



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

April 16-30, 2023



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Supervised by Dr. Fazal ur Rahman

Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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April 16, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese scientists, industrialists to visit Pakistan on Apr 27

A high-level delegation of Chinese scientists and industrialists will visit Pakistan to strengthen cooperation in traditional medicine and related biomedical sciences among the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). According to COMSTECH, the delegation of Chinese scientists and industrialists will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in research and development in the fields of natural products, biotechnology, molecular and cell biology, and traditional medicine through institutional and industrial linkages. The ceremony will be held at COMSTECH Secretariat Islamabad on April 27. The signing of the MoU will help strengthen academic and research initiatives between the People's Republic of China and OIC member countries. On the occasion of the signing ceremony, there will also be a keynote discussion on the subject by scientists and representatives of pharmaceutical industries in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1084143/chinese-scientists-industrialists-to-visit-pakistan-on-apr-27/>

Chinese seed company starts trial of single and triple gene cotton in Pak varieties

Chinese seed company Jinghua started trial of single and triple gene Chinese Bt cotton varieties in the farms of Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan to assess how these high yielding, long staple and disease resistant varieties respond to the Pakistani soil and climatic conditions.

Cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese agriculture scientists would benefit Pakistani cotton economy in a big way, said CCRI Multan Director Dr Zhid Mahmood in a statement. Earlier, Dr Zahid Mahmood, accompanied by other scientists witnessed the seed trial of Chinese seed company Jinghua along with company representative Mr. Li. On this occasion, Mr. Li said that the trial of single and triple gene Chinese varieties was aimed at promoting mechanized farming, high density planting and producing best quality fibre cotton in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN). Detailing characteristics, Mr. Li mentioned that these varieties were Glyphosate free, and have resistance against bollworms particularly the pink bollworm. Moreover, the varieties also possess resistance against Cotton Leaf Curl Virus, he added.

Dr Zahid Mahmood in his remarks said that trial was aimed at studying the characteristics of these single and triple gene varieties in the Pakistani weather conditions hit by climate change phenomenon and their data would be compiled throughout the season by Pakistani scientists. He informed that trial plants have a row-to-row distance of 75cm and plant-to-plant distance maintained at just 4 cm. It is a kind of crop with a five-month growth cycle, he remarked. As part of continuing cooperation with Pakistani scientists, Mr. Li maintained that the company intends to begin trials of three fully virus-free varieties at CCRI Multan next year. CCRI

Multan scientists Dr. Muhammad Naveed Afzal, Dr Fayyaz Ahmad, and technology transfer head Sajid Mahmood were also present.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1084413/chinese-seed-company-starts-trial-of-single-and-triple-gene-cotton-in-pak-varieties/>

Pakistani entrepreneur showcases dazzling products at Hainan Expo

At the Hainan International Convention and Exhibition Center, Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry, a jeweller from Pakistan, was busy showing his dazzling products to visitors attending the third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE).

Scheduled from April 10 to April 15, the 3rd CICPE, or Hainan Expo, is being held in Haikou, Hainan, China, drawing over 3,300 brands from 65 countries and regions to share the dividends of the world's second-largest consumer market.

Foreign business leaders and exhibitors, including those who come from Pakistan, have voiced hope for expanding their presence in the Chinese market. It was Chaudhry's first time attending the consumer products expo. Living in China for more than a decade, he launched WINZA Jewelry in Shanghai's glitzy business district. How can people seek a foothold in China's increasingly competitive jewellery market? Chaudhry knows it back to front.

China's consumer market has seen notable progress in scale and quality over the past decade. Retail sales of consumer goods in China exceeded 40 trillion (about \$ 5.81 trillion) in 2019 and hit 44 trillion in 2022, more than double the 2012 figure, said Xu Xingfeng, director of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC)'s consumption promotion department, at a global consumption innovation, duty-free and travel retail conference being held as part of the ongoing expo.

To ride this wave, Chaudhry signed agreements with Zhuhai Duty-Free Enterprises Group Co., Ltd. (Zhuhai Duty Free) and Hainan Tourism Investment Duty-Free Co., Ltd. (HTDF), to brighten the brand with new opportunity of offshore duty-free shopping in Hainan.

"We plan to open a retail store in Zhuhai Duty Free complex, which is expected to be completed by 2025," Chaudhry told China Economic Net, adding that a 3-year agreement was also signed with HTDF at the 3rd CICPE to boost the brand's offshore duty-free sales.

Back in April 2018, China announced a decision to support Hainan in developing the whole island into a pilot free trade zone and gradually exploring and steadily promoting the establishment of a free trade port with Chinese characteristics.

According to a master plan on the Hainan free trade port (Hainan FTP) released in 2020 by the Chinese government, the Hainan FTP is scheduled to initiate independent customs operations throughout the whole island by the end of 2025. "I have already registered a company in Sanya to prepare for the coming 2025," the Pakistani entrepreneur mentioned, "I am paying close attention to the latest policies." Over the past five years, Hainan has made solid strides in building itself a high-level free trade port. As one of the country's major opening-up measures in the new era, China aims to build its largest tropical island into a globally influential and high-level FTP by the middle of the century.

Chaudhry was no exception among those foreign entrepreneurs who will never miss the chance to tap a market full of potential. He told the reporter that in the future, he plans to process imported raw stones in Hainan and train local technicians. “In this way, the price of products will be more advantageous whether they are sold duty-free on the island or duty-paid outside Hainan,” he noted.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1084428/pakistani-entrepreneur-showcases-dazzling-products-at-hainan-expo/>

April 17, 2023

Daily Times

Pak auto dealers to explore new collaboration avenues with China

Pakistani auto dealers are moving ahead to explore new avenues of collaboration with China.” In recent years, made in China products and Chinese brands have begun to become real players and drivers in the global auto industry. With the help of China’s leading automotive industry communication platform, we can learn about the latest exciting trends in the automotive industry, said Bilal Chaudhary, a Pakistani auto dealer in Gujarat, while expressing his excitement to participate in the Automobile show in Shanghai and Chery’s Annual Global Dealer Conference, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Chery will present its latest products, create live experiences, and host user-salon co-creation sessions at the Shanghai International Automotive and Manufacturing Technology Exhibition, one of China’s most authoritative and influential auto shows, on April 18.

It will coincide with its 2023 Global Dealer Conference, which is also the first face-to-face meeting between Chery and its global partners in three years.

The conference aims to strengthen Chery’s internationalization strategy, listen to the needs of the global market, and negotiate future development plans with its global partners. It also means that Chery will once again accelerate its global marketing strategy.

The year 2022 was full of both risks and opportunities. Despite numerous uncertainties, such as chip shortages and logistics constraints, the global automotive market experienced a 1% year-on-year sales decline.

While Chery sold 450,000 units in overseas markets, matching its best-ever performance, it defied the trend by increasing by 68 percent year on year.

“Chery’s products have been incredibly successful in the global market, and we have been very impressed with its performance in Pakistan as well.” Bilal’s collaboration with Chery resulted in the successful introduction of two vehicle models, the Tiggo 4 and Tiggo 8.

The quality of the vehicles has consistently impressed Pakistani customers. “We propose launching more Tiggo models and variants in our region so that customers have more options to choose from.” “The internationally successful Arrizo could be a good project to launch in the Sedan category,” Bilal added.

Bilal believes that the convention will provide a great opportunity for Pakistani dealers and Chery to reconnect, share insights and explore new ways of working together.

“We will work with nearly 1,000 Chery dealers from Europe, South America, the Middle East and other regions to closely appreciate Chery new energy products, hybrid platforms and other scientific and technological exhibits, exchange on industry trends, cooperative products and models, and bring the advanced concepts back to Pakistan.”

Another driving force of Bilal’s visit to China is the upcoming on-the-spot exchanges with Chinese partners. “The Chery team has always been highly professional, responsive and easy to work with. Chery may consider investing in training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of our local sales force.” Bilal added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1084583/pak-auto-dealers-to-explore-new-collaboration-avenues-with-china/>

CPEC – a decade long saga of undeterred cooperation

As China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project matures to decade-long affable cooperation between Pakistan and China, both nations are celebrating this initiative as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. It was almost ten years back when China signed a multibillion-dollar CPEC Framework Agreement with Pakistan under its remarkable Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that remained central to Pakistan’s economic growth and greater regional connectivity.

China had sent a loud and clear message of friendship and cooperation across borders by agreeing to invest US\$ 46 billion under CPEC, at a time when no country was willing to invest even a single dollar in Pakistan. This portfolio later extended to US\$ 62 billion. The launch of historic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) program during the visit of then Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Beijing in July 2013, endorsed the all-weather and time-tested friendship between the two countries.

It was the hallmark of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) that brought the CPEC to fruition but its pace was badly affected when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf government became part of the international agenda of sabotaging this flagship program. The damage caused to the project by the PTI government due to its failed policies also affected Pak-China relations and after dethroning the arrogant Imran Khan, the present coalition government besides others also faced the challenge of reviving the CPEC.

The task was entrusted to Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Chaudhry Ahsan Iqbal whose relentless efforts under the guidance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have shown of a ray of hope for a revival of CPEC with the same vigor, it was launched by the PML-N government in 2013. For the purpose, the minister paid an important visit to China last week. Before departing for Beijing, he chaired a meeting to review progress on CPEC projects and discussed work-pace on Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Main Line-I (ML-I), Karachi Circular Railway and various new initiatives to be taken up at upcoming sittings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

The meeting reaffirmed the firm resolve of the present government for the successful implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Minister during his Beijing visit conveyed this resolve to Chinese authorities. “The year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between the Planning Division and China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC),” he said recalling the CPEC Framework Agreement signed in Beijing on July 5, 2013, in the presence of the leadership of the two countries.

“The government of Pakistan is planning to hold special events to mark this milestone,” he said and invited Chinese leadership to attend the events. During meeting with the Minister for the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao, Ahsan Iqbal admired role of CPEC in the peaceful rise and economic development in China.

The IDCPC Minister, in response appreciated Planning Minister’s role in furthering the CPEC projects during current and earlier tenures. Senior Chinese leadership including Assistant Foreign Minister Nong Rong, Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Vice Chairman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Li Chunlin spoke highly of Ahsan Iqbal terming him “Mr CPEC’ and ‘key role player’ in making CPEC a success.

After an unpleasant era of Pak-China bilateral ties during the PTI government, both China and Pakistan are once again on way to maintain momentum of overall economic cooperation. The CPEC’s next phase envisages industrial cooperation and Business to Business links. As 2023 is year of CPEC’s decade, a delegation of Chinese scholars will be invited to Pakistan to observe progress on CPEC.

Recently, almost 11 sessions of CPEC’s top forum, Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)) have been held including the April 10 most important and latest ‘progress review’ during Ahsan Iqbal’s meeting with Vice Chairman NDRC, Li Chunlin. The meeting resolved, “As year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC on July 5, 2023 whereby high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness achievements made since the inception of CPEC.” Both sides expressed a desire to sign minutes of the 11th Joint Cooperation Council (JCC) meeting before end of April 2023 to pave way for relevant Technical Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to hold meetings by mid-May 2023 and workout tangible outcomes for 12th JCC Meeting planned for July 2023.

Total planned investment under CPEC is US\$ 62 billion between FY2015 and FY2030 out of which projects worth \$27.4 billion have been realized mostly in energy sector like power generation, coal mining and transmission lines. During last 10 years, over 30 projects directly or indirectly generated 200,000 jobs, more than 6,000 MW of electricity added to national grid, 809 kilometers highway built and 886 kilometers of transmission lines installed for the first time in country’s history.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1084582/cpec-a-decade-long-saga-of-undeterred-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani traders hope to expand presence in Chinese market

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How can people seek a foothold in China's increasingly competitive jewelry market? Chaudhry knows it back to front.

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https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-traders-hope-to-expand-presence-in-chinese-market/nd_of_2025

The Nation

Chinese enterprises, companies invited to participate in TEXPO

BEIJING-Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has invited Chinese enterprises and companies to visit Pakistan and participate in the 4th International Textile Exhibition called TEXPO 2023 to be held in Karachi next month (May).

“I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Chinese enterprises and companies to come and join us at the TEXPO,” he said in a statement here. Ambassador Haque said that his team at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing and Pakistan’s Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Hong Kong would facilitate the participation and visit of Chinese enterprises and companies.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is organising TEXPO 2023 from May 26 to 28 this year at Karachi Expo Centre. Giving details of the upcoming three-day event, he said that it is Pakistan’s largest textile and leather exhibition providing a platform for local and international companies dealing in raw materials to finished products with globally competitive prices and premium quality.

“The theme of this year’s TEXPO is leading the way to sustainability and this theme is a tribute to the efforts of the local and global textile industry that continues to strive towards ensuring compliance with local and international environmental laws ensuring consumer protection and eco-friendly practices,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said that TEXPO offers three days of exhibitions, business-to-business opportunities, fashion shows, design studios, product displays, press and media events, industry visits and business opportunities seminars. The products in focus would be apparel, art and silk synthetic textile, carpets, denim, fabric yarn, finished leather products, footwear, home textiles, personal protective equipment, sportswear, tents and canvas, textile machinery, towels and many more, he added. The International Textile Expo 2023 highlights the glorious history of Pakistan’s textile industry, transcending borders, providing countless jobs around the world, improving lifestyles, enhancing identity and fulfilling the dreams of millions. It is the largest textile exhibition in Pakistan, providing a common platform to connect industry experts.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Apr-2023/chinese-enterprises-companies-invited-to-participate-in-texpo>

Pakistani student promotes Pak-China traditional friendship through vlogs

BEIJING - A young Pakistani student is promoting precious and traditional friendship between Pakistan and China by showing culture, food and daily life in China through her vlogs. Studying at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), Mahzaib Abbassi has been in China for a long time, almost seven years. “Through my vlogs, our people in Pakistan, and also in the USA, Europe and Middle Eastern countries can get a glimpse of culture, people and daily life in China,” she told APP. Mahzaib came to China in 2016 to study Chinese Language under the Confucius Institute Scholarship Program. While studying in the Chinese capital, she got several opportunities to visit almost 50 cities in China. “Every

city in China gives me a different feeling. I stayed in Yunnan where I went to Lijiang, Dali, Xishuangbanna, Kunming, Shangri-La etc. You can feel the ancient culture in these cities,” she added. In her vlogs, she also showed modern big cities and high-rise buildings everywhere in China. “Travelling these places in China feels great.” The young Pakistani vlogger also made videos on the life of Muslims, mosques, religious freedom and the availability of Halal food in China. About eating, she said there are many Muslims in China while Halal food is also available everywhere in the country.

“There are many Muslims in Lanzhou, and so in Xi’an. Muslims exist in almost every city in China. I went to Muslim Street in Xi’an. Halal food is available to eat. Lanzhou noodles, fried noodles, pilaf, fried rice whatever like is available in most of the cities in China.

In Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province, Mahzaib took a video of Muslims gathered in a mosque to offer prayers on Eid festival. “Many people have heard that Muslims in China have no freedom, cannot go to mosques and cannot pray but as you can see in my video, people are free to attend religious activities,” she added. Mahzaib opined that many people have never been to China, so they don’t know much about it. There are many Pakistani restaurants in China and Pakistanis and people of other Muslim countries could enjoy Halal food.

“Many people don’t know what China is like. After watching the video, many people realize that China is like this. It turns out that China is so beautiful and so convenient,” she added.

About opportunities of study and work in China, she said, “Many people want to come to China to study and work. There are many foreigners working here. I hope you come to China to see for yourself.”

Mahzaib after completing her Master degree has the plan to teach the Chinese language in Pakistan or any country in Middle East.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-17/page-15/detail-2>

The News

China’s position paper on Afghanistan

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

If anyone wants to understand Chinese philosophy of peace-building, China’s position paper on Afghanistan is an excellent document to read and analyze. It helps comprehend the philosophy behind the Global Security Initiative, which was presented by President Xi Jinping last year. Whole paper revolves around the importance of dialogue and development by sticking to principle of non-interference.

The position paper asks the world to join hands to assist Afghanistan avert humanitarian crisis and engage with it for meaningful dialogue to bring back peace in Afghanistan, region and beyond.

Analysis of the position paper highlights key five messages. First, it gives importance to non-interference in the internal matters of Afghanistan. It urges all the parties to respect sovereignty and independent choices of Afghanistan governance. Second, the paper does not

waste time on blame game, rather focused on finding the solutions. Third, it keeps human at the centre of all proposed actions. Fourth, it emphasises simultaneous deployment of dialogue and development actions. Fifth, it reiterates the importance of coordination to tackle issues of terrorism, extremism and development.

It is an excellent proposal to bring back peace and development in Afghanistan. However, China needs to work at two levels – bilateral and multilateral – to cultivate an environment conducive to development. On the bilateral level, economy and youths should be top priority. Economic cooperation will help Afghanistan materialise the dream of peaceful and prosper Afghanistan.

For that purpose, China should focus on creation of economic and livelihood opportunities. To achieve this goal, China and Pakistan can join hands to extend CPEC to Afghanistan. It would be good starting point, which will turn Afghanistan into a hub of regional connectivity. It is also one of key objectives of position paper.

As stated, China welcomes Afghanistan's participation in Belt and Road cooperation and supports its integration into regional economic cooperation and connectivity. That will transform Afghanistan from a land-locked country to a land-linked country. China reiterated same commitment in Samarkand.

Second, there should be specialised programmes for the youths. It is extremely important, as youths have the potential to spearhead construction or destruction of a nation. They have energy to overcome all challenges to pave the way for their destiny and future of their country.

Thus, China should launch programmes on 1) education and 2) skill development for the youths. China can establish sub-campus of skill development institutions in Afghanistan. Although, Afghanistan needs these institutions, rural areas there need the more. Xinjiang education centres can also play a role in building skills. China and Pakistan can join hands to pilot the programme in refugee camps in Pakistan as it is home to millions of Afghan refugees.

The successful execution of programme will help refugees go back and play a constructive role. Skilled people will further train youths in Afghanistan which will pave the way for inclusion of Afghanistan in BRI. It will also create huge respect for China among the youths.

Education should be selected as long-term programme. For that purpose, China can start a programme like 1000 school programme of Iraq. For higher education, China can help Afghan universities modernise and create quality human capital. Investment in education will help China cultivate a friendly generation. Moreover, it will help dispel negative propaganda against it on sustainable basis. Besides, there is also a need to build life skills of Afghan youth.

To achieve the objective, China and Pakistan should join hands to build a tri-lateral forum for imparting life skill trainings. Inclusion of Pakistan will be helpful, as hundreds of thousands of young Afghans have been educated in Pakistan. It will empower youths and create a cadre of future leaders which understand importance of each other. They will also be torchbearer of regional connectivity.

However, China will have to avoid contracting NGOs for the skill development programmes. It has been observed that NGOs consume major chunk of resources in the name of administrative cost. They are also more concerned about their marketing. Thus, it is suggested China should directly engage with government institutes.

Private sector (business and industry) should be engaged on the following conditions. First, it must share resources and contribute financially. They should be doing it as part of CSR and must not make it business opportunity. Second, there should be contracts with companies for the placement of trained participants. It should be obligatory for them to hire certain number of trained individuals. Third, private sector should be engaged in groups. It will enhance efficiency of the programme and create job opportunities for the participants.

On the multilateral level, China should work to mobilise resources to help Afghanistan fight back extremism, separation and terrorism. For that purpose, it is suggested SCO contact group should be upgraded to Afghanistan Assistance Centre. Resources should be given to it to build capacity of Afghanistan. There should be specialised programmes for military, police, security agencies, legal department and civil bureaucracy on counter-terrorism, control of organised crimes, drugs etc. All the member countries of SCO should contribute to make the programmes successful.

In conclusion, no political strings should be attached with these interventions. Let the people of Afghanistan decide their future. It will help China cultivate status of dignified friend not master.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=194425>

Express News

توہین مذہب کے الزام میں پولیس نے چینی انجینئر کو تحویل میں لے لیا

خیبر پختونخوا کے ضلع کوہستان میں پولیس نے داسو ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر مامور ایک چینی انجینئر پر توہین مذہب کے الزام کے بعد اسے اپنی تحویل میں لے لیا۔ پشاور غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے 'رائٹرز' نے پولیس اہلکار نصیر الدین خان کے حوالے سے بتایا کہ اتوار کی سہ پہر کو ہجوم کے جمع ہونے پر پولیس حرکت میں آئی اور افسران اس شخص کو محفوظ مقام پر لے گئے۔

نصیر الدین نے مزید کہا کہ پیر کی صبح سینکڑوں افراد دوبارہ جمع ہوئے اور مرکزی ضلعی پولیس اسٹیشن پر دھاوا بول دیا، مظاہرین کا خیال تھا کہ چینی شخص کو پولیس اسٹیشن میں چھپا ہوا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ 'حکام نے مشتعل ہجوم کے ممکنہ انتہائی اقدام سے قبل ہی چینی شخص کو فوجی ہیلی کاپٹر کے ذریعے دوسرے ضلع میں منتقل کر دیا تھا۔ پولیس حکام نے بتایا کہ اس شخص پر فرد جرم عائد کی گئی تھی اور اس نے بیان دینے سے انکار کیا ہے۔

ایک اور غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے 'اے ایف پی' کے مطابق حکام نے بتایا کہ پروجیکٹ کے انجینئر پر توہین مذہب کا الزام اس وقت لگایا گیا جب اس نے رمضان کے مہینے کے دوران "کام کی سست رفتار" پر اعتراض کیا۔

ایک پولیس اہلکار نے نام ظاہر نہ کرنے کی شرط پر اے ایف پی کو بتایا کہ "مزدوروں نے کہا کہ وہ روزے سے ہیں لیکن اس بات سے نہیں کیا کہ کام سست روی کا شکار ہو رہا ہے، جس کی وجہ سے سپروائزر کے ساتھ تلخ جملوں کا تبادلہ ہوا۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ ”مزدوروں کے مطابق چینی انجینئر نے تلخ کلامی کے دوران توہین آمیز جملے ادا کیے، مذکورہ واقعہ بعد تقریباً 400 مقامی لوگ احتجاج کے لیے جمع ہو گئے۔ پولیس کو درج کرائی گئی تحریری شکایت میں چینی انجینئر کی شناخت ٹرانسپورٹ سپروائزر ’تین‘ کے نام سے کی گئی، علاوہ ازیں داسو میں ایک پولیس اہلکار محمد نذیر نے اسے ایف پی کو بتایا کہ ”چینی شہری کو احتیاطی اقدام کے طور پر محفوظ مقام پر لے جایا گیا۔“

دوسری جانب اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارت خانے نے مذکورہ معاملے پر تبصرہ کرنے کی درخواست پر تاحال کوئی جواب نہیں دیا۔

داسو میں ایک مقامی انتظامیہ کے اہلکار نے کہا کہ فوج اور نیم فوجی دستوں کو ”چینی انجینئروں کی حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے“ تعینات کیا گیا تھا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2470592/1/>

April 18, 2023

Business Recorder

Chinese engineer in police protection after blasphemy accusation

PESHAWAR: A Chinese supervisor at a dam construction project is under police protection after workers accused him of blasphemy, officials said Monday.

Officials said the engineer at the Dasu hydropower project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was accused of blasphemy after he highlighted the “slow pace of work” during the holy month of Ramazan. “The labourers said they were fasting but denied that work had slowed down, which led to an exchange of heated words” with the supervisor, a police official told AFP on condition of anonymity. “Later, the labourers accused the engineer of making blasphemous remarks” and around 400 locals gathered to protest, he said. A written complaint filed with the police identified him only as a heavy transport supervisor by the name of “Mr Tian”, and said that his remarks on Saturday “sparked tensions”.—AFP

<https://epaper.breorder.com/2023/04/18/12-page/960484-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani entrepreneur introducing Basmati rice in Haikou, China

At Haikou Fullsing Internet Industrial Park in the capital city of China’s Hainan Province, a young Pakistani entrepreneur has displayed some products imported from Pakistan for potential local and foreign buyers.

“We are importing Basmati rice, pinenuts and pure honey from Pakistan and sell them to the local as well as foreign buyers,” Waheed Yaseen, Operational Director, Hainan Raman Technology told APP on Monday.

Haikou Fullsing Internet Industrial Park, one of the 13 key parks in Hainan Free Trade Port, is positioned to build the Hainan Digital Free Trade Port pilot zone, digital economy headquarters gathering zone and international offshore innovation demonstration zone, with a digital economy industry.

A number of local and foreign companies in wake of the advantages of incentives and facilities offered by the local government have set up their offices and display centers in the park.

Waheed Yaseen informed that along with other partners, he had established his company in the park to introduce Pakistani products among the local buyers.

He said that the demand for pine nuts and pure honey was very high among Chinese buyers while his company targets foreign customers in Hainan and other areas of China for the sale of Basmati rice.

According to a local government official, Haikou Fullsing Internet Industrial Park focuses on the development of digital trade, smart Internet of things, financial technology, international innovation and headquarters economy, and human resources of the 4+2 industrial ecological chain. The park has been recognized as a national science and technology business incubator, a national offshore innovation and entrepreneurship base for overseas talents, and a national cultural export base.

It has also been listed as China Hainan Human Resources Service Industry and China (Haikou) Entrepreneurship Park for returned overseas students.

At present, the park gathers Alibaba, Byte Dance, Xiaomi Group, Schneider, Tesla and other Fortune 500 enterprises.

In 2021, the park's revenue was placed among the '100 billion Yuan Club', ranking second in the 2021 Hainan Free Trade Port's 11 key parks assessment.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085063/pakistani-entrepreneur-introducing-basmati-rice-in-haikou-china/>

Canton Fair provides platform for Pakistani entrepreneurs to showcase products

The Canton Fair provides an excellent platform for Pakistani entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services to potential investors, buyers, and partners all around the world, said Muhammad Irfan, Commercial Counsellor in the Consulate of Pakistan in Guangzhou, China. The 133rd China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, kicked off on April 15. It is one of the world's largest trade fairs held annually in Guangzhou. This year more than 10 Pakistani enterprises are participating in the fair, and in recent years, the Canton Fair has also extended numerous opportunities to Pakistani entrepreneurs to develop trade ties with the world. "Pakistan's export to South China region including Guangdong increased a lot in recent years. In 2019 it was around \$550 million, which has jumped to nearly \$1 billion in 2022 because people here have a great likeness towards Pakistan. When people here see Pakistani products, their reaction is very positive. They want to work with Pakistanis. They want to buy Pakistani products. There is a huge demand and the future is very bright in this market for Pakistani products," he told China Economic Net. He said that Pakistani business owners have been attending the Canton Fair for decades. Nowadays, the fair play a significant role in promoting trade relations between Pakistan and China. This platform offers ample opportunities for Pakistani entrepreneurs to develop an understanding of the latest trends in international business and trade practices. "We are trying to take big manufacturers to Pakistan and start manufacturing. We have also started exporting Pakistan readymade garments to this region and focusing on increasing Pakistan's exports here," Irfan stated. He

further said that the Canton Fair also provides a platform for Pakistani entrepreneurs to develop a wide range of trade connections, partnerships, and networks with both local and international organizations. He added that through the Canton Fair, Pakistani entrepreneurs are introduced to a wide range of commercial products, which they can import and distribute in their own country. This platform offers a one-stop shop for Pakistani businesses looking for new ideas and products to expand their own businesses. Scheduled from April 15 to May 5, the export-oriented fair will showcase 16 product categories with 54 exhibition sections and nearly 70,000 exhibition booths and 73 percent of exhibitors are from countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085064/canton-fair-provides-platform-for-pakistani-entrepreneurs-to-showcase-products/>

Indus River successfully diverted through 2nd Tunnel at Dasu HPP

As a second major achievement in less than two months, the Indus River was successfully diverted through the second diversion tunnel at the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP).

“The second diversion tunnel was made functional on Sunday by diverting the Indus River through it,” according to Deputy Commissioner Kohistan Upper’s office, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

“Each and every one of you contributed highly to the success of this project. Thank you so much for all the hard work. Congratulations on the incredible success,” said Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ullah Mehsud on this occasion who was accompanied by project director DHPP, District Police Officer Muhammad Khalid Khan, and members of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) present on the occasion.

“This is a great honor for me to inaugurate the second diversion tunnel of the project,” Mr. Mehsud added.

The first diversion tunnel, with a length of the diversion tunnel, is 1.3 kilometers with 20-meter width and 23-meter height, was inaugurated in February 2023.

CGGC is the contractor of the main works and is leading the construction of the project.

Upon completion, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e., 21 billion units on average.

WAPDA is spending Rs. 17.34 billion on schemes relating to resettlement, environmental management, and social development in the project area. About 3722 jobs, including 1945 for locals, have so far been created, which will increase to the 8000 mark during the peak construction period of the project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085025/indus-river-successfully-diverted-through-2nd-tunnel-at-dasu-hpp/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar free zones to become export industrial parks

Investors will be exempt from all provincial, federal taxes and duties

GWADAR: Gwadar Free Zones are set to become “Export Industrial Parks” according to the new chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Yu Bo.

In an interview with Gwadar Pro, Yu explained how the policy framework and guiding principles of Gwadar Port and Free Zones have been formulated with its geo-economic significance for trans-shipment in mind. Investors, especially those planning to do manufacturing businesses, will be in a good position to take advantage of the incentives provided, as Gwadar Free Zones are exempted from all sorts of provincial taxes, federal taxes and custom duties.

The COPHC chairman noted that the cost of production in the zones is much less than that of the tariff area, with products becoming cheaper and more competitive in the international market. COPHC is working on power and water projects to ensure all utility facilities including water and power are provided to its investors, with two desalination plants already established and a Chinese-funded 1.2 MGD desalination water plant in its final stage of completion.

However, Bo also acknowledged the obstacles that have hindered the development of Gwadar Port and Free Economic Zone, with security precariousness and high costs of electricity generated with diesel-generator being the main concerns. Chinese companies in Gwadar have been demanding permission to settle in Chinese currency Yuan instead of US dollar, to alleviate the issue of Pakistan currency devaluation.

Regarding the degree of satisfaction of investors and industrialists with security and law and order in Balochistan, and especially in Gwadar, Bo explained that the government of Pakistan has established a Special Security Division (SSD) within the Pakistan Army to provide additional security to projects in Gwadar associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and that policies to investment are being improved.

There are currently 35 companies registered in the Free zone South, with nine in full operation, ranging from service industry to fertiliser, metal processing, and food processing. For the future plan of companies starting operation in Gwadar Free Zone North, Bo mentioned that while it is too early to give an accurate number, they hope that the companies they signed sub-lease agreements with last year will undertake their construction and operations soon.

Bo's remarks shed light on the potential for Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zones to attract investment from Pakistan and beyond. With China's continued investment in the region, the development of Gwadar as an important trans-shipment hub and industrial centre is set to continue. Investors are encouraged to take advantage of the incentives provided and be part of the progress in Gwadar's development, as it gears up to become an Export Industrial Park.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412429/gwadar-free-zones-to-become-export-industrial-parks>

Pakistan eyes 14,000MW clean energy

Experts call for encouraging Chinese investment in solar and wind power

KARACHI: Pakistan has planned to induct 14,000 megawatts of renewable energy (RE) into the national grid over next 10 years in a bid to supply low-cost electricity to consumers and fight climate change.

Speaking at a webinar titled “Accelerating Chinese Renewable Energy Investment in Pakistan”, organised by Renewables First on Monday, speakers stressed the need for creating an enabling environment to attract Chinese investment in wind and solar power projects.

Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) CEO Shah Jahan Mirza emphasised that Pakistan held immense potential of producing renewable energy. “Pakistan has an ambitious goal of adding 14,000MW of wind and solar energy to the grid in the next 10 years,” he said.

Organisers of the webinar in a statement cited Mirza as saying that Chinese investors should be encouraged to play a leading role in “developing the RE market of Pakistan...they could play a significant role.”

Speaking at the event, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) Chairman Tauseef H Farooqi said that Chinese investors had a pivotal role to play in supporting Pakistan in its journey to privatise energy distribution and modernise transmission, while adding the cheapest solar and wind energy to the electricity mix.

“We are very upbeat about the potential of Chinese investment in renewable energy,” he remarked.

Goldwind Menat Region General Manager Xiaohui Ma said while the regulatory framework and incentive structure were favourable for investment in renewable energy, the wind power industry had been facing a number of challenges in Pakistan such as the unannounced moratorium on import of renewable energy equipment.

He urged the government to refocus on both wind and solar PV and develop ambitious plans and frameworks in tandem for both technologies to maximise their benefits for Pakistan.

In order to attract more foreign investment, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited Deputy CEO Noorul Arifeen Zuberi underscored the need for a streamlined project development process and removal of barriers through close collaboration and effective engagement with stakeholders.

He called for private sector investment in transmission and distribution as a solution to the bottlenecks in the way of greater renewable energy integration.

“The discussion highlighted the discourse on redirecting Chinese investment in Pakistan’s energy sector from coal to clean energy,” the statement added.

Pakistan’s total energy production stood at 7,756 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in February 2023, where the share of renewable energy was around 5%.

The government has targeted to increase its share to 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030. For the purpose, it has published detailed plans in the IGCEP 2022-31 and the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy.

Other experts, however, believe Pakistan is going too slow on new renewable energy projects.

“We are far away from meeting the goals of 20% renewables in the energy mix by 2025 and 30% by 2030,” an expert said, indicating that over the next 10 to 20 years, Pakistan would continue to depend heavily on (expensive) fossil fuel-based power projects.”

“Since renewable energy projects don’t use any fuel, an increase in the number of green projects will help the country gradually take control of the burgeoning circular debt and capacity payments as well,” he said.

As of June 2021, the cumulative investment (foreign and domestic) in renewables amounted to \$4.79 billion, of which \$786 million was in solar, \$3,752 million in wind and \$258 million in bagasse.

Expected investment in the upcoming renewable energy projects (solar, wind and bagasse) over the next two years stands at \$866 million.

The use of renewable energy can also help enhance exports, as global buyers question about greenhouse gas emissions and their global impact. The share of Pakistan in global warming is around 1%.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412426/pakistan-eyes-14000mw-clean-energy>

The News

Experts call for refining conditions to attract Chinese RE investors

KARACHI: Industry experts on Monday called for improving conditions to attract the interest of Chinese renewable energy investors, while highlighting the many challenges and risks like delayed payments, regulatory issues and security problems.

The experts highlighted discourse on redirecting Chinese investment in Pakistan's energy sector from coal to clean energy while speaking at a webinar organised by Renewables First, a think tank for energy and environment. The theme of the webinar was “Accelerating Chinese Renewable Energy Investment in Pakistan”.

The webinar was attended by both local and Chinese audiences. It brought together industry experts, stakeholders and government representatives to discuss the opportunities within the renewable energy market in Pakistan.

During the webinar, the speakers shared their experiences and insights on the topic, providing policymakers with a better understanding of the regulatory and policy environment needed to attract greater Chinese investment in the renewable energy sector.

NEPRA Chairman Tauseef Farooqi underscored the enormous potential for Pakistan to scale up its RE share within the power sector. “We are very upbeat about the potential of Chinese investment in the renewable energy sector. Our Chinese friends have a lot to benefit from the potential of RE in Pakistan,” he remarked.

He also reiterated that Chinese investors had a pivotal role to play and a range of potential benefits in supporting Pakistan in its journey to privatise distribution and modernise transmission, while also adding the cheapest solar and wind to the electricity mix of Pakistan.

Alternative Energy Development Board CEO Shah Jahan Mirza emphasised that Pakistan had immense potential for renewable energy generation, and Chinese investors could play a significant role in its development.

He also highlighted Pakistan's ambitious goals of RE additions (14,000MW of wind and solar to be added in the next 10 years to the grid) and encouraged Chinese investors to invest in the RE market of the country.

Xiaohui Ma of Golwind which is the leading wind turbines supplier globally, contended that while the regulatory framework and incentive structure was favourable for RE investment, wind power industry had been facing a number of challenges in Pakistan ranging from curtailment from the offtaker to unannounced moratorium on the import of renewable energy equipment hampering the operations of wind power projects.

Ma urged the government to refocus on both wind and solar PV as complementary technologies and develop ambitious plans and frameworks for both the technologies in tandem, to maximise their benefits for Pakistan.

In order to attract more foreign investment in the RE sector, NA Zuberi stressed the need for a streamlined project development process and removal of barriers through close collaboration and effective engagement with stakeholders.

He also urged for private sector investment in transmission and distribution as a solution to a bottleneck of greater RE integration.

"There remains a greater need for inclusivity and gender diversity in the RE market," pointed out Tara Dawood, who is the Chairperson of Ladies Fund. She also encouraged women's participation within the RE sector and urged developers to ensure that their voices were heard within decision-making processes.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=194463>

April 19, 2023

Daily Times

Thar Block-1 Integrated Power Project distributes food supplies among people

Rising inflation has affected the lives of millions of people all over the country and the worst-hit are the under-privileged, who are now also faced with the looming threat of food shortages.

This is one of the major causes of concern especially in remote areas like the desert region of Thar in Sindh.

To help overcome this big challenge, Shanghai Electric Thar Block -1 Integrated Power Project has been providing regular food supplies to households living in villages located around its coal mining plant and power plant in Thar Block-1.

During the holy month of Ramzan, Shanghai Electric's Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project distributed food supplies to 900 households in villages located in the area

where this mega project is located. “We are doing our best to help the community in this time of need,” said Mr Meng Donghai, CEO Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (PVT) Limited. “Our company will continue supporting the local population,” he added. The food packages provided to the villagers included all basic necessities including rice, flour, cooking oil, sugar, tea, etc. and were handed over to the villagers by senior company officials.

The supplies were distributed among local population belonging to the following villages: Wervai, Tilwayo, Kharyo Ghulam Shah, Shahmir Vikyian Bhav Jothar and Koli Para. The Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, one of the mega projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has provided more than 18,000 direct employment opportunities for the locals, with a cumulative tax payment of US\$120 million and CSR expenditure of over US\$1.3 million. The Project is jointly run by Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (PVT) Limited (TCB1) and Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL).

Pakistan Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, led and invested by Shanghai Electric, includes 2×660MW high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is a key project in the “China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)” energy cooperation projects. After achieving Commercial Operation Date on February 05, 2023, the Project is capable of meeting the electricity demands of 4 million households in Pakistan, bringing significant social and economic significance in reducing fuel imports, saving foreign exchange reserves and enhancing energy security.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085377/thar-block-1-integrated-power-project-distributes-food-supplies-among-people/>

Dawn News

Chinese mine operator in Thar halves production

Kazim Alam

KARACHI: The Chinese mine operator in Thar whose output feeds coal-based power plants generating 1,360 megawatts has reportedly cut its production by half over non-payment of dues to the tune of \$60 million.

The China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) — which works under an offshore agreement with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) as the operator of an open-pit lignite mine in Block-II of the Thar coalfield — has formally informed SECMC about its “limitation of operation” that may lead to a complete mining halt within one month.

Sources told Dawn the Chinese contractor hasn’t received any payment since May 2022.

SECMC, which is backed by the government of Sindh, owes the Chinese contractor dollar-denominated payments under the heads of operation and maintenance (O&M) as well as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for the second phase of Block-II, which achieved commercial operations in October 2022.

Firm says govt restrictions on converting rupees into foreign currency caused backlog of dues amounting to \$60m

The senior management of SECMC has taken up the issue at the highest levels of fiscal and monetary authorities, but they're said to be reluctant to sign off on the payment in view of a shortage of foreign exchange.

Pakistan has been facing a severe dollar shortage as the loan programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remains on hold. As a result, the government has put in place formal and informal restrictions on the outflow of dollars as a stop-gap measure to survive the liquidity crunch.

"SECMC has no shortage of liquidity. It's cash-rich. The problem is that the finance ministry and the central bank aren't letting it convert the local currency into dollars for onward payment to the foreign contractor," said one person familiar with the issue.

According to the reconciliation of associated companies in which Engro Corporation Ltd holds material investment, SECMC posted a net profit of Rs8.47 billion in 2022. Its current assets, which consist of cash and other assets that can be converted to cash within a year, stood at Rs104.4bn at the end of 2022, up 38pc from a year ago.

"The fuel bill for operating the same 1,360MW power plants on imported coal will exceed the outstanding dues of \$60m within one month," said the source.

That's because Thar coal is available to the local power plants at a significant discount. Its price isn't pegged to the global market. SECMC earns an internal rate of return or IRR of 20pc above the project cost. The price of indigenous coal is around \$42 per tonne in the ongoing second phase versus the international rate of around \$135. The rate of Thar coal will further drop to \$27 per tonne when the third phase is completed by April 2024.

In a recent letter to SECMC, CMEC representative Zhao Wenke said the Chinese company's cash flows were in "bad condition" as dues of \$60m constitute a "huge amount for any contractor".

"We suffer serious financial shortage... the payment we received can hardly keep works continue, not mentioning pay off our subcontractors and suppliers, such as CRCC, HongDa, Tonly, TEC, CHCIC, JPPE and etc," the letter said.

The Chinese contractors also warned the Pakistani company that the mounting dues would result in "significantly" hampering the mine expansion for Phase-III. "If that happens then power plants will have to use imported coal instead of Thar coal," Mr Zhao wrote.

SECMC extracted 3.8m tonnes of coal annually and sold its entire output to Engro Powergen Thar until recently. It doubled its mining capacity to 7.6m tonnes per year last year, which coincided with the commissioning of the 330MW Thar Energy plant. Another power producer of 330MW, ThalNova Power Ltd, recently started producing electricity, ensuring 100 per cent consumption of the enhanced output of SECMC's mine in Block-II of the Thar coalfields.

With the mining block's third-phase expansion next year, SECMC's output will increase to 12.2m tonnes a year. The increased mining will supply fuel to the 660MW power plant that Lucky Electric Power Company has just commissioned at Port Qasim.

Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, who also serves as chairman of SECMC, told Dawn he wrote a letter to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar two days ago, requesting him to allow the payment.

"It's a fair demand on the part of the Chinese company. We understand the foreign exchange situation is tough, but the payment issue can't be left unresolved," he said, adding that the Sindh chief minister will personally take up the issue with Mr Dar shortly.

Dawn reached out to the Ministry of Finance and State Bank of Pakistan for comment. A media relations officer for the ministry said the secretary was in Washington DC on official business and would respond upon his return. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar did not respond to a similar request.

There was no response either from an SBP spokesperson until the filing of this report.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1748450/chinese-mine-operator-in-thar-halves-production#:~:text=KARACHI%3A%20The%20Chinese%20mine%20operator,the%20tune%20of%20%2460%20million.>

Chinese man flatly denies blasphemy accusation

Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA: A Chinese national taken into custody after a mob accused him of committing blasphemy said he never made any remarks that could hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims or even hidebound Kohistanis.

The Chinese citizen, who was being kept at Police Lines in Abbottabad after the district administration declared the premises a sub-jail and beefed up its security, said he was arrested under trumped-up charges.

"I can't even contemplate offending sentiments of Pakistanis and Muslims but whatever I have been facing here is nothing but a lie," he told a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), constituted by the government to investigate the matter, as this was apparently the third attempt to sabotage the 3,420-megawatt Dasu hydropower project.

The JIT has already probed the 2021 attack on a bus carrying Chinese nationals to the dam sites that claimed the lives of 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals, as well as a blaze that broke out at a Chinese worker's residential camp earlier this month. The team was now investigating the latest episode.

Beijing says it is 'verifying situation'; interpreter casts doubt on nature of alleged sacrilegious remarks

Sources privy to the interrogation said that the Chinese national picked up on a blasphemy charge would probably be produced before an anti-terrorism court in Abbottabad tomorrow (Thursday).

Interpreter grilled

On the other hand, the police team investigating the case grilled the interpreter, Mohammad Yasir, on whose testimony the FIR was lodged.

The interpreter told the police team that he was ‘doubtful’ of what sacrilegious remarks the Chinese man had uttered.

He also claimed that labourers who accompanied him during the incident that led to the alleged blasphemy were compelling him (Yasir) to stand firm on his previous stance.

Meanwhile, Chinese engineers and workers resumed work at the project site. The work was suspended after crowds took to the streets demanding the arrest of the Chinese national accused of allegedly committing blasphemy.

Earlier, an FIR of the incident was registered at the Kamila police station, Upper Kohistan, under Sections 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code and Section 6/7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Beijing ‘verifying situation’

The Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday that its mission in Islamabad was verifying the situation regarding its national, Reuters reported.

“The Chinese government has always required overseas Chinese citizens to abide by the laws and regulations of the host country and respect local customs,” the ministry’s spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, said at Tuesday’s news briefing.

“If this issue does involve a Chinese citizen, the embassy will provide consular protection and assistance within the scope of its duties,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1748415#:~:text=MANSEHRA%3A%20A%20Chinese%20national%20taken,Muslims%20or%20even%20hidebound%20Kohistanis.>

Pakistan Observer**Haque invites Chinese enterprises to visit Pakistan for TEXPO 2023**

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has invited Chinese enterprises and companies to visit Pakistan and participate in the 4th International Textile Exhibition (TEXPO) 2023 to be held in Karachi next month. “I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Chinese enterprises and companies to come and join us in TEXPO,” Ambassador said in a statement according to Gwadar Pro.

Ambassador Haque said that his team at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing and Pakistan’s Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Hong Kong would facilitate the participation and visit of Chinese enterprises and companies.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is organizing TEXPO 2023 from May 26 to 28 this year at Karachi Expo Center.

Giving details of the upcoming three-day event, he said that it is Pakistan’s largest textile and leather exhibition providing a platform for local and international companies dealing in raw materials and finished products with globally competitive prices and premium quality.

<https://pakobserver.net/haque-invites-chinese-enterprises-to-visit-pakistan-for-texpo-2023/>

CPEC and Western Propaganda of Debt Trap: Facts and Fallacies

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Due to certain socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic reasons, the western propaganda has once again tarnished China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The western so-called pseudo intellectuals have dubbed the CPEC as a debt trap for Pakistan which is totally untrue and based on fallacies, not on facts. Frankly speaking, the loans under the flagship of the CPEC do not have any specific socio-economic, geopolitical or geostrategic condition. It is open, transparent, inclusive, development, human and prosperity-oriented which is commendable.

Interestingly, the composition of the Chinese loans are long term with easy conditions of repayments, rescheduling and restructuring with lowest interest rate which shows its strong political commitment to rescue Pakistan and its declining economy from recession and stagnation.

On the other hand the loans from the World Bank, IMF and ADB are short term having higher interest rates with specific administrative and structural conditions which have been critically harming the viability of its macro-economy, reducing the capacity building of its productive channels and bar on its people, business and investment policies. Moreover, according to many published reports of the State Bank of Pakistan, SECP and Finance Ministry Pakistan is not a high risk to the Chinese loans which clearly negates the false, fake, fictional and fabricated propaganda of the western media outlets terming it as unproductive creating strains of the overall financial health and credibility of the country. The undesirable delay in the ongoing IMF loan negotiations have badly exposed the chronic syndrome of the Western mentality towards developing and under-developed countries restricting these to remain underperformed and directly under the thumb of its financial constraints.

The success of the CPEC Phase-I is permanent and paramount which has already reduced physical and psychological distances through construction of more than 510 KM roads in the country and thus started a new concept of inter & intra-regional connectivity, economic mobilization and social channelization. The success of the CPEC Phase-I is also evident from the addition of more than 6000 MW new energy supplies in the national grid and many hydropower generation projects are near to completion which would further stabilize Pakistan's energy sector and would also produce an environment-friendly and cheap source of energy in the country.

The Government of Pakistan has already requested the Chinese counterpart for the early initiation, implementation and execution of the CPEC Phase-II in the country which would revolutionize our social development, massive industrialization, health, tourism, ICT, AI, e-commerce, digitalization and last but not the least, reactivation and reconstruction of special free economic zones in the country.

In this regard, most recently Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal met with Li Chunlin, Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and discussed important CPEC projects and minutes of the 11th JCC meeting.

During the said meeting, Pakistan urged China to speed up the implementation of the first phase of the Mainline-1 (ML-1), which includes a 1,872km railway track and associated facilities from Karachi to Peshawar. Pakistan requested that China accelerate the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project, both of which were agreed upon by the leadership of both nations in November. Furthermore, Pakistan requested strong support from NDRC and other relevant Chinese government institutions to expedite the implementation of important projects like Mainline-1 (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway (KRC) and key energy projects in line with the leadership consensus.

Interestingly, both sides expressed satisfaction with the smooth implementation of various CPEC projects and agreed that all the pending issues will be resolved amicably in the spirit of traditional cooperation, mutual understanding, complete trust and brotherhood. In this regard, progress was also made in the four priority SEZs namely Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabaji, and Bostan. SEZs agreed to further expedite the progress so as to attract the relocation of high-quality industries. The signing of the Framework Agreement for Industrial Cooperation was highly appreciated and both sides committed to holding bi-annual meetings to review the implementation of the framework.

Obviously 2023 marks a decade of CPEC and a strong partnership between Pakistan and China. Both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of BRI and CPEC on 5 July 2023 whereby high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.

In order to make the 10 years celebrations memorable, both sides agreed to sign the 11th JCC minutes of the meeting before the end of April 2023 so that relevant Technical Joint Working Groups (JWGs) could then hold their meetings by mid of May 2023 and workout the tangible outcomes for the 12th JCC Meeting which is planned to be held in the first week of July 2023 at Islamabad.

To conclude, it is suggested that both countries should introduce green energy projects in the CPEC Phase-II. In this connection, inclusion of blue and green hydrogen power generation technology and projects would be value addition. Close liaison on the construction of projects of lithium battery, solar panels, dry batteries and wind energy should be started as soon as possible in the country. It is also suggested that both countries should cooperate in technological agriculture production so that the desired goals of agriculture self-reliance should be achieved. New hybrid varieties of seeds of wheat, rice, chills, green tea and other agricultural cash crops should be introduced under the flagship project of CPEC Phase-II. AI, e-commerce, ICT, digitalization, converting deserts into hubs of development and sands into systematic factories of robust agriculture production should be included and started as soon as possible.

On a conceptual level, lessons must be learnt from the Chinese Model of Eradication of Poverty, modernization, opening up, industrialization and human development so that true fruits of CPEC Phase-I and Phase-II may be achieved in the days to come.

On an operational level lessons must be learnt from the Chinese counterpart to expedite the ongoing projects of CPEC in the country. In this regard, the policymakers of Pakistan should

seek guidance in terms of project management, disaster management, crisis management, Human Resource Management and last but not the least, the art of smooth clubbing of human values and policies into the mainstream policies of economy, industrial growth and rapid exports.

On a philosophical level, there is an urgent need to understand the strategic importance of the Xi Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilizational Initiative and last but not the least, shared prosperity for the complete transmission and transformation of our national economy in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-western-propaganda-of-debt-trap-facts-and-fallacies-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Renewable Energy; Building a Better Future for Pakistan

Engr. Qaiser Nawab

Pakistan is a country blessed with natural resources, including ample solar, wind and hydropower potential. However, for decades, it has been relying heavily on fossil fuels, leading to a surge in pollution, environmental degradation and energy insecurity. Pakistan is amongst the top ten countries in the world in terms of air pollution and its cities are among the most polluted ones globally which is taking a toll on the health of its citizens.

Fortunately, in recent years, the government and the private sector have started realizing the importance of renewable energy to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and improve energy security. There has been a significant shift towards renewable energy and Pakistan is now among the top five countries globally in terms of installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity.

The government has set an ambitious target of generating 30% of the country's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. To achieve this, it has introduced policies to encourage investment in the renewable energy sector, including offering tax incentives, simplifying the approval process and facilitating grid integration. Moreover, several private sector companies have also stepped forward to invest in the renewable energy sector.

They have realized the economic potential of renewable energy and the positive impact it can have on the environment. They are now investing in large-scale solar and wind energy projects which are not only providing clean energy but also creating job opportunities and contributing to the national economy. Renewable energy is not only vital for reducing pollution and mitigating the effects of climate change, but it is also crucial for energy security.

Pakistan has been facing an energy crisis for years, with frequent power outages, causing significant disruption to daily life and hampering economic growth. Renewable energy can help overcome this crisis by providing a stable and reliable source of energy. Furthermore, renewable energy can help increase access to electricity in rural areas, where more than half of the population is still without electricity.

Solar home systems, micro-grids and mini-grids are some of the innovative solutions that can help provide clean energy to remote areas, improving the quality of life and enabling

economic growth. Launched in 2013, China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) is a development and investment initiative focusing on 'shared destiny'. Originally envisioned for connecting East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure, BRI now encapsulates Africa, Oceania as well as Latin America, significantly broadening China's economic and political influence.

China's soft power and diplomatic success is attributed to the visionary leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. China realized the secret to emerge as a global power, as early as the late 1970s, when it decided to follow the policy of 'soft power' by focusing on development and economic connectivity rather than meddling in and policing other State's internal affairs. Consistency and perseverance in terms of its outreach have defined Chinese vision. Chin- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a pilot project of BRI and a framework for regional connectivity.

It has the potential to positively impact countries to the west of Pakistan including Afghanistan, Iran and broader Central Asia. It envisions connectivity through physical infrastructure, exchange of goods, energy projects to fuel commercial activities, integration of the region, development and harmony. Infrastructure development and energy projects make up the major portion of the CPEC initiative.

A network of roads and railway lines are foreseen to ensure connectivity throughout the country via twenty-four projects. A few of the transport infrastructures have been completed while others are in the pipeline. There are twenty-one energy related projects under CPEC, of which fourteen have been completed. These projects vary in terms of their power generation technology and capacity. These projects are significant for Pakistan for several reasons: enhanced valuation of surrounding land; job creation and human resource development; transfer of technology; meeting energy needs of Pakistan; powering industrial zones; strengthening Pakistan's renewable energy base and setting up right precedence for other renewable energy projects. As one of the most climate change prone countries in the world, Pakistan directly needs investment in power projects which are renewable and environment friendly.

This project is vital for stabilizing climate change and achieving net zero carbon emissions. CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and investment like in renewable projects are crucial for the energy security of the country. Investment in renewable energy backed by strong CSR policies can help make a cleaner and better Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/renewable-energy-building-a-better-future-for-pakistan-by-engr-qaiser-nawab/>

The Nation

Cabinet okays Chinese 1b Yuan loan for PSC project

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - The federal cabinet has granted nod to signing of an agreement with China for the provision of 1.019 billion Yuan Government Concessional Loan (CL) for the establishment of Pakistan Space Centre. The federal cabinet through circulation has approved

the signing of loan agreement with China Exim Bank on establishment of Pakistan Space Centre (PSC) project, official source told The Nation here Tuesday.

The Chinese government had already agreed to provide 1.019 billion Yuan Concessional Loan (CL) for the establishment of Pakistan Space Centre. The establishment of Pakistan Space Centre (PSC) project of Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) was approved by ECNEC on November 14, 2018 at a cost of Rs29,506.233 million, including foreign exchange component (FEC) of Rs 22,095.67 million. Economic Affairs Division forwarded the loan application, on terms and conditions proposed by SUPARCO, to the government of the People's Republic of China for consideration of Government Concessional Loan (GCL) of \$145.35 million on 02-11-2021.

The source said that the government of People's Republic of China agreed to fund the PSC project worth 1.019 billion Yuan with an interest rate of 2percent per annum and tenure of 20 years, including five years grace period. Subsequently, after the approval of the federal cabinet, Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) on Pakistan Space Centre Project was signed between the two countries on 02-11-2022, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the People's Republic of China. Beside, interest rate of 2percent per annum, the loan will also have a onetime management fee of 0. 25percent and commitment charges of 2 percent per annum. The loan has tenure of 20 years including five years of grace period, the source said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-19/page-3/detail-1>

April 20, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese investors playing key role in Pakistan's RE sector

“Chinese investors play a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan in its journey to privatise distribution and modernise transmission,” said Tauseef H. Farooqi, Chairman of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). Addressing a webinar on accelerating Chinese investment in the renewable energy market in Pakistan, the chairman pointed out that renewable energy is an inexhaustible source of green energy and the most cost-effective option in the current economic crisis in Pakistan. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, Chinese investors are welcome to explore the infinite possibilities of various renewable energy sectors in Pakistan, including hydro, thermal, solar, etc.

Pakistan is a country with an enviable advantage in renewable energy. In the case of solar energy, Pakistan alone has almost 1,900,000 megawatts of solar potential. Starting from 2023, Pakistan will conduct the first round of competitive bidding for the upcoming Solar Fast Track program, which seeks to induct 10,000 MW of solar power. Chinese investment in Renewable Energy (RE) can provide a significant boost in Pakistan's efforts of transition to a low-carbon energy mix.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), China has been the largest global investor in RE, with a total investment of \$758 billion from 2010 to mid 2019. China's RE industry is among the global leaders, especially in wind and solar PV, providing about 5

million jobs across the globe. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has contributed generously to Pakistan's power sector with more than 20 projects close to 10,000 megawatts, an investment of more than \$20 billion, the chairman noted.

To attract Chinese investment in RE in Pakistan, the country is seeking solutions to address the current barriers and provide clear and stable policies, access to financing, and adequate infrastructure. As one of the first countries in the region to adopt the IPP model in project engineering, Pakistan has accumulated ample experience in cooperation with Chinese investors. Pakistan is establishing scientific planning policies in its capacity expansion, and it will be a demand-driven, supply-based system.

The chairman added that NEPRA was taking steps to bolster private sector investment, such as opening wholesale markets in Pakistan where anyone interested in buying and selling more than 1MW of electricity could sign bilateral contracts and get registered. "Pakistan is trying to change the way its power industry works and modernize all of its transmission infrastructure, a process that will require more involvement from Chinese investors," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085693/chinese-investors-playing-key-role-in-pakistans-re-sector/>

Sino-Pak hybrid wheat cooperation to enhance risk resistance in agri sector

Sino-Pak Hybrid wheat cooperation will enhance risk resistance in agri sector, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday. It is learned that so far, the Chinese team's hybrid wheat demonstration fields in Pakistan have been maintained at about 3,000-5,000 hectares, extending from Peshawar and Islamabad in the north, Lahore in the center to Karachi in the south," Prof Zhao Changping, Chief Scientist of Hybrid Wheat Research Institute, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences (BAAFS) told CEN "it is true that we have only taken first step for a country's wheat industry, but ensuring Pakistan's food security through variety improvement is our long-term strategic task."

"Although hailstone is an occasional extreme weather that cannot be effectively resisted from the perspective of breeding, it can at least minimize the impact of disasters by promoting production and increasing yield," added Prof Zhang Shengquan, Deputy Director of the Hybrid Wheat Research Institute of BAAFS. Pakistan is embracing wheat harvest season. However, in some areas, unexpected climate disasters wiped out farmers' toil for a whole year.

Not all of Pakistan's wheat industry has been hit, but for farmers in the affected areas, "the rotting straw can't even be used as silage. I have no idea how many other farmers are like me because there is no accurate assessment report yet. The southern part of Punjab, Layyah, Kot Addu and other areas have been hit sorely by hailstones. Relevant departments must do something to solve the food shortage. We are in desperate need of help," Nasar Gondal, District President of local agriculture enterprise Kissan Ittehad, said in an interview with CEN. "Dreadful. I've never seen such violent hailstones in my life," Majid Rafiq, a wheat farmer from the Mandi Bahauddin district in Punjab province, sighing sadly as he gazed at the lodged wheat ears in his field. "Whole harvest has been destroyed.

The wheat was supposed to be harvested in less than a month, but now the hail has broken stalks, then the broken places will rot downward rapidly. So sad to say, it's worth nothing." Official projections showed that wheat production in Punjab, main producing area that produces 77 percent of wheat, is set to witness a major blow during the current FY 2022-23, amid negative impacts of climate change as well as crop substitution, sowing other crops than wheat for profitability.

Crop substitution was towards maize and oilseeds mainly due to better prices, Secretary Ministry of National Food Security & Research Zafar Hassan stated. Because of the lack of good varieties and low yields, it is hard for farmers to sell their wheat at a good price. The wheat production is likely to remain around 26.7 million tonnes as against the envisaged wheat production target of 28.4 million tonnes. According to statistic from PBS, Pakistan's wheat suffers from chronic low yields. At 3.5 tons per hectare, world average yield is 20 percent higher than Pakistan's-2.9 tons per hectare.

Worse still, there is a looming shortage of wheat in the next fiscal year as well. The government will have to count on the import of wheat in order to meet the domestic requirements of staple food. "We have no other option but to import 3-3.5 million tonnes of wheat for the next fiscal year, which is more than the import target of 2.6 million tonnes of wheat for the current fiscal year," emphasized a top official. Moreover, another extreme weather, heatwave, is likely to hit Pakistan in the next two months, which had negatively impacted wheat production by at least 10 to 12 percent in the last financial year.

"As for our selected hybrid wheat combinations, such as new variety BH1683 (Pakistani name: JM1683), have increased by more than 20 percent in Pakistan for three consecutive years. Even if the sowing amount was reduced by 80-90 percent, it still has the potential to increase yield by 20 percent." Declaration of Chinese team has echoed by Pakistani partner. "The single Chinese wheat varieties were not suitable for our hot weather and were also prone to diseases. Nevertheless, using the Pakistani wheat varieties as distant parent to cross with Chinese wheat, the varieties produced are more dominant and we got heterosis of more than 20 percent," stated Dr. Abdul Rasheed, Chief Research and Development at Guard Agricultural Research and Services Pvt. Ltd., an agricultural enterprise that has established a cooperative relationship with BAAFS since 2013.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085692/sino-pak-hybrid-wheat-cooperation-to-enhance-risk-resistance-in-agri-sector/>

Minister rejects 'negative perception' against China's BRI

Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday strongly rejected the negative perception about China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) dubbed as a 'debt trap,' saying stories were concocted to spread propaganda in global geopolitics of competition.

"I don't think it's a 'debt trap' as I believe it's a fact trap to distort the spirit of BRI," the minister said in response to negative perceptions against the BRI while talking to international media representatives here. "Wherever the BRI has gone, the local people can testify that it has had a very positive impact," he added.

The BRI initiative was taken for the first time in 2013, when the then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif met Chinese premier Li Keqiang in Beijing. The focus was on connecting China with the Chinese-invested Pakistani port of Gwadar through highway, rail and pipeline infrastructure. Ahsan Iqbal appreciated China for extending the BRI to Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which gave Pakistan a great opportunity in areas of energy, infrastructure, telecommunication, industrial cooperation and in unlocking hidden treasures like massive coal deposits in Thar desert. He described the significance of the project, saying “Gwadar Port City is set to become a major trade and commerce hub in the region with its Free Zone and investment from Chinese companies.” The planning minister highlighted the strategic location and potential for trade in Gwadar, stating that goods could be shipped to China through Gwadar in almost one-tenth distance from the South China Sea.

He said the progress and implementation of CPEC projects were being personally supervised by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and despite negative perceptions, the government had reiterated its commitment to completing the projects on time. “The government’s top priority is to attract more private sector investment in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector which holds tremendous potential for value addition and development,” said the planning minister while commenting on future CPEC development projects.

Regarding potential partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies, Ahsan Iqbal said the government was promoting exports to third countries through joint ventures and seeking Chinese companies’ cooperation to set up industries in Pakistan for joint production and export. “As the year 2023 marks the decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both Pakistan and China will be celebrating 10 Years of the BRI and CPEC on July 5, 2023,” he said recalling a decade-long saga of undeterred cooperation between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085623/minister-rejects-negative-perception-against-chinas-bri/>

Dawn News

ATC to hear blasphemy case against Chinese man today

Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA: A jirga of clerics on Wednesday decided to present as witnesses two interpreters before the Abbottabad Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) where a Chinese national facing blasphemy allegations would be produced by a joint investigation team on Thursday (today).

“We want conviction of the Chinese national under the blasphemy section of law by the ATC,” Maulana Waliullah Tohidi told reporters hours after the jirga at Madni Masjid in Dasu.

However, he observed, if the suspect is acquitted then it would be better for him to be repatriated to his home country.

The ulema and religious scholars, who helped defused the situation after the protesters blocked the Karakoram Highway demanding the arrest of the Chinese, also attended the jirga.

Ulema expect conviction but want suspect repatriated if acquitted

The jirga, which was also attended by Maulana Azizur Rehman and Maulana Attaur Rehman, decided to produce two translators as witnesses to the incident when blasphemous remarks were allegedly uttered by the Chinese national.

“Kohistanis are patriotic Pakistanis and they would never allow anybody to sabotage the Dasu hydropower project.

We will firmly oppose any conspiracy against the mega energy project as the attack on a bus carrying Chinese nationals in 2021, which left nine Chinese and four other people dead,” Maulana Tohidi said.

He said the interpreters would be presented before the ATC to record their statements under Section 164 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

“Two interpreters and three labourers were present around the Chinese national when he hurled sacrilegious remarks and only one of them understood what exactly the Chinese did,” he claimed.

Maulana Tohidi said if the suspected Chinese is acquitted then it would be better for him to be repatriated to his home country.

After the incident earlier this week, the work on the dam was suspended but resumed when the police took action against the Chinese national on the demand of protesters.

An FIR was registered at the Kamila police station in Upper Kohistan under Section 295-C of PPC and Section 6/7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The FIR quoted some workers and interpreters as saying the suspect had uttered “sacrilegious remarks” when they sought a break to offer prayers. Police were informed on Sunday night about a mob trying to force its way into a Chinese camp near Barseen.

A police party rushed to the place, cordoned off the area and shifted the suspect to the Kamila police station, it said.

[https://www.dawn.com/news/1748623#:~:text=MANSEHRA%3A%20A%20jirga%20of%20clerics,team%20on%20Thursday%20\(today\).](https://www.dawn.com/news/1748623#:~:text=MANSEHRA%3A%20A%20jirga%20of%20clerics,team%20on%20Thursday%20(today).)

The Express Tribune

China’s BRI not a ‘debt trap’: Ahsan Iqbal

Says negative perception concocted to spread propaganda

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Wednesday, strongly refuted the negative perception of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and dismissed the notion that it is a ‘debt trap’.

Speaking to international media representatives in Islamabad, he said that stories of the initiative being a ‘debt trap’ are simply “concocted to spread propaganda in global geopolitics of competition”.

“I don’t think it’s a ‘debt trap’ as I believe it’s a fact trap to distort the spirit of BRI,” the minister stated, adding that wherever the BRI has gone, the local people can testify to its positive impact. He also praised China for extending the BRI to Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has given Pakistan a great opportunity in areas such as energy, infrastructure, telecommunication, and industrial cooperation.

“Gwadar Port City is set to become a major trade and commerce hub in the region with its Free Zone and investment from Chinese companies,” explained Iqbal. He highlighted the strategic location and potential for trade in Gwadar, stating that goods could be shipped to China through Gwadar in almost one-tenth distance from the South China Sea. He also emphasised that the government’s top priority is to attract more private sector investment in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector which holds tremendous potential for value addition and development.

“As the year 2023 marks the decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both countries will be celebrating 10 Years of the BRI and CPEC on July 5, 2023,” he said, adding that in line with this milestone, high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412874/chinas-bri-not-a-debt-trap-ahsan-iqbal>

April 21, 2023

Daily Times

Event held at Chinese embassy to promote astronautical science

To enhance the understanding of young people in the SCO countries in the field of astronautical science and technology, promote their development and deepen practical and friendly cooperation, the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission(GNFCC) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO), China Manned Space Agency, All-China Youth Federation, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the secretariat of the SCO Youth Committee co-hosted an event entitled ” SCO Students’ Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15 ” on Thursday.

As the branch venue, Chinese embassy in Islamabad held the “Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15” event. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation, Ms. Asif Farhat, Founder of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic studies, members from Institute of Space Technology Islamabad and many young Pakistani students from different schools in Islamabad attended the event.svg%3E

Aliza Jamil, student of Class 8, from Islamabad Model College for Girls, interacted with the Chinese astronaut asking about how to breathe in space, the astronaut gave a very comprehensive response from space.

“Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15” event is significant for broadening the youths’ horizon and lighting up their dreams about exploring the mysterious and diverse universe. Youths are young ambassadors of China-Pakistan friendship and hope of our two countries, the iron-clad relationship should be passed from generation to generation.

This year is the tenth anniversary of BRI and CPEC, S&T cooperation is an important part of it, will surely provide strong support to the high quality and sustainable development of CPEC.

Cooperation on science and technology between China and Pakistan has achieved a number of remarkable accomplishments, including the Pakistani medicine seeds returning from Chinese space station after experimentation. China’s development and Chinese modernization will create more opportunities for Pakistan and the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085899/event-held-at-chinese-embassy-to-promote-astronautical-science/>

Newly appointed Chinese CG calls on Sindh governor

Newly appointed Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor’s House on Thursday. They discussed bilateral relations, investment, trade promotion and other matters of mutual interest during the meeting, said a spokesperson of the Governor’s House. Kamran Tessori said that Pakistan-China bilateral relations are becoming stronger with the passage of time. He said that he hoped that the appointment of Yang Yundong in Karachi would prove to be important in this regard. The Chinese CG said that China has always considered its relations with Pakistan very important.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1085877/newly-appointed-chinese-cg-calls-on-sindh-governor/>

CPEC being carried out in phases without slowing down

The terrorist attacks against Chinese people in Pakistan aim to spoil China-Pakistan relations and sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from which Pakistan has greatly benefited, Zafar Uddin Mahmood, special assistant to the Prime Minister said. Mahmood, a former special envoy for the CPEC, dismissed some media outlets’ reports that the CPEC projects have slowed down due to Pakistan’s economic difficulties. Mahmood is currently in Guangzhou to participate in the “Understanding China Greater Bay Area Dialogue” which is being held from Tuesday to Thursday.

He told the Global Times that there is no slowdown and that the construction of the CPEC is being carried out in phases. The first phase involved infrastructure development projects and the second is industry relocation and the service sector. Besides, some Pakistani companies are actively working with China on agricultural cooperation. As the COVID-19 travel restrictions have been lifted, he expects new momentum in the CPEC this year. We have greatly benefited from all these projects which have been done by the Chinese companies in our country, he said.

Recently, some Indian media also said that Chinese businesses face closure due to concerns over terror attacks in Pakistan. Mahmood said that frankly, there have been a lot of threats

throughout all these years because some people do not like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and as Pakistan is one of the largest beneficiaries of the initiative through the CPEC, they wanted to spoil and derail the CPEC. Moreover, some people are not happy with the close cooperation between the two countries. He said that there are three layers of security for Chinese people in Pakistan. First, we have the private security guards, then the police and [finally] we have an army unit to protect all the project sites, he told the Global Times. “Even for the individual Chinese when they travel to Pakistan, the government provides them special security.

Despite the efforts the Pakistani government made, he admitted that some people keep on threatening, sending messages or something like that. But I can tell you very honestly that these people [terrorists] are not Pakistanis. They are not friends of Pakistan. They are actually making every effort to spoil the relationship between the two countries.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/1086032/cpec-being-carried-out-in-phases-without-slowing-down/>

Pak-China hybrid rice collaboration initiated to safeguard food security:

Chu Linfeng

“Up to now, our stable annual supply of fine varieties has exceeded 4,000 tons in Pakistan, accounting for more than 40 percent of local hybrid rice seed market,” Chu Linfeng, Deputy General Manager of the Anhui Winall Hi-Tech Seed Co., Ltd., told China Economic Net in an interview, with pride.

The annual early-maturing rice planting season is just a month away in the South Asian country. Lately, the latest batch of 200 tons of hybrid rice seeds was on its way to Pakistan. Since entering the Pakistani hybrid rice seed market in 2007, the company in Anhui Province has always put high-yielding, high-temperature-resistant and stress-resistant hybrid rice varieties as the top priority for promotion, Chu told the reporter. “Besides high temperatures, drought, salinity, pests and diseases, none of these obstacles can prevent hybrid rice from thriving here. In general, we always arrange the shipment of seeds in advance. From November last year to April this year, our seeds have been dispatched in time as planned.”

In order to adapt to the local climate as well as keep the yield stable, China and Pakistan practitioners have carried out in-depth cooperation, so as to overcome breeding challenge. “Rainfall in Pakistan is concentrated in July-September, and the country has a very large area receives an annual rainfall of less than 150 mm. Thus, the local demands for high temperature and drought tolerance of rice varieties are urgent.

As the impact of global climate change becomes increasingly severe, pests and diseases caused by unstable climate also pose great challenges to agriculture.

We have carried out long-term testing and screening of improved varieties, and provided supporting technology training for partners, causing satisfactory results,” Chu added.

Abdul Rasheed, the Chief Research and Development Officer in Guard Agriculture Research and Services, indicated that rice generally matures between 30 to 40 degree Celsius, but with the hybrid technology it could even bear 40 to 50 degree Celsius. It consumes less water that reduces the overall cost making it cost effective as well.

Moreover, it matures in 95 to 100 days while the ordinary rice takes around 120 days and due to shorter maturity period hybrid rice crop “consumes less irrigation as compared to traditional rice varieties,” Rasheed added.

It is learned that the main cultivation area of Winall hybrid rice is located in Sindh province, as well as a small amount in Punjab province. What is nice is the yield per mu is generally 650 to 800 kg (9750 to 12000 kg per hectare).

“In 2021, we exported more than 4,500 tons of hybrid rice seeds to Pakistan, and the highest-yielding variety increase the yield by about 30 percent compared with local varieties,” emphasized Jiang Sanqiao, Vice GM of Winall Group.

Teaching one to fish is better than giving him fish. Since 2019, Winall and Huazhong Agricultural University of China have jointly established the International Cooperation Class, training agricultural talents in Pakistan and other countries for three consecutive years, and expanding the blueprint for agricultural cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

“In addition, through the collection, identification and application of overseas germplasm resources, we are committed to developing more high-yielding varieties, which means that there is great potential for agricultural cooperation along the BRI.”

Hybrid rice, which has helped Pakistan improve food security, get rid of poverty and even earn foreign exchange, won wide acclaim. According to the Pakistan’s Ministry of Commerce, rice is the largest agro export commodity in the export basket of the country with a total export of over USD 2 bln annually.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1086018/pak-china-hybrid-rice-collaboration-initiated-to-safeguard-food-security-chu-linfeng/>

The Nation

Security concerns: Chinese national not produced before ATC in blasphemy case

Shahid Khan

Peshawar - While hearing the case of a Chinese national accused of blasphemy recently, Anti-Terrorism Court Abbottabad judge Sajjad Ahmad has ordered a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to provide a thorough report and eyewitness before him on April 27.

A Chinese national, Tian, was arrested in Dasu, Upper Kohistan district, after a crowd accused him of blasphemy earlier this week, but the JIT was unable to present him in court owing to security concerns.

The judge instructed the JIT, led by Additional SP Headquarters Jamil Ahmad, to record the testimony of Yasir Ali, a translator who works as a welder at the Dasu Hydropower Project. Ali is the primary witness in the case.

As it could hear the partial arguments in a circumstance where eyewitnesses couldn't be presented before it, the court directed JIT to submit the report together with witnesses and the accused Chinese national.

As per an FIR filed at Komela Police Station in Upper Kohistan, translator Yasir Ali and other key eyewitnesses Gulistan, Abdul Qadir, Shafiqur Rehman alias Shafi, and Shafiqur Rehman submitted a letter of attendance on their behalf.

He pleaded with the judge that because of the closure of the Karakoram Highway in various parts of Upper Kohistan, his clients couldn't attend court on this hearing and promised to submit power of attorney at the subsequent hearing and present the former in court.

The primary complainant in the case, Komela SHO Naseeruddin, arrived in court with pertinent documents.

On behalf of the accused Chinese national, attorneys Atif Ali Jadoon, Mohammad Arif Masud, and the deputy public prosecutor appeared in court.

Maulana Attaur Rehman, Maulana Waliullah Tohidi, Maulana Malik Umar, Maulana Abdul Aziz, and Abdul Jabar were among the Ulema jirga members present in the court.

Earlier, the jirga had chosen to represent the Kohistani people in court. Sections 295-C of the Pakistani Penal Code and Sections 6/7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act were both referenced in the incident's FIR.

Some employees, according to the report, and their translators, said that Tian made "sacrilegious remarks" when they (workers) asked for a break to offer prayers.

The FIR states that on Sunday night, police were told of mobsters attempting to break into a Chinese camp close to Barseen. An immediate police party arrived, cordoned off the area, apprehended the accused Chinese engineer, and transported him to the Komela Police Station.

After Tian was arrested in the blasphemy case, Chinese media reported that the accused had exchanged arguments with the labourers over extended breaks for taraveeh prayers and that later the staff accused him of blasphemy.

However, the staff working with Tian said the accused uttered blasphemous remarks.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-21/page-3/detail-1>

China as a mediator

Malik Muhammad Ashraf

The phenomenal economic development achieved by China during the last four decades is probably an unparalleled event in modern history. Economists are of the unanimous view that by 2050 China will be the number one economic power in the world and probably also in terms of military prowess.

Over the last 40 years the GDP of China has been expanding at an average rate of 9.5 percent. The result is that China now accounts for 30 percent of the global GDP. The reforms set in train in 1978 were premised on special economic zones in several provinces; the introduction

of a household responsibility system that allowed households to contract land, machinery, and other facilities from collective organizations; the consolidation of state-owned enterprises, and accession to WTO in 2001. These policies boosted foreign investments exponentially besides encouraging entrepreneurship. The willingness of the Chinese leaders to implement pragmatic and impregnable economic policies enabled the country to escape the poverty trap and gave its 800 million people upper-middle-class income status.

The commendable aspect of this development is that China also wants to lift the economic profile of other countries through the launch of its BRI initiative with CPEC as its flagship component. It is a concept of participative development which unlike the Marshall Plan has no ideological strings attached to it.

The fact that more than 150 countries and international organizations have signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with China amply demonstrates the faith of the participating countries and multilateral organizations in the BRI initiative and its potential to give the world a new global economic order predicated on participation and shared economic prosperity. The much-awaited re-awakening of the East has come forth in the shape of BRI.

However, the BRI initiative and its flag-ship component of CPEC is an eye-sore for the USA and its Western allies who perceive it as a threat to the global economic order. They are taking all possible measures to stop China from gaining the status of the number one economic power of the world with a greater political role on the world stage.

The US trade war with China is one of the manifestations of this but it will harm them more than the latter. Their economies have reached a point of saturation while China still has a vast potential to increase its economic prowess that will benefit the countries participating in the BRI initiative because it is not only a global factory for producing goods and services for exports but is also a global market for other countries with ever-expanding horizons. China is vying for the removal of trade barriers and is willing to lower tariffs as well as remove non-tariff barriers to meet the ever-growing material and cultural needs of its people by giving them more choices and benefits.

The USA is pursuing the 'Stop China' policy. It has also roped in some Asian countries including India, Japan, and Australia forming 'The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' commonly known as Quad. The dialogue was initiated in 2007 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the support of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. It coincided with wide-scale military exercises titled Exercise Malabar. This diplomatic and military arrangement is widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power. China views it as 'Asian NATO'.

The USA has also been using other tactics against China besides staunch opposition to the one-China policy. The presence of the US naval fleet in the South China Sea represents its military muscles to check Chinese advancement in the region.

However, China is not only poised to become the number one economic and military power in the near future but is also destined to assert itself as a peacemaker. A growing number of countries of the world have faith in their ability to play that role as well. China has

manifested the effectiveness of its influence and diplomatic ingenuity—which stems from its unique economic achievements—by brokering a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia which almost seemed impossible in view of their unyielding hostility towards each other and battling it out in Yemen. Even the efforts made by some Muslim countries including Pakistan could not break the ice. This development in the backdrop of the gulf and some Middle Eastern countries burying the hatchet, promises a change for the better.

It is indeed an auspicious augury for peace in the Middle East and in our region as well. A ceasefire has come into effect in Yemen and the swap of prisoners took place. Iran and Saudi Arabia have also agreed to establish diplomatic relations with each after a hiatus of seven years. Reportedly the Iranian President has also invited the Saudi King to visit Iran. All these developments taking place in quick succession are a strong pointer to enhanced prospects of peace and tranquility in the region. China has also made an offer to re-initiate dialogue between Israel and Palestine for a durable peace. That again is an appreciable step by China. However, its success depends on how the USA views it and its restraint in regard to sabotaging it.

In view of the events on the roll and an impregnable position attained by China, the USA is well advised to rethink its policies towards the former and develop a cooperative approach with it to find amicable solutions to the economic and political issues that hinder global peace and amity if it is really interested in a peaceful world as claimed by it from every convenient roof-top. There is a need for setting aside false egos by recognizing the turn of events. Starting a new cold war would prove inimical to the interests of both powers with its debilitating impact on other countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-21/page-7/detail-0>

April 22, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistani, Chinese scientists work together to reuse organic waste

The research institutes in Pakistan and China are working together on the reuse of organic waste in Pakistan. “We aim to install the first pilot scale project on campus, utilizing the campus food waste”, Dr. Farrukh Raza Amin, Assistant Professor at Department of Chemistry, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) told China Economic Net (CEN). For over two years, he has been working with Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on anaerobic acidification of organic wastes and value-added chemicals production.

“Through the lab-scale experiment, we have developed strains that produces chemicals including Butyric acid, acetate and propionate from food waste. These chemicals are widely used in pharmaceutical, food and paint industry”, Dr. Farrukh Raza Amin said. Furthermore, scientists of the project work to establish a database on organic waste in Pakistan, which includes the characteristics of the feedstock, methane production performance and other basic data to do a systematic study. The establishment of this information database will benefit both Chinese and Pakistani researchers to pursue research in the given field and provide an

important basis to formulate relevant policies and promote the comprehensive utilization of organic waste.

The project is also in line with the energy efficiency and clean energy production practices at industrial scale spelled out in sustainable development goals-7 (SDG-7) proposed by United Nations, which are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a widely adopted technology used for producing biogas along with the digestate used as a fertilizer. However, using a wide range of organic wastes and residuals as substrate and diverse microbial community structure of the bioreactor makes AD as one of the most complicated biochemical processes.

In the process, hydrogen and volatile fatty acids (VFAs) are formed as intermediate products. As these acids are important precursors for various industries as mixed or purified chemicals such as pharmaceutical and food industry, the AD process can be bioengineered to produce VFAs alongside hydrogen and therefore biogas plants can become biorefineries for producing these value-added products. The current project aims at producing and accumulating VFAs and hydrogen, inhibit their conversion to methane and to extract them as the final products. Moreover, it also aims at the preparation of biosynthetic microbes with the desired characteristics to optimize the process performance.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1086294/pakistani-chinese-scientists-work-together-to-reuse-organic-waste/>

POWERCHINA completes Phase-I of DBDP's Upstream cutoff wall

POWERCHINA has completed Phase-I of the upstream cutoff wall of the Diamer Basha Dam Project (DBDP), which creates a favorable condition for the river diversion and closure, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting a statement issued by the Chinese company.

As per details, the wall is made of plastic concrete, with an axial length of 202 meters, which had been constructed in stages due to the complex geological conditions. "To complete the task on time, the construction team has overcome various difficulties, attaching great importance to both the process and quality," reads the statement

At the moment, construction activities are going at a rapid speed at various sites of DBDP. They include three temporary cable bridges, D/S Cable Bridge and a permanent bridge, a diversion tunnel inlet, a diversion tunnel outlet, diversion tunnel 2, a diversion canal, an upstream cofferdam, a downstream cofferdam, left and right abutments, batching plant, power generation plant and aggregate processing plant.

DBDP is being constructed on River Indus, which is scheduled to be completed in 2028-29. Power China in a JV with FWO is constructing the MW-1 Dam of the project. The Project will have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 MAF to irrigate 1.23 million acres of additional land. With an installed power generation capacity of 4,500 MW, the project will provide more than 18 billion units per annum to the National Grid.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1086401/powerchina-completes-phase-i-of-dbdps-upstream-cutoff-wall/>

Jhang Power Plant successfully connected to power grid

Pakistan Jhang 1263 MW thermal power plant, operated by China Machinery Engineering Corp. (CMEC), achieved a significant milestone as its turbine generator was successfully connected to the power grid for the first time.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the unit is operating smoothly and all parameters are meeting the design requirements, thus setting a solid foundation for the next 168-hour reliability test run of the combined cycle section. After achieving COD of the two gas turbines in August last year, the Jhang project has completed the installation and commissioning of the main and auxiliary systems for the combined cycle section, the steam blowing of two heat recovery boilers, hot-state flushing, PPA8.2 testing, and now, the first turbine generator synchronization to the power grid.

The synchronization of the combined-cycle power generation unit with the power grid signifies that all equipment on site has been put into normal operation. “The next step will mainly involve adjusting the unit under different load conditions, optimizing the system and its degree of automation, and conducting a 168-hour reliability test,” said the operation director of the project, Mr. He, “The entire project is marching closer and closer to COD.” Last year, the government-owned company Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Ltd (PTPL) signed a contract with China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) to operate two thermal power plants in Punjab’s Jhang district. CMEC also served as the plants’ engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contractor.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1086405/jhang-power-plant-successfully-connected-to-power-grid/>

The News

SCO meet

The Foreign Office of Pakistan has confirmed that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will be attending a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Goa early next month. This will make Bilawal Bhutto the first Pakistani foreign minister to visit India in nearly 12 years. The Foreign Office has said that Pakistan’s participation in the meeting reflects the country’s commitment to the SCO charter, adding that this is not a visit to discuss bilateral matters. There is as yet no confirmation whether Foreign Minister Bhutto will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the Indian foreign minister.

Relations between Pakistan and India, fraught as they always have been, have only become worse since the Modi-ization of India: a process that has transformed India into a state that openly espouses the Hindutva agenda. Pakistan has time and again made offers of peace, the last time in January with Prime Shehbaz Sharif saying Pakistan was ready to talk if India was ready to discuss Occupied Kashmir. Unfortunately, India’s response to Pakistan’s overtures has either been silence or more hawkish affirmations like the war-like situation after Pulwama and the August 5, 2019, step where India revoked Occupied Kashmir’s special status. That India has been violating human rights in Kashmir almost on a daily basis should be a cause of concern for the world community. Previously, Article 370 of the Indian constitution had granted limited autonomy to the people of Occupied Kashmir but New Delhi

never allowed them to enjoy even that authority. The persecution of minorities in India, especially Muslims, has become a routine now and there is no sign coming from the government of India that it is ready for any meaningful talks. It is no secret that India's policy vis-a-vis Pakistan under the Modi regime has been that of a virtual standoff, and the issue of Kashmir is the main reason why any government in Pakistan is always hesitant to make the first move without an unequivocal commitment by India.

Pakistan has repeated time and again that it wants a peaceful neighbourhood where there isn't always a looming threat of war of aggression by a bigger neighbour. In a world where economy trumps many other things, where even India and China or China and the United States continue to be trade partners despite hostilities, it is important for India and Pakistan to also give peace a chance. Trade between the two countries has a lot of potential but due to India's Kashmir policy and the atrocities being committed there, no political government can take the chance of resuming dialogue. Without Kashmir, and any guarantees regarding Kashmir's special status, it would not be possible to move ahead. Only this Thursday, an Indian army truck filled with fuel oil caught fire in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) area, killing five personnel of the Indian Army. The accident has since been termed 'terrorism' by India which has launched a large-scale operation in the occupied territories. No doubt, India will try and drag Pakistan into this incident as well. In this context, meets like the SCO become even more important for regional harmony. There has to be better connectivity in the region to promote peace.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=195600>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان فرنیچر کونسل چین ون کے تعاون سے کینٹن تجارتی میلے میں شرکت کریگی: میاں کاشف

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان فرنیچر کونسل چین ون کے تعاون سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے حصول، پاکستانی مصنوعات کی نمائش اور نئی برآمدی منڈیوں کی تلاش کیلئے 133 ویں کینٹن تجارتی میلے میں شرکت کرے گی۔ پی ایف سی کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر میاں کاشف اشفاق نے فاران شاہد کی قیادت میں برآمد کنندگان کے ایک وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ نمائش عالمی کاروباری مواقع کا موثر تجارتی پلیٹ فارم ہے جو 1957 سے منعقد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ یہ میلہ پاکستانی فرنیچر کی مصنوعات اور تمام متعلقہ سروسز کی درآمد و برآمد کے شاندار مواقع فراہم کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پی ایف سی اور چین ون دونوں اس موقع پر ملٹی نیشنل کمپنیوں کے ساتھ ملاقاتیں کریں گے اور اپنی مصنوعات کے معیار کو بین الاقوامی معیار کے مطابق مزید بہتر بنانے کے لیے پیشہ ورانہ مہارت کا تبادلہ کریں گے تاکہ اس شعبے میں تجارت کو مزید بہتر بنایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس میلے میں 25 ہزار سے زائد چین کی بہترین فارن ٹریڈ کمپنیاں اور تقریباً 6 ہزار غیر ملکی کمپنیاں شرکت کریں گی۔ اس میں شرکت سے جوائنٹ وینچر ز اور پراجیکٹ پارٹنرشپس شروع کرنے کے علاوہ مارکیٹ کی صلاحیت کا تعین کرنے اور مسابقت کا جائزہ لینے میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ وفد کے رکن میاں اریب اراکین نے ٹریڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی آف پاکستان پر زور دیا کہ وہ تمام بڑے ممالک میں سٹیکل کنٹری ایکسپو کا انتظام کرے تاکہ پاکستانی مصنوعات کی موثر اور نتیجہ خیز تشریح کی جاسکے اور وہ اپنے بہترین معیار کے بل پر عالمی سطح پر مقابلہ کر سکیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ نمائشیں برآمدات کے حجم کو بڑھانے اور نئے مشترکہ منصوبوں کے لیے نئی شراکتیں تلاش کرنے میں معاون ثابت ہوں گی۔

[پاکستان فرنیچر کونسل چین ون کے تعاون سے کینٹن تجارتی میلے میں شرکت کریگی: میاں کاشف \(nawaiwaqt.com.pk\)](https://nawaiwaqt.com.pk)

April 25, 2023

The Nation

COAS reaches China on four-day official visit

RAWALPINDI - Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir reached Beijing on a four day visit of China.

According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relation (ISPR), COAS is on a four day official visit to China for enhancing bilateral military relations. Chinese and Pakistani militaries stand ready to expand practical cooperation in various fields to a new level and inject a new impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Meanwhile, Army Chief Gen Syed Asim Munir spent the Eid day with troops deployed along the Pak-Afghan Border at Bajaur, ISPR said. During the visit, the COAS offered Eid prayer with the officers and troops and appreciated their high morale. He expressed that Pakistan Army is committed towards defence of the frontiers and Armed Forces of Pakistan are always ready to thwart any threat to ensure the territorial integrity of Pakistan. The COAS remarked, "For defenders of Pakistan, irrespective of the difficult terrain or weather and despite being away from the loved ones, duty takes precedence and nothing is more sacred than guarding the frontiers of our beloved country." The army chief paid rich tribute to the martyrs and emphasized that on this day of Eid we must not forget those who laid their lives for defence of the motherland and eliminating the scourge of terrorism. He extended well wishes to the families of martyrs on this special day. He also appreciated the operational vigil of troops guarding the border. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-25/page-1/detail-2>

Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project to restart power generation by end of July

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-After closure of almost a year, the 969-megawatt Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project will restart power generation by the end of July.

Power generation from Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project had to be discontinued on July 4, 2022, following a malfunction that occurred in the tunnel. Neelum Jhelum Power Plant has two tunnels and there was blockage in one of the three and a half kilometers long tunnel.

A spokesman for Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has said that a significant development at the blockade in tail race tunnel of 969MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project has been achieved on Eid day. "Tunnel collapse of 150 ft length has been restored. Restoration works are continuing during Eid Holidays," the spokesman said. Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (r) Sajjad Ghani visited Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project and witnessed construction activities on the remedial works. He appreciated the

efforts of Project Team WAPDA, China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) and consultants of the project, he said.

The chairman was briefed that the remedial works for restoration of Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project are under way in light of the report furnished by the international panel of experts, the spokesman maintained. Hydraulic lining shutter is being installed inside the tail race tunnel for concrete lining, while the allied works are also continuing side by side. Risk analysis report by the consultants is expected to be finalized during the next month. Chairman WAPDA directed project authorities to resume electricity generation from the project by end July. The Neelum-Jhelum power plant suffered a fault following the blockage of water in the tunnel area of 3.5 kilometres that led to the shutdown of the plant and termination of 969MW cheap electricity to the national grid.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-25/page-8/detail-7>

Karot Hydropower Project changing lives of local population

ISLAMABAD-The Karot Hydropower Project, which is the first power sector initiative completed under the CPEC, has significantly changed the lives of local communities.

As the largest hydropower project in the private sector to generate 3.2 billion units of clean and green energy per year, the Karot hydel station has significantly improved the lives of the local people by providing better health and education facilities.

It is a run-of-the-river project built on the Jhelum River in the peripheries of the Rawalpindi district by the Karot Power Company (KPCL), in which China Three Gorges South Asia Investment (CSAIL) holds a majority share. The power station is located near the villages of Karot in Rawalpindi and Hollar in AJK, roughly 55 kilometres southeast of Islamabad.

More than 4,000 people have been employed in different roles, with 85% of them being hired from local communities. A number of health units have been upgraded in the area, including the Kahuta Emergency Hospital and some other basic health units. Similarly, dispensaries and road infrastructure have also been developed. Talking to WealthPK on condition of anonymity, a senior official of the CPEC Authority, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, said approximately 4,000-5,000 people were recruited during construction of Karot hydropower project. He said the project would help Pakistan in its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2031. Muhammad Ayaz, a resident of Kunan village adjacent to the Karot power station, said he used to teach in a single-room school situated at the site of the power station. "After the construction of the power station the school was relocated to Kunan village four years ago. The Chinese company has rebuilt this school with five to six rooms and provided facilities such as water supply, furniture, washrooms and boundary wall, benefiting the local communities." He said a road to the village was constructed, making it easier for local residents to connect to the main roads. "Previously, people used to enrol their children in the school at the age of 6-7 years as the school was located at quite a distance, but now people are enrolling their children at the age of 4-5 years as the school is nearby," Ayaz said.

"We are quite satisfied with the work done in our area following the construction of the power project," he maintained.

In the past, Ayaz said, the village school had limited space, which forced parents to enrol their children in schools in other areas. “However, most of parents didn’t send their children, especially girls, to far-away schools due to rough terrain and absence of an asphalt road to connect villages,” he pointed out. “It was particularly harder for girls to get education even up to primary level, but the construction of a spacious school in our village has resolved this problem,” Ayaz said.

He said the education department has also appointed two science teachers to the school.

Muhammad Yaseen, another resident of Kunan village, said the locals are thankful to the Chinese company for building a beautiful mosque in their village. “We are particularly thankful to the construction company for building a carpeted road, linking our village to the main road and resolving our communication problems in this modern era.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-25/page-8/detail-0>

Pakistani auto dealers to explore new avenues of collaboration with China

GUJRAT-“In recent years, made-in-China products and Chinese brands have begun to become real players and drivers in the global auto industry. With the help of China’s leading automotive industry communication platform, we can learn about the latest exciting trends in the automotive industry, shared Bilal Chaudhary, a Pakistani auto dealer in Gujarat, while expressing his excitement of participating in the Automobile show in Shanghai and Chery’s Annual Global Dealer Conference.

Chery presented its latest products, created live experiences, and hosted user-salon co-creation sessions at the Shanghai International Automotive and Manufacturing Technology Exhibition, one of China’s most authoritative and influential auto shows, on April 18. It coincided with its 2023 Global Dealer Conference, which was also the first face-to-face meeting between Chery and its global partners in three years. The conference aimed to strengthen Chery’s internationalization strategy, listen to the needs of the global market, and negotiate future development plans with its global partners.

The year 2022 was full of both risks and opportunities. Despite numerous uncertainties, such as chip shortages and logistics constraints, the global automotive market experienced a 1% year-on-year sales decline. While Chery sold 450,000 units in overseas markets, matching its best-ever performance, it defied the trend by increasing by 68 percent year on year.

“Chery’s products have been incredibly successful in the global market, and we have been very impressed with its performance in Pakistan as well.” Bilal’s collaboration with Chery resulted in the successful introduction of two vehicle models, the Tiggo 4 and Tiggo 8. The quality of the vehicles has consistently impressed Pakistani customers. “We propose launching more Tiggo models and variants in our region so that customers have more options to choose from.” “The internationally successful Arrizo could be a good project to launch in the Sedan category,” Bilal added. Bilal believes that the convention will provide a great opportunity for Pakistani dealers and Chery to reconnect, share insights and explore new ways of working together. “We will work with nearly 1,000 Chery dealers from Europe, South America, the Middle East and other regions to closely appreciate Chery new energy products, hybrid platforms and other scientific and technological exhibits, exchange on

industry trends, cooperative products and models, and bring the advanced concepts back to Pakistan.”

Another driving force of Bilal's visit to China is the upcoming on-the-spot exchanges with Chinese partners. “The Chery team has always been highly professional, responsive and easy to work with. Chery may consider investing in training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of our local sales force.” Bilal concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-25/page-8/detail-5>

Express News

چین کا پاکستان کی مسلسل حمایت کی یقین دہانی کا اعلان

چین نے پاکستان کی مسلسل غیر مشروط حمایت کی یقین دہانی کا اعلان کر دیا۔ : اسلام آباد

وزارت خزانہ کی جانب سے جاری کردہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفارت خانے کی چارج ڈی افیئرز پیپنگ چنکسو نے منگل کو خزانہ ڈویژن میں وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار سے ملاقات کی۔

جاری بیان کے مطابق وفاقی وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار نے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان گہرے تاریخی دو طرفہ تعلقات کو اجاگر کیا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان کے لئے چین کی حمایت کو سراہتے ہوئے اقتصادی و تجارتی اور مالیاتی شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید گہرا کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔

پیپنگ چنکسو نے پاکستانی عوام اور وزیر خزانہ کو عید کی مبارکباد دی۔ انہوں نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان قریبی اور مشترکہ دوستانہ تعلقات کی تعریف کی۔ انہوں نے وزیر خزانہ کو پاکستانی عوام کو چینی حکومت کی جانب سے مسلسل حمایت کا یقین دلایا۔

اعلامیہ کے دونوں فریقوں نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دو طرفہ تعلقات اور متعدد شعبوں میں جاری تعاون کو بڑھانے کے طریقوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے چین کی قیادت سے پاکستان کو ملنے والے تمام تعاون پر چارج ڈی افیئرز پیپنگ چنکسو کی کوششوں سراہا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2473647/1/>

April 26, 2023

Daily Times

Int'l Chinese Language Day celebrated across Pakistan

The International Chinese Language Day was celebrated across Pakistan over the weekend as more and more Pakistanis enroll to learn one of the most popular languages in the world.

Pakistanis are also interested in the Chinese language due to the massive investments by China in Pakistan, mainly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to Gwadar Pro, this year, International Chinese Language Day was celebrated in Pakistan under the theme “Chinese Language: Facilitating Dialogues across Civilisations”. The China-funded Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms across Pakistan held a series of activities, providing a language and culture feast for language lovers. In Pakistan there are five major Confucius schools operating including the ones in National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad, the University of Sargodha, the University of Punjab, the University of Agriculture and the University of Karachi.

More than 30,000 students in these institutes are learning the Chinese language. The Chinese language is one of the most spoken languages in the world. It is the language of the second-largest economy in the world. Therefore, many people from developing countries are learning this language. This language has a very rich heritage that has existed in the world for thousands of years.

Chinese is one of the official languages of the United Nations. To give honour to this language, the UN observes Chinese language day every year on April 20.

Initially, it was celebrated in 2010 to boost multilingualism and cultural diversity. Moreover, the United Nation wanted to promote the equal use of all of its six official languages which are English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish. The first UN Chinese language day was celebrated on November 12, 2010. However, in 2011, the date was changed to April 20.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/1086883/intl-chinese-language-day-celebrated-across-pakistan/>

SCO countries art exhibition of children and young artists soon

With an aim to build a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation, to depict the splendid Dunhuang culture and to promote the mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries, the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in collaboration with China International Culture Association, the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the SCO Secretariat will organize “Silk Road: Artists’ Rendezvous – The Silk Road in Children’s Eyes” the SCO Countries Art Exhibition of Children and Young Artists.

Pakistani children and young artists aged between 5 and 16 years old can submit their paintings and artworks to the Organizing Committee before May 20, 2023.

“We advocate building of a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, depicting splendid Dunhuang Culture and telling Dunhuang story, to embody great changes of people’s lives brought by the exchanges between civilizations and bright expectation for the future, promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and enhance traditional cultures and cultural exchanges among different countries,” a statement at the Embassy website read about themes of the exhibition.

“The artwork must be original design with a specific and relevant theme. There is no limitation for the materials and style, e.g., colored pencil painting, gouache, watercolor, Chinese painting, oil painting, etc. The submitted artworks are supposed to be graphic artworks (except calligraphic work) Applicant’s name, nationality, age, title of the artwork, size and style should be noted on the lower right corner of the back side of the painting. Each applicants is supposed to submit no more than 2 artworks. National flag and Emblem involved in the artworks should meet the standards. Commercial elements should not be involved in the artworks,” the guidelines about the submissions noted.

Children and young artists who want to join in the exhibition may visit the links of the official website of the Embassy of China in Pakistan.

(http://pk.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zbgs/cultureservice/202304/t20230424_11064579.htm)

or the Facebook account of China Cultural Center in Pakistan.

(<https://www.facebook.com/cccenterinpak/posts/pfbid025chkNFXu9BWpVGf1mSEzt4c6Jbj7roZuox3SAPABzhndaF3Kys2HomtyJu4oJsWyl>) for more details, including the requirements of the artworks, the submission guidance and the contact info of the organizing committee.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1086888/sco-countries-art-exhibition-of-children-and-young-artists-soon/>

China assures Pakistan of its continued support to Pakistan

Highlighting deep-rooted historical relations between the two countries, Dar appreciated the Chinese support for Pakistan and underscored the need to further deepen the existing ties in economy and trade, as well as, financial sectors.

Chunxue offered greetings to the federal minister on Eid ul Fitr and praised the friendly relations between the two countries. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and avenues to enhance existing cooperation in multiple fields.

The meeting comes as Pakistan scrambles to reach a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of a stalled loan programme that the country desperately needs to stave off the risk of default.

The government has been in talks with the Washington-based lender since end-January for the release of the \$1.1 billion loan tranche that has been on hold since November, part of a \$6.5 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreed upon in 2019.

The IMF had asked Pakistan to ensure that its balance of payments deficit was financed before an agreement could be reached. In this regard, China rolled over \$2 billion and refinanced another \$1.3 billion in recent weeks.

Separately, according to the “Disbursement Report March 2022” published by the Economic Affairs Division last week, China has provided \$54.93 million to Pakistan in loans and grants during the current fiscal year.

A day earlier, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said the IMF deal would be inked next week.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087086/china-assures-pakistan-of-its-continued-support-to-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Army Chief’s China visit to determine country’s foreign policy: Rasheed

Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed said on Tuesday that visit of Army Chief General Asim Munir to China was very important and would determine the foreign policy of the country. In his tweet on the social networking site Twitter, Sh Rasheed said that the government should respect the Constitution and law instead of hurling threats at the judiciary otherwise they had already landed in hot water for disobeying the constitution and the law. He said it was better for the rulers to go for elections rather than committing political suicide.

Mr Rashid maintained that Maulana Fazlur Rehman would take the government in a blind alley and rulers would have no way out to save them. He said that Asif Zardari wanted to see Bilawal Bhutto as the Prime Minister. He said in the month of April, 41 people committed suicide in the coastal belt of Thatta due to poverty. The entire Sharif family offered Eidul Fitr prayers inside the forewalls of their house. The former interior minister said that Zardari had put all the onus of failure on Shehbaz Sharif.

He (Zardari) himself was sitting aside as a virtuous person. He maintained that election will be held no matter it would be held in Punjab or across the country. Bilawal did not bring even five dollars of aid from the whole world nor did he solve the problem with the IMF, said the AML chief adding, role of the judiciary was being undermined. The head of Awami Muslim League further said that Shehbaz Sharif, interior minister, law minister and Maulana Fazlur Rehman should pack their luggage. The nation should prepare for salvation day. If court's decision was not accepted, Imran Khan would give call and the whole nation would be on the streets. The entire Sharif family offered Eidul Fitr prayers inside the forewalls of their house. The former interior minister said that Zardari had put all the onus of failure on Shehbaz Sharif.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/army-chiefs-china-visit-to-determine-countrys-foreign-policy-rasheed/>

CPEC turns out to be a game changer for Pakistan, ensures regional peace, prosperity: CG

Pakistan is China's all-weather, strategic partner and the decades-old historic bond of friendship between the two countries has reached new heights with the launch of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of President Xi's Belt & Road Initiative. The CPEC has proven to be a game changer for Pakistan as it promises huge economic activity, brings prosperity, development and stability for the people of Pakistan as well as the entire region. These views were expressed by the newly-appointed Consul General of the People's Republic of China Mr Yang Yundong during a meeting with Chief Executive of Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik.

Mr Malik had called on the CG to congratulate him on his new assignment and wished him success in his future endeavours.

He also assured the Chinese dignitary of the full cooperation by the Pakistan Observer and held that the newspaper has always remained in the forefront to promote, project and protect the China-Pakistan friendship.

Pakistan Observer sees China as a sincere friend of Pakistan and has always confronted the negative propaganda against this project of vital importance, he said.

While thanking Mr Faisal Zahid Malik, the Consul General termed the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China very friendly and cordial. "The bond of friendship between Pakistan and China is of unique nature and beyond any times and climes," he said. Our cooperation is of comprehensive and strategic nature and the Chinese government as well as

the people cherishes closer ties with Pakistan that spans over the last many decades, said the Consul General. To the Chinese people, Pakistanis are like brothers.

“Both sides are working very hard for the successful completion of the CPEC,” he said.

Mr Faisal Zahid Malik paid rich tributes to President Xi Jinping’s vision of regional peace and development. Through his policy of mediation between KSA and Iran, President Xi has stood taller among the world leaders and his efforts to secure international peace are highly commendable, said Faisal Zahid Malik.

About the CPEC, Faisal Zahid Malik said the project turned out to be a game changer for Pakistan. It has generated thousands of vacancies besides creating immense economic opportunities for the local and international business companies, investors and entrepreneurs. Out of the nine Special Economic Zones along CPEC work was already in progress on the four SEZs, he said. Similarly 21 energy projects were propped out of which 14 have been completed while seven are in progress. He also invited the CG to visit the offices of Pakistan Observer.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-turns-out-to-be-a-game-changer-for-pakistan-ensures-regional-peace-prosperity-cg/>

Dar underscores need for further deepening ties in trade sector with China

Chinese Charge d’Affaires Pang Chunxue called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Tuesday and discussed bilateral relations between the all-weather and time-tested friends, China and Pakistan. Highlighting deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between the two countries, Ishaq Dar commended the Chinese support for Pakistan and underscored the need for further deepening the existing ties in economic and trade as well as financial sectors.

Extended Eid greetings to the people of Pakistan and the Finance Minister, Ms. Pang Chunxue praised close and shared friendly relations between the two countries.

She assured the Finance Minister of the continuous support of the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and avenues to enhance existing cooperation in multiple fields.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated Charge d’ Affaires Pang Chunxue for all the support and cooperation which Pakistan had been receiving from the leadership of China.

<https://pakobserver.net/dar-underscores-need-for-further-deepening-ties-in-trade-sector-with-china/>

BRI & Corporate Multiculturalism of Yiwu

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) has successfully “translated” the core concepts of economic corridors into the hearts of the people living around the globe and has now become the “New DNA” of greater regional connectivity, immense socio-economic prosperity,

eradication of poverty, generation of new jobs and last but not least, “harmonizing” economic growth model with pure “human values” in the world.

In this connection, the Chinese socialism stands for pure and simple “multiculturalism” which is continuously and emotionally spreading hopes of quick economic recovery, financial stability and human values by always preferring people over more and more profits in the world and especially in the member countries of the BRI which has surpassed the 150 tally which is good omen for the world economy and its people alike.

The BRI has created a new concept among the member countries i.e. “Corporate Multiculturalism” with converging systems of “human multi-ethnicity”. It has now removed all psychological, social, philosophical, political and, above all, financial barriers and forms a new avenue of corporate multiculturalism, speeding up BRI “caravans” towards final destination of greater progress, prosperity, participation, positivity and productivity in the world.

It seems that BRI has formed a new “Global Community” sharing new dimension of multiculturalism in terms of corporate, banking, financial and payment cooperation and thus evaporating false, fake, fictional and fabricated propaganda of the West about the melting down, so-called debt trap and hidden agenda of the same.

Interestingly, “Yiwu”, a county-level city in Zhejiang province of China has emerged as a new “epicenter” of corporate multiculturalism in the world. It has great heart to cater to the different human and psychological needs of the numerous ethnic groups and communities living together and jointly putting their efforts to further transform its outlook, scope, utility and strategic importance in the larger context of BRI.

It has the “world’s largest small-commodities market” which has now launched its own global payment platform to help further unleash the city’s market vitality and improve efficiency. In this regard, according to Zhejiang China Commodities City Group Co Yiwu Pay, as the third-party payment company, will help facilitate cross-border payment for the city’s more than 900,000 businesses, which developed the platform and owns the company.

Moreover, the platform will further “integrate” some 2.1 million of China’s micro, small and medium-sized enterprises into the global supply chain, connecting them with the global market through digital payment. The statistics of the city’s government show that 176 countries and regions conducted cross-border renminbi settlements worth 56.54 billion yuan (\$8.2 billion) with Yiwu in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 56.23 percent.

According to Rana Sajid, the prominent community leader and President of Pakistan-Yiwu Chamber of Commerce, growing number of merchants in Yiwu turn to cross-border e-commerce, the efficiency of payments and settlement of transactions becomes increasingly important. Moreover, the innovative system of mediation has further enhanced mechanism of peaceful conflict resolution in the city and increased the confidence of the businessmen and investors alike.

Interestingly, with Yiwu Pay, which supports a variety of payment apps and methods, such as Apple Pay, Alipay and UnionPay, money paid by Zhu’s customers through the platform can

instantly be accessed and cashed out in RMB in his account? Hopefully, it can greatly help reduce risks from market fluctuations and increase the rate of capital turnover.

Most recently, Yiwu Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology has shared that Zhejiang Provincial Department of Finance recently announced the list of competitive allocation of three fiscal special incentive funds for the high-quality development of the manufacturing industry in Zhejiang Province, including the demonstration creation of pairing and promoting common prosperity, regional coordination, and green transformation.

Yiwu City and Liandu District in Lishui have been selected for pairing and promoting common prosperity through competitive selection, and are expected to receive a special fiscal incentive of 300 million yuan for the high-quality development of the manufacturing industry in Zhejiang Province.

In recent years, the development of Yiwu's manufacturing industry has entered a "Fast Lane", and the trend of high-quality development has become increasingly consolidated, achieving new breakthroughs in volume, quantity, and quality. As flagship project under the BRI the train service has brought tangible benefits and win-win propositions for countries along the routes and has enjoyed great popularity.

The train service improved regional opening-up expanded economic and trade exchanges deepened international industrial capacity cooperation and facilitated the improvement of people's wellbeing in the countries along the route.

The Chinese president Xi Jinping announcement of opening-up, modernization, qualitative development and last but not least, people's centric investment and business policies are leading towards Corporate Multiculturalism which has now become backbone of the BRI and CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-corporate-multiculturalism-of-yiwu-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC: A decade of progress and promise

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

THE bond between Pakistan and China is one that has withstood the test of time, enduring every obstacle that has come their way. "CPEC is a testament to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, and it represents a shining example of regional cooperation and connectivity." – Xi Jinping, President of China. In the past ten years, the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a vital project for building infrastructure around the world. It connects China's western areas to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan, making it an important link between countries. This ambitious project started in 2013 and has been a catalyst for change in both countries. It has the potential to bring economic growth, regional connections, and better living standards to the area.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a major initiative that aims to connect Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province to China's north-western region of Xinjiang through an extensive network of highways, railways and pipelines. The project is not just about infrastructure development but also about establishing a robust economic

relationship between the two countries. The CPEC project is an essential part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is a massive infrastructure and trade project aimed at boosting China's economic growth and expanding its influence in the world. The CPEC project is a vital component of the BRI as it provides China with a shorter and more secure route to the Arabian Sea, bypassing the Malacca Strait which is currently the busiest and most critical shipping lane in the world.

The CPEC project is not only crucial for China's economic development but also for Pakistan's economic growth and regional connectivity. The project will help Pakistan to overcome its chronic energy shortage which has been a significant impediment to its economic growth. The project includes several energy projects, including coal-fired power plants, hydro-electric power stations and wind farms which will add approximately 17,000 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan's national grid. The development of special economic zones (SEZs) along the CPEC route is expected to attract foreign investment, technology transfer and job creation. The SEZs are designed to provide a favourable environment for business, offering tax incentives and streamlined regulatory procedures. The project is expected to create more than two million job opportunities for Pakistani youths by 2030.

The CPEC project has already started showing its impact on Pakistan's economy. The project has helped revive Pakistan's construction industry which had been in decline for several years. The construction of highways, railways and pipelines has created thousands of job opportunities for local workers. The project has also increased Pakistan's foreign direct investment (FDI) which had been low compared to other developing countries. The CPEC project has been an excellent opportunity for China to expand its trade and investment footprint in South Asia, the Middle East and Central Asia, while providing Pakistan with much-needed foreign investment and infrastructure development. The project is a flagship initiative of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which aims to promote economic cooperation and connectivity among countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The CPEC has progressed significantly over the past decade, with a focus on infrastructure and energy projects. The project has helped Pakistan address its chronic energy shortage with the addition of over 6,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid, reducing power outages and boosting economic activity. The CPEC project has also helped Pakistan develop its Blue Economy through the development of Gwadar port which will provide a strategic trade route to China and the rest of the world.

CPEC has also played a crucial role in creating rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity in Pakistan. The SEZs along the CPEC route have attracted significant investment from Chinese companies which has led to the creation of new employment opportunities and the transfer of technology and skills. The SEZs have also helped Pakistan diversify its export basket with the export of agri-based products such as sesame seeds, seafood and rice. China has been providing Pakistan with advanced agricultural technology, including drip irrigation systems, seed treatment and pest control techniques. This technology transfer has helped Pakistan to improve its crop yields and reduce water wastage, resulting in increased agricultural production and revenue.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, terrorism and political instability, the CPEC project has continued to progress. The second phase of the project is focused on agriculture sector development, socio-economic projects and academic partnerships to improve research and development collaborations. The CPEC project has the potential to transform Pakistan's agricultural sector which accounts for a significant share of the country's GDP and employs more than 40% of the country's labour force. The project aims to introduce modern farming techniques, improve water management and increase the yield of crops such as cotton, wheat and rice.

CPEC has helped Pakistan address its human development challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality. The project has created over 100,000 job opportunities for Pakistani youths and provided training and skills development to thousands of workers. The project has also helped improve Pakistan's healthcare and education systems, with the establishment of hospitals, schools and vocational training centres. It also helped Pakistan address its sustainability challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity and environmental degradation. The project has introduced renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar, to Pakistan's energy mix, reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels. The project has also helped improve Pakistan's water management system, with the construction of dams, reservoirs and irrigation networks.

The bond between Pakistan and China is one that has withstood the test of time, enduring every obstacle that has come their way. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, being the star project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has brought about a plethora of advantages to both nations and the entire region. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, it is crucial to reflect on its triumphs and look ahead with a sense of hopefulness. Through unwavering cooperation, partnership and mutual regard, Pakistan and China can scale greater heights of progress and affluence, not just for their citizens but for the world at large.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-decade-of-progress-and-promise-by-syed-ali-nawaz-gilani>

The Express Tribune

Minister to launch clinical trial of Chinese medicine

Inaugural ceremony for clinical trials will take place on April 26 at the L.E.J. National Science Information Centre

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho will launch the clinical trial of the result of two well-known traditional Chinese medicines. The trial was conducted by the Centre for Bioequivalence Studies and Clinical Research (CBSCR) at the Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD), University of Karachi.

The inaugural ceremony for the clinical trials will take place on April 26 (today) at the L.E.J. National Science Information Centre. On the occasion, Dr Pechuho will deliver the inaugural address. The ceremony will also feature addresses from University of Karachi Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mehmood Iraqi, ICCBS Patron-in-Chief and former federal minister for science and technology Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, Director of the ICCBS Dr M. Iqbal

Choudhary, COMSTECH Coordinator-General Aziz Latif Jamal, Principal Investigator of the Clinical Trial Dr M. Raza Shah, and Dr Farzana Shaheen.

The CBSCR conducted the double-blind placebo human clinical trials on the traditional Chinese medicines, and the results will be presented at the ceremony.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2413700/minister-to-launch-clinical-trial-of-chinese-medicine>

The Nation

Visit To China

The newly appointed Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has visited China with the objective of expanding cooperation for defence. There is no denying that this will be crucial in the face of new geo-strategic developments and with such close allies, the collaborative possibilities are endless. Our objective should be to schedule these as frequently as possible, and explore the opportunities that lie within security and defense.

The new Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was appointed on November 29 and he assumed charge during a time of severe political crisis. The internal political situation in Pakistan has only gotten worse since then, redirecting the attention of all state institutions towards handling the conflict and exploring what might become of the country next. At the same time, China witnessed a fair share of change within its borders as well. President Xi Jinping began his third term in office, supported by a new prime minister, defence and foreign ministers. It was in this transitioning stage that matters of defence and military became secondary and visits by key military personnel were limited.

Despite this however, it is not as though both countries have not been engaging with one another on matters of the army. Just recently, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) inducted Chinese J-10C fighter jets into service. It further commissioned upgraded and advanced versions of the JF-17 jet as well, and now is looking at potential drones for induction into service. In fact, Chinese support has enabled Pakistan to manufacture its own jet in previous years—including the JF-17B Thunder—opening up a new host of possibilities for the future.

Keeping in mind that our region is already prone to conflict, with the Afghan Taliban on one end and land-hungry India on the other, military partnerships with our closest allies would have immense benefits. Our aim should be to enhance this collaboration to include more agreements and trade partnerships so that we can display strong resistance, should the need arise.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-26/page-6/detail-3>

Pakistan must form JVs with China to boost e-commerce: Experts

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan needs to fully exploit its e-commerce potential by entering into joint ventures with China, experts said.

“The digital connection, along with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will positively contribute to the development of the overall economies of both the countries,” Ehtesham Wajid, Coordinator WORC incubation programme, told WealthPK. “In the modern era of technology, e-commerce is the fastest-growing sector and Pakistan is the 46th largest

e-commerce market, progressing rapidly,” he noted. Ehtesham said Pakistan has witnessed a boom in the digital economy through e-commerce, and there is an increasing trend among the people who use the internet and make an online purchase and sale of goods and services, especially after the coronavirus pandemic.

“To capitalise on Pakistan’s untapped e-commerce potential, Alibaba, a leading online marketplace company, has undertaken a number of measures within the country. The largest e-commerce network in Pakistan, Enablers, has entered into a global partnership with Alibaba for the establishment of an efficient e-commerce supply chain. Pakistan’s e-commerce business will benefit greatly from this,” he said. “As the success of a business depends on the quality of its products, Alibaba and Enablers are teaching young people about sourcing and how to select the most suitable supplier,” he said.

According to the company profile, Enablers is a platform dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and their e-commerce businesses. Its vision is to build up an entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan, strengthen the way local businesses work, and improve the growth of Pakistan’s economy, and expand e-commerce business globally. “The company’s objective is to assist in the establishment of more than 200,000 e-commerce businesses, generate 2 million new jobs in Pakistan, and increase exports to the global e-commerce marketplaces,” Ehtesham mentioned. “The Pakistan Vision 2025 and the Digital Pakistan Policy have set the target that the e-commerce industry’s size will reach \$20 billion by 2025,” he added. Dr Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of National Skills University, said while talking to WealthPK that with a population of 229.5 million people, mostly consisting of a young population and a burgeoning middle class, Pakistan has the makings of a strong startup environment.

“The country offers a unique climate in which the youth is brimming with potential, enthusiasm, and ideas and are becoming increasingly engaged in the startup culture,” he added. Dr Mukhtar said that owing to the recent expansions in this sector, Pakistan is now a country where anyone can start a small business with ease and also many people are doing this by starting a business of selling clothing, homemade food items, kitchen items and many other things online. “Small businesses have created their websites and social media accounts where they easily sell and purchase their items and successfully achieve their goals,” he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-26/page-8/detail-2>

Tunnel of 969MW Neelum Jhelum collapse of 150 feet length restored

ISLAMABAD - A significant development at the blockade in the tail race tunnel of the 969MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP) was achieved on Eid day, as the tunnel collapse of 150 feet length was restored.

To witness the construction activities on the remedial works, Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani visited NJHP on the second day of Eid and appreciated the efforts of Project Team WAPDA, China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) and consultants of the project.

According to Gwadar Pro, the hydraulic lining shutter is being installed inside the tail race tunnel for concrete lining, while the allied works are also continuing side by side.

The risk analysis report by the consultants is expected to be finalised in May while the resumption of electricity generation from the project is expected by the end of July.

Similarly, the construction of the 220-kilometer-long Thar-Matiari Transmission Line also continues uninterrupted during Eid Holidays. The 500KV Transmission Line is being constructed to connect HVDC Converter Station Matiari with the 1320MW Shanghai Electricity Coal Plant at Thar Block-1.

“The transmission line has entered its final completion with 93% of works having already been completed,” reads a statement of National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC).

Special foods were prepared for the workers under the direction of MD NTDC. Meanwhile, on the first day of Eid-ul- Fitr, Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project carried out the “Send Warmth” activity to its Pakistani employees. Several goats, watermelons, drinks, and other 2,500 pieces of life empathy were sent to the employees as gifts. The purpose of the activity was to thank the Pakistani workers for their contribution to the project and send them festival wishes.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-26/page-10/detail-1>

Express News

آرمی چیف کا دورہ چین، باہمی سلامتی کے امور اور فوجی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال

آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر چار روزہ سرکاری دورے پر چین پہنچ گئے ہیں جہاں پہلے روز آرمی چیف کا پرتاپک استقبال کیا گیا۔ بیجنگ / راولپنڈی
پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ کے مطابق آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف کو پیپلز لبریشن آرمی (پی ایل اے) ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں گارڈ آف آنر پیش کیا گیا۔
جنرل عاصم منیر نے چاق و چوبند دستے کا معائنہ کیا جس کے بعد پی ایل اے کے کمانڈر کے ساتھ تفصیلی ملاقات ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں باہمی سلامتی کے امور اور فوجی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

دونوں فوجی کمانڈروں نے خطے میں امن و استحکام کو برقرار رکھنے اور فوجی تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت کا اعادہ کیا۔ آرمی چیف نے پی ایل اے کے دستوں کی آپریشنل صلاحیتوں کا مظاہرہ بھی دیکھا۔

آرمی چیف نے تربیت کے اعلیٰ معیار اور فوجیوں کی طرف سے دکھائے گئے پیشہ ورانہ مہارت کی تعریف کی۔ آرمی چیف دونوں افواج کے درمیان دیرینہ تعلقات کو بڑھانے کے لیے چین میں فوجی رہنماؤں سے مزید ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔
یہ ملاقاتیں آرمی چیف کے چین کے چار روزہ دورے کا حصہ ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2473933/1/>

پاکستان کا بھارت میں شنگھائی تنظیم وزرائے دفاع اجلاس میں درجہ اول شرکت کا فیصلہ

پاکستان نے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزرائے دفاع کے اجلاس میں آن لائن شرکت کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد

وزرائے دفاع کا اجلاس 27 اور 28 اپریل کو بھارتی شہر نئی دہلی میں ہو گا۔

ترجمان دفتر خارجہ ممتاز زہرہ بلوچ کا کہنا ہے کہ اجلاس میں پاکستان ویڈیولنک کے ذریعے شرکت کریگا۔ پاکستانی وفد کی نمائندگی وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف ورجوئی کریں گے۔

واضح رہے کہ بھارت شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا موجودہ صدر ہونے کی حیثیت سے اس سال علاقائی فورم کے کئی ایونٹس کی میزبانی کریگا، بھارت نے اس سال مئی میں گوا میں ہونے والے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزرائے خارجہ اجلاس میں وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کو بھی مدعو کر رکھا ہے۔

بھارت اس سال شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے سربراہی اجلاس کی بھی میزبانی کرے گا۔ شنگھائی ممالک کی اس تنظیم میں بھارت اور پاکستان کے علاوہ چین، قازقستان، کرغزستان، روس، تاجکستان اور ازبکستان بھی شامل ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2473919/1/>

April 27, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistani student shines on international art festival

Baguer Dawaer, a 13-year-old student in Pakistan, shines on a “Belt and Road” online art festival with his piano solo The Detective. Representing China-Pak Educational Cultural Institute, Pakistan, his performance clip was shortlisted and showcased in the “Light of Hope” unit of the first-ever “100 Sister Schools Initiative Online Art Festival” hosted by Gansu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Gansu Provincial Education Department, China. Born into a hybrid family with his mother a Chinese and his father a Pakistani, Baguer Dawaer has been living and studying in Islamabad.

His mother told China Economic Net that while developing his interest in art, he aspires to learn STEM disciplines and aims for internationally renowned high school and university, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. So far, the online art festival has collected nearly 300 pieces of music and dance work from over 100 schools of 21 countries and regions. In the smorgasbord of artistic works, the performers not only display the distinctive artistic forms in their respective countries, but also demonstrate their mastery of Chinese musical instruments and dances such as Clapper Talk, a general name for all the Chinese folk art forms of narrating stories in the form of storytelling and singing.

Uzbek student performing Kuaiban for the “Belt and Road” online art festival [Photo from Gansu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries] The outstanding works are selected and promoted on the websites and WeChat accounts of the organizers. A total of five units were presented, including the New Year unit that has recorded over 100,000 views, the Spring Festival unit, Lantern Festival unit, Spring is Coming unit, and Light of Hope unit. Along with the online festival, an art exhibition opened in Gansu earlier this month.

Since the implementation of the 100 Sister Schools Initiative in 2019, 50 primary and secondary schools from countries along the “Belt and Road” have established friendly relations with 19 primary and secondary schools in Gansu Province, and a series of activities

such as faculty and student exchanges and art performances has been organized, offering youth opportunities to communicate with peers in other countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087308/pakistani-student-shines-on-international-art-festival/>

Chinese govt allows import of cherry from Gilgit Baltistan Faheem Akhtar

The Chinese Government has allowed import of cherry from Gilgit Baltistan and other cities of Pakistan. In a letter, written by the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, the Chinese government requested the government of Pakistan to take necessary steps and deploy the resources for timely import of fresh cherries. The Embassy requested the Ministry of food security of Pakistan to make arrangements for the virtual inspection of cherry orchards and cold treatment facilities.

Cherry is a seasonal fruit with limited lifetime grown throughout lowlands of Gilgit Baltistan. Some of its varieties are Black, red and French cherry it is a major source of cash for hundreds of families in GB. It has gotten the attention of traders recently in Gilgit Baltistan and has been started as business by supplying to the rest of the country in Pakistan as the rate of cherry in big cities is higher than Gilgit Baltistan but is lower than Chinese market.

Jilbaz Ali Khan, a trader of Cherry, says that with the approval of exporting cherry to China, it will be easy to introduce it worldwide as China has operationalized an international airport in Tashgughan, a neighboring city to the border.

It is worthy to note here that the China Pakistan border has been opened for trade this April after a break of three years, after covid19. According to agreement the border will be opened at the start of April and will close in November, where due to snowfall its difficult to maintain activities. the border was closed in November 2019 and remained closed till this April. Talking to daily times, Jilbaz said that different traders were buying whole orchards of cherries in GB and were selling them in down country markets, as a result the rates remained same for many years. The opening of the China border for cherry will help traders to sell cherries at better rates.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087469/chinese-govt-allows-import-of-cherry-from-gilgit-baltistan-faheem-akhtar/>

Dawn News

Clinical trials of two Chinese herbal medicines show promising results

KARACHI: Sharing promising results of clinical trials pertaining to two famous Chinese herbal medicines, speakers at a programme held at the University of Karachi on Wednesday underscored the need for research to find out how the traditional Chinese medicine system being practiced for over 2,300 years worked.

The trials were conducted at the centre for Bioequivalence Studies and Clinical Research (CBSCR) at the Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) at KU.

The trials showed that the Chinese medicines — Fuke Qianjin capsule used for treatment of pelvic inflammatory disease and Houtou Jianweiling tablet used for treatment of chronic non-atrophic gastritis — had over 80 per cent to 90pc efficacy, respectively.

Govt to establish Chinese medicine clinics at hospitals, says minister

“Both medicines were found to be better in performance than their allopathic counterparts, which carry greater risk for side effects and drug resistance,” senior professor at PCMD Dr Mohammad Raza Shah said while giving a presentation on the clinical trials at the programme.

According to him, atrophic gastritis is a chronic inflammation and thinning of the stomach lining, whereas pelvic inflammatory disease is an infection of the female reproductive organs. It affects young, sexually active women more. Delay in treatment dramatically increases the risk of infertility.

Earlier, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho said in her speech that the government was funding the training of young Pakistani doctors in the field of traditional Chinese medicine and establishing Chinese medicine clinics at government hospitals.

“I am pleased that my official visit to China in 2018 has led to tremendous collaboration between various institutions and industries of the two countries. It also helped establish the Sino-Pakistan Centre on Traditional Medicine and initiation of clinical trials at the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS),” she said.

KU Vice Chancellor Prof Khalid Mehmood Iraqi spoke about Pakistan-China bilateral relations and the remarkable progress the neighbouring country had made in recent years.

Dr Aiguo Dai, in his keynote address, praised ICCBS for developing several high-quality service units, including clinical trial centres at the research centre.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1749432/clinical-trials-of-two-chinese-herbal-medicines-show-promising-results>

Event organised to promote dialogue, friendship through tea

ISLAMABAD: In order to use tea as a tool for enhancing friendly dialogue and mutual learning between civilisations, China Cultural Centre announced on Wednesday to hold on May 21, the worldwide event ‘Tea for Harmony: Yaji Cultural Salon 2023’.

The event has been organised on International Tea Day, by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China, in cooperation with international organisations and Chinese embassies, consulates and missions abroad, and by means of overseas China Cultural Centres and China National Tourist Offices.

In honour of the upcoming International Tea Day as well as the upcoming Tea Yaji event, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan has also announced release of a brand-new Chinese tea video series, Tea and Harmony – Yaji Cultural Salon, the statement added.

These series of online activities include video and photography exhibitions such as The Tea Road, Chinese tea culture, Tea story of Fujian, Tea culture of Hubei, Tea Culture of Yunnan, Tea • Pot Jiangsu Tea Culture and Yixing Zisha Exhibition, Technique of making Pu’er Tea, Enshi Yulu Green Tea of Hubei, Charm of Water, Charm of Jiangsu-Virtual Workshop Series — Explore the Timeless Ritual of Tea Ceremony From Jiangsu, grand documentary series on Chinese tea and much more.

The centuries-old tea culture attracted new interests worldwide with the addition of “the traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China” to the representative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Since it was first consumed in China, tea served as a bridge between China and the rest of the world as well as a symbol of the Chinese belief in harmony between man and nature, the statement said, adding that tea has also played a significant role in connecting China to the rest of the world, serving as a bridge between cultures and a medium for sharing traditions and customs. Tea was more than just a beverage; it was also a symbol of the harmonious relationship between humans and nature that the Chinese have cherished for thousands of years, it added.

This event not only aims to promote and spread China’s tea culture in Pakistan and to the rest of the world, but would also help in implementing the rural revitalisation strategy to upgrade the Chinese tea industry in thousands of counties, townships and villages.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1749481/event-organised-to-promote-dialogue-friendship-through-tea#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20In%20order%20to%20use,%3A%20Yaji%20Cultural%20Salon%202023>’.

One year on, masterminds of Karachi University suicide attack still at large

Imtiaz Ali

- Only one suspect is in custody
- No clue to husband, children of female suicide bomber

KARACHI: Even after passing of a year to the suicide bombing on the premises of the University of Karachi in which three Chinese teachers were killed, police and other allied agencies have failed to trace and arrest the masterminds of the attack, including the husband of suicide bomber Shari Baloch, it emerged on Tuesday.

On April 26, 2022 four people, including three Chinese nationals, were killed and as many wounded when the female suicide bomber blew herself up at the entrance of the Confucius Institute, located on the premises of the Karachi University, targeting a van carrying Chinese teachers. The outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack.

To date, law enforcement agencies are groping in the dark to find out the whereabouts of Dr Haibatan, the spouse of Shari Baloch, who, along with his two children, went into hiding before his wife carried out the suicide bombing.

The case is pending trial before an antiterrorism court as only one suspect, said to be a facilitator, is in custody and remaining suspects — Haibatan Baloch, BLA commanders Bashir Zeb, Rehman Gul, Khalil Waja, spokesman Mir Safeer — have been declared proclaimed offenders.

According to the charge sheet filed by the police in the ATC, Dad Bux was arrested on July 4, 2022 near Machli Chowk on Hawkesbay Road. He allegedly conducted reconnaissance and provide information to other suspects.

Following the attack, the Confucius Institute was closed for some time but later on, it resumed its academic activities.

A KU official, who wished not to be named, said that it was decided by Pakistani and Chinese authorities that the Chinese would not physically teach at the institute till a satisfactory security situation. Therefore, now Pakistani students who had studied in China were teaching at the KU while Chinese academics gave lectures online from China.

Fallout of the attack

The suicide attack carried out by a woman highlighted a shift in Baloch militancy and that resulted in a crackdown on not only on separatist elements, but also on students and enhanced security for Chinese working in Pakistan.

Security analysts said that the KU blast targeting Chinese academics produced two outcomes. First a crackdown is launched on separatist elements and radicals, mostly students, not only in Karachi and Balochistan, but also in other parts of the country, particularly in academic institutes of Punjab and Islamabad.

Mohammad Amir Rana, director of Pak Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), told Dawn that the scale of Baloch militancy was limited, but its intensity had been increased.

Besides, he added that perception was gaining strength that radicalism, particularly among educated Baloch youth belonging to the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO), was also increasing. The use of a female suicide bomber, who was an educated woman, indicated this situation.

Mr Rana said that mainstream parties and Baloch tribal chieftains might be against suicide bombing, but militant groups had adopted it as their strategy.

Citing data maintained by the PIPS, Mr Rana said that after the KU blast, a significant crackdown was launched on Baloch and Sindhi separatist elements and scores of them were detained. The Baloch students were also detained from the Punjab University and the Quaid-i-Azam University.

The second trend which has been noticed after the KU suicide bombing is related to provision of enhanced security to Chinese working on CPEC and non-CPEC related projects.

Talking to Dawn, South-SSP Syed Asad Raza said that the security for Chinese, who mostly lived or have offices in South district, had remained a concern for law enforcers.

He revealed that there were over 120 locations in South district where some hundred Chinese associated with CPEC and non-CPEC were living or working in offices. "Providing security to these Chinese is a serious concern for law enforcers amid growing threats," he observed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1749306#:~:text=KARACHI%3A%20Even%20after%20passing%20of,Shari%20Baloch%2C%20it%20emerged%20on>

The Express Tribune

China vows joint efforts for regional stability

Army chief visits PLA HQ to discuss bilateral strategic ties

ISLAMABAD: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is willing to work with the Pakistani military to deepen and expand cooperation and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability, a senior official said on Wednesday.

According to China's defence ministry, Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia spoke as he met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir during a visit to the PLA headquarters in Beijing.

Earlier, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military, said in a statement that the army chief visited the PLA headquarters for talks on bilateral military cooperation and other matters of mutual interest.

This is the first visit by Gen Asim Munir to China since he took over the command of the Pakistan Army in November last year. Experts termed the visit crucial against the backdrop of key geo-strategic developments in the region and beyond.

The ISPR said that the COAS was given warm welcome and presented with the guard of honour at the PLA headquarters. The welcome ceremony was followed by a detailed meeting with the commander of the PLA Army.

"Matters of mutual security interests and military cooperation were discussed. Both military commanders reiterated the need for maintaining peace and stability in the region and enhancing military to military cooperation," the ISPR said.

The army chief also witnessed a demonstration of the operational capabilities of the PLA troops and praised the high standards of training and professionalism displayed by the soldiers, the military's media wing added.

According to the ISPR, the army chief would hold further meetings with military leaders in China to enhance the long-standing relations between the two militaries. However, it was not immediately clear whether Gen Asim would meet the President Xi Jinping or not.

The visit to China by the army chief is being closely followed by Western diplomats in Islamabad since it will determine Pakistan's future strategy in view of the growing tussle between Beijing and Washington.

Pakistan has tried to maintain a balance in its ties with the big powers but many observers believe that eventually the country may have to take sides.

Haroon Sharif, former chairman of Board of Investment, who worked in the past with China, is of the view that with \$30 billion bilateral debt and future stakes, Pakistan cannot turn its back on China.

The US, Sharif said, has realised this after using the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program as leverage over Pakistan.

But observers believe that China will not extend free dole outs to Pakistan as it is concerned over certain issues including security of Chinese nationals and stuck up money of the Chinese run power projects.

On top of it, China is worried over the growing political instability in Pakistan. Experts are of the view that China would be keen to hear views of the army chief on all these issues.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2413848/china-vows-joint-efforts-for-regional-stability>

Pakistan reiterates support to China amid Taiwan tension

PM Shehbaz Sharif speaks to Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, their first contact since latter took office

Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its support for China on Taiwan as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke to his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, their first contact since the latter took office last month.

Shehbaz congratulated Li and reiterated Pakistan's "unstinting" support to Beijing's "one-China" policy, as well as its stance on Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and the South China Sea, his office said in a statement.

"As all-weather partners and close friends, Pakistan appreciated China's peaceful development as a positive factor of international peace and stability, and was confident that China would continue to achieve milestones on its journey towards modernization and rejuvenation," he added.

The Pakistani premier also thanked his Chinese counterpart for China's "principled position" on the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region.

Li, for his part, "praised Pakistan's support for China and reaffirmed his country's continuing support to Pakistan's national development, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"China would continue to stand with Pakistan at all times," said the Chinese premier.

Beijing sees Taiwan as its own territory and criticizes high-level meetings between Taiwanese and foreign leaders.

Read

Taipei, however, has insisted on its independence since 1949, enjoying full diplomatic relations with 13 nations.

China recently held military exercises around Taiwan after its president, Tsai Ing-wen, met in Los Angeles US House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Indicating an increase in interaction with the US, Taiwan's National Security Bureau Director Tsai Ming-yen Wednesday told lawmakers that the island nation had "upgraded its computers to exchange real-time intelligence with the 'Five Eyes' alliance of the US, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand."

Besides political and military support, China has supported Pakistan financially, rolling over earlier loans and approving new financial packages.

Pakistan is under severe stress due to low foreign reserves and high inflation.

Notably, the communication between the premiers comes as chief of army staff General Asim Munir makes his maiden *visit* to China since he took over the command of the Pakistan Army in November last year. Experts termed the visit crucial against the backdrop of key geo-strategic developments in the region and beyond.

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With input from Anadolu Agency.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2413953/pakistan-reiterates-support-to-china-amid-taiwan-tension>

The Nation

COAS gets warm welcome in China

ISLAMABAD - Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), on his first day of official visit to China, was given a warm welcome and presented with the guard of honour at the PLA Army Headquarters yesterday.

According to the ISPR, the army chief reviewed a smartly-turned out contingent which was later followed by a detailed meeting with the Commander of the PLA Army.

On the occasion, matters of mutual security interests and military cooperation were discussed. Both the military commanders reiterated the need for maintaining peace and stability in the region and enhancing military-to-military cooperation.

The ISPR said that the COAS also witnessed a demonstration of the operational capabilities of the PLA Army troops.

He praised the high standards of training and the professionalism displayed by the soldiers. The Army Chief will hold further meetings with military leaders in China to enhance the long-standing relations between the two militaries. The inaugural meetings are part of the four-day visit of the COAS to China, said the ISPR further.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-27/page-1/detail-4>

The News

China's investment in Pak power sector reaches \$21bn

Khalid Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese investment in Pakistan's power sector, under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has increased to \$21 billion with the restoration of a powerhouse based on imported coal at Gwadar, a senior official of the Power Division told The News.

"Earlier, the government had almost abandoned the construction of a powerhouse based on imported coal at Gwadar, arguing it would not encourage more electricity generation on imported fuel and made a plan to set up a solar plant in its place. "But, later it suggested to the Chinese government to convert the power plant based on Thar coal. "The feasibility report did not favour employing Thar coal as the cost of transportation from Thar to Gwadar was found on the higher side. More importantly, the Chinese government refused to subscribe to Islamabad's viewpoint and insisted on the restoration of the 300-MW powerhouse based on imported fuel.

"It termed the initiative the most strategic project, as the Gwadar port's operation cannot be made dependent on any weak project, whose fuel transposition may be vulnerable given the law and order situation in the province and imported electricity from Iran as well."

The official said: "Now we have restored the 300-MW project on imported coal, which will be made operational by December 2025."

Given the run-down of the power sector projects, under the CPEC umbrella, the official said that eight projects worth \$11.337 billion had already been commissioned and were injecting 7,320-MW electricity into the national grid.

In addition, under CPEC, one mega transmission line project, the Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission line, had been completed at the cost of \$1.658 billion to transport 4,000-MW from Sindh to Lahore to cater to the needs of the load centre of Punjab.

However, five projects worth \$6 billion are under process to generate 4,328-MW power. Of these, the cost of Thar coal electricity project of 1,320-MW, which is part of IGCEP (Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan 2022-31) is yet to be determined. If the estimated cost of the project is included, then the CPEC power sector projects cost would go up to \$21 billion.

Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza also confirmed to The News that the Chinese investment in the power sector had increased to over \$21 billion.

According to the latest figures available with The News, the eight projects which were functional include Sahiwal coal power plants of 1,320-MW, Port Qasim coal power project of 1,320-MW, Engro Thar coal power and mine project of 660-MW, HUBCO coal power project of 1,320-MW, Karot hydropower project of 720-MW, HUBCO Thar coal power plant

of 330-MW, Thar coal Block-1 power generation project of 1,320-MW, and Thal Nova Thar coal power project of 330-MW.

The under process five projects include 884-MW Suki Kinari Hydropower project, which will become commercially functional by November 2024, and Gwadar coal power project of 300-MW will now be functional by December 2025. Azad Pattan Hydropower project of 700-MW will be completed and become functional by September 2030, Kohala project of 1,124-MW will become functional by March 2031. Thar electricity coal project of 1,320-MW at Block VI has also been included in CPEC, but its cost is yet to be finalised.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=196800>

CPEC enters phase 2: PCJCCI

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Wednesday said that CPEC after successful completion of early harvest phase has now entered into the second phase with focus on industrial cooperation, trade, agriculture and socio-economic development.

Presiding over a think tank of the joint chamber, PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki observed that increase in trade; investment and financial flows would bring peace and prosperity to the region through enhanced competition reducing regional disparities and social inequality.

Currently, 22 projects are undergoing fast implementation, higher in pace in comparison with any other corridor of the BRI initiative, making CPEC the central corridor of the initiative. Through Belt and Road forum participating states should promote intergovernmental cooperation, build intergovernmental mechanisms based on shared interests, trust and consensus.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Belt and Road Initiative reflects the far-sighted economic vision that is opening gateways of cooperation among the countries along the route. Connectivity, at the heart of Belt and Road, is primarily about linking the region to the world through economic belts to facilitate people to people interaction. He also said that Pakistan is actively engaged in the initiative and its flagship project, CPEC, is progressing in the right direction.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=196551>

Jang News

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزرائے دفاع کا اجلاس کل بھارت میں ہوگا

بھارت کے دارالحکومت نئی دہلی میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزرائے دفاع کا اجلاس کل ہوگا۔

بھارتی میڈیا کے مطابق اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے رکن ممالک کے وزرائے دفاع کی آمد کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔

رپورٹس کے مطابق چین کے وزیر دفاع جنرل لی شنگ فو ایس سی او اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے نئی دہلی پہنچ گئے ہیں۔

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی رکنیت میں بھارت کے علاوہ قازقستان، چین، کرغزستان، پاکستان، روس، تاجکستان اور ازبکستان شامل ہیں۔

بھارتی میڈیا کے مطابق رکن ممالک کے علاوہ دو مبصر ممالک بیلاروس اور ایران بھی 28 اپریل 2023 کو شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزرائے دفاع کے اجلاس میں شرکت کریں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1219508>

April 28, 2023

Daily Times

Eid festivities held at various CPEC projects across Pakistan

Cross-culture celebrations were seen at various CPEC projects across Pakistan during the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Chinese staff and management gave gifts and offered donations to the poor and needy before and during the festival, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. “Pakistan and China share a strong cultural bond, and Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated with great enthusiasm in both countries. The two countries have a long-standing friendship, and their cultural and economic cooperation has continued to strengthen over the years,” said Sajjad Hussain, commissioning and operation engineer at China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC). The CMEC arranged an Eid Celebration Party for all their employees at Thar Block II Coal Mine. Employees of the two countries celebrated the festival together and enjoyed their happy moments of Eid. Eid celebration party also held at Thar Block II Coal Mine.

The Eid festivities included traditional dances, performances, cricket games and dinners, providing an opportunity for the staff to share and celebrate their cultural diversity. The Chinese and Pakistani staff of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) also celebrated the special occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr together as a family at different construction sites across the country. Chinese and Pakistani engineers of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (Pvt) Ltd (PMLTC) celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr together by playing cricket, dancing and having dinner together.

The employees said that the cultural communication enhanced understanding of each other and helped build bridges of friendship between the two friendly countries. The company also adjusted work schedules and gave Eid allowance to Muslim employees. The Orange Line also appreciated their hardworking employees, especially during the festive season. During Eid-ul-Fitr, the company prepared special gifts for them, which were distributed at all 26 stations of the Orange Line. Eid gift distribution ceremony for employees of the Orange Line. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Karachi Branch organized a CSR event to donate food packages to local low-income people to help them with a happy Eid.

ICBC organized a CSR event & distributed food items to the needy. In a similar effort, the MCC Resource Development Limited (MRDL) in collaboration with Saindak Metals Limited (SML) distributed 4100 free Ramzan food packages among several hundred families in 32 far-flung areas of district Chaghi in Balochistan as a gesture to deliver best Eid wishes to Pakistani friends. Food items distributed by MRDL in collaboration with Saindak Metals Limited (SML).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087822/eid-festivities-held-at-various-cpec-projects-across-pakistan/>

Chinese delegation visits COMSTECH to promote traditional medicines

A high-level delegation of Chinese scientists and Industrialists visited the COMSTECH secretariat on Thursday to promote cooperation for research and development in the fields of natural products, biotechnology, public health and traditional medicine through institutional and industrial linkages between China and OIC member states.

The delegation visit also aimed to help strengthen academic and research initiatives between the People's Republic of China and the OIC member states. The delegation consisted of top-tier leadership of industries in the area of traditional medicine. Participants from several OIC member states also joined the discussions virtually. OIC member states such as Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia are already exploring traditional medicines in their own capacity. Through this collaboration, COMSTECH seeks to liaison between OIC member states and Chinese institutions for strengthening cooperation in the field of healthcare. To strengthen this collaboration and enhance networking, COMSTECH organized this dialogue which included a series of key talks on the subject by scientists, and representatives of pharmaceutical industries of China.

The event was attended by researchers, relevant personnel from the research laboratories and industries and representatives from the embassies of the OIC member states in Islamabad. The aspects of collaboration such as set up of Joint labs, exchange programs for scholars of OIC member states and product-based research were also discussed. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr M. Iqbal Choudhary gave a comprehensive briefing to the delegation on COMTECH programs and initiatives, its scope and avenues of collaboration.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087834/chinese-delegation-visits-comstech-to-promote-traditional-medicines/>

US, China, UK stand top three export destinations of Pakistan in nine months

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the nine months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-March (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 4525.610 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 5000.710 million during July- March (2021-22), showing a decline of 9.50 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1524.704 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2126.820 million last year, showing a decrease of 28.31 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1493.988 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 1671.606 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.62 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1262.755 million against US\$ 1299.173 million last year, showing a decrease of 2.80 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1081.470

million opposed US\$ 1361.105 million last year. During July- March (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1105.436 million against US\$ 1075.404 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 400.771 million against US\$369.625 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 853.009 million against the exports of US\$ 759.045 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 1042.419 million against US\$ 827.753 million last year. Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 588.292 million against US\$ 648.212 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US\$ 440.799 million against US\$ 379.661 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 357.081million against US\$ 303.308 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at US\$ 240.410 million during the current year compared to US\$ 236.665 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 343.995 million against US\$ 294.435 million, and Australia stood at US\$ 230.019 million during the current year against US\$ 210.753 million during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087803/us-china-uk-stand-top-three-export-destinations-of-pakistan-in-nine-months/>

Changshu textile enterprises invited to participate in Karachi TEXPO

Terming the 4th International Textile Expo (TEXPO) as the largest event in Pakistan, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy, Ghulam Qadir has said it would provide a common platform to connect textile industry experts from home and abroad. In his recent visit to Changshu, Suzhou City, Jiangsu province on Thursday, the commercial counsellor briefed the local textile enterprises on the current situation of the textile industry in Pakistan and the upcoming TEXPO to be held in Karachi from May 26-28. Ghulam Qadir, along with Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, invited the enterprises of Changshu, known as the hometown of the textile industry, to participate in the TEXPO and take advantage of the incentives and opportunities. The TEXPO highlights the revolution of Pakistan's textile industry, which transcends borders and supports countless jobs, improved lifestyles, enhanced identities, and the dreams of millions of people around the world. During the visit of IBI International Group Co., Ltd. head office, the delegation held in-depth discussions with Ibrahim Munir, Group Chairman, Awan Arshad Iqbal, Director and Qasim Kamal, Group Director on China-Pakistan trade and project prospects for the future development of China-Pakistan collaborations. The business exchange conference between Changshu Textile Enterprises and the delegation was organized and hosted by IBI Group. Ghulam Qadir also gave a detailed introduction of Pakistan's demographic and geographical advantages as well as a series of preferential policies, huge investment market and development potential. Shaikh Shariq gave a forecast of the economic situation in Pakistan. In the meeting, the Changshu textile enterprises acknowledged the investment environment of the Pakistan market and expressed their confidence in the development of China-Pakistan trade activities in the later period. Meanwhile, during the two-day visit, the counsellor visited Changshu Textile Factory, Jaguar & Land Rover R&D Center, Changshu Textile Machinery Works Co., Ltd., Golden Morning Textile, and other leading enterprises in Changshu. Ghulam Qadir spoke highly of the

development of Changshu's textile industry which also has great significance for the development of Pakistan's domestic textile industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1087791/changshu-textile-enterprises-invited-to-participate-in-karachi-texpo/>

Pakistan Observer

Deputy Ambassador of China hosts Eid Milan for Pakistani friends at Chinese embassy

President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt has appreciated the important role of Deputy Ambassador Ms Pang Chunxue in further strengthening the Pak-China relations and making them more stable.

She expressed these views during a meeting with Ms Pang Chunxue, at the embassy of China on Thursday.

Ms. Pang Chunxue had organized the Eid Milan Party for the Pakistani friends. Aasma Butt said China is Pakistan's all-weather, sincere friend who has always stood by Pakistan in testing times. This friendship is a priority for every Pakistani, she said.

The federation is playing an important role in promoting the culture of both countries, so that Pakistan-China relations will be stronger in the future. Other representatives of organizations associated with the Chinese Embassy also participated in the event.

Aasma Butt and Ms. Pang Chunxue discussed various areas focusing on bilateral cooperation. They agreed to work together on the promotion of culture to further strengthen Pakistan-China relations.

Aasma Butt said Pakistan and China had similar cultural and values. This is the reason why the government as well as the people of both the countries like each other's culture and traditions.

Our effort is to further promote the culture of both the countries through the platform of the federation. Ms. Pang Chunxue congratulated the Pakistani guests and communities on Eid-ul-Fitr. She said Eid-ul-Fitr was an occasion to share happiness among each other.

Pang Chunxue appreciated the services of Aasma Ismail Butt in strengthening Pakistan-China friendship and assured all possible cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/deputy-ambassador-of-china-hosts-eid-milan-for-pakistani-friends-at-chinese-embassy/>

The News

Blasphemy case: Chinese man released on bail

MANSEHRA: The regional Anti-Terrorism Court Abbottabad judge, Sajjad Ahmad Jan, on Thursday ordered the release on bail of a Chinese national who had been taken into custody after a mob accused him of having committed blasphemy.

He was released from police custody later in the day and shifted to an undisclosed location anywhere in the country as his counsels deposited Rs200,000 in a local bank as a surety amount fixed by the judge for his bail.

The counsels for the accused including Atif Ali Jadoon, Mohammad Arif Masud and the deputy public prosecutor were present in the court. They pleaded that their client was not guilty.

The accused was not produced before the judge because of security reasons.

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) presented the records of statements of the accusers and Chinese man in the court.

Kamila Station House Officer Naseeruddin, who is the main complainant in the case, appeared in the court with the relevant records.

The judge in his order said that labourers, including Gulistan, Shafi, Qadir and translator Yasir, got registered the first information report (FIR) in the case after two days on April 17 as the incident occurred on April 15.

They could neither produce testimonials in support of their charges, nor could they prove charges in their respective statements before the JIT and narrated the hearsay story.

The judge in his order said that the translator (Yasir) was 35/40 feet away from Chinese man who is the head of the heavy transports at the Dasu Dam Project at the time of occurrence and labourer Gulistan presumed that the latter uttered the sacrilegious remarks.

“Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code [PPC] says whoever by words, either spoken or written or by visible representation or by any imputation or innuendo or insinuation directly or indirectly defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to be fined that in light of the available record,” the judge said in order.

He added: “The case of accused petitioner not comes within the ambit of the reasonable ground; that the accused petitioner is a foreigner and came here for his services at the Dasu Dam Project in Kohistan that a procession by the people of locality (Upper Kohistan) was the result of misunderstanding as a result of which whereof the local police station in Kohistan concocted this false case against Chinese national while according to available record, no such offence was committed by the accused and hence granted the bail.”

The FIR of the incident was registered at Kamila Police Station, Upper Kohistan, under Sections 295-C of the PPC and Section 6/7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Maulana Waliullah Tohidi, a member of Ulema Jirga constituted by the local clerics after the incident to oversee the Chinese national blasphemy case, said the release of the Chinese national was a judicial matter and they accepted it wholeheartedly but said the translator Yasir who levelled false accusations against the latter should be taken to justice under the relevant sections of the law as he instigated locals Kohistanis to come onto streets.

“We (Kohistanis) are patriotic Pakistani and would never allow anybody within the country or outside to sabotage the Dasu Hydropower Project at any cost,” he said.

The sources in JIT told this scribe that the Chinese national accused of blasphemy would be sent back to his country as soon as this case wraps up.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=197115>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-04-28

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-04-28

April 29, 2023

Daily Times

Exuberant, bedazzled Pakistani truck art reaching hearts in China

In Pakistan trucks are not just trucks. They can be art. Everything about Pakistani trucks is exuberant and over the top. And now they make it to China.

To celebrate the National Day of Pakistan and the Year of Tourism Exchanges between China and Pakistan, a Pakistani Truck Art Debut Exhibition themed “Phool Patti: Jingle Journey” kicked off at Silk Road International Arts Center, Langfang, China on April 28, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

The dazzle of truck art from Pakistan won the hearts of Chinese visitors by its beautiful and artsy look and the deeply rooted tradition behind it. “I like it!” A Chinese college student enjoying the art on site told the reporter. She learned that Pakistani trucks are more than just trucks. “These vibrant, bedazzled trucks are an expression of Pakistani people – they’re travelling billboards that convey messages to the world.”

“Somehow you can sense the drivers and the artists who decorate their vehicles,” she added, since this colourful tradition celebrates their culture and their way of life. “These moving, tangible pieces of art featured Pakistan’s unique identity did wow me.” Addressing the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque

pinpointed that the event is part of the efforts aimed at building a close and culturally rich “China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future” in the new era.

“Termed as ‘Art on Wheel’ by many, this artistic expression represents cheerfulness, optimism, appreciating the beautiful aspects of nature and seeing life in its brightest and positive way,” the ambassador pinpointed, wishing the audience a wonderful experience of rich cultural medley from Pakistan. “Truck art has never been shown in China. I think this exhibition will be a rare opportunity to allow more people in China to know and appreciate this art form which is full of national characteristics,” said Yang Zhi and Yang Hui, organizers of the exhibition.

Co-organized by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Beijing, and Silk Road International Arts Center, the exhibition will last to July 24.

As part of a cultural exchange project between both countries, the exhibition features a series of commissioned works and large-scale site-specific works, live events, along with educational programs.

“Our goal is to promote Pakistani Truck Art in China with our local audience, present the values and celebrate the shared human experience through the transformative power of art,” source from Silk Road International Arts Center told CEN adding that they seek to uncover the full potential of digitizing Pakistani rich cultural heritage and foster a sense of community and connection.

Truck art is a sort of Pakistani folk art which represents the dreams, inspirations and imagination of the people and the artists.

Ornate, colourful and vibrant expressions of ‘Truck Art’ are more than just a cultural heritage. With time passing by this sort of art is not just restricted to trucks anymore – it is now a popular and unique art of the world and has been used as a theme by many fashion designers for a wide range of products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1088117/exuberant-bedazzled-pakistani-truck-art-reaching-hearts-in-china/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan thanks China for help in Sudan evacuation

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan expressed gratitude to China for helping in the evacuation of its stranded citizens from Sudan after a batch of Pakistani evacuees reached Jeddah.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Islamabad has expressed gratitude to Beijing for helping the country in the evacuation of its citizens stranded in crisis-hit Sudan.

“We are grateful to our Chinese friends for this gesture of support and friendship,” MoFA said in a statement.

Earlier today, Foreign Office confirmed that another batch of 97 Pakistani nationals from Port Sudan has arrived at Karachi’s Jinnah International Airport via Jeddah.

Stranded Pakistanis landed back home from Jeddah aboard an aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force as the Government of Pakistan continues to facilitate the safe return of stranded nationals.

Amid the mass evacuation, Islamabad was in contact with friendly nations in the region for facilitating the process by providing transport to shift Pakistanis from North African states.

Meanwhile, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu ordered the Pakistan Air Force transport fleet to kick start the swift evacuation of nationals from a conflict-hit country. Two more flights carrying around 200 nationals were expected to arrive in the South Asian country.

Several countries are pulling out from Sudan as the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) extended a 72-hour extension after pressure from several countries including the US.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-thanks-china-for-help-in-sudan-evacuation/>

The Express Tribune

The Chinese muscles

Pakistan's friendship with China, nonetheless, is not at the cost of others

Pakistan and China are making a leap forward in cementing their strategic partnership. The visit of Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping has consolidated the impression that there is much to do in their bilateralism, other than economic orientation. The desire on the part of Beijing to strike a renewed nexus of defence cooperation, and the eagerness by Islamabad to refurbish its arsenal, makes it a get-going indispensable interaction. Of late, Pakistan is the recipient of J-10 fighter jets, in addition to many more such collaborations in beefing up its security gadgets. This cooperation, however, is not meant for war-mongering, as is the case with many other countries' defence understanding, but to buckle up a regime of peace and security in the region and beyond.

Zhang Youxia, the Vice-Chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission, and the Pakistani commanders reportedly discussed threadbare the emerging realities, and agreed to signpost their priorities in the new milieu. While both the countries share a similar paradigm of peace and coexistence, Islamabad's inching towards Beijing works out as a deterrent against extra-regional fissures. It also sends down a strong message that Pakistan is not unaware of interference in the region on the part of QUAD and Indian designs to further its hegemony. This is why both sides agreed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at tri-service level, making military diplomacy a cornerstone of their foreign policy.

Pakistan's friendship with China, nonetheless, is not at the cost of others. This is why Islamabad shuns camp politics, and is eager to strike a chord of congeniality and cooperation with the US, too. With Washington, Pakistan enjoys a special nexus on counter-terrorism. The ground realities in Afghanistan call for a superb trilateral cooperation, and Pakistan has a role to play. The strategic lifeline economic interaction between Pakistan and China over \$60

billion CPEC, and the reinvigorated rubbing of shoulders in defence makes it an impregnable relationship.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2414109/the-chinese-muscles>

The Nation

Chinese importers eyeing recovery of Pakistani sesame seed production

BEIJING-Since being allowed to be exported to China, Pakistani sesame has seen its export surge from over 100,000 tons in 2020 to 150,000 tons in 2021.

While the devastating floods in 2022 substantially reduced its exports, it is expected to have a bumper harvest as there had been an increase in seeding by 25% since sellers got better prices last year”, Ms. Li Yuanyuan, Director of Greater China region of JKT Foods, an agricultural produce trade company told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview following the China International Sesame Conference held last week in China’s coastal city Qingdao.

“Before Pakistani sesame is allowed to enter China, most of our products were sold to the Middle East. China offers a vast market to Pakistani sesame,” she said. Under good weather conditions, the stable quality, void of pesticide residue and fair color of Pakistani sesame give it a competitive edge in the international market, she told CEN.

“Besides, shipping to China is very quick. The fastest direct ship can reach the Chinese port in 12-14 days”, Ms. Li told CEN. Pakistani sesame hits the Chinese market in around October each year, so there will be enough time for sale before the Chinese Lunar New Year, which usually marks a peak in consumption.

“That being said, the time when sesame comes in the Pakistani market coincides with the rainy season. If it rains, the quality of sesame will be compromised, and Chinese buyers can only choose sesame from other countries as a substitute”, Ms. Li added.

Pakistan exports 80% of the total production of sesame seeds crop. Currently, Iran and China are the big buyers of Pakistan sesame but other countries are gaining market share due to an increase in hulled exports.

China’s imports of sesame account for almost 1/3 of the world’s production. Since 2020, its import exceeded 1 million tons for three consecutive years, providing a huge market for Pakistani producers. Pakistan’s sesame production is also catching up. In recent years, the use of hybrid varieties has greatly increased sesame harvests from a mere 36,000 tons in 2019 to over 150,000 tons in 2022 despite the devastating floods. The increase is mainly from Hybrid variety due to high demand and better quality when compared to Farmi variety, the size of which has been reduced by 50%, due to less demand, quality issues and high FFA value.

“But, overall crop this year is difficult to predict as of now the weather plays a big role”, Ms. Li said. She told CEN that at present, most of the Pakistani sesame exported to China is raw sesame. In the next few years, as Pakistan’s sesame processing technology advances, highly processed sesame, such as color-selected sesame and peeled sesame seed is expected to gain more popularity in the Chinese market.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-29/page-9/detail-0>

Chinese CG calls on Sindh Chief Secretary

KARACHI - Consul General (CG) of China, Yang Yundong called on Sindh Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput at the Sindh Secretariat here on Friday.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interest including promoting bilateral relations were discussed, said a statement. Sindh Chief Secretary assured the Chinese CG of the support of the provincial government and said that the Sindh government and the people of Sindh value brotherly relations with China.

He added that there were very good investment opportunities for Chinese companies and businessmen in the energy and agriculture sectors in Sindh province. Dr. Mohammad Sohail Rajput said that he appreciated the cooperation of the Chinese government during the floods.

During the meeting, it was agreed to work on the agriculture and technology sectors in Sindh. At the end, Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong thanked the provincial government for its support and cooperation. The Chief Secretary presented Sindhi cap and Ajrak to the Chinese Consul General.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-29/page-14/detail-8>

The News

Chinese, Pakistani students bag top slots in regional innovation challenge

ISLAMABAD: A team of Pakistani students have secured third place in the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) University Startup Generator 2023. The eight-week long innovation challenge aimed at promoting collaboration and engagement among university students in the CAREC region and to strengthen the overall startup ecosystem.

The award ceremony was held on April 26 by the CAREC Secretariat to announce the winners of the program which saw the participation of a total of 168 teams representing 580 students from 10 CAREC countries. These teams made substantial progress on research, brainstorming, and business plan development.

The Goddard Discovery team from NED university of Engineering and Technology and Lahore College For Women University, represented by Ms. Unzila Khan, Mr. Muhammad Ali, and Ms. Nimra Naeem, secured third prize for their project “AI-driven Assistant for Researchers,” aiming to help researchers in literature review and online collaboration.

The NIP team from Central University of Finance and Economics and Renmin University won first prize for their app “Know Bus,” which aims to provide clean and convenient ride-sharing options. The GSL team from Shanghai Sanda University won second prize for their project “AI Office Butler,” aiming to improve office productivity using artificial intelligence.

A special prize was awarded to the 4You team from Azerbaijan State University of Economics, Mingachevir State University, and Baku Higher Oil School for their “Psychological and Fitness App for Children,” aiming to promote physical and mental wellness among children.

Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, CWRC, congratulated the winners and all the participants for their hard work and dedication throughout the program.

On March 29, the selected 10 teams had an opportunity to present their ideas and projects during the Pitching Day. After careful consideration, the judges selected the winners.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=197425>

\$58bn China-Pakistan rail link should move ahead: study

BEIJING: Beijing's proposal to develop a \$58-billion railway system that would link Pakistan with western China should proceed because of its strategic significance, a government-commissioned feasibility study has found, reported the South China Morning Post on Thursday.

The study, prepared by scientists from the state-owned China Railway First Survey and Design Institute Group Co Ltd, says the proposed railway project would connect port-city Gwadar, situated in Balochistan, to China's Kashgar region.

The feasibility study, led by the institute's deputy director of capital operations Zhang Ling, said the proposal – China's largest Belt and Road Initiative transport project – had the potential to reshape trade and geopolitics across the Eurasian continent and should be supported.

"The government and financial institutions [in China] should provide strong support, increase coordination and collaboration among relevant domestic departments, strive for the injection of support funds and provide strong policy support and guarantees for the construction of this project," the report, quoted South China Morning Post, said.

As per the report, the 3,000 km Pakistan-China railway will link China's western regions with the Arabian Sea, bypassing the Strait of Malacca and reducing dependence on the South China Sea.

Moreover, "connections with other transport networks i.e. in Iran and Turkey, would also provide a more direct route to Europe for Chinese goods, while Pakistan is forecast to get a much-needed boost from the improved infrastructure and easier trade with China," said the report.

The scientists pointed out that a majority of BRI transport infrastructure construction projects had received a major proportion of funding from the host countries, and the scale of Chinese investment was much smaller.

However, that is not the case with Pakistan, which is unable to make a similar contribution due to the country's poor economic situation, the report added.

"Due to energy shortages, poor investment environment and fiscal deficits, Pakistan's economic growth rate has come under pressure," the team said.

"In terms of railway investment and construction, Pakistan is unable to provide sufficient financial and material support and mainly relies on Chinese enterprises for investment and construction."

Moreover, the project also requires supporting infrastructure, i.e. ports and logistics facilities, "that might not be immediately available in Pakistan," the study said.

It added that Pakistan's unpredictable labour policies could potentially affect the railway's construction and operating costs.

Moreover, the researchers also raised concerns over the recent security situation in Balochistan.

The report suggested a build and transfer (BT) model as the best investment and financing strategy for the project.

"In the BT model, a contractor would be responsible for designing, building and financing the railway, with payment on completion and ownership transferred to the government or other commissioning entity.

"BT would allow the risks associated with the railway's construction and operation to be allocated more effectively between China and Pakistan, potentially reducing the financial risks for both parties," said the report.

Long-term ally China has been among Pakistan's major financiers, as the South Asian country's foreign exchange reserves remain at critically low levels.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=197390>

COAS meets Chinese state councillor

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moinul Haq has said an excellent meeting was held on Friday between Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi.

In a statement issued on Twitter, Haq said the two sides reaffirmed the China-Pakistan strategic partnership and underlined the importance of their strong defence cooperation for peace and stability in the region.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=197394>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: چین نے گواہی دے کر 58 ارب ڈالر کاریلوے منصوبہ پیش کر دیا

بیجنگ (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + این این آئی) چین نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کے تحت گواہی دے کر 58 ارب ڈالر کاریلوے لائن کا اب تک کا سب سے بڑا منصوبہ پیش کر دیا۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹو کے تحت مہنگے ترین منصوبے کی فزبیلٹی رپورٹ تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق مجوزہ منصوبہ تجارت اور جیو پولیٹکس کو نئی شکل دینے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ ریل لنک قدیم سلک روڈ کنکشن کو بحال کرنے کے وسیع تر منصوبے کا حصہ ہے۔ ریل لنک مغربی تسلط والے راستوں پر انحصار کم کرنے کے منصوبے کا حصہ ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق مہنگے ترین منصوبے کی لاگت 58 ارب ڈالر آئے گی۔ 1860 میل طویل ریلوے سسٹم گواہی کو چینی صوبے سکیانگ کے شہر کا شفر سے ملا دے گا۔ چینی ماہرین کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت اور مالیاتی ادارے منصوبے کے لئے مضبوط تعاون فراہم کریں۔ متعلقہ ملکی محکموں کے درمیان ہم آہنگی اور تعاون کو بڑھانا چاہیے۔ چینی حکومت سپورٹ فنڈز کی فراہمی کے لئے کوشش کرے۔ منصوبے کی تعمیر کے لئے مضبوط پالیسی سپورٹ اور ضمانتیں فراہم کریں۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت خیبر پختونخواہ کو بلوچستان سے ملانے کے لئے میگا پراجیکٹ کی منظوری

دی گئی ہے۔ یہ بات وفاقی وزیر مواصلات اسعد محمود نے بتائی۔ وفاقی وزیر اسعد محمود نے کہا کہ 210 کلو میٹر طویل سڑک کا یہ منصوبہ یارک کو سگو سے اور پھر ساگو کو ژوب سے جوڑے گا جسے پاکستان اور چین کی حکومتوں کے مشترکہ تعاون سے مکمل کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-29/page-1/detail-7>

چین کا پاکستان سے تازہ چیری منگوانے کا فیصلہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چین نے پاکستان سے تازہ چیری منگوانے کیلئے وزارت فوڈ سکیورٹی اینڈ ریسرچ کو باضابطہ خط ارسال کر کے آگاہ کر دیا۔ وزارت فوڈ سکیورٹی اینڈ ریسرچ کے حکام کے مطابق چینی سفارتخانے کی جانب سے ارسال کئے گئے خط میں وزارت فوڈ سکیورٹی اینڈ ریسرچ سے ریمورٹ ویڈیو انشپکشن پر اس کے لئے ضروری انتظامات کرنے کی درخواست کی گئی ہے۔ خط میں کہا گیا ہے کہ امید ہے اس سلسلہ میں تعاون کیا جائے گا تاکہ اس بات کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے کہ موجودہ سیزن کے دوران چین کو تازہ چیری برآمد کی جاسکے۔ معائنے میں پاکستان سے چین کو تازہ چیری کی برآمد کے لئے کولڈ اسٹوریج سمیت دیگر انتظامات کا جائزہ لیا جائے گا۔ چین کے سفارتخانے کی جانب سے اس امید کا اظہار کیا گیا ہے کہ متعلقہ محکمے کی جانب سے اس سلسلہ میں جلد سے جلد آگاہ کیا جائے گا۔ یہ اعلان پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے کے لیے ایک مثبت پیشرفت کے طور پر سامنے آیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-29/page-6/detail-6>

April 30, 2023

Daily Times

Pak-China border to remain open for trade throughout year

On the demand of Foreign Minister Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Chinese Government agreed to keep the China-Pak border open for trade throughout the year. Provincial President of People's Party Gilgit-Baltistan and Leader of Opposition in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amjad Hussain Advocate expressed his gratitude to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for fulfilling the long-standing demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. According to Press Release issued by Sadia Danish, Member GB assembly and spokesperson PPP GB, due to the efforts of Chairman Pakistan People's Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, trade has been formally started on the Khunjarab border. In this regard, China has also removed restrictions imposed on various products exported from Pakistan and has also opened trade doors for exports from Pakistan, which will benefit all traders.

For the past four years, Pakistan-China border trade was closed, due to which traders were suffering from economic difficulties and there were negative effects on the economy, but now with the efforts of Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, new doors of prosperity have opened for successful trade. Will open.

According to her, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated the people of Gilgit-Baltistan on the continuation of commercial operations on the Khunjarab border for the whole year and the removal of export restrictions.

It should be remembered that in this regard, on behalf of the Provincial President of People's Party Gilgit-Baltistan and Leader of the Opposition in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amjad

Hussain Advocate, to pay tribute to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the resumption of Pakistan-China border trade in the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly. A resolution was presented which was approved. In this regard, Amjad Hussain Advocate said that the continuation of Pakistan-China trade throughout the year will have positive effects on the overall trade of the country including Gilgit-Baltistan. Amjad Hussain Advocate further said that Pakistan's young foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has not only highlighted the positive concept of the country through successful diplomacy, but the volume of trade with different countries is also increasing.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1088433/pak-china-border-to-remain-open-for-trade-throughout-year/>

Diplomats from 14 countries visit Xinjiang

Envoys from 14 countries, including Pakistan, Brazil, Iran, Indonesia, Ecuador and Senegal, visited northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region from April 24 to 28 at the invitation of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consul Generals of 14 countries, stationed in different cities across China, visited the regional capital city of Urumqi, as well as Kashgar, Turpan and other locations in Xinjiang to experience first-hand the social and economic development of the region. They said that Xinjiang's achievements are remarkable and the people of all ethnic groups live in harmony and happiness. They noted that various lies fabricated by certain Western media are completely inconsistent with the reality of Xinjiang, Chinese media reported.

"To root out terrorism, it is crucial to have a comprehensive plan for a region's development and help people improve their lives," said Agha Hunain Abbas Khan, Pakistani acting Consul General in Chengdu, after visiting an exhibition on Xinjiang's counterterrorism and deradicalization work. "And China has made tremendous strides," he added. The envoys also visited the old town in the city of Kashgar and experienced the tourism boom in the run-up to the May Day holiday. Zaw Linn Oo, consul general of Myanmar in Chongqing, hailed Kashgar as a "land of hope" that is attractive to both local and distant visitors.

"A country needs social stability and economic development and both are well-reflected in Kashgar," he said. Mehmet Mert Tokman, Turkish Consul General in Chengdu, paid a visit to the region years ago. During this visit, he said that the land has a rich heritage undergoing tremendous development and change, which can be seen particularly in the region's incredible infrastructure construction achievements. Giving high praise to the local government's efforts to guarantee people's freedom of religious belief, Ben Perkasa Drajat, Indonesian Consul General in Guangzhou, after visiting the old Kah Mosque in Kashgar and the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, said that Muslims in Xinjiang were free to go to the mosque to pray. "The news from the Western media that the Chinese government doesn't allow Muslims to do religious activities is not true."

As a country with the world's largest Muslim population, Indonesia resolutely opposes external forces that manipulate the Xinjiang issue, interfere in China's internal affairs and attempt to split China, the Indonesian envoy said. The reality of Xinjiang is completely different from the biased reports of the Western media, he added. He noted that he hoped the

two countries can continue to promote cooperation and encourage relevant individuals from Indonesia to visit Xinjiang. Speaking to Xinhua, Judyth Muthoni Nsababera, Ugandan Consul General in Guangzhou, said that she would not blindly believe the lies about Xinjiang that have been fabricated by Western media. It is important to come and see the region and feel it in person and China has the right to choose its own path, she said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1088485/diplomats-from-14-countries-visit-xinjiang/>

Pakistani sesame export to China over 150,000 tons in recent years

“Since being allowed to be exported to China, Pakistani sesame has seen its export surging from over 100,000 tons in 2020 to 150,000 tons in 2021. While the devastating floods in 2022 substantially reduced its exports, it is expected to have a bumper harvest as there had been an increase in seeding by 25% since sellers got better price last year”, said Ms. Li Yuanyuan, Director of Greater China region of JKT Foods, an agricultural produce trade company.

She told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview following the China International Sesame Conference held last week in China’s coastal city Qingdao.

“Before Pakistani sesame is allowed to enter China, most of our products were sold to the Middle East. China offers a vast market to Pakistani sesame”, she said.

Under good weather conditions, the stable quality, void of pesticide residue and fair color of Pakistani sesame give it a competitive edge in international market, she told CEN. “Besides, shipping to China is very quick. The fastest direct ship can reach the Chinese port in 12-14 days”, Ms. Li told CEN.

Pakistani sesame hits the Chinese market in around October each year, so there will be enough time for sale before the Chinese Lunar New Year, which usually marks a peak in consumption.

“That being said, the time when sesame comes in Pakistani market coincides with the rainy season. If it rains, the quality of sesame will be compromised, and Chinese buyers can only choose sesame from other countries as a substitute”, Ms. Li added.

Pakistan exports 80% of the total production of sesame seeds crop. Currently Iran and China are the big buyers of Pakistan sesame but other countries are gaining market share due to increase in hulled exports.

China’s imports of sesame account for almost 1/3 of the world’s production. Since 2020, its import exceeded 1 million tons for three consecutive years, providing a huge market for Pakistani producers.

Pakistan’s sesame production is also catching up. In recent years, the use of hybrid varieties has greatly increased sesame harvest from a mere 36,000 tons in 2019 to over 150,000 tons in 2022 despite the devastating floods. The increase is mainly from Hybrid variety due to high demand and better quality when compared to Farmi variety, the size of which has been reduced by 50%, due to less demand, quality issues and high FFA value.

“But overall crop this year is difficult to predict as of now the weather plays a big role”, Ms. Li said.

She told CEN that at present, most of the Pakistani sesame exported to China is raw sesame. In the next few years, as Pakistan’s sesame processing technology advances, highly processed sesame, such as color selected sesame and peeled sesame seed is expected to gain more popularity in the Chinese market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1088656/pakistani-sesame-export-to-china-over-150000-tons-in-recent-years/>

Digital Agri Expo opens a window for sustainable Sino-Pak agriculture cooperation

First World Expo on Digital Agriculture held in Weifang, China’s Shandong province has opened a window for sustainable Sino-Pak agriculture cooperation, said Dr Hussain Ahmad Janjua, Principal, Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

“Undoubtedly, the Smart Agriculture Expo has opened up a brand-new path for sustainable agriculture worldwide in the future,” , he said in an interview with the China Economic Net (CEN).

At the just-concluded first World Expo, NUST showcased agricultural technologies including cotton virus prevention and control, plant vaccines, climate change monitoring equipment, agricultural product transportation and preservation, looking forward to all-round and in-depth cooperation with Chinese agricultural enterprises and universities.

“We have signed a contract with Weifang Engineering Vocational College, carrying out cooperation on crop fertilizers, such as the application of ecological organic fertilizers in the fields,” Dr Janjua said, “in addition, we have just visited Qingzhou Jiuzhou Farm Vegetable Cooperative, which impressed me greatly. We are very interested in their vegetable greenhouse technology.

A series of agricultural APP they developed for monitoring the real-time status of the field is also a technology that we are very happy to apply in Pakistan, by which researchers and farmers can accurately monitor the biotic and abiotic stress on plants.”

“For agricultural by-product processing, wheat gene editing, soil microbiology, rice planting and processing, etc., all of which NUST is currently researching, but has not yet cooperated with China. To my way of thinking, these are promising fields.” Dr Janjua told the reporter that how to deal with climate change in the agricultural field is a hot issue that is of great concern to the whole world and China has made great achievements in this regard. “If we can cooperate with our friends in smart agriculture to tackle climate change, it will be so meaningful.”

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative and the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. On this occasion, Dr Janjua expressed his vision for the future, “Many of our researchers and students are conducting research in China related to sustainable agriculture, smart agriculture and the like.

The day before yesterday I visited the Weifang National Comprehensive Pilot Agriculture Zone, where many university professors are working closely with agricultural enterprises to apply their own scientific research results, such as preservatives and plant vaccines, to the field directly, by which inspires me a lot. Both being great agricultural countries, we should contribute to the future of sustainable agriculture hand in hand.”

The three-day 2023 World Expo on Digital Agriculture opened on April 25, attracting a total of 118 domestic exhibitors, as well as 40 enterprises and organizations from 22 countries including agricultural developed countries-Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Japan, the United States, Australia, and ASEAN and Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1088646/digital-agri-expo-opens-a-window-for-sustainable-sino-pak-agriculture-cooperation/>

The Nation

Gwadar needs cold storage facility to promote fishing industry

ISLAMABAD-Gwadar Port is in dire need of a cold storage facility to protect fish catch from decay. As a highly perishable commodity, fish need rapid processing because their quality declines if not properly stored,” said Ahmad Nadeem, Director of Marine Fisheries Lasbela, Balochistan, while talking to WealthPK.

“Gwadar has a thriving fishing industry that provides employment opportunities and contributes to the local economy. However, to ensure the quality and safety of fish catch, it is essential to have proper storage facilities. Fish, a very delicate protein item, putrefy very quickly if not iced or frozen as soon as possible,” Nadeem said. Fish can spoil quickly if not kept between 0 and 5°C, leading to significant loss of revenue for fishermen and the local economy.

According to the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), approximately 90% of the fish consumed in Pakistan is unsafe for human intake. Pakistan exports about 10% of domestically caught fish, while the quality of the remaining catch deteriorates as fishermen lack proper resources to store their catch. “There are 30 small and large-scale stations in Balochistan for the sale and purchase of fish. Ten of them are major and the remaining ones minor stations. Fishermen visit these stations to sell their catch. Since fish processing is outdated in Pakistan, the quality of much of the catch deteriorates. As a result, fishermen do not get the due return matching their labour,” said the director of Marine Fisheries Lasbela.

“A cold storage facility can help fishermen to store their catch for longer periods and sell it at a higher price. Gwadar is generally warm throughout the year, making it difficult to keep fish fresh without proper storage facilities. Also, the fishing industry primarily relies on exporting fish to other countries, which requires proper storage and transportation facilities to ensure that the fish remains fresh during transit,” he added. As per reports, Haixintian Pelagic Fishery Overseas Base Company from China is constructing cold storage and other facilities in Gwadar. This project, Nadeem said, will benefit much the Gwadar fishing industry by ensuring the catch quality, and in turn help increase revenue for the local economy.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-30/page-8/detail-4>

The News

Modernization in China

Yang Yundong

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has proposed advancing the progress of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. In this context, the people of China embark on a new journey towards building their country into a modern socialist country in all respects.

The success in Chinese modernization was neither handed down from the heavens nor emerged by itself. It has been attained step by step through determined, painstaking efforts of the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC which has always stayed true to its founding mission.

After the Opium War in the mid-nineteenth century, China was plunged into the darkness of domestic turmoil and foreign aggression; its people, ravaged by war, saw their homeland torn apart and lived in poverty and despair. They were, at that moment, asking: where is our hope and future?

Since its founding more than one hundred years ago, the CPC has righteously taken up the historical mission of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The party has united and led China's people to carry out a hard struggle, and embarked on the great journey of independently building a modern country.

We have turned China from an impoverished and backward land into the world's second largest economy, a top trader in goods, biggest holder of foreign exchange reserves, and the biggest manufacturer. We have put in place the world's largest compulsory education system, social security system, and medical and healthcare system. China has realized, in a span of several decades, the industrialization that had taken developed countries several centuries. We have caught up with the times in great stride.

The modernization of more than 1.4 billion Chinese people as a whole will certainly provide a much stronger impetus for the world economy. Over the past 40-plus years since reform and opening-up, the Chinese government has lifted over 800 million people out of poverty and enlarged the middle-income group to over 400 million people. Today, China is the main trading partner of over 140 countries and regions, making \$320 billion direct investment around the world each day and attracting over 3,000 foreign businesses every month. Over the past decade, China has contributed more to global growth than all the G7 countries combined.

The modernization of China while pursuing common prosperity for all will open up a broader path to the common development of all countries. Common prosperity for the whole world requires the development of all countries. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) are public goods that China offers to the international community. They are also open platforms for pursuing common development and prosperity. Ten years on since the start of the BRI, over 3,000 cooperation projects have been launched, involving close to \$1 trillion of investment and creating 420,000 jobs for participating

countries. Many nations have thus realized their dreams of railways, big bridges, and poverty alleviation.

The modernization of China with material and cultural-ethical advancement will lead to bright prospects for human progress. The ultimate goal of modernization is the free and well-rounded development of people, which means not only material abundance but also cultural-ethical enrichment. Some countries, while highly developed in economy, science and technology, have descended into a capital-centric mode, rampant materialism, cultural impoverishment, moral degradation, and public disorder. Such a modernization is obviously inconsistent with the goals pursued by mankind.

The modernization of China with achieving harmony between humanity and nature will provide a more viable pathway to a clean and beautiful world. China readily takes on its responsibility of protecting the environment and tackling climate change, and leads the world on many counts: in terms of afforested area, which accounts for a quarter of the world's total; in the development and utilization of renewable energy, with one-third of the world's installed capacity of wind and solar power; and in the output and sales of new energy vehicles, with half of the world's NEVs running on Chinese roads.

China has made the solemn pledge of achieving carbon peak and carbon neutrality and committed itself to moving from carbon peak to neutrality in just 30 years. That is at least years less than the United States and 40-plus years less than the European Union. China has taken the initiative to set up and invest in the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and contributed to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement.

The modernization of China on the path of peaceful development will bring more certainty to world peace and stability. Dominance and hegemony is not the aim of China's development. China is the only country in the world that has put in its constitution the commitment to a path of peaceful development. The country is the top contributor of peacekeeping personnel among the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the only country among the five Nuclear-Weapon States that has made the promise of no-first-use of nuclear weapons. China advocates consultation and dialogue and peaceful resolution of international disputes. Recently, through facilitation by China, Saudi Arabia and Iran resumed diplomatic relations. On the Ukraine crisis, China holds an impartial position and actively promotes talks for peace. Modernization is a common cause for all of humanity. The success in Chinese modernization has proved that there is no fixed model of modernization. Any country can achieve modernization – as long as the path suits its conditions and answers the need of its people for development.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and the two countries are bound to be natural partners on course towards modernization. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, \$17.55 billion in revenue, \$2.12 billion in taxes, and created 192,000 jobs for Pakistan, helping Pakistan to add 6000MW of electricity, 510km of highway and 886km of the national core transmission network, laying a solid foundation for Pakistan's economic and social development. China will continue to work hand in hand with Pakistan on the road to modernization that meets our

respective national conditions and make unremitting efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

The writer is the consul general of China in Karachi.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=197461>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کا گوادر تاکا شجر ریلوے منصوبہ اور آہنی دوستی کا عزم

کیونسلٹ پارٹی آف چائنہ کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے امور خارجہ کمشن کے ڈائریکٹر وانگ یی نے پاکستانی آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر سے ملاقات کی جس میں انہوں نے کہا پاکستانی فوج چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان آہنی دوستی کی مضبوط محافظ ہے۔ انہوں نے چین کیساتھ دوستانہ پالیسی پر سختی سے عمل پیرا ہونے پر پاکستانی انتظامیہ اور تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کی تعریف کی۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان کی خود مختاری، آزادی اور علاقائی سالمیت کے تحفظ، اتحاد، استحکام، ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے چین بھرپور تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ اسکے علاوہ چین نے سی پیک منصوبے کے تحت گوادر سے کاشغر تک 58 ارب ڈالر کاریلوے لائن کا اب تک کاسب سے بڑا منصوبہ پیش کر دیا جس کی فزہ بیلٹی رپورٹ تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ تجارت اور جیو پولیٹکس کو نئی شکل دینے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔

اس میں کوئی دورائے نہیں کہ پاک چین بے مثال دوستی پوری دنیا میں ضرب المثل بن چکی ہے جس کی مزید مضبوطی اور پائیداری کیلئے دونوں ملکوں کی سیاسی اور عسکری قیادتیں کوشاں نظر آتی ہیں۔ چند روز قبل آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر نے چین کا دورہ کیا جس میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دفاعی تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا جو اس امر کا ثبوت ہے کہ خطے میں بھارتی ریشہ دوانیوں اور بیرونی مداخلت کے خاتمے کی ضمانت صرف پاکستان اور چین دفاعی تعاون ہی دے سکتا ہے اسی لئے پاکستانی فوج چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان آہنی دوستی کی مضبوط محافظ تصور کی جاتی ہے۔ گزشتہ روز چین نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت گوادر تاکا شجر تک ریلوے لائن کا سب سے بڑا منصوبہ پیش کیا جس کی فزہ بیلٹی بھی تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ مغربی تسلط والے راستوں پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد دیگا۔ اسکے علاوہ سی پیک کے تحت خیبر پٹی کے کو بلوچستان سے ملانے کیلئے ایک میگا پراجیکٹ کی منظوری بھی دی گئی ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت جو منصوبے اب تک پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچ چکے ہیں، وہ حقیقتاً خطے میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہو رہے ہیں اس سے خطے میں بالخصوص پاکستان میں ترقی کی راہیں کھل رہی ہیں۔ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے مابین مزید میٹھی اور مضبوط دوستی کی ضمانت بن رہا ہے جسے بھارت جیسے بدخواہوں کی سازشوں سے بچانے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-30/page-5/detail-5>

Chinese Newspapers

April 17, 2023

South China Morning Post

Chinese engineer arrested in Pakistan for ‘insulting Allah’ in Ramadan row, provoking angry mob

The employee of China Gezhouba Group Company stands accused of blasphemy following a heated dispute about the slow pace of work during Ramadan

A source involved in the arrest said scores of infuriated Pakistani labourers descended on a Chinese work camp, apparently intent on attacking the man

Police in northern Pakistan have launched prosecution proceedings against a Chinese engineer after an angry mob gathered to attack him for allegedly making blasphemous remarks during a workplace argument with his Pakistani subordinates.

The engineer, identified in a formal complaint to the police by two Pakistani dumpster drivers as “Mr Tian, in-charge of heavy machinery” for China Gezhouba Group Company at the Dasu hydropower project, will now face a formal police investigation, leading in due course to his indictment by a magistrate’s court.

Tian was detained by police late on Sunday from a residential camp for Chinese workers near Dasu, about 350km north of Islamabad, “to avert a serious situation”, a member of the local citizen-police liaison committee told This Week in Asia, on condition of anonymity.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/people/article/3217276/chinese-engineer-arrested-pakistan-insulting-allah-after-provoking-angry-mob>

April 18, 2023

South China Morning Post

Pakistan keeps Chinese engineer in top-security jail to avoid mob attack over blasphemy charge

The Chinese man is in solitary confinement after being lifted by helicopter to a maximum-security prison 200km away from Dasu

Police made the switch by adding several terrorism-related charges to the blasphemy complaint registered by the engineer’s two accusers

Pakistan has taken extraordinary precautions to protect a Chinese engineer arrested by police on Sunday amid a mob attack instigated by a group that accused him of blasphemy.

Under Pakistani law, blasphemy penalties range from fines to the death penalty.

Identified in police records as “Mr Tian, in-charge of heavy transportation” at the under construction Dasu hydropower plant in northern Pakistan, the engineer was evacuated by helicopter on Monday afternoon to the garrison city of Abbottabad, 217km away.

He has been placed in solitary confinement under heavy guard at the nearby Haripur top-security prison on the orders of an anti-terrorist court.

Police inspector Nasiruddin, the chief of Komila police station where Tian was initially held, said technical legal steps were taken on Monday to ensure he was not held in the Kohistan region, where Dasu is located.

Authorities there feared the Chinese engineer would be vulnerable to another mob attack, either at the police station or during any scheduled appearance at the local court, as long as he remained in the area, he said.

To avert the threat, Nasiruddin said police added several terrorism-related charges to the blasphemy complaint registered by Tian’s two accusers, both dump-truck drivers.

This extraordinary step ensured the charges against the Chinese engineer would be held at the anti-terrorist court in distant Abbottabad.

The judge hearing the case ordered that Tian should only participate in hearings via video link from the Haripur prison.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/people/article/3217488/pakistan-keeps-chinese-engineer-top-security-jail-avoid-mob-attack-over-blasphemy-charge>

April 19, 2023

Global Times

CPEC being carried out in phases without slowing down: special assistant to Pakistani PM

By Xie Wenting in Guangzhou

The terrorist attacks against Chinese people in Pakistan aim to spoil China-Pakistan relations and sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from which Pakistan has greatly benefited, Zafar Uddin Mahmood, special assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister, told the Global Times on Wednesday in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province.

Mahmood, former special envoy for the CPEC, dismissed some Western media outlets' reports that the CPEC projects have slowed down due to Pakistan's economic difficulties.

Mahmood is currently in Guangzhou to participate in the "Understanding China•Greater Bay Area Dialogue" which is being held from Tuesday to Thursday.

He told the Global Times that there is not a slowdown and the construction of the CPEC is being carried out in phases. The first phase involved infrastructure development projects and the second is industry relocation and the service sector. Besides, some Pakistani companies are actively working with China on agricultural cooperation. As the COVID-19 travel restrictions have been lifted, he expects new momentum in the CPEC this year.

"We have greatly benefited from all these projects which have been done by the Chinese companies in our country," he said. Recently, some Indian media also said that Chinese businesses face closure due to concerns over terror attacks in Pakistan.

Mahmood told the Global Times that frankly, there have been a lot of threats through all these years because some people do not like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and as Pakistan is one of the largest beneficiaries of the initiative through the CPEC, they wanted to spoil and derail the CPEC. Moreover, some people are not happy with the close cooperation between the two countries. He said that there are three layers of security for Chinese people in Pakistan. "First we have the private security guards, then the police and [finally] we have an army unit to protect all the project sites," he told the Global Times. "Even for the individual Chinese when they travel to Pakistan, the government provides them special security." Despite the efforts the Pakistani government made, he admitted that some people keep on threatening, sending messages or something like that.

"But I can tell you very honestly that these people [terrorists] are not Pakistanis. They are not friends of Pakistan. They are actually making every effort to spoil the relationship between the two countries."

In a phone call with Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on January 9, Foreign Minister Qin Gang stressed that the Chinese side is highly concerned about the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and hopes that the Pakistani side will continue to take strong security measures. Bilawal said in the phone call that the Pakistani side will spare no effort to protect the safety of the Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289436.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistani minister rejects negative perception of BRI

ISLAMABAD, April 19 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal rejected the perception that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a "debt trap," saying it distorts the spirit of the BRI.

"The local people can testify that it (the BRI) has had a very positive impact," the minister told media on Wednesday. Appreciating China for extending the BRI to Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said that the CPEC has given Pakistan a great opportunity in the areas of energy, infrastructure, telecommunication, and industrial cooperation. Under the CPEC, Pakistan's Gwadar Port is set to become a major trade and commercial hub in the region with its free zone and investment from Chinese companies, Iqbal said, adding that Pakistan can ship goods to China from Gwadar port in a shorter time owing to its strategic location and potential for trade.

The government's top priority is to attract more private sector investment in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector which holds tremendous potential for value addition and development, he said. The minister underlined that the progress and implementation of CPEC projects are being supervised, and the incumbent government is committed to completing the projects on time.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230419/8ddda68954744cedab6da9d1abb9b3f5/c.html>

April 20, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Feature: Chinese donations ensure joyous Eid for underprivileged in Pakistan

By Misbah Saba Malik

ISLAMABAD, April 20 (Xinhua) -- Aansa Perveen, a 35-year-old Pakistani widow, was overwhelmed when a Chinese lady handed over two big bags carrying all basic food items to her at a ceremony held days ahead of the Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr.

Perveen looked closely at the bags, adorned with China and Pakistan's flags, contemplating their importance for her family of four during the Eid holiday after a financially tough Ramadan and feeling a strong sense of gratitude towards the Chinese for their kind gesture during the trying times.

"It is a great Eid gift from the Chinese for my three daughters and me. It is just like a token of love coming from a dear friend at the right time," she added.

Perveen and many others like her received the ration bags from the All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) at the ceremony in collaboration with the state-owned charity office Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM).

The Chinese association handed over 1,300 bags to the Pakistani office, carrying various food items, including cooking oil, pulses, flour, rice, sugar and tea.

Amir Fida Paracha, managing director of the PBM, told Xinhua that people whose income is less than 30,000 rupees (106.92 U.S. dollars) a month are eligible for the Chinese-donated Eid package, and special preference will be given to widows and orphans.

He said around 100 ration bags were distributed during the ceremony mainly to the people in the low-income group whose kids are suffering from thalassemia and are being treated by a non-government organization in the capital.

"They are very poor. Some of the kids are orphans, so helping them with food items shortly before Eid means a lot to them, and because of it they can enjoy good meals during the holidays," he added.

Saeed Azam, a daily wage laborer, was also among the people who received the relief package from the APCEA.

Azam told Xinhua that the Eid holidays will be extended to five days this time, and he was so concerned that he might be unable to find any work during the holiday that his seven-member family might have struggled to afford food.

"The act of generosity by the Chinese is of significant value to us. It not only gave us a sigh of relief but also elevated the joy by transforming our bleak Eid into a jubilant occasion," he added.

The APCEA has more than 200 members comprising Chinese enterprises and organizations based in Pakistan, striving to enhance economic and social cooperation.

Wang Huihua, vice chairman of the APCEA, told Xinhua that through the donation, they want to remove the financial concerns of the underprivileged people during Eid to help them enjoy the festival.

"The theme of Eid's donation is 'No Empty Stomachs, Only Full Hearts,' and we want people to feel the joy of Eid with hearts filled with love and happiness, without any worry about food, as a gesture to share the joy of the festival with our friends," he added.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230420/4835e618cbfa4d3797b72abba44a4131/c.html>

Interview: Pakistan set to gain experience from Chinese modernization

GUANGZHOU, April 20 (Xinhua) -- Chinese modernization continues to offer inspiration and provide experience for Pakistan and other developing countries, a Pakistani expert told Xinhua in an interview.

Having lifted over 800 million people out of poverty over the past four decades and more, China has transformed its large population into an asset of a skilled workforce and the way China has achieved this can offer inspiration on development strategies for countries like Pakistan, said Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute.

"In countries like Pakistan, we have a lot of similarities with China, large populations, similar challenges," said Sayed. "And with the Belt and Road Initiative, we see that people and civilization have understood the rejuvenation of China and realized this can be implemented in our development strategies."

In reference to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, Sayed noted that Pakistan is resolute and unequivocal in its belief that the country's future and its development trajectory are linked with economic growth and connectivity.

Sayed added that this year, youth delegations from Pakistan will be sent to Shenzhen and Shanghai, with the aim of fostering greater mutual understanding and connection among young people.

Noting that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize new China and the first Islamic country to enter into diplomatic relations with China, Sayed said the two countries have a long-standing relationship, with China providing support for Pakistan's core interests and vice versa.

"I feel that the power of economy is shifting from the west to the east," Sayed said. "And I think that Pakistan can really benefit from China. Being neighbors, we can do a lot."

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230420/a21d11f7907c45e580110b87b143c643/c.html>

April 21, 2023

China Daily

Feature: Pakistani students learn about space sciences in live conversation with Chinese astronauts

ISLAMABAD - Nida Fatima, a 7th-grade Pakistani student, has been studying space and the life of astronauts in spaceship ever since she was told about China's Tiangong space station and the advanced space science technology by her teacher last month.

A student of the Educators Islamabad school, Fatima told Xinhua that she had little knowledge about space. Still, her interest was enhanced when her teacher told her that China has not only made its mark in space technology but is also ready to share its knowledge with other countries like Pakistan.

The 13-year-old and students from different schools in Pakistan as well as other member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) got a chance to interact with Chinese astronauts in space through virtual mode in an event held at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Thursday.

"It also motivated me to dream about being an astronaut. A Chinese astronaut explained his lifestyle in the spaceship and about the Chinese space station in a very detailed way. I will study more about China's space program and make a career in space sciences," Fatima said.

The students hailed the astronaut with warm applause as he appeared on the screen, and some of them slightly jumped from their seats in excitement as it was the first experience for every one of them to talk to and listen to an astronaut in space.

President of the Pakistan Science Foundation Shahid Mahmood Baig told Xinhua that in Pakistan, almost all students study medical sciences or some fields of engineering, but there is almost no other preference for them in other fields of science because of a lack of awareness.

"The objective of today's ceremony was to inspire and motivate the Pakistani students toward science, especially space science, because this is a very special science and very few students go into this discipline in Pakistan," he added.

Baig said Pakistan has good cooperation with China in the field of science, and they have been doing a number of joint projects for the past years. They also seek cooperation from China to help Pakistani students gain more knowledge about space sciences.

"Young students had a wonderful experience today, and now they are more inclined to study space science and other cutting-edge scientific disciplines in the future, and we will need China's support to help our students achieve their dream of studying space sciences by letting them study in China," he added.

Alizay, a 7th grader from a state-run school in Islamabad, got a chance to ask a question from the Chinese astronaut and was overwhelmed when he talked to her straight from the Chinese space station.

"I asked the astronaut how they breathe in space, and he answered my query in a very detailed way ... it was very memorable that I could talk to him," she told Xinhua.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/21/WS64428048a310b6054facf0fd.html>

People's Daily

Pakistani FM to attend SCO meeting in India

ISLAMABAD, April 20 (Xinhua) - The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will attend the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held in the Indian city of Goa next month, Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson said here on Thursday.

During a weekly briefing, the foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the foreign minister will be leading the Pakistani delegation to the meeting.

Zardari is attending the meeting on the invitation of the current chair of SCO CFM Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Baloch said.

"Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," she added. Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017.

<https://english.news.cn/20230421/6410585ed668436e839215444d0bae67/c.html>

April 23, 2023

China Daily

General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia to take place in Xi'an

The General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) will take place in Xi'an, Shaanxi, from April 24 to 26, according to the National Cultural Heritage Administration.

President Xi Jinping said "China is ready to work with other countries to protect Asian cultural heritage and better preserve and sustain our civilizations" at the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations held on May 15, 2019, providing important guidance for deepening China's cooperation with other Asian countries in cultural heritage and promoting exchanges and mutual learning among Asian civilizations.

During the Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation co-hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Cultural Heritage Administration in October 2021, 10 Asian countries including China jointly initiated the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia.

The general assembly Asia will be jointly hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Cultural Heritage Administration and Shaanxi provincial government.

According to Xie Bing, deputy director of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, this will be the first large-scale, high-level international conference organized in person since the creation of ACHA.

The general assembly will bring together representatives of more than 21 Asian countries as well as three key international organizations for cultural heritage including UNESCO, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas.

Fifteen ministerial officials responsible for cultural and heritage affairs and 2 heads of international organizations will attend and address the general assembly.

"We are confident that by working together we will be able to preserve for future generations all the wealth of the world's historical and cultural heritage," Maksutov Altynbek Askarovich, Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth of Kyrgyzstan, told China Daily ahead of the conference.

The expected outcomes of the general assembly will include official establishment of ACHA, official launch of the Asian Fund for Cultural Heritage Conservation, inauguration of the Silk Road Collaborative Research Center for Archaeology, and publication of the Xi'an Declaration of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia.

"These initiatives provide a platform for different countries and stakeholders to share knowledge, resources and practice, which can help to improve the effectiveness of cultural heritage conservation efforts," Fareena Mazhar, secretary of National Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan, told China Daily.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/23/WS64448e2da310b6054facf341.html>

April 24, 2023

People's Daily

Feature: Chinese staff share joys of Eid festival with Pakistani colleagues at CPEC projects

By Misbah Saba Malik (Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, April 23 (Xinhua) -- Grooving to festive Pakistani music on Eid night after enjoying a feast thrown by Chinese colleagues, Junaid Ali thought that despite being hundreds of miles away from home, he celebrated the festival to its fullest.

Working at the Matiari station of the Matiari-Lahore transmission line under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Ali had to stay at the station to ensure stable operation of the grid where his Chinese colleagues tried their best to make his and other locals' Eid the most memorable one in their lives.

"They celebrated the Eid with us, greeted all of us individually for the Eid, and we got a good bonus for the festival," Ali said, adding that "the best part of the day was the pre-dinner speeches where both Chinese and Pakistanis spoke their heart out about the friendship, brotherhood, and unity of the people of two countries in short speeches."

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The project of 878 km-long power transmission line was invested in, constructed, and run by the State Grid Corporation of China, and started its commercial operation in September of 2021. The project will transport power from the new generating units located in the south of the country, including Thar coal-based projects.

The project has a large number of Chinese and local employees who not only work together to serve the people of Pakistan but also share each other's joys and sorrows together.

"We celebrate the Spring Festival with Chinese colleagues, and they celebrate Eid with us; we savor their noodles and dumplings, and they relish our biryani (spicy rice cooked with meat), we are fond of table tennis, and they try to learn and play cricket with us ... CPEC has

developed strong cultural ties between us, and today's Eid celebration is an illustration of it," Ali told Xinhua.

The big family of the Thar Coal Block-II Coal Electricity Integration project was jubilant on Eid night after celebrating the festival together in the remote desert located in Pakistan's south Sindh province.

The project, which was built by China Machinery Engineering Corporation, has a major power plant under CPEC in Pakistan to help the country meet its electricity demands by using locally available coal and started its commercial operation in October of 2022.

"CPEC has brought us closer in a way that we learn from each other and appreciate each other's customs and traditions. Today's Eid celebrations serve as a practical example of the positive outcomes of this cultural exchange, which has fostered everlasting friendship between our nations," Syed Farrukh Shah, a deputy manager of the health, safety and environment department of the project, told Xinhua.

He said that their Eid day started with Chinese colleagues presenting sweets to Pakistanis, greeting them the Eid, and the highlight of the day was the dinner on the open lawn under the stars of the peaceful Eid night sky.

"The tranquil night, the delicious food, and the joyous atmosphere all around filled my heart with gratitude, and it was so heart-warming to see Chinese colleagues join in the festivities with such enthusiasm," he said.

Pakistani experts who have been observing the strengthening of people-to-people relations over the years are of the view that cultural festivals like Eid make the bond stronger and give an opportunity to deepen the understanding of each other's culture and customs.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Raja Tahir Qayyum, currently working in the operations department of CPEC's Karot Hydropower project, and has over 11 years of experience working with different Chinese companies, said that celebrating festivals together is just like cementing the bond.

"The beauty of CPEC is that through it not only Pakistan's road and infrastructure was upgraded, but the bond between the two nations also got stronger due to increased cultural exchanges," Qayyum told Xinhua.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0424/c90000-20010186.html>

April 27, 2023

China Daily

Pakistani expert: BRI is future of global youth development

2023 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Qaiser Nawab, an international expert on the Belt and Road Initiative, sat down for an exclusive interview with China Daily in Beijing. The transcript of the full interview is as follows.

Q: There's been a narrative among Western media and politicians that China has used "debt-trap diplomacy" to expand its influence, burdening countries with debt to

dominate their economic and political agendas. What's your take on this? Is China's "debt trap" a myth?

A: The debt trap is a myth. China's commitment to harmonious coexistence and its 21st-century socialist economic model has been instrumental in uplifting the lives of its citizens and, indeed, those of other nations around the globe. This model, which emphasizes state-led investment in infrastructure, innovation and social programs, has enabled China to become a global economic powerhouse and significantly reduce poverty levels within its borders. China's economic model has allowed it to extend its support to downtrodden people in other nations, particularly in Africa and Asia. Through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, China has provided much-needed infrastructure and investment to these regions, stimulating economic growth and social development.

Q: What do you think is the BRI's biggest contribution to Pakistan? What benefits has it brought to its economy and people?

A: Pakistan has been a major beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative, thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The CPEC has provided a significant boost to Pakistan's economy by facilitating energy and infrastructure development, generating employment opportunities and enhancing regional connectivity. The CPEC is expected to make all industrial units operational up to 2030, thus improving Pakistan's trade competitiveness and enhancing its manufacturing sector. By connecting Pakistan with the world, the BRI has opened up new opportunities for economic growth and development in the country.

Q: As a youth leader who has traveled the world and represented Pakistani youth at many international forums, what opportunities do you think BRI will bring to global youth?

A: As a global youth leader, I have traveled to all the continents, except Antarctica. I met many youth leaders around the world and exchanged views on many important global issues including youth connectivity, networks and global development. I believe the BRI is the future of youth development and it is a ray of hope that can connect the youth and bring prosperity to them. During my visit to different countries, youth are showing deep interest in BRI-related job opportunities. Presently the biggest challenge for youth is unemployability, and BRI is a promising project to meet these challenges.

Q: China has signed over 200 Belt and Road cooperation documents with more than 140 countries and more than 30 international organizations. What are your expectations for the future development of the BRI?

A: The future is always uncertain, but the global community is standing behind this game-changer project. So the shared experiences of development of different nations are linked together. As a youth leader this was my slogan: "Alone we can do little, Together we can do a lot". Therefore, it's my personal experience when we connect then we can easily transform through joint and well-coordinated efforts. I strongly hope the future of the BRI is great, as the intentions behind the project are impressive. I believe if your intentions are good, then actions speak for themselves.

Q: What do you think of Chinese modernization in terms of bringing peace and stability to the globe?

A: I believe the Chinese policy makes clear it does not seek hegemony or domination. Being a citizen of post-colonial Pakistan, I believe the colonial development model has paralyzed us completely. The Chinese development model is a recipe for rehabilitation for us. The Chinese development model is a way towards emancipation, and it is the opposite model compared to colonization and imperialism.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/27/WS644a1163a310b6054fad0265.html>

People's Daily

Stories of state gifts to Xi: Photo of 8 JF-17 Thunder fighter jets escorting Xi's plane shows ironclad China-Pakistan friendship

Chinese President Xi Jinping received a state gift from Pakistan - a photo of eight JF-17 Thunder fighter jets escorting him on his flight to the country. The escort was Pakistan's highest reception for Xi's state visit to the country in April 2015.

The Thunder fighters are a shining example of cooperation between China and Pakistan. In the 1990s, Pakistan remained actively engaged with China, hoping to jointly develop an advanced fighter aircraft. In 2003, a jointly developed Thunder fighter jet flew for the first time. The excellent fighter jets have succeeded in protecting Pakistan's national security, with the fighter jet project praised by the Pakistan Army as the most successful cooperation project between the two nations.

A Pakistan Air Force pilot involved in the escort mission who identified himself as Khan said that using the Thunder fighter jets for the escort was the best way for the air force to show respect to the Chinese leader.

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers an important speech titled "Building a China-Pakistan Community of Shared Destiny to Pursue Closer Win-Win Cooperation" at the Pakistani parliament on April 21, 2015. (Photo/Yao Dawei)

During his visit to Pakistan, Xi and Pakistani leaders raised China-Pakistan relations to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. "All-weather" means that the two countries will always move ahead together, rain or shine. This bilateral relationship is rare in the world.

Xi said to then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that they had the responsibility to carry forward China-Pakistan friendship that had become a valuable asset of the two peoples.

(Web editor: Hongyu, Du Mingming)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0427/c98649-20012112.html>

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Global Times

China, Pakistan should make CPEC model project of BRI: Chinese premier to Pakistani counterpart

As this year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China and Pakistan should promote the high-quality development of the corridor and make it a model project for the joint construction of BRI, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said in a phone conversation with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Thursday.

Li said that China and Pakistan are good neighbors, friends and brothers. Both sides should maintain high-level exchanges and promote greater progress in bilateral cooperation in various fields, and jointly promote the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

China is willing to continue importing more high-quality agricultural and livestock products from Pakistan and to promote industrial ties between the two countries. The two sides should accelerate cooperation in agriculture, mineral resources, and information technology, Li said, adding that China supports Pakistan in maintaining financial stability.

China hopes that Pakistan will continue to create a favorable environment for Chinese institutions and personnel in the country and ensure their safety, Li stressed.

China will, as always, firmly support Pakistan in defending its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism, maintaining stability, and achieving the country's revitalization and development.

The two countries will support each other in multilateral fields, safeguard international fairness and justice, protect the common interests of both countries and that of developing countries, and safeguard regional peace and security, Li noted. Sharif said that Pakistan and China are "ironclad" brothers, and the destinies of the two countries are closely linked.

Pakistan will always be a reliable partner for China in maintaining peace, promoting development and responding to common challenges, and firmly adheres to the one-China policy and issues related to China's core interests. Pakistan will make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects, the Prime Minister said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289936.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistan-China traditional medicine cooperation can bring fruitful results - experts

ISLAMABAD, April 28 (Xinhua) -- Cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of traditional medicine can bring fruitful results and serve humanity across the globe, Pakistani experts have said.

"In Pakistan, 70 percent population relies on traditional medicine for various diseases, so through cooperation with China, we are not only looking to launch traditional Chinese medicine in Pakistan, but also promote our own traditional 'Greek medicine' and streamline it to establish its proper market," said Professor Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, coordinator general of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-COMSTECH).

Speaking to Xinhua on Thursday on the sidelines of an event here themed on strengthening cooperation between China and the OIC in traditional medicine, Choudhary said the OIC member states including Iran and Indonesia are exploring traditional medicines, and in this regard, COMSTECH seeks to facilitate liaison between OIC member states and Chinese institutions for strengthening cooperation in the field of healthcare.

A delegation of 16 Chinese comprising researchers and industrialists from central China's Hunan Province is currently visiting Pakistan to participate in the dialogue for collaboration in the fields of traditional medicine and biomedical sciences in the sphere of research, education, and industrial linkages.

The delegation also attended the event and showed interest in cooperating with Pakistan to promote traditional Chinese medicine, some of whose trials are also being conducted at Karachi University of Pakistan's south Sindh province.

Speaking at the event, President of Hunan University of Chinese Medicine Dai Aiguo said that in recent years, the acceptance rate of traditional Chinese medicine in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become higher, and cooperation between traditional Chinese medicine and traditional medicine of other countries has become extensive.

The professor said that in the future, the integration and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine and modern technology will become a new highlight and new engine in the construction of the BRI.

In his remarks, Syed Farooq Bukhari, chairman of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association, said that the Sino-COMSTECH collaboration initiative provides an excellent opportunity for Pakistan to learn from China's experiences to develop strategies and policies that are tailored to its own needs and priorities.

<https://english.news.cn/20230428/b4b5df2b48fb44d2b21b619889ecd681/c.html>

April 29, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Pakistan expresses gratitude to China for citizens' evacuation from Sudan

ISLAMABAD, April 29 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has expressed gratitude to China for helping the country in the evacuation of its citizens stranded in Sudan, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Twitter on Friday night that a batch of 216 Pakistani nationals had arrived in Jeddah city of Saudi Arabia from Port Sudan aboard the Chinese navy vessel Weishanhu.

"We are grateful to our Chinese friends for this gesture of support and friendship," added the ministry.

On Saturday morning, the ministry released another statement saying that another batch of 97 Pakistani nationals from Port Sudan has arrived at Jinnah International Airport in the country's southern port city of Karachi via Jeddah.

According to the ministry, the people came back home from Jeddah aboard an aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force.

"Government of Pakistan will continue to facilitate the safe return of stranded Pakistanis," added the ministry.

Earlier on Friday, the spokesperson of the ministry Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the Pakistani side was engaging with "friendly countries in the region for facilitating this process by providing transport to shift Pakistanis from Sudan."

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230429/c8d89c28ecf3481f9badd2f780f723e8/c.html>