karachi at a revised cost of Rs3.6 billion.

The objective of the project is to provide uninterrupted power supply at affordable rates to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Bin Qasim Industrial Park BQIP, in order to meet the power requirements of SEZ enterprises.

The forum also cleared the up-gradation of the mechanical system for sewerage and drainage services in WASA.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354679/rs36b-approval-for-ml-i-delayed>

Jang News

چینیوں کے ساتھ اظہار یک جہتی

منصور آفاق

میں کچھ عرصہ پنجاب یونیورسٹی کے ایگزیکٹو کلب میں رہائش پذیر رہا۔ وہاں تین چار کمروں میں مستقل کچھ چینی بھی مقیم تھے۔ ان سے اکثر ہیلو ہائے ہو جایا کرتی تھی۔ کورونا کے دنوں میں تو وہاں میرے علاوہ صرف چینی ہی رہتے تھے۔ یو کے میں بھی ایک چینی لڑکی سے میری علیک سلیک تھی۔ چینیوں کا ایک خوشگوار تجربہ مجھے چین کے دس روزہ دورے میں بھی ہوا تھا۔ اس دورے میں شعیب بن عزیز، ہارون الرشید، سہیل وڑائچ، خوشنود علی خان، ارشاد عارف، سلیم گیلانی، مجاہد بریلوی، نذیر لغاری، حبیب اکرم، بایزید اور ظفر محمود بھی شامل تھے۔ بہت سال پہلے اردو کے چینی شاعر انتخاب عالم سے بھی ملاقات رہی مگر چینیوں کو جاننے کا اصل موقع ”دورہ کا شاعر“ میں ملا۔ چین کے صوبے سنگیانگ کے دارالحکومت ارجی اور کا شاعر کے پرانے شہر میں میرا قیام رہا۔ میری گائیڈ ایک چینی مسلمان خاتون تھی۔ مجھے پہلی بار اندازہ ہوا کہ چین میں مسلمانوں کے ساتھ ظلم و زیادتی کی جتنی کہانیاں ہمیں مغربی میڈیا سناتا ہے۔ وہ قطعی درست نہیں، مسلمان وہاں آزادانہ طور پر اپنے مذہبی فرائض سرانجام دیتے ہیں۔ مساجد موجود ہیں جن میں پانچ وقت کی نماز ہوتی ہے۔ چینی پاکستان کے سچے دوست ہیں۔ میں پوری دنیا گھوما ہوں مجھے غیر مسلم اقوام میں چینیوں سے زیادہ پاکستان سے محبت کرنے والی کوئی قوم کہیں نظر نہیں آئی۔

میں کراچی یونیورسٹی میں خود کش دھماکے میں ہلاک ہونے والے پروفیسر ہوانگ گینگ کے لیے افسردہ ہوں۔ مجھے چینی خاتون لیکچرار چن سائی اور چینی ڈنگ میو پینک کا دکھ ہے۔ یہ تینوں کنفیو شس کے ماننے والے استاد تھے۔ پاکستان میں چینی زبان کا فروغ ان کی زندگی کا نصب العین تھا۔ وہ سمجھتے تھے کہ سی پیک کی وجہ سے آنے والے وقت میں چینی زبان پر عبور رکھنے والوں کی پاکستان میں بہت مانگ ہوگی۔ ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کا تقاضا ہے کہ زیادہ سے زیادہ پاکستانی چینی زبان کو سیکھیں اور اپنے مستقبل کو بہتر بنائیں۔

چین اور پاکستان کی دوستی میں ایک اہم ترین وجہ بھارت بھی ہے۔ ہمارے میانوالی میں کہتے ہیں کہ دوست کا دوست، دوست کا دوست اور دوست کا دشمن، دشمن۔ بھارت اور چین کے درمیان مراسم کبھی زیادہ اچھے نہیں رہے۔ پاکستان کی طرح چینی فوجیں بھی بھارتی محاذ جنگ پر برسوں سے موجود ہیں۔ پچھلے دنوں بھارت نے روس کی مدد سے چین سے تعلقات بہتر بنانے کی کوشش کی تھی مگر اب بھارت کے روس کے ساتھ تعلقات خراب ہونے کا اندیشہ بڑھ رہا ہے۔ اس کی وجہ چین اور روس کے درمیان بڑھتی ہوئی دوستی ہے۔ امریکہ اور یورپ کے خیال میں یہ دونوں ملک اس قدر ایک دوسرے کے قریب ہو چکے ہیں کہ اب ان کی دوستی کی کوئی حد نہیں رہی۔ یوکرین کا بحران روس اور چین کو اور نزدیک لے آیا ہے۔ مجھے لگتا ہے کہ امریکہ کے گہرے اثر و رسوخ کے باوجود پاکستان بھی چین کی طرح روس کے قریب ہو جائے گا۔ اس وقت شاید پاکستانی عوام بھی یہی چاہ رہے ہیں اور حقیقت بھی یہ ہے کہ عوام کی مرضی کے برعکس چلنے والی خارجہ پالیسیاں دیر پا نہیں ہوتیں۔

چینیوں پر حملے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے آغاز کے بعد شروع ہوئے۔ وہ ممالک جو سی پیک کے خلاف ہیں، جو پاک چین دوستی کو ایک آنکھ نہیں دیکھ سکتے۔ حملوں کے پس منظر میں انہیں آسانی سے دیکھا جاسکتا ہے۔ بلوچستان میں خرابی کا باعث بھی وہی لوگ ہیں۔ انہی لوگوں نے بلوچوں کے دماغوں میں اس غلط فہمی کا بیج بویا ہے کہ یہ دراصل بلوچستان کے وسائل پر قبضہ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا بھی یہی پروپیگنڈا کر رہا ہے کہ ”شریف حکومت نے ماضی میں سی پیک پر غیر معمولی توجہ مرکوز رکھی جبکہ گزشتہ حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک پر کام کافی حد تک سست روی کا شکار ہوا تھا۔ دہشت گرد دراصل موجودہ حکومت کو یہ پیغام دینا چاہتے ہیں کہ وہ سی پیک پر دوبارہ تیزی سے کام شروع کرنے سے باز رہے۔“ غیر ملکی میڈیا بار بار یہی کہہ رہا ہے کہ ”بی ایل اے کے دہشت گرد یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ سی پیک سے بلوچستان کی خود مختاری اور اس کے ریسورسز“ غیر ملکی کنٹرول میں چلے جائیں گے۔ چینیوں کو ہدف بنانا اس کا واضح اشارہ ہے۔

سالہ خود کش حملہ آور شاری بلوچ عرف برمش سائنس کی ٹیچر تھی۔ اس نے کراچی یونیورسٹی سے ایم فل کے لیے حال ہی میں اپنا اندراج کروایا تھا۔ وہ چار اور پانچ سال کے 30 دو بچوں کی ماں تھی۔ دماغ تسلیم نہیں کرتا کہ اتنے چھوٹے بچوں کی ماں کسی مقصد کے لیے یوں جان دے دے۔ ممکن ہے وہ کوئی نفسیاتی مریضہ ہو جسے دہشت گردوں نے اپنے کاڑ کے لیے استعمال کر لیا ہو۔ کچھ لوگوں نے کہا کہ اس کے خاندان میں کچھ افراد لاپتہ ہو گئے تھے جس کی وجہ سے اس نے یہ قدم اٹھایا مگر پولیس کی تفتیش کے مطابق اس کے خاندان کا کوئی فرد لاپتہ نہیں ہے۔ شاری بلوچ کا آخری ٹویٹ ایک مغربی ملک سے کیا گیا ہے، ٹویٹ کے لیے استعمال ہونے والی انٹرنیٹ آئی پی اور میک ایڈریس پاکستان کا نہیں تھا یعنی اس کا ٹویٹر اکاؤنٹ باقاعدہ طور پر بیرون ملک سے آپریٹ کیا جا رہا تھا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1080509>

April 30, 2022

Business Recorder

KU blast: Imran visits Chinese embassy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan visited the Chinese embassy to meet the Charge d Affaires of China and offered his condolences on the Karachi University van blast, Dunya News reported on Friday.

According to details, the former Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed deep sorrow and grief over the incident.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman said that he is equally grieving over the deceased as their families.

The former prime minister also stated that the relation of Pakistan and China and their partnership is what our enemies cannot bear.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/30/18-page/928091-news.html>

Daily Times

‘Conspiracies to harm Pak-China friendship bound to fail’

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that every conspiracy to sour Pak-China bilateral relations would be foiled. In a statement issued on Friday, she expressed her heartfelt sorrow and grief over the loss of lives of Chinese citizens in suicide bombing attack in Karachi University.

She extended her condolence to the Chinese Consul General and said that Pak-China friendship was eternal and there was no other opinion on it.

She said that the incident of terrorism was highly reprehensible and tragic. The eternal friendship between Pakistan and China and the success of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) are not being digested by the enemies and conspiracies to harm Pak-China friendship would not be allowed to succeed with such negative tactics. The elements involved in heinous act will be dealt with full force. The blood of the Chinese and locals killed in the blast will not go in vain, she added.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that terrorists would have to pay the price and the culprits will be brought to book soon. She said that India is always behind terrorism in Pakistan and is using so-called anti-Pakistan organizations and seducing the locals to achieve its nefarious aims which we strongly condemned.

She said that every step would be taken for the integrity of the country and soon the enemies and their tools would be brought to justice.

She said that some lost youth should understand that India is our enemy country and they are not benevolent to Pakistanis and the enemy uses them only for their own purposes saying that the survival of Pakistanis is linked to the integrity and security of Pakistan.

She said that angry and lost people should come to the right path and join the national mainstream and use their talents for Pakistan and its development and prosperity.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri further said that China has always stood by Pakistan and the CPEC project is due to China but the enemy is pursuing Pak-China friendship and wants to weaken it.

She said that the suicide attack on the van of Chinese teachers was an attack on Pak-China friendship but the whole nation is united against terrorism adding that the CEPC project is the future of Pakistan and the safety of CPEC project and Chinese citizens would be ensured.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/928048/conspiracies-to-harm-pak-china-friendship-bound-to-fail/>

KU students protest against suicide blast

Students of Confucius Centre Karachi University staged protest in demand of justice against suicide attack on their three teachers on Friday. The students carried placards and Pakistan and China's flags, with slogans of "Pak-China friendship", "terrorism is unacceptable" and photographs of the deceased on their posters. Director of Confucius Institute Professor Dr Nasir Khan and security adviser Muhammad Zubair were also present at the protest.

The students strongly condemned the suicide attack on their teachers and the Pakistani driver inside the university campus, and demanded immediate punishment for the perpetrators. They asked the university administration to make arrangements to restore their classes and ensure the safety of their teachers as soon as possible, adding that they wanted to continue learning the Chinese language. Talking to the media, a student said that there are differences between the people of one nation and another, but that does not give anyone the right to hurt the other. Another student, Isha, said that people talk about CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) and raise the slogan of Pak-China friendship, this friendship should go beyond learning languages and cultures but is obstructed by terrorism.

"This obstruction will actually be an obstacle in the way of development of Pakistan," she added. Another student of the Confucius Institute, Fatima, stated that it was unthinkable that such an abhorrent attack could be conducted in a place of learning, against innocent facilitators of education. She maintained that everyone should be guaranteed safety in a university, regardless of what they were coming to learn. Syeda Farwa, a protestor, claimed that it was now the responsibility of the Pakistani government to ensure that the Chinese government was aware that the terrorists were a different, separate entity. Professor Nasir Khan, strongly condemning the act, said that the terrorism against the Chinese teachers was not acceptable under any circumstances. Several students were seen embracing each other, teary-eyed over the loss of their teachers. Earlier this week, four people three Chinese nationals and a Pakistani man – were killed in an attack by a female suicide bomber outside the Chinese language centre inside the Karachi University on Tuesday. Four others, including a Chinese national and Rangers personnel, were also injured in the blast that ripped through a van carrying the university teachers, Karachi police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon told the media at the scene of the attack. Raja Umar Khattab, the head of the Counter-terrorism Department, confirmed that it was a suicide attack carried out by a woman outside the Confucius Institute.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/928009/ku-students-protest-against-suicide-blast/>

Let's Rethink CPEC Security

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a constant irritant for its opponents. Since the inception of CPEC, adversaries are putting efforts to sabotage the project. Pakistan, with the blessing of Allah, was able to defend the first phase and complete infrastructural projects. Enemies of CPEC could not absorb the success and thus, accelerated their efforts. With the launch of the second phase, we can observe a new wave of malicious propaganda and terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens. Although Pakistan erected a dynamic security mechanism during the first phase and protected the Chinese citizens and CPEC with great resolve, incidents like Karachi University and Dasu urge us to rethink security. As the present security framework was developed keeping in mind the first phase of CPEC, it cannot cater for the needs of the second phase which has its own dynamics.

Thus, there is a need for a new security policy and framework, which can cater for the demands of the second phase. Based on the analysis of the second phase and emerging security dynamics, the following recommendations can be considered by policymakers:

First of all, there is a need to comprehend the dynamics of fifth-generation warfare (FGW) and its relevance for the second phase. It is well-established fact that FGW involves multiple players and instruments. Our analysis shows that the major tools of FGW are manipulation of data, application of social media and systematically playing with emotions. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, social media has been categorised as a driving force of the FGW, which is not the case. It is only an instrument, which works on the shoulders of data manipulation and emotional intelligence.

Emotional intelligence is a critical element of FGW. It is the most lethal weapon as it works on all segments of society, without any discrimination of status, class, education, etc. It is apparent from the suicide attack at Karachi University. Data manipulation is another tool that has the potential to undermine the efforts of the state. Pakistan already faced the worst in the form of Bangladesh. China is also facing the worst form of data manipulation in the case of Xinjiang, where the Western world is using this trick to undermine China.

There is a consensus among many experts that the US and NATO have created a trap for Pakistan and China by withdrawing from Afghanistan.

It is alarming to note that the same strategy is being applied in recent attacks. Terrorists are trying to frame the state as an exploiter by presenting fake data. They are also playing with the emotions of people in the name of ethnicity, sub-nationalism, religion and class differences. Thus, the state needs to work on these areas. First of all, the state will have to ensure inclusiveness in the distribution of livelihood opportunities. Second, the state needs to create genuine data and reply with full force to manipulated data. For that purpose, the state needs to engage genuine think-tanks, not yes-sir think-tanks. Third, the state should also look for experts in emotional intelligence, who can help to mitigate the negative consequences of emotional

intelligence. Fourth, Pakistan must recognise that in FGW economy does not mean only the size of GDP. It means livelihood opportunities and fair distribution of livelihood opportunities.

Second, Pakistan and China must join hands to map the regional adversaries and opponents of CPEC and Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). The mapping should also look into the possibility and role of rival friends. Inclusion of rival friends is critical, as rival friends would be more dangerous than enemies if we ignore them. We can understand the importance of mapping rival friends from the recent tug-of-war over submarine contracts between the US, United Kingdom, Australia and France. They are strongly netted with each other through NATO and other alliances. They also have allied in the joint opposition to China and are working hand-in-hand to undermine China. However, for individual benefits, they do not hesitate to stab each other. For example, the US and the UK joined hands to snatch the submarine agreement of billions of dollars from France. They convinced Australia that they (the US and the UK) can give a better deal than France. Despite all the hue and cry by France, the US, the UK and Australia did not move an inch.

Third, Pakistan and China need to devise a joint strategy to work with Afghanistan. There is a consensus among many experts that the US and NATO have created a trap for Pakistan and China by withdrawing from Afghanistan. They wanted to create chaos in Afghanistan, which can spread to China and Pakistan. They were working on it for a long time. First, they provided breeding grounds for the Daesh and other terrorist organisations. They were given the chance to flourish freely, which has become a real-time threat to regional peace. President Hamid Karzai openly criticised the US for promoting Daesh in Afghanistan. Now, they are systematically pushing Afghanistan into hunger and poverty, which will destabilise the new government of the Taliban.

In a nutshell, they want to make Afghanistan a new Ukraine or Syria for China and Pakistan. It will serve a dual purpose. First, it will help them recruit innocent people for terrorist activities. Then, they will use these people to launch attacks on the Chinese people and the CPEC, and hinder the inclusion of Afghanistan in the CPEC and BRI. We know well that Afghanistan is central to connectivity with Central Asia. Second, they will engage Deash and other terrorist organisations to launch an attack in Xinjiang by playing with the emotions of Muslims.

Therefore, Pakistan and China should immediately launch joint efforts to counter future threats. Rather, it has already started to appear. In recent months, many times terrorists attacked Pakistan forces from the Afghan soil. Some separatists are also using the Afghan soil to launch an attack on CPEC and Chinese nationals. Thus, both countries should engage with the Taliban to help them avoid chaos. For that purpose, Pakistan and China should provide food and other necessities for the Afghan people. Second, both countries should start to take practical steps to extend CPEC to Afghanistan. It will help Afghanistan revive its economy and create decent livelihood opportunities, which will minimise or eliminate the chances of falling of common people into the terrorism trap.

Fourth, China and Pakistan should work to map the actors and drivers of the second phase of the CPEC. It is needed, as the second phase of the CPEC involves numerous and diverse stakeholders. Based on the mapping, a new security policy should create mechanisms for the inclusion of actors. It is suggested that the client and customer relationship, which was designed for the first phase, must be changed to a partnership. It is required in the face of FGW.

In conclusion, the new security policy can also take guidance from the idea of the Global Security Initiative (GSI). The GSI has all the ingredients, which can help draw a new security framework in accordance with the needs. Four pillars of the GSI- common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable-cover elements of traditional and non-traditional security challenges and offer sustainable solutions. It also provides a road map for the inclusiveness of security and cooperation mechanisms.

Thus, China and Pakistan can work together to devise a pilot GSI and implement it. It will be a win-win cooperation. It will help secure CPEC and create a model for the GSI, which can be replicated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/927979/lets-rethink-cpec-security/>

Pakistan, China hail UNSC call for punishing KU attack culprits

Pakistan and China Friday welcomed the UN Security Council's statement calling for bringing those responsible for the deadly terrorist attack in the Karachi University to justice.

"We expect international community's full cooperation in identifying the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this terrorist act, and to hold them accountable," Ambassador Munir Akram's said, while reacting to the 15-member Council's statement on Tuesday's attack.

In his remarks, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun said the Security Council's statement underlined the need to bring those responsible for the heinous attack to justice. "The message is clear: Acts of terror are unjustifiable, criminal, and must be punished," the Chinese envoy added.

The attack, which was claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army, resulted in the deaths of three Chinese nationals and one Pakistani as well as several injured. Meanwhile, China on Friday said that terrorism was enemy of mankind and urged all the countries to strengthen coordination to combat this menace for global peace and stability.

Terrorism is a common enemy of mankind and fighting terrorism is the shared responsibility of the international community, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said at a regular news briefing. Three Chinese teachers and a Pakistani national were killed at the University of Karachi on Tuesday when their van came under terrorist attack.

In a statement on Thursday, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack on one of the Confucius Institutes at the University of Karachi.

Zhao Lijian said that the statement expressed the deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the government of Pakistan and China and the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers the sponsors of the terrorist attack, justice, and urged all states to cooperate actively with the government of Pakistan and China on this matter.

He said that the Security Council's statement reflected the international community's strong indignation and condemnation of this terrorist attack as well as specifically the condolences for the Chinese and Pakistani civilians killed in the attack, which represented the voice of the international community, adding, Justice will not be absent and evil doers will face their punishment. • The spokesperson said that the terrorism was a common enemy of mankind and fighting terrorism was shared responsibility of the international community.

At present, international terrorism continues to pose serious threats to people's safety and stability in all countries, he added.

He said that all sides should strengthen consultation and cooperation, take all measures to crack down on terrorism and contribute towards world peace and stability.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/928037/pakistan-china-hail-unscc-call-for-punishing-ku-attack-culprits/>

The Nation

Pakistan, China Working Together For Agricultural Mechanisation

BEIJING – A Pakistani expert on agriculture stressed for collaboration with Chinese researchers on the development of modern agricultural machine to enhance yields and profits to farmers in Pakistan.

“Slow adoption of mechanization technology has been a key reason for low yields and inefficiencies in agriculture in Pakistan, resulting in lower profit for farmers” said Dr Muhammad Waqar Akram, a lecturer in the Department of Farm Machinery and Power, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

He is currently attending Modern Agriculture Workshop of China-Pakistan Regional Innovation Institute for Modern Agriculture organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and undertaken by Jiangsu University.

The five-month workshop, starting from the end of March, provides inclusive training on the usage and maintenance of modern agricultural machinery, field management, water saving irrigation, food processing, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

According to Dr. Waqar Akram, there are no updated existing proper studies or surveys conducted on the present status of farm mechanization in Pakistan. However, according to rough studies, the utilization of agricultural machinery and adoption rate is very low.

“In Pakistan, farm mechanization has been limited to few basic tools for land preparation and outdated models of combined harvesters when harvesting grain crops,” he said. Infusion of the

right mechanization technology will be crucial for the productivity increase and growth of agriculture in Pakistan.

In his opinion, the machines that should be popular and common in Pakistan are related to rice, cotton, maize and sugarcane crop as these are the major crops of Pakistan, but usage of machinery for these crops is very less or zero, for example, planters for cotton, maize and sugarcane crops, transplanter for rice crop, cotton picker for cotton crop, maize harvesters, sugarcane harvesters, drone spraying technology, etc. The planters and harvesters/diggers for vegetables and other crops also has huge potential to be applied in a wide scope.

He also noted that due to the seasonal nature of the agriculture, the farm machinery remains idle for much of the time incurring unnecessary high costs unless proper alternate use of such machinery in the off-season is made. To cope with this situation, multi-crop planters and multi-crop harvesters have huge potential to be applied in a wide scope.

Lack of awareness, low standard manufacturing of agricultural machinery, lack of repair and replacement facilities especially in the remote rural areas, absence of standardization of agricultural machinery, and weak knowledge transmission are hindering Pakistani farmers to reap the benefits of modern agricultural machines.

Small sized farms and scattered land holdings prevail in Pakistan. “For Pakistan, I think small scale machinery is one of the best options in terms of existing average farm size and affordability of farmers. Another possible option could be development of machinery pools for availability of expensive machines at rent in towns and villages,” he recommended.

The usage of modern machinery can bring a variety of benefits to farmers: enhanced efficiency of operations, precise application of different inputs, reduction in the cost of production, enhancement in the production quantity and quality of produce, timeliness of operations, increased cropping intensity due to timely operations, increase in the area under cultivation through development of culturable wasteland, reduced dependence on labor, reduced labor drudgery, etc.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/30/pakistan-china-working-together-for-agricultural-mechanisation/>

The News

Senate defence panel deplors attack on Chinese teachers

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain led a delegation of Senate Defence Committee to the Chinese Embassy for expression of sorrow, solidarity and support following the terror strike against Chinese teachers in Karachi.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said the delegation was visiting the Embassy with a heavy heart as this was the third act of terror against the Chinese in Pakistan within a year and that Chinese teachers were target was quite shameful.

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Senators visit Chinese Embassy to condole Karachi incident

Islamabad : Senator Mushahid Hussain on Friday led a delegation of Senate Defence Committee to the Chinese Embassy for expression of sorrow, solidarity and support following the terror strike against Chinese teachers in Karachi.

The delegation was received by the Acting Ambassador, Chinese Chargé d'affaires Pang Chunxue and her senior colleagues, said a press release.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said the delegation was visiting the Embassy with a heavy heart as this was the third act of terror against the Chinese in Pakistan within a year. And that Chinese teachers were target was quite shameful.

He said all political parties in Parliament shared these sentiments as China is Pakistan's paramount partner and strongest friend, a friendship that has widespread support from the people of Pakistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain expressed regret that 'our security system has failed, both, to protect the Chinese working in Pakistan or to prevent recurrence of such acts of terror'.

He said 'a comprehensive review and rethink of such a faulty system is needed' if 'we went CPEC to move forward successfully'. He said 'such a breach of security is unacceptable' for a country like Pakistan whose armed forces successfully overcame an inland war against terrorism.

He said 'we fully share in your sorrow, we fully share in your indignation and we fully share your concerns about this serious security lapse', which, if allowed to recur, can result in drying up of foreign investment.

The delegation included Senators Mushtaq Ahmed, Faisal Javed, Anwarul Haq Kakar and Dr Zarqa Suhrwardhy.

Secretary of DefCom, Major (r) Hasnain Haider was also present. The Chinese Acting Ambassador profusely thanked the Senators for their gesture.

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