



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

August 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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August 01, 2021

Daily Times

Debunking the Indian Myths against CPEC

Salis Malik

The Indian tales of libel and slander concerning Pakistan have always gotten off on the wrong foot for India. Continuously holding Pakistan liable over unsubstantiated claims is a telltale sign of how the Indian media and government have been concocting propaganda against Pakistan. This very propaganda seems to be brewing up a storm again. This time, the eye of the hurricane is focused on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and China's cooperation with Pakistan.

Recently, the Indian state minister for external affairs laid a false accusation; claiming that CPEC and BRI were encroaching upon Indian sovereignty as the project ran through the territory of a disputed area on which India claimed its sovereignty. The foreign office spokesperson for Pakistan, Zahid Hafeez, straight out debunked and rejected the claim; explaining that India's accusations were just a shroud of deceit to divert the public attention from India's illegal occupation and human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. This can be accentuated by the fact that India wrote misleading letters by using fake platforms to various countries in a bid to falsely accuse China of abusing human rights. Truth is that ever since the start of CPEC, India has not been able to digest Pakistan becoming an economic giant in the future and is trying underhanded tactics to cause hindrance in the BRI project.

Ever since the start of CPEC, India has not been able to digest Pakistan becoming an economic giant in the future.

Indian propaganda to malign Pakistan has become par for the course of India. The Indian government had never been shy from spreading disinformation against Pakistan and this proved to be true when a study conducted by the EU Disinfo Lab, an information distribution group, provided undeniable evidence that India had been involved in a systematic disinformation campaign against Pakistan, China and CPEC. According to this study, the Indian disinformation campaign, codenamed "Indian Chronicles" created a labyrinth of lies and deceit. This brought back deceased opinions makers and NGOs as a part of India's fifth-generation hybrid warfare—5GW—against Pakistan. Under this campaign, more than 700 news outlets were resurrected and various "zombie" NGOs were set up to allow the repackaging and distortion of information. Fallacies in global search engines were targeted by the manipulation of over 500 website domains. The main intent of this project was to underpin and enhance anti-Pakistan and anti-China sentiments and help promote a positive image of India on the global stage by damaging the reputation of countries not in line with "Indian Ideology." One such NGO, dubbed as "environment" falsely accused how Indian rivers were being diverted for hydropower projects

under the CPEC. The NGO misinformed that how the CPEC project was damaging the Indian ecology by diverting all the water and causing a shortage.

The Indian media has also used a plethora of other propaganda by utilising muckraking and yellow journalism as well. There has been a mushrooming of rumours laid out by their journalists, claiming that the appearance of China in Gwadar has actually reiterated the Baloch insurgency. The Indian media is swift to make false claims about how Gwadar seems to be not safe for investing in foreign business but that's where the Indian media is twisting the facts. Yes, in the past, there have been attacks in the Baloch region but has the Indian media ever wondered who the ring leader is behind all of this? Why doesn't the Indian media reveal or report the connection between Mama Qadeer and India? Why is the Indian media always silent about Kulbhushan Yadhav, the Indian infiltrator and spy, who himself took responsibility for pulling the strings in a surfeit of terrorist activities in the country, especially in Balochistan, Karachi and against CPEC? This is what the Indian media will not tell. They will not reveal how Kulbhushan Yadav was aiding Baloch separatists at RAW's decree, in a bid to derail advancements in the CPEC project but they will blatantly lie that the ensuing violence in Balochistan is due to the presence of a foreign investor.

The Indian media hasn't been shy about starting new campaigns against CPEC at the behest of many foreign powers. One such campaign was the "Chinese Debt Trap" that assumes Chinese investments as being synonymous with burying Pakistan under debt. However, if we examine and analyse previous data about the global debt patterns, we will realise that debt traps often occur when countries accumulate consumptive loans, which are mostly non-productive. The CPEC, on the other hand, is very different in that regard as it has created more than 80,000 jobs and will continue to create a plethora of more jobs once this project completes. Moreover, the CPEC provides an opportunity for several countries to benefit from this trade route namely Central Asian and South Asian countries. This will boost the Pakistani economy to a great extent. Another important aspect that debunks the 'debt trap' propaganda is the overall percentage the CPEC investment constitutes. With being just 5.6 per cent of the Pakistani debt, the farcical Indian claims of CPEC being a debt trap is a far cry from what it actually is. The Indian media has often tried to compare this investment with the Chinese investments made in Sri Lanka and Sudan, but the political and economic situation, when compared to Pakistan, is like comparing apples to oranges. The debt trap prevalent in those countries is actually the result of borrowing money from Western powers. More importantly, the eventual change in the US interest rates had buried Sri Lanka and Sudan under severe debts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/799720/debunking-the-indian-myths-against-cpec/>

Pakistan leads South Asia in BRI infrastructure development

Despite the unexpected shock from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pakistan has elevated one place to the 5th in infrastructure development, against the trend of an overall decline in the South Asia

region, according to the annual report on the Development of Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index (2021).

According to China Economic Net (CEN), 71 countries were covered in the report, including 63 nations involved in the BRI and eight Portuguese-speaking countries. Among the seven regions, Southeast Asia ranked No.1, with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam taking the top four places. The Central and Eastern European region ranked at the bottom as it did last year. While South Asia was the only region suffering a major fall, declining from 3rd to 6th place in the index, due to a severe blow to the infrastructure development undermined by the rampant spread of the coronavirus in India. The report, jointly published by the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) and the China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation, was released at the 12th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF), a two-day event kicked off in Macao on July 22.

The report pointed out that the overall index in 2021 rose to 113 from 110, turning the downward trend in 2020.

This was largely attributed to easy fiscal and monetary policies put forward by major economies around the world and the global campaign of accelerating vaccination.

Besides, the economy of the BRI countries has been recovering from the pandemic, driving the rebound of the infrastructure sector. Speaking at the launching ceremony, CHINCA Chairman Fang Qiuchen said carbon neutrality will lead the way of infrastructure development and new renewable energies will become a priority.

Countries along the belt and road have been promoting the new energy and optimising the energy mix, and several financial institutions have announced they would stop financing fossil energy projects and enhance support for new energy projects instead. In addition, in the post-pandemic era, projects related to people's livelihood, such as housing, medical and health care, have become a priority in national infrastructure plans in order to expand social employment and stimulate the economy, and small and medium scale infrastructure projects that can deliver results in a short term are preferred in this period.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/799699/pakistan-leads-south-asia-in-bri-infrastructure-development/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC breaks Indian plan !

Attiya Munawer

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a process of revolutionary improvement of economic conditions not only for Pakistan and China but for the entire region, is causing great uneasiness to India and it is openly speaking out against this project.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the remarks made by the Indian Deputy Foreign Minister regarding the Pak-China corridor and Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan

and the Pak-China Economic Corridor are the issues in which India is not a party, yet India is not shying away from intervening.

India has invested heavily in Afghanistan during the U.S. occupation, but it was not an investment in a better and more stable future for Afghanistan. On the contrary, India at the invitation of U.S., was taking its share from the cake of Afghanistan.

India's share in Afghanistan was what it has received from the U.S. patronage. India has no territory with Afghanistan nor has any language or cultural ties. India's interest in Afghanistan is not only surprising; it is also a cause for concern.

Pakistan is striving for peace in the region, while India is pursuing a negative policy of anarchy.

In the past, Indian intervention has made Afghanistan a centre of terrorism for many countries in the region, including Pakistan, and even today, India is on the verge of plunging the region in the fire of anarchy.

For India, which is dreamt of a government in South Asia through instability, mistrust and tension, CPEC is proving to be a breach of India's plan, which is why India is hesitant to push for CPEC. The CPEC projects are connecting South Asian countries through deep ties and mutual interests, and India, which was trying to prove itself as the head of the region through the weak capitals around it, has now escaped by Indian influence.

India can turn its failure into success by intervening in Afghanistan, but circumstances are showing that India's strategy is about to be reversed. In fact, Afghanistan has practically slipped out of the hands of India, which India cannot stand.

Pakistan needs to be more vigilant than the defeated India. Evidence of India's involvement in a series of terrorist incidents has been found in the country in the recent past. In this context, there are fears that more similar incidents could be carried out by the enemy.

Our institutions have the capability to thwart India's overt and covert attacks in a timely manner and we are confident that India will fail in its negative politics and vile game.

India has invested as much as it wants to sabotage CPEC, but it has not been possible to harm CPEC and isolate Pakistan at the diplomatic level.

The most reasonable thing for India is to find a solution to resolve all issues through dialogue and to benefit by joining the great project of CPEC, not to oppose it unjustifiably.

Pakistan has always promoted peace in the region and has not wanted to get involved in any regional conflicts.

India has always been involved in hateful activities to weaken Pakistan economically and politically, but its dreams have not been realized.

Pakistan is the only country that India sees as an obstacle to regional expansion, so it is working against the CPEC project. In this situation, deep friendship and mutual trust between Pakistan and China is required to ensure the completion of an unprecedented development project like

CPEC as soon as possible, as progress on CPEC can extinguish the light of India's negative politics in the region.

—The writer is a regular columnist, based in Lahore.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-breaks-indian-plan-by-attiya-munawer/>

Work on SK hydropower project in full swing: Asim

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that work on Suki Kinari hydropower project is in full swing. In a tweet, Bajwa said the Suki Kinari hydropower project will generate 884 MW of electricity. He said that \$1.9 billion are being invested in the Suki Kanari hydropower project and 66 percent of work on the project has been completed.

A week earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari visited the Suki Kinari Hydropower project site near Naran in Mansehra district, and assured that all possible measures would be taken to protect the Chinese engineers from any threat. The IGP met with army officers and Chinese officials. The project officials briefed him about the arrangements taken to protect the project and the workers from any terrorist attack.

The IGP reiterated the government's pledge to provide foolproof security to Chinese citizens living in Pakistan. The IGP also met with the Pak Army officers stationed at the project. The army's commanding officer briefed the IGP about the progress on the power project and its security. The IGP directed the police officers to remain in close contact with the Chinese to resolve their security-related issues. The IGP also directed to install more CCTV cameras at project site and to supervise all routes leading to it with help of drone cameras.

<https://pakobserver.net/work-on-sk-hydropower-project-in-full-swing-asim/>

The Express Tribune

Body to push economic diplomacy

ISLAMABAD: The newly constituted Pak-China Relations Steering Committee would supervise economic diplomacy with China in addition to sorting out operational issues hindering implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The supra body, which will meet next week for the second time, will also work to build the positive narrative of China-Pakistan relations, underscoring the government's renewed focus on the multibillion dollar initiative that remained neglected for three years. The steering committee that has initially been set up to drive CPEC will also work in areas that traditionally do not fall under the CPEC framework but are critical to cement Pak-China ties, said the officials.

The steering committee has agreed to supervise and steer Sino-Pak economic cooperation in domains of mutual interest. It will also work to support and supervise the Sino-Pak economic diplomacy, according to the terms of references agreed in the first meeting held on July 2. The sources said that there was consensus among the committee members that the economic

diplomacy goal with China can be achieved best through the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). However, so far both the countries have not agreed to an Industrial Framework agreement to govern the industrial relations. Although the government claims new focus on SEZs, it has not yet been able to finalise a developer for the construction of the Dhabeji SEZ, which is among the prioritised zones.

The committee will resolve operational issues in CPEC and non-CPEC projects and will create inter-provincial synergy. The committee will promote positive narrative of the Sino-Pak relations, according to the decision. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has struggled to keep the CPEC momentum built through the five-year tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government despite setting the CPEC Authority, headed by a retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa. There have remained serious coordination issues between various government agencies, which the government is now trying to resolve through the steering committee. There is also a Cabinet Committee on CPEC, which is also headed by Planning Minister Asad Umar and would deal with CPEC policy matters. During the first meeting, the representative from the Ministry of Defence stated that it was critical to identify and address issues that arose during CPEC's implementation as soon as possible.

On July 2, Planning Minister Asad Umar, being the head of the committee, had turned down a proposal from the Ministry of Finance to expand the steering committee focus in the areas of social and culture, saying that the committee's key focus would remain economic relations with China.

The sources said that many CPEC projects that had been initiated during the last government tenure were still lingering. At least five power sector projects, 884 megawatts Suki Kinari hydropower project, 720MW Karot hydropower project, 330MW Thar Block-II, 330MW ThalNova Thar block-II and 1320MW Thar block-I were falling behind scheduled commissioning dates and needed relaxations. Similarly, there were also policy and operational issues in the way of operationalisation of the 660KV high voltage direct current Lahore-Matiari transmission line. The decision about the maximum availability of power from September this year and approval of revised tariffs were pending, said the sources.

The government also wanted to build Thakot-Raikot road project on government-to-government basis but it requires a formal decision, which remains pending. The Zhob-Quetta road project was also facing delays due to pending court cases, said the sources. In its first meeting, the steering committee had decided to expand the membership of the committee on the recommendation of the national security adviser. The supra-body already has representation from the civilian, military, navy and the intelligence agencies.

The planning minister has approved a summary to bring Ministry of Information secretary, Board of Investment secretary and chief secretaries of the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir into its fold, said a senior ministry official. The summary is expected to be forwarded to Prime Minister Imran Khan next week to seek his endorsement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313301/body-to-push-economic-diplomacy>

The Nation

A strong emerging bloc

Senator Rehman Malik

Pakistan has a great geographical location and has been helping its neighbours and other friendly countries and contributing towards regional peace. The progress made by Pakistan before the USSR and Afghan war was tremendous and was among the top developing countries of the region in various fields. Our airline, railways, and shipping routes proved to be the best and Pakistan had been providing technical assistance to other countries for establishing airlines, railways, and shipping etc.

Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works was a masterpiece catering to shipbuilding, ship repair and general heavy engineering. After being trapped in the USSR and Afghan war, the Pakistani economy heading towards a negative and war brought a big crunch and retarded the developing speed of the county in various sectors. This brought the GDP down, the growth rate fell and inflation went up leading to irreversible setbacks. Sadly, the Afghan war brought misery, not only to itself but devastations to Pakistan and left long-lasting effects on our society and growth. It introduced us to Kalashnikov culture, sectarian clashes, extremism and terrorism, and access to all kinds of narcotics become very easy.

I wish that Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China may create a bond of tri-brotherly ties and start working in an era of a new bond of friendship as they stand interconnected with natural land routes and the natural bond of mountains. Let us learn from China which managed to remain away from the infection of war and controlled terrorism and in fact, China paid more attention to the economy and developed various sectors including agriculture and industry on the fast track and steered clear from dirty international politics. Today, China is on the top with an economy worth trillions of dollars, and whereas Pakistan's economy stands on the negative side it is still sliding down due to huge international debts.

China and Pakistan have contributed together and have helped the international communities on various fronts and international crises. China is contributing a lot to the development of African and other developing countries. The Afghan conflict has been used by the west as a tool to keep this part of the world under pressure and to destabilise the region. This destabilisation is affecting Pakistan and Afghanistan adversely and needs to be rectified for the sake of the stability and prosperity of this region. I have been a student and contributor to the growing great relationship of China and Pakistan and I feel that there is room to create a powerful torque and potential for working together in the peace process of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Afghanistan and China have the huge potential to work in various fields of common interest and emerge as very strong political and economic forces with their God-gifted natural resources.

In view of the above, I enlist the following areas of cooperation between these three great nations;

Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China may sign a tri party MoU to work together. The three countries have potential in mineral, agriculture and other fields of mutual benefit. These three countries have a natural alliance and connectivity in the form of roads and other links, especially CPEC can bring a great revolution in the development of Afghanistan as China and Pakistan together can play a role in reconstructing Afghanistan. In a trilateral agreement, they can have this new opportunity to work together in the interest of this region. This troika MoU can also end the ever-continued foreign interference in Afghanistan. The three countries must sign an MoU to spread a railway line from Beijing to Afghanistan via Pakistan and these three great nations can have a quantitative economic, business, and cultural bond in the larger interest of Afghanistan and co-signatories.

I firmly believe that the trilateral relations between Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan will bring amazing effects on their economy, the stabilisation of Afghanistan and ensuring regional peace. I wish that the above proposal will be taken seriously by the leadership of three countries in the interest of the region as it will not only ensure the stability, progress and development of Afghanistan but will also eliminate terrorists and the misuse of Afghan soil by India.

The views expressed are solely mine and do not necessarily represent the views of my party.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-01/page-6/detail-4>

Pakistan could overtake India in trade with China in eight years

BEIJING - Pakistan could overtake India in trade with China in just eight years, even though its trade volume with China was only one-fifth of India's in 2020, a Pakistani diplomat said.

In 2020, bilateral trade between China and Pakistan stood at \$17.49 billion while between China and India it was \$77.7 billion.

“India has a population five to six times larger than that of Pakistan, so I hope that it will take eight to ten years to overtake them,” Badar U Zaman, commercial counselor of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, told the Global Times at the 2021 China-Pakistan Trade Forum.

Although Zaman did not provide more details to support his projections, analysts said the two country's iron-clad relationship and the substantial progress already made in construction of the multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects could provide economic propulsion to boost bilateral trade.

A Chinese scholar studying China-Pakistan relations pointed out that there are obstacles for Pakistan in realizing this ambitious trade target. But such a scenario is not entirely impossible.

“If Pakistan hopes to overtake India in trade with China in eight to ten years, Pakistan has to increase its purchasing power and improve the standard for export goods to meet international

standards,” said Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China.

Pakistan has to increase its purchasing power and improve standard for export goods to meet international standards

India has a large market, given its population of nearly 1.4 billion, while Pakistan has a population of 220 million, Zhou noted, adding that Pakistan needs time to build and cultivate its own purchasing power.

India also has a large amount of raw materials that can be exported to China while Pakistan has less of such resources, so it might be tough for Pakistan to overtake India in eight to ten years unless the bilateral trade relationship between China and India continues worsening, said Zhou.

However, there are meaningful changes taking place. Amid frayed bilateral ties following a deadly border clash as well as the Indian government’s ban on Chinese investment into the country, bilateral trade between China and India stood at \$77.7 billion in 2020, down from \$85.5 billion the previous year.

At the same time, the relationship between China and Pakistan has become stronger and investment has been increasing. There has been a 34 percent increase in exports from Pakistan to China year-to-date, thanks to the bilateral free trade agreement, according to Zaman.

Experts also noted that Pakistan has its own advantage in that the CPEC has provided improved infrastructure for the country, and paved the way for its industrialization process. That means Pakistan will have more demand for imports and more goods to export to China in the coming decade.

The construction of a string of industrial parks will also help Pakistan to improve the quality of its exports, experts noted.

Some of the potential items Pakistan could export to China include copper, for which there is great demand in China, as well as cotton, sugar and textile products, according to Zaman and Zhou.

In 2020, the total trade between China and Pakistan totaled \$17.49 billion, a year-on-year decrease of 2.7 percent, with imports from Pakistan reaching \$2.12 billion, an increase of 17.5 percent compared with the previous year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

China has been Pakistan’s biggest trade partner for six consecutive years since the 2015 fiscal year. China is also Pakistan’s main source of imports and second-largest export destination, according to data from the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The recent Dasu incident will not affect the trade between the two countries and China-Pakistan cooperation projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, Zaman said, emphasizing that Pakistan is giving maximum priority to the safety of Chinese nationals.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-01/page-8/detail-4>

August 02, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China stress importance of CPEC for peace, development

A webinar on ‘Indo-Pacific (Quad) Accord and China Curtailment Policy of the US against BRI: Strategic Importance of CPEC for Regional Development, Peace and Security in collaboration with Golden Ring Economic Forum (GREF) and ORIC-UMT’ was held.

According to Gwadar Pro, the panelists from Pakistan and China discussed the regional security scenario, policies to contain and curtail China, threat to BRI and CPEC and put forward certain suggestions that how both sides can jointly counter all these.

It is worth noting that the Gwadar port is the single shortest journey for China, Iran and Russia to the Indian Ocean, which makes Pakistan a very strategic and critical player in the entire region.

Hasnain Reza Mirza, President of GREF stated in his opening remarks that after the US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, the terrorist activities have increased especially against the Chinese in Pakistan. Pakistan and China have to jointly come up with something to save ourselves, secure BRI and CPEC and keep Gwadar port functioning.

Lt. Gen. Sikander Afzal HI(M), (R), Chairman, GREF, highlighted that in order to take full advantage of CPEC, Pakistan needs to focus on several sectors, namely, the development of its human resources to meet the needs of future, expansion of its economic development to areas of the country which are neglected in the past, removal of deprivation, giving livelihood and finished the scrooge of terrorism and separators, and going for reform of its agriculture to ensure food security, etc.

Sharing her views about unleashing Pakistan’s Geo-Economic Potential to Build a China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era, H.E. Dr. Zhao Baige (HI), Chair of Advisory Committee of BRI International Think Tank and RDI underlined that, “Peace and stability of Afghanistan are of vital importance to the regional economic development, connectivity, prosperity and stability of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This requires the cooperation of the international community, especially regional countries, and Pakistan, as a key node country, will play a key role in this process.”

Prof. Dr. Wang Yiwei, Director, Institute of International Affairs underscored that G7 countries proposed B3W to replicate BRI, which just proved BRI’s success once again. “There are so many political and very importantly financial constraints for G7 countries that it would be difficult to replicate a project like this. Countries all over the world are a community with a shared future, especially in today’s digital age. Countries need to cooperate with each other.”

Vice Admiral Waseem Akram (r) suggested to have a direct oil and gas line going from Gwadar port till Xinjiang China, which is going to help both countries in a big way. “A railway network

between Xinjiang and Gwadar port has also to be developed on a priority, as then Pakistan can link this to the rail network of China, which is going to Europe and elsewhere.”

Chen Jiancheng, Chairman and CEO of Beijing Sky Century IT Company, stated that China-Pakistan economic cooperation should do a good job in the top-level cooperation structure and realize the strategic exertion and improvement of their respective resource advantages in the top-level structure of China Pakistan and regional economic cooperation. “We should plan large-scale projects with leading value in various industries, integrate a large number of small projects that are difficult to form scale effect and leading value, and launch several large-scale projects to lead cooperation.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/800015/pakistan-china-stress-importance-of-cpec-for-peace-development/>

Pakistani culture tour exhibition inaugurated in SCODA

The launching ceremony of Pakistani Culture Tour Exhibition in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) Gandharas Smile was held in Qingdao.

The ancient Gandhara civilization has left indelible footprints in the realm of arts, architecture, cultures and spiritually.

The most enduring feature of Gandhara is its art which mesmerizes the world with its artist brilliance, innovation and intense devotion. It is learned that the central figure of Gandhara is Lord Buddha, which has also been exhibited at the center display of the hall, CEN reported.

Chairing the session, Wang Zihai, Executive Director of Pakistan China Center (PCC), highlighted that under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a great deal of projects that benefit people’s livelihood, including energy, roads, ports, economic parks, agriculture, science and technology, and education, are taking root and bearing fruit in Pakistan.

Belt and Road Initiatives promotion of the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and the promotion of people’s livelihood are very consistent with Gandhara’s broad-mindedness in embracing the achievements of different civilizations.

Ms. Syeda Saira Raza, Press Attache, Pakistani Embassy in China, stated at the occasion that while celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, it is also an opportune moment to celebrate the achievement of ancient Gandhara civilization on the common heritage of the two countries.

As the Gandhara civilization has early linkages between two countries, it is pertinent to mention that many Chinese marks including Fa Xian and Xuan Zang braved the hand journeys to arrive at the famous Buddhist seminaries in Pakistan.

They carried back with them not only the light of wisdom and spiritually but also the warm sentiments of brotherly love and respect which underlines our present fraternal ties, Ms. Saira Raза further explained.

According to Hao Guoxin, member of the Party Working Committee and Deputy Director of the Management Committee of SCODA, the Pakistani Culture Tour Exhibition will open a window for citizens to understand Pakistani culture to further enrich the Pakistani elements of SCODA, and become an important microcosm of the cultural dialogue between China and Pakistan. We have also interspersed the major events since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan in the exhibition to further promote and highlight the long-lasting friendship between China and Pakistan, which is deeper than sea. It is learned that Gandharas Smile is the virgin exhibition of the Walking into Pakistan series, more wonderful civilizations will be on display.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/799979/pakistani-culture-tour-exhibition-inaugurated-in-scoda/>

Trade forum held in Beijing to promote Pakistani products

The China Pakistan Trade Forum was successfully held in Pakistani embassy in China to promote Pakistani products in different areas including agriculture, seafood, marbles, sports products, and handicrafts.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the forum was jointly organised by the Pakistani Embassy in China, Beijing branch of CCPIT, Beijing Huiyu International Trade Co. Ltd, and Red-crowned Crane Intelligent Technology (Jiangsu) Co, Ltd.

Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, Ahmed Farooq highlighted the importance of collaboration of two nations in trade and investment and briefed the favourable investment policies of Pakistan to the Chinese investors.

Hanif Lakhany, Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said that China has become a role model for developing countries and an important partner in Pakistan's economic development.

Commercial Counselor Badar uz Zaman explained the investment-friendly policies of the Pakistani government and strong consumer demand in the country in addition to the benefits of manufacturing in Pakistan.

He further said that the exports have increased 34pc, which is the single largest export increase from Pakistan to China in any year. Due to the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, almost 90pc of the markets have been opened from both sides.

“The 2nd phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement added 313 new products to the Chinese market on zero duty, which presents \$8.4 billion, accounting for almost 50pc of the exports of Pakistan,” he added.

Badar said that Pakistan is quite a good destination for tourism, while the IT industry has crossed \$2 billion. He hopes that Pakistan will take eight to ten years to overtake India in trade with China, which are now \$17.49 billion and 77.7 \$billion respectively.

Ms Duan Xiaoyu, Chairman of Beijing Huiyu International Trade Co. Ltd introduced the company and their trade intention in Pakistan. Mr Liu Bin, chairman of Red-crowned Crane Intelligent Technology (Jiangsu) Co. Ltd, introduced coffee machine business and trade potential in Pakistan.

Luo Xiangdong, Senior Advisor of Prestige International Trading Company, introduced the national pavilion project situation of online Womai.com and offline Bairong World Trade Plaza (Zhengzhou). Wanglu, CRBC representative gave a presentation on the construction status of Rashakai SEZ and highlighted the benefits of investment in SEZs of Pakistan.

The event was attended by senior officials of the Pakistan embassy, FPCCI, Chinese enterprises, media, and the local public.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/800196/trade-forum-held-in-beijing-to-promote-pakistani-products/>

Pakistan Observer

PBF calls for Pak-China agricultural collaboration

Agricultural collaboration with China will give direction to move forward to adopt international practices in Pakistan as well as stimulate economic and social development. Talking to APP here Sunday, Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President Ahmad Jawad, “We must adopt a global and international perspective in our business practices in order to make its agricultural products more competitive in international markets to earn valuable foreign exchange.”

To a question, he said the use of old cultivation and production methods, negligence on international market quality certification systems, quality control standards, and least understanding of consumers’ needs had since long been the reasons behind the less demand of Pakistan’s products.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pbf-calls-for-pak-china-agricultural-collaboration/>

The Nation

China to help Pakistan seize wave of technological revolution to “overtake”

BEIJING - In the context of the fourth industrial revolution and the digital economy, new industries are emerging, and China will help Pakistan seize the wave of the technological revolution to “overtake” and achieve leapfrog development. In particular, in the process of promoting industrial cooperation and industrial park construction in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is necessary to firmly grasp the opportunity of science and technology innovation to lead economic development, actively apply new technologies and cooperate in emerging industries, such as energy conservation and environmental protection, electronic communication, bio-industry, new energy, high-end equipment manufacturing and new materials

so as to make CPEC more digitalised and greener. The above views were expressed by Dr Baige Zhao, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, Chair of Advisory Committee of BRI International Think Tank and RDI through her messages to a webinar on Indo-Pacific (Quad) Accord and China Curtailment Policy of the US against BRI: Strategic Importance of CPEC for Regional Development, Peace and Security in collaboration with Golden Ring Economic Forum (GREF) and ORIC-UMT, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. To fully release the development potential of Pakistan's Geo-economy and take CPEC as the lead to shape the South Asian regional value chain, she highlighted that the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the fields of energy, transportation, infrastructure and Gwadar port construction in "Phase 1.0" remains important and should be actively promoted to strengthen regional connectivity. "There is still huge demand in Pakistan's infrastructure sector, including lack of "linking" hubs between major rail and road trunk lines, which is key to solving the Last Mile problem."

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-02/page-9/detail-0>

The News

The rise of China

Napoleon Bonaparte once noted, "China is a sleeping giant. Let her sleep, for when she wakes up, the world will shake". His prophecy has seemingly come true. The dragon is waking up.

The rise of China is important to understand contemporary international politics. How it will be handled by the US will define the global politics of the 21st century.

The rise of China threatens the hegemony of the United States. The unipolar moment is arguably ending, and the era of bipolarity could be in the pipeline. Scholars of international relations differ on which system is stable. The hegemonic stability theory argues that a single hegemon in the world can help keep the world stable. Others argue that a bipolar system can keep the world relatively peaceful as there is somewhat a balance of military power, and no single great power is able to coercively dominate other states.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US came forward as the single hegemon. Now, China has become a peer competitor. The rise of a new power challenges the hegemony of the established power. As China expands its influence, the US is committed to contain it. Thucydides, an ancient Greek historian, noted that when there is an established power and another is rising up, the conflict between them is inevitable. Graham Allison coined the term Thucydides Trap to explain this phenomenon. He wrote: "In fact, in 12 of 16 cases over the last 500 years in which there was a rapid shift in the relative power of a rising nation that threatened to displace a ruling state, the result was war." Although the two powers did not collide directly, they did indulge in a series of proxy wars that affected them and the whole world in a considerable way.

Will the rise of China revive the Thucydides Trap? Many scholars and strategists such as Henry Kissinger, John Mearsheimer and Graham Allison himself think so. However, some other scholars such as Joseph Nye argue that the two states will be able to escape the Thucydides Trap.

China's Belt and Road Initiative is an ambitious project which is aimed to connect many countries in economic ties. It connects Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime routes. Underdeveloped countries are a major part of this project. The multi-trillion-dollar project is helping China become economically strong as well as the countries in which China is making the investments. However, there is huge scepticism that China might use these economic investments as a political tool in the near future. China is increasing its sphere of influence with the BRI.

The project can be seen as a positive-sum game in which China and other countries benefit mutually as they all will increase their trade capabilities as well as politico-economic integration that leads to development and stability. However, it can also be seen as a hawkish Chinese strategy that would make it a dominant player in the world which would challenge the existing global order.

China is following the model of stability through economic growth as cooperation between the states, owing to the economic interests, leads to stable and amicable relations. A peaceful rise of China can be an opportunity to show its ability to be a responsible power in politico-economic global leadership. For the region, a rising China can be an opportunity to have a profitable ally that can help the region become stable and developed.

On the other hand, a rising China can be a dominating and challenging foe, especially for countries allied with the US, that can turn the region hostile. For instance, India would look at Beijing's investments and interests in South Asian states with wary eyes.

The western part of China is not as developed as the eastern part. For China, the BRI is also an opportunity to develop its western provinces. It can also help China boost its soft power in the world. Chinese investments in economically underdeveloped countries can be a win-win for both parties as interdependence can take the driving seat when observed through a liberal lens.

On the other hand, it might also sound like a mighty 'debt-trap diplomacy' when observed through a realist lens as it can even interfere with the sovereignty of some states where policy dictations are also feared. For example, the case of Sri Lanka's Hambantota port.

While China would consider the BRI as a part of globalization, the US would perceive it as a Chinese design to expand its influence, for example creating a String of Pearls in the Indian ocean. This would compel the US to try to contain Chinese naval power by building greater ties with India and other allies as well as spending more resources.

Although the BRI is a Sino-centric agenda creating a dependent relationship between China and other states, member states of the project are finding it advantageous to remain a part of it for their own good. The case of Malaysia, another member state, suggests otherwise. In 2018,

Malaysia suspended some deals with China when Mahathir Mohammad became Prime Minister, but restarted after negotiations and amendments. This proves that member countries are finding it beneficial to remain a part of the BRI while pursuing their foreign policies. It means that they are considering it an absolute gain for everyone, rather than a relative gain for only China at their expense.

The recent G-7's 40 trillion-dollar plan named 'Build Back Better World' is a counter-project to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. The geopolitical contest between the great powers is starting, which may lead to a new-cold war really soon. When the elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. The underdeveloped world might become a victim of the great power rivalry under the guise of development.

The writer is a political scientist with focus on international relations and sociopolitical issues.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/871859-the-rise-of-china>

Chinese ZF2001, Moderna vaccines effective against Delta variant: UHS VC

ISLAMABAD: Principal investigator of the vaccine trials in Pakistan and University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Javed Akram has said preliminary results from phase-III clinical trials of triple-dose Chinese vaccine ZF2001 show promise against the Delta variant of the SARS-Cov-2, which has wreaked havoc in the entire world, including Pakistan.

Preliminary results of the trials are expected to be announced on Monday (today) by the vaccine developer Anhui Zhifei Longcom, Prof Javed Akram stated this in his presidential lecture at an international conference that concluded here on Sunday.

“Findings from the data released by the Institute of Microbiology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences on July 16, 2021, showed that ZF-2001 retains its neutralising effect against the Delta (variant). Preliminary efficacy results from the phase-III clinical trials are expected on Monday but samples from those who received their third dose at longer intervals between the second shot showed a greater activity against variants,” he added.

The triple-dose Chinese vaccine ZF2001 has already been granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) in China and Uzbekistan and so far over 100 of its doses have been administered in both the countries.

The three-day Second International Conference of Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM) was inaugurated by President Arif Alvi on Friday and it was attended by leading experts, academicians, researchers, students and officials from Pakistan.

Prof Javed Akram, who is also the President of PSIM, maintained that data from Israel showed that Pfizer-BioNTech's mRNA vaccine Comirnaty was 64 percent effective in preventing infection by the Delta variant down from 94 percent but added that Moderna's mRNA vaccine was still showing promise against the Delta variant, which appears to be 225 per cent more transmissible than the original SARS-Cov-2 strains.

He maintained that they were going to start the Cansino's nasal vaccine trials in the country, saying the nasal vaccine administration would not require any syringe and added that Cansino's vaccine had also proved effective against the Delta variant and now they were going to administer its booster doses to those who received its initial jabs.

According to him, they were also going to launch the phase-III clinical trials of another triple-dose recombinant sf9 cells vaccine in the country, which could be stored at 4-8 degrees Celsius and proved to be highly effective against the new variants, adding that protocols were being prepared to get the phase-III clinical trials approved from the National Bioethics Committee (NBC) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP).

Commenting on the effectiveness of mix and match of different Covid-19 vaccines, he claimed that many people had managed to get more than one vaccine in Pakistan but added that so far there was no conclusive evidence available if the mix and match of different conventional and genetic vaccines was effective against preventing new variants of the coronavirus.

“We have launched a polyvac study in which we are collecting the data of those who have got more than one vaccine. We are providing a link where people can share their data, which would help us analyze if the mix and match of different vaccines is useful or not,” he added.

The PSIM president deplored that the rate of vaccination was not very heartening in Pakistan where at least 160 million needed to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity but added that so far less than 30 million had been vaccinated, of which those who were fully vaccinated was less than six million. “The target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population of Pakistan by the end of this year seems impossible at the current rate of vaccination,” he added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/872144-chinese-zf2001-moderna-vaccines-effective-against-delta-variant-uhs-vc>

August 03, 2021

Business Recorder

Taxation issues: Chinese co seeks CPEC chief's help

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese company constructing 720 MW hydroelectric power at Karot has sought help of the Chairman CPEC Authority, Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retired) for resolution of taxation issues. This issue was raised by Wang Minsheng, Chief Executive Officer of Karot Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (KPCL), in a letter, copies of which have also been sent to Managing Director, PPIB, Chairman FBR and Chief Commissioner, Corporate Tax Office. Officials claim that the Chinese investors who have already established power projects have expressed serious concerns against concerned Ministry and its attached departments on “undue” delay in their payments.

The KPCL is implementing 720MW Hydro-Electric Power Generation Complex under the policy for Power Generation Projects Year 2002. The company is importing equipment for the project on a regular basis.

According to the CEO, as company's income tax is exempted pursuant to clause (132) of part I of second schedule to the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 read with section 9.1 of the GoP IA, the company has been applying to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for exemption certificates from paying advance income tax on imports separately for each bill of lading. However, company is facing serious issues in obtaining exemption certificates from FBR.

The company claims that it applied for the exemption from collection of advance tax from its 96th batch of shipment on April 20, 2021 under applicable taxation laws. Initially, the application was put on hold by FBR due to non-availability of log-in IDs of newly appointed officers in charge. Later, after 36 days of filing of application, Commissioner (Enforcement and Collection), Inland Revenue, rejected the application on May 26, 2021, on following grounds: "The documents provided by the taxpayer and the report of the officers are in conflict since the setting up and actual functioning of this power generation plant is still vague and no outright evidence could be provided to its setting up or completion as such, hence it apparently is hit by the latest amendment in clause 132, therefore, the company is not entitled to exemption under section 148, read with clause 132 of part-I of second schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. Therefore, this application for exemption is rejected."

The CEO of the company stated that the basis of rejection is incorrect because the latest amendment pertains to power generation project where Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued or agreement was signed with Government after June 30, 2021.

The provision of amendment is reproduced below for reference: "Provided further that no exemption under this clause shall be available to persons, who enter into agreement or to whom letter of intent is issued by Federal or Provincial Government for setting up an electric power generation project in Pakistan after the 30th day of June 2021."

The Chinese company has also claimed that exemption has been withdrawn for only those projects for which a Letter of Intent is issued or an agreement with the Federal or Provincial Government is signed after June 30, 2021. It does not affect those projects with which the Government has already signed an agreement or to whom a LoI has been issued prior to June 30, 2021, such as KPCL, where the agreement is already signed, Financial Close achieved and Project is now at advance stage of installation and commissioning of important machinery. The COE noted that aggrieved by the "incorrect" interpretation of latest amendment by Commissioner, the Company filed revision application to Chief Commissioner. Meanwhile, Company was constrained to pay around Rs8 million as Advance Income Tax for 96th and 97th shipments as its revision application was pending decision by Chief Commissioner, who later decided the matter of the said amendment in tax laws in favour of the company, holding it as entitled to exemption as its letter of intent as well as agreement with the Federal Government are both signed prior to June 30, 2021. Furthermore, the Company was informed that exemption

orders will only be granted for HS Codes falling in part 1 and part 2 of 12th Schedule of the Ordinance. Subsequent to the order of Chief Commissioner and in light of directions on HS Codes, the Company applied for exemption orders for its 5 shipments (98-1, 98-2, 98-3, 98-4 and 99) which were all duly approved by Commissioner, confirming that confusion in interpretation of new amendment stands resolved.

However, on July 28, 2021, the same Commissioner and her team, who issued five shipments on July 8, 2021 rejected exemption application for shipment number 100, 101 and 102 which were clearly falling in exemption-allowable HS Codes. The rejection of applications without giving any “compelling and reasonable justification” clearly shows mal-intention on their part. The company says that all three shipments are already at Karachi Port since many days, but it is unable to get clearance in absence of exemption orders and has to bear not just the demurrage cost but also suffer the significant delay in project completion having national level importance. The company has sought intervention of from Chairman CPEC Authority to resolve this issue once and for all, on an urgent basis, as shipment exemptions are being delayed due to FBR’s administrative issues, “incorrect” interpretation of laws and late response from concerned officers.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/03/1-page/895548-news.html>

Dawn News

5 CPEC power projects face delays

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Relations Steering Committee on Monday directed finalisation of a uniform policy framework within a month for extension in commercial operation dates (CODs) of five power projects of about 3,600 megawatts being set up under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting presided over by Planning Minister Asad Umar also directed the Power Division to ensure availability of sufficient power for operationalisation of 660kV transmission line from Matiari to Lahore from Sept 1. The committee also directed National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to finalise tariff for the project during the testing stage.

A number of projects under the CPEC, including those in the power sector, are currently facing delays for various reasons including the ongoing pandemic and surplus generation capacity. The multi-billion dollar economic cooperation had not been able over the last three years to maintain the impetus that delivered a series of power plants and other infrastructure projects in the first phase of the CPEC implementation.

The meeting discussed in detail the “ongoing projects under CPEC and the issues facing their investors,” said a statement after the second meeting of the recently created steering committee, mostly represented by federal secretaries and chairman of CPEC Authority besides military and intelligence agencies.

Committee orders uniform policy framework for granting extensions

“While discussing CPEC energy projects facing delays owing to Covid-19, the committee directed the Power Division to formulate a policy to deal with COD extension issues of the power projects,” the statement said. The projects that require extension have a total generation capacity of 3,584MW and include 330mw each of Thar Coal Block-II and ThalNova Coal, 1320MW of Thar Coal Block-II, 884MW Sukki-Kinari Hydropower and 720MW Karot Hydropower project.

The meeting also discussed the 884MW Suki Kinari project and gave directions to relevant authorities to settle the project operational issues on priority. The meeting noted that extension in CODs on a case-to-case basis would not be a good option. Instead a policy based decision should be made to grant blanket extension to all the projects to avoid any discretion.

The minister also directed Ministry of Communication to expedite work on the Thakot-Raikot Road and Zhob-Quetta road projects and submit proposals in this regard to the cabinet by next week to move the projects to next level of development. The meeting was also informed about delays in signing of an industrial framework agreement.

The committee was apprised of the growing interest of local and foreign investors in the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone. It was pointed out that any delay in the finalisation of the developer would be detrimental to the project. The meeting decided that the planning minister should personally take up this issue with Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah.

On Allama Iqbal Industrial City, representative from Board of Investment informed the committee that the board member list for Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) had been finalised and will be soon notified.

The delay in the provision of utilities to Gwadar Port and Free Zone also came under discussion. The meeting was informed of prospective investments in LNG at Gwadar and three major firm had shown interest in setting up of LNG terminals and related infrastructure. Mr Umar directed Ministry of Petroleum to help facilitate investors and coordinate with relevant ministries.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1638483>

Pakistan Observer

Matiari-Lahore Transmission line test completed

High power testing of ± 660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission line is completed on fast track with close liaison of Pak Matiari Lahore Transmission Line Company (PMLTC) and National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC). HVDC system, on Monday, transmitted 3000MW power on Bi-pole successfully as per requirement of Transmission Services Agreement. Managing Director NTDC Engr. Muhammad Ayub, remained in control room of NPCC during the test and monitored HVDC parameters and also sought update about the test and issued guidelines to the commissioning working group, consultant and Independent Engineer

to perform test vigilantly and take necessary measures in order to maintain system stability. Updating the details of testing phases, the NTDC spokesman said that out of 8 power tests 7 have been completed successfully so far that include: Commissioning Tests (DC Station Tests) Lahore (A1:), Commissioning Tests (DC Station Tests) Matiari (A2:), Mono-pole Low Power System Tests (Upto 400 MW each pole) (A:3), Bi-pole Low Power System Tests (Upto 800 MW Bi-pole) (A4:), Mono-pole High Power Tests (2200 MW, each pole) (A5:), Bi-pole High Power Tests at Maximum Available Power (MAP) (A6:), Special Optional Tests (recommended by OE) (A7:).

Whereas, the last remaining test i.e Trial Operation (168 hrs) and Capability Demonstration Test (06 hrs) (A8:) will be completed soon and Commercial Operation Date will be achieved on 01 Sep 2021.

The ± 660 kV HVDC Matiari Lahore Transmission Project is CPEC Project built on BOOT basis which has been envisioned to evacuate 4000 MW power from power plants in South of the country.

The Project will be owned and operated by Pak MLTC for 25 years and after that the operations will be transferred to NTDC. HVDC is a new technology in Pakistan and is widely being used around the world in long distance transmission

The spokesman further said that MD NTDC Engr. Muhammad Ayub also visited the site of 500kV D/C Transmission Line for Interconnection of 660 MW Lucky Coal Power and directed the NTDC teams to accelerate construction work of said trans-mission line project.

<https://pakobserver.net/matiari-lahore-transmission-line-test-completed/>

More than half of Chinese companies on Fortune 500 have operations in Pakistan

More than half of China's Fortune 500 companies have invested or collaborated in Pakistan, showing Chinese corporations' faith in the country's future economic growth. More than half of the 143 Chinese firms on the annual Fortune Global 500 list have operations in Pakistan, according to the list published on August 2.

This year's Fortune Global 500 List was dominated by 143 Chinese businesses, including those from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and the island of Taiwan, putting China at the top for the second year in a row.

The number of Chinese businesses reached 133 in 2020, surpassing the United States for the first time. According to China Economic Net (CEN), at least 75 Chinese enterprises from various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, automobiles, telecommunications, and household appliances, have operations in Pakistan or have participated in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, bringing money, advanced technology, and managerial expertise to Pakistan.

China's State Grid came second, just behind Walmart, the world's largest retailer. China National Petroleum and Sinopec Group, two more Chinese firms, also reached the top ten. The 660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project is being implemented by China's State Grid Corporation.

Pakistani Energy Minister Hammad Azhar recently described the project as a "safety net" for the country's electricity grid. This year's list included 34 Chinese car manufacturers. China's state-owned businesses, such as SAIC Motor, FAW Group, Dongfeng Group, and GAC Group, had their revenue and profitability rise, while international automobile companies, such as Volkswagen, Daimler, Ford, and Honda, saw their yearly rankings fall one after another.

SAIC Motor, which is ranked 60th on the list, has announced plans to expand its car manufacturing in Pakistan via a local joint venture. The refurbishment of its facility is expected to be completed by the end of this month, and locally manufactured cars will shortly be available on the Pakistani market. China FAW Group is the co-launcher of Pakistan's first domestically manufactured Chinese vehicle, the FWA-V2, and is ranked 66th on the list. There are also 61 Chinese private companies on the list. Three internet-related firms, China's JD Group, Alibaba, and Tencent, were ranked 59, 63, and 132, respectively. All three internet giants have actively contributed to the development of Digital Pakistan. Alibaba purchased Daraz Group, a Pakistan-based online retailer that helped grow the country's e-commerce industry, in 2018.

Huawei, Lenovo, and Xiaomi have all increased their ranks in terms of mobile phone businesses. Huawei improved from 49th to 44th place this year. Lenovo Group is ranked 159th, up 65 spots from the previous year. Xiaomi climbed 84 places in the rankings to become one of the "top 500 enterprises with the fastest growth in the global Internet and retail industry". Only two weeks ago, the firm stated that it will be establishing an assembly plant in Pakistan for the next three to four months. Since 2015, Huawei, ranked 44, has collaborated with Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC). The business intends to offer bright Pakistani youths technological training in areas such as 5G, cloud computing, AI, smart homes, IoT, and cyber-security. The business has aided 87 Pakistani students thus far. The income and profitability of Chinese businesses remained essentially constant. The businesses outperform the worldwide averages of US\$63.4 billion and US\$3.3 billion, with average sales revenue of US\$66.1 billion and profit of US\$3.5 billion.

<https://pakobserver.net/more-than-half-of-chinese-companies-on-fortune-500-have-operations-in-pakistan/>

Khalid Mansoor appointed as PM's aide on CPEC affairs as Asim Saleem Bajwa resigns

ISLAMABAD – China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned from his post on Tuesday, he announced his departure on Twitter. The former director general of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) wrote, "I bow my head

before Allah Almighty for giving me an opportunity to raise & steer the important institution of CPEC Authority as one window for all CPEC projects, charting the future direction”.

He added that this wouldn't have been possible without full confidence and support of Prime Minister Imran Khan his government.

The course is set for future progression of CPEC, this journey will go on, he said. Bajwa also extended wishes to Khalid Mansoor, who will replace him.

He said that Mansoor “is fully equipped to take it forward”. “CPEC is life line for Pakistan, it will transform us into a progressive and fully developed country InshaAllah,” he concluded. Prime Minister Imran Khan has appointed Khalid Mansoor as his Special Assistant on CPEC Affairs.

Federal Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar has welcomed the appointment of Khalid Mansoor, besides thanking Asim Saleem Bajwa for his services for CPEC.

Who is Khalid Mansoor?

Khalid Mansoor was former Chief Executive of The Hub Power Company Limited (Hubco). He holds a Degree in Chemical Engineering with Distinction and honors. Mansoor was also the Chairman of Laraib Energy Limited, a subsidiary of (Hubco).

He has over 32 years of experience and expertise in Energy & Petrochemical Sectors in leading roles for mega size Projects Development, Execution, Management and Operations. Mansoor has previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of Algeria Oman Fertilizer Company (AOA). Prior to this, he held the position of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Engro Fertilizers Limited, Engro Powergen Qadirpur Limited (EPQL), Engro Powergen Limited (EPL) and Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC).

<https://pakobserver.net/asim-saleem-bajwa-resigns-as-cpec-authority-chief/>

Pakistan Navy set to induct another China-made advanced warship

The technologically advanced platform is fitted with the latest Surface, Subsurface, Anti-air weapons, Combat Management System and Sensors, said navy's media wing on Twitter. The induction of these warships will strengthen PN maritime defence and deterrence capabilities. The ship will also contribute in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan Navy has contracted construction of four Type 054 AP Frigates from China under a contract signed in 2017. The first warship was launched in August 2020, followed by Second Frigate Launching in January 2021 at Chinese Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai. The Type-054A is numerically one of the most important classes of warships in the People's Liberation Army Navy.

While addressing the launch of the second Type-054 Class frigate in January this year, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M. Amjad Khan Niazi had said, “These will be some of the most

technologically advanced platforms of the Pakistan Navy Surface Fleet, equipped with modern surface, subsurface and anti-air weapons, sensors and combat management systems”.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-navy-set-to-induct-another-china-made-advanced-warship/>

The Express Tribune

PM appoints a civilian to run CPEC affairs

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday appointed Khalid Mansoor as his special assistant on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor affairs, resulting in the resignation of chairman of CPEC Authority, Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa. “[The] prime minister is pleased to appoint Khalid Mansoor as special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC affairs with immediate effect,” according to a notification issued by the PM Office. The appointment will be in an honorary capacity, it added. Mansoor has not been appointed as the chairman of CPEC Authority, which is a statutory position under the CPEC Authority Act of 2021. Under the law and the Rules of the Business of the 1973, the special assistants do not enjoy any powers and are invited in cabinet meetings only on “special invitations”. Mansoor’s appointment symbolises with giving the control of CPEC back to the civilians, which appears in line with the strategy of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif who was against setting up the CPEC Authority.

Highly placed sources told The Express Tribune that the decision to replace Bajwa had been taken some time back and the government was looking for a replacement. They said that Prime Minister Imran Khan wanted to appoint someone else to run the CPEC affairs. But the premier accepted Planning Minister Asad Umar’s choice who has a long association with Mansoor. The government wanted to appoint somebody as the new head of CPEC matters that has more entrepreneur skills to deal with the Chinese companies, according to a senior government functionary. The government did not want to make the changes before the Joint Cooperation Committee of the CPEC meeting, the sources said. The JCC was scheduled for July 16 but was postponed after an attack on Chinese nationals.

Soon after the PM’s decision, Bajwa took the Twitter to announce his decision to stepdown.

“I bow my head before Allah Almighty for giving me an opportunity to raise and steer the important institution of CPEC Authority as one window for all CPEC projects, charting the future direction,” Bajwa stated. It would not have been possible without full confidence and support of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his government, he added.

Bajwa said, “The course is set for future progression of CPEC, this journey will go on.”

Bajwa has approval of the CPEC Authority Act and making Gwadar port operational to his credit. He tried to remove obstacles in implementation of the CPEC projects but did not get full cooperation from the line ministries that are directly responsible for execution of these schemes. Bajwa also enjoyed good relations with Chinese authorities. But an attack on Chinese nationals working on World Bank-funded Dasu hydropower project and its mishandling by Pakistani authorities gave a jolt to Pak-China relations. The new appointment is also in line with the

government's strategy of ending a distinction between the CPEC and non-CPEC projects and dealing with all economic matters under one roof. Premier Imran has already set up Pak-China Relations Steering Committee, which had sealed the fate of the CPEC Authority as an independent body. The CPEC Authority had everything except the authority and it was just a nomenclature, a top government official commented. It seems that the CPEC Authority would now work as an extension of the planning ministry instead of an authority working from a distance.

"Today, my objections submitted before the standing committee on setting up of CPEC Authority have proven to be 200% correct," Ahsan Iqbal, the former federal minister for planning, said while commenting on the changes. He said that unfortunately, the government destroyed the momentum and initiative among line ministries by imposing a command structure and much damage has been done to CPEC implementation. The government had appointed Bajwa as chairman of the CPEC Authority in November 2019 for a period of four years amid the opposition's criticism of formation of the authority. Bajwa remained director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations from 2012 to 2016. He is believed to be the father of the new ISPR but his critics blame him for promotion of hate culture under the banner of the 5th generation warfare.

Planning Minister Umar paid tribute to Bajwa for his services "in moving CPEC forward and playing a vital role in broadening of the CPEC scope with a transition to second phase of CPEC". Mansoor's "vast corporate experience, with extensive work with Chinese companies and his direct involvement in leading some of the biggest CPEC projects makes him an ideal person to lead the next phase of CPEC", Umar said. The Ministry of Planning issued a handout to welcome the appointment of Mansoor, suggesting that Umar was fully onboard on these changes.

"Mansoor brings with him over four decades of experience working with multiple organisations in energy, petrochemicals, and fertilizer industries," the planning ministry said. He is expected to lead the second phase of CPEC which will focus on industrial cooperation, it added. Mansoor has extensive experience of working with Chinese companies and has a deep understanding of joint ventures, project development and execution with Chinese partners, the ministry stated. Mansoor is a well-known business leader and has served as the president of Overseas Chamber of Commerce of Industry (OICCI). He has also worked closely with international financial institutions, like the World Bank, IFC, MIGA, OPIC, ADB, DEG, OFID as well as Chinese financial institutions such as China Development Bank, China Exim Bank, ICBC, Sinosure etc, according to the planning ministry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313674/pm-appoints-a-civilian-to-run-cpec-affairs>

Govt wakes up to CPEC power projects delays

ISLAMABAD: The government has set a one-month deadline for the Power Division to devise a policy to deal with the problem of a delay in start of commercial operations by five China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power projects having 3,600 megawatts (MW) generation

capacity. The projects are falling far behind their dates of commissioning (CODs) agreed between the government of Pakistan and the Chinese investors due to overall slowdown of the work on the CPEC projects, Covid-19 related delays and strikes at some projects.

The Pak-China Relations Steering Committee took this decision on Monday in addition to giving a one week deadline to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to decide the tariff petition for the Lahore-Matiari Transmission Line — another critical CPEC project falling behind schedule by years. “While discussing CPEC energy projects facing delays owing to Covid-19 pandemic, the committee directed the Power Division to formulate a policy to deal with COD extensions issues of the power projects,” read a handout issued by the Ministry of Planning after the committee meeting. The committee chairman, Minister for Planning Asad Umar, directed the Power Division to formulate a policy by the end of August 2021, a senior official told The Express Tribune. In the past, bureaucracy has ignored such warnings, including a threat to take their cases to the prime minister for strict action. The cumulative generation capacity of these five projects is 3,584MW.

In case of a delay by the power producers, the project sponsors are usually under threat of paying penalties. However, some of the delay was caused due to the government’s policy decisions, said the sources. These five power sector projects — 884MW Suki Kinari hydropower project, 720MW Karot hydropower project, 330MW Thar Block-II, 330MW Thal Nova Thar block-II and 1,320MW Thar block-I — were falling behind scheduled commissioning dates and needed relaxations. The Suki Kinari project is facing at least 10 months delay; Karot project four months delay, 330MW Tel Thar project one year delay, Thal Nova project 15 months delay and 1,320 MW Thar Block-I project is facing at least one year delay. The sources said a delay in giving formal extensions to these projects could cause troubles from their lending banks. The committee also directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to complete the registration of the Security Trust of the Suki Kinari project in the next 10 days.

The project also faces additional equipment installation issues for transmitting electricity. The committee asked the Power Division to finalize the need of the Shunt Reactor by the end of August 2021. In case of the decision to install the Shunt Reactor, the Power Division then will propose a plan to compensate for the change in scope. The committee directed the Power Division to ensure the availability of sufficient power for the operationalization of the 660 KV HVDC Matari Lahore Transmission Line from September 1. Nepra has also been asked to finalize tariffs for the project during the testing stage. The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) was asked to address the right of way to make sure 4000 MW is available for evacuation by September. The government also wanted to build Thakot Raikot road project on a government-to-government basis but it requires a formal decision, which remains pending.

The steering committee decided that “Ministry of Communication will move a summary for government to government framework agreement on the project with China next week for the cabinet approval”. Similarly, the National Highway Authority (NHA) will request the Attorney General Office immediately, and through the AG Office it will request the court to conduct early

hearing and make a decision about the stay order that was affecting work on three sections of the Zhob-Quetta road project.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has set up the Pak-China Relations Steering Committee to revive economic ties with China that remained on the backburner during his government's first three years. The supra body will also work to build the positive narrative of China-Pakistan relations, underscoring the government's renewed focus on the multibillion dollar initiative.

The steering committee also took up the issue of a delay in finalization of a developer for the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The Request for Proposal for selection of developer for Dhabeji SEZ had been launched in 2019 but developer could not be finalized.

It was decided that Asad Umar will take up the issue with the Sindh government to expedite the developer selection process. The Faisalabad SEZ was also facing delays due to procedural hiccups on part of the Punjab government.

For provision of gas, electricity and water to Gwadar City, it was decided that the Chinese operator, the CoPHCL, will submit the marketing plan for Gwadar Port and Free Zone in the next meeting which will ascertain the total prospective requirements vis a vis timeline of utilities at the Free Zone. The meeting was informed of prospective investments in the LNG at Gwadar. Umar directed the Ministry of Petroleum to help facilitate investors and coordinate with relevant ministries including the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to resolve the investors' issues on priority.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313647/govt-wakes-up-to-cpec-power-projects-delays>

The Nation

Pakistan, China working to create business, investment forum: BoI secretary
ISLAMABAD - Secretary Board of Investment (BoI), Fareena Mazhar on Monday said that Pakistan is working on creating a Business and Investment Forum with China, which will offer numerous opportunities to the private sector.

She also assured investors that the process of obtaining business visas will be further expedited by taking up the issue with other relevant departments.

Owing to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions enforced in result thereof, directions received from the Prime Minister's office resulted in Board of Investment organising its first ever khuli e-kachehry here on Monday. The Kachehry was conducted by the Secretary Board of Investment, Fareena Mazhar and several high officials of BoI participated in the session. Regional BoI offices also participated in the session virtually.

The session continued for two hours and was a successful feat with regards to public outreach. Speaking to the relevant audiences via zoom and telephone, secretary BoI shared her official e-mail address and contact details of relevant officers. She encouraged investors to share their project proposals and observations with the Board of Investment (BoI) for further coordination on matters of importance.

A large number of investors and members of the business fraternity reached out to Board of Investment with their queries and expressed gratitude for being given the opportunity to directly contact the Secretary. They also appreciated the BoI team for timely resolution of complaints and facilitating investors in every possible way.

Local and foreign investors came forward with a wide range of issues and suggestions including obtaining business visas, tourism policy, investment in sectors such as petroleum, minerals and mining, livestock, etc.

Focus of the e-kachehry was to address issues pertaining to investors including Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), Foreign Investment, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Work Visas, establishing company branch/liaison office and other areas relevant to BoI's mandate.

The activity was aimed at strengthening of public trust and developing a linkage between government's machinery and investors. Through this venture, the Board of Investment provided an accessible platform to the public to redress queries and complaints and was able to convey government's narrative on investment incentives.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-03/page-9/detail-2>

Five Pakistani movies being screened in Beijing tomorrow

BEIJING - As part of the celebratory activities of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, five movies from Pakistan will be screened during a first-ever Pakistan Film Week starting here from Wednesday (Aug 04). Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and China-Film Administration have jointly organized the four-day film week to further enhance cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. The premier of film "Motorcycle Girl" will be held on August 4 at 6:30 p.m at China Film Archive, No.3, Wenhuiyuan Lu, Haidian District, Beijing. The movie will be screened with Chinese and English subtitle. The movies to be screened during the film week include Motorcycle Girl, Punjab Nahi Jaungi, Bin Roye, Ho Maan Jahan and Blind Love.

Two films will be screened on the last day of the film week.

In November last year, "Parwaaz Hai Junoon" became the first Pakistan film to hit the silver-screens in China first time in 40 years.

The movie received the round of applause from around 400 people including officials of the Chinese government, institutions, enterprises, think tanks and media during its premier show.

The screening of movies during the film week is expected to build a new bridge for cultural exchanges between the two countries and further consolidate the Pakistan-China friendship.

It is also likely to pave way for joint ventures and joint productions of Pakistani movies between Pakistan and China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-03/page-15/detail-5>

August 04, 2021

Business Recorder

Gwadar to become trade hub in near future: Alvi

QUETTA: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Gwadar in near future would become an important trade hub by connecting Balochistan with Central Asia and result in economic development of the region.

Talking to parliamentarians at the Governor House, the president said regional connectivity would result in economic activity and ensure win-win prosperity for all countries. President Alvi said in view of the progress on projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there was a need to train youth on modern professional lines.

In Balochistan, he said immense potential existed for promotion of diverse sectors including agriculture, fisheries and livestock.

He called for the need to take steps in the right direction to achieve the goals of progress and development of the province.

The president stressed utilization of resources for the benefit of people, which he said would also improve their living standards. The meeting, attended by Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha and Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, focused on overall security situation, ongoing development projects, border trade and establishment of border markets, land digitalization management and new labour laws in the province.

Other areas, particularly promotion of tourism in Balochistan and the economic and political situation also came under discussion.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/04/3-page/895715-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC projects to boost Pak-China trade: analysts

China-Pakistan iron-clad relationship and the substantial progress already made in the construction of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects could provide economic propulsion to boost bilateral trade between the two countries, according to analysts.

Multiple Chinese enterprises from a variety of industries have settled in Gwadar Port in Pakistan, which has been cooperating with local companies across different industries such as fisheries by providing them with refrigeration equipment and processing equipment, Liu Zongyi, secretary-general of the research center for China-South Asia Cooperation at Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said.

Liu noted that high-quality seafood products from the Gwadar Port now can be directly shipped to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region as CEPC has provided improved infrastructure for the country.

Pakistan's exports to China in the first quarter of 2021 totaled \$888 million compared with \$526 million during the same period in 2020, a year-on-year increase of 69 percent, Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China, tweeted in May.

The construction of the first industrial park under the CPEC framework has entered the full construction phase in Pakistan's Rashakai Special Economic Zone in May, as the strategic location of the Rashakai gives it great potential to develop export-oriented industries for Central Asia.

The Chinese scholars studying China-Pakistan relations also pointed out there are still spaces for both China and Pakistan to further deepen the bilateral trade, while Pakistan's exports to China have been booming since 2020 as China's imports from Pakistan reached \$2.12 billion, an increase of 17.5 percent from the previous year, according to data from the ministry of commerce.

There could be more collaboration for enterprises from two sides in developing and manufacturing products together as there are only a handful of projects and products jointly funded and delivered by companies from the two countries, said Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China.

Zhou vowed that made in China has the potential to turn into made in CPEC since a large amount of Chinese capital especially of which from private enterprises can be invested to manufacture products jointly with Pakistani enterprises.

Such collaboration could also help Pakistan to upgrade its design and manufacturing in production in a bid to expand its overall exports.

Liu echoed Zhou's opinion emphasizing that China has been cooperating with Pakistan to develop its industries not only to boost Pakistan's exports to China but also to help the country become a manufacturing base and industrial hub especially in manufacturing to increase Pakistan's exports to the rest of the world.

Experts noted that China has been working closely with some of the traditionally strong industries in Pakistan such as cotton, textiles, and agriculture by offering technical skills training and exporting advanced equipment to Pakistan, as such industries could provide some of the potential items Pakistan could export to China including cotton, sugar, mango, and textile products which there is a great demand in China.

Moreover, Pakistani enterprises building closer ties with Chinese companies could promote more high-quality products to be exported to China as well, which have not been widely recognised by Chinese consumers including large-sized bath towels, soccer balls, generic drugs, and generic medical products, said Zhou.

As of the end of 2020, there were a total of 70 projects under the CPEC – a landmark project of the BRI launched in 2013 – with 46 projects completed or under construction.

China has been Pakistan's biggest trade partner for six consecutive years since the 2015 fiscal year. China is also Pakistan's main source of imports and the second-largest export destination.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/801045/cpec-projects-to-boost-pak-china-trade-analysts/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese ambassador congratulates Khalid Mansoor on becoming PM's CPEC aide

ISLAMABAD – Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Wednesday congratulated Khalid Mansoor after he was appointed as special assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on CPEC – China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Taking to Twitter, he wrote: “Congratulations to Mr. Khalid Mansoor & looking forward to jointly promoting #CPEC with high quality development”. The ambassador also paid tribute to former CPEC Authority chief Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa for his contribution to advancing the multi-billion dollar project.

“Our cooperation will be valued, friendship cherished, and efforts recognized,” Mr. Nong Rong added.

On Tuesday, Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned as CPEC Authority chairman.

Taking to Twitter, the former director general of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) wrote, “I bow my head before Allah Almighty for giving me an opportunity to raise & steer the important institution of CPEC Authority as one window for all CPEC projects, charting the future direction”.

He added that this wouldn't have been possible without full confidence and support of Prime Minister Imran Khan his government. The same day, Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed Khalid Mansoor as his Special Assistant on CPEC Affairs.

Who is Khalid Mansoor?

Khalid Mansoor was former Chief Executive of The Hub Power Company Limited (Hubco). He holds a Degree in Chemical Engineering with Distinction and honors. Mansoor was also the Chairman of Laraib Energy Limited, a subsidiary of (Hubco).

He has over 32 years of experience and expertise in Energy & Petrochemical Sectors in leading roles for mega size Projects Development, Execution, Management and Operations. Mansoor has previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of Algeria Oman Fertilizer Company (AOA). Prior to this, he held the position of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Engro Fertilizers Limited, Engro Powergen Qadirpur Limited (EPQL), Engro Powergen Limited (EPL) and Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC).

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-ambassador-congratulates-khalid-mansoor-on-becoming-pms-cpec-aide/>

China-Pakistan Economic corridor: why should Bangladesh utilize the connectivity project

MD Pathik Hasan, Dhaka

Bangladesh has ensured its remarkable achievements by expanding its textile and garment industry. Its apparel sector is booming day by day.

The main export of Bangladesh is its garments. So it is easy to say that Bangladesh needs cotton. But the production of cotton is less in Bangladesh.

To fulfill the demand, Bangladesh imports cotton. On the other hand, Pakistan and Central Asian States are the main source of cotton in South Asia and Central Asia. However, Bangladesh is the overall top tenth export market of Pakistani products as Fabrics, cotton, plastic, leather, fruit, dates are the products exported to Bangladesh.

Jute and medicines are many other products imported by the Pakistani market. But there are no direct shipping lines between Pakistan and Bangladesh to import and export easily.

Business is affected because of no direct connection which causes late consignment and hurdles for importers and exporters. It is very pertinent to mention that Bangladesh has made a tremendous effort to boost her economy in the past few years.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have the potential to work together to boost their business ties and connectivity. Everyone is dependent on everyone in this Globalized world. States are more connected regionally and globally now. Regional connectivity is needed to bolster the development. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of the regional connectivity projects in Asia. It is a Project under China funded 'Belt and Road Initiative' (China's string of Pearls route).

Bangladesh and Pakistan both have already joined in the project. Chinese president xi visited Bangladesh in 2016. He declared to invest a huge amount of dollars in Bangladesh under the Project. Bangladesh and China signed 27 agreements worth billions of dollars during his visit to Bangladesh. Bangladesh officially joined the 'BRI project' in 2017. That was the right decision of PM Sheikh Hasina.

China and Bangladesh vowed to deepen their Belt and Road cooperation during the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina to Beijing in 2019. Chinese government has already granted duty-free access to 97% Bangladeshi products to its market.

Bangladesh-China bilateral trade is growing day by day. China is an important source of import for Bangladesh. China has made significant investment in the infrastructural development of Bangladesh.

One of the most strategically important investments is in Payra Port of Bangladesh. China has financed and constructed the Payra Deep Sea Port project estimated to cost between US \$11 billion and US \$15 billion.

The port is the third-largest port in the country and started operating in 2016. If this port could be connected with Gwadar port via Hambantota Port, Bangladesh would have benefited ultimately.

Now an opportunity is waiting for Bangladesh. CPEC is going to create some benefits for the South Asian, Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Bangladesh can and should exploit the connectivity project for its own interest.

New routes are available now for Bangladesh to reach Pakistan, such as through China. These routes must be utilized for increasing bilateral trade. In 2020, the volume of bilateral trade was \$644 million, which was very little considering the market and opportunities. The good news is that the volume of trade has increased significantly in 2021, as a rise in trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh has been reported.

Bangladesh and Pakistan, both are developing countries, faced with similar kind of conditions, thus, both countries should take measures and collaborate in enhancing their bilateral trade ties.

Bangladesh Payra, Chattogram (Chittagong) and Mongla ports can be connected with Gwadar Port via Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port. Then Bangladesh will be able to utilize the China-run CPEC connectivity project in Pakistan. Bangladesh can easily import and export the products from Central China, Pakistan, Central Asian States, Russia and Iran.

We know that Central Asian states would like to connect with Pakistan now through this project. Peshawar Kabul Kandahar Railway connectivity, Turkey Iran Afghanistan Pakistan connectivity.

Bangladesh-Sri Lanka connectivity would also grow. Connectivity is the synonym of development. So there is no alternative in this modern globalization era. We also know the current 'Afghan Peace Process'.

Bangladesh can play an important role to develop the infrastructure, many other sectors in Afghanistan utilizing this regional connectivity. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan share a common platform like SAARC. Bangladesh and Afghanistan both would be benefitted by bilateral trade if the political situation is stagnant in the war ravaged country.

Therefore, there are some opportunities for Bangladesh in case of utilization of the CPEC project. Bangladeshi businesses may explore opportunities being offered by CPEC which can also be used as a transport link if Bangladesh is sourcing its imports from Western and Central China.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have become very serious regarding building relations with each other in the last few years. We have found great fabric and yarn manufacturers from Pakistan. Bangladesh has a very small window of opportunities available to it. Although there are issues between Pakistan and Bangladesh, the businessmen on both sides understand the importance of bilateral trade.

CPEC holds great importance and this opportunity will bring prosperity to Bangladesh as well because 30%-40% of the import is coming from China. Using CPEC as a channel, Pakistan should promote it to Bangladeshi businessmen.

Pakistan exports potatoes to and imports wheat from Russia. Bangladesh also needs to export potatoes and import wheat from Russia. Bangladesh can utilize this route easily taking the help of Pakistani businessmen. Although Bangladesh and Pakistan compete with each other in this sector, but bilateral efforts would pave the way to strengthen the business ties.

In the onion crisis in 2019 in Bangladesh when India stopped exporting onion to Bangladesh, Bangladesh exported onion from Pakistan. Therefore, we understood the significance of route in emergency. However, 80% of the Bangladeshi population is youth and they are willing to be employed by the business community.

We need to help the youth on both sides to connect not only nationally but regionally and globally. So, Bangladesh should utilize the CPEC connectivity project to maximize its own business interests. There is no alternative without connectivity with the globalized world.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-why-should-bangladesh-utilize-the-connectivity-project-by-md-pathik-hasan-dhaka/>

CPEC & chessboard of regional power politics

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI). It is meant to “accelerate” socio-economic prosperity, massive industrialization, vast network of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), infrastructural development and last but not the least, digitalization.

Moreover, it is meant to “eradicate” poverty, unemployment, shortage of skilled labour and, of course, attract more and more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through the ideal combination of “public-private” partnership.

But unfortunately, the chessboard of regional power politics has made an alliance of “obstruction”, “destruction” and “devastation” against Pak-Sino friendship and, of course, CPEC.

On its part, right from the beginning, China strongly “refuted” suggestions and allegations to have hidden military designs of CPEC.

Beijing pledged to invest about \$62 billion in Pakistan by 2030 to develop ports, highways, motorways, railways, airports, power plants and other infrastructure in the neighbouring country, traditionally a strong ally. In this connection, most of the mega projects of energy and infrastructural development have been completed. Some hydropower projects are being carried out which would produce “cheap” and “pollution” free energy enabling Pakistan to achieve the optimal goal of carbon “neutral” position in the country.

The Chinese also expanded and operationalized the Pakistani deep water port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea, which is at the heart of massive bilateral cooperation.

According to the latest news, the government has now decided to fully “operationalize” the Gwadar Seaport which would be a “value-addition” in the macro-economy of Pakistan.

Western media has been propagating that Gwadar Seaport is not rooted in trade, giving China a quicker route to get goods to the Arabian Sea, but it also gives Beijing a strategic “wild-card” to play against India and the USA if tension worse to the point of naval blockades as the two powers increasingly confront each other at sea.

Moreover, formation of “Asian Quad” is another “strategic move” of the US and its strategic allies in the region, especially India to encircle China.

Nevertheless, foreign office of China repeatedly clarified about BRI and CPEC true aims and objectives which do not have any kind of “military” or “ill strategic design” against any country in the region and beyond. Even Chinese Foreign Office welcomed the United States and India to “come to the CPEC project” and “witness the progress on the ground” for themselves, saying it will enable them to overcome misunderstanding. But still both countries are in a state of “denial”, “disbelief” and “disorientation” and have been twisting the facts just to “malign” Pakistan and China in the larger context of the chessboard of regional power politics.

Time and again Chinese officials showcased CPEC total transparency and accountability. They have been upholding that it does not have any hidden agenda. The Chinese side responded to concerns expressed in Washington and New Delhi that Beijing could try to turn Gwadar into a military port in the future to try to dominate the Indian Ocean. China strongly rejected all these “baseless” accusations of the Western media “perpetuated” by the US, EU and India.

On its part, most recently, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak again clarified that CPEC did not have any military designs, rather the mega project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aimed at economic development of the region. Talking to his Belarusian counterpart, Lt-Gen Viktor Khrenin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan Khattak reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to facilitating peace efforts in Afghanistan.

The Defence Minister assured that CPEC would contribute towards “peace”, “stability” and “economic” development in the region. Even Foreign Office of Pakistan has been showcasing the economic orientation of CPEC. The CPEC helped Pakistan improve its economy, particularly energy and infrastructure sectors. It termed the CPEC a bilateral economic project which is not against any country. Due to rapidly changing geopolitical and geostrategic compulsions of power politics the government has deployed 15,000 military personnel, as part of the Special Security Division (SSD) and Maritime Security Force (MSF), to protect projects under the umbrella of the CPEC. It seems that both forces will work under the Interior Ministry in coordination with the provinces to ensure the safety of locals and foreigners working on CPEC projects.

On its part, the SSD will provide security to 34 CPEC-related projects, while the MSF will safeguard the Gwadar port and other coastal areas of the country. The SSD had been deployed in six zones from Gwadar to Gilgit-Baltistan, including all four provinces and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). Being a prominent regional expert of China, CPEC & BRI, I endorse that the Belt and Road Project and its flagship project CPEC are “purely” economic projects with peaceful intent. It does not have any military ambitions.

Emerging military alliances have been formed to topple the imminent spill-over repercussions of Afghanistan and gain lion's share in the new regional alignment. Even the US and India have signed strategic partnership to counter Chinese economic and geopolitical domination. US-Japan signed a military accord to protect its vested interests. Furthermore, Australia has been playing the role of “middle power” in the Pacific region to “supplement” socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic interests of the US against China.

The chessboard of regional power politics has been trying to harm the regional aspirations and global interests of China through imposition of trade restrictions, embargos and socio-economic sanctions on China and its allies. Incompletion of the long awaited Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline is the prime example of US untamed look/attitude towards Chinese allies. Even some IT companies have also been sanctioned having commercial ties and propositions with China and Iran. Withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan has also increased incidents of targeting terror against Chinese personnel attached to CPEC projects in Pakistan. Regional spoilers India and USA have already waged full-fledged hybrid war against Pak-China friendship and CPEC due to which some pseudo intellectuals and fragmented and fugitive elements of TTP and Baloch insurgents are scheming ill designs in the country.

Last week China made a historic strategic move and hosted Taliban delegates in the country.

China, being a regional strategic balancer and global bearer of unilateralism and equitable world has certain economic and security concerns due to increasing ungoverned spaces in Afghanistan.

Moreover, Afghanistan, being a member of BRI having bright prospects of being connected or extended transit trade with Pakistan/Gwadar Seaport and greater regional connectivity with Central Asian Countries through CPEC has special consideration and place in the modern foreign policy of China.

Pakistan's transition from geopolitics to geo-economy is the resultant of the grand success of BRI, CPEC in which Chinese philosophy of shared prosperity has played a vital role.

CPEC stands for rigorous socio-economic prosperity which is the real defender of a nation's present and custodian of future. Economic reliance disseminates disintegration and the (former) Soviet Union is the prime example of it. Economic meltdown and useless martial campaigns of the ancient times resultant out-rooted and doomed of many splendid empires.

Thus USA, India and all enemies of development should not forget the lessons of history that military misadventures achieve nothing but strains on budgetary allocations, burdens on monetary policies and fatal propositions on fiscal policies.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-chessboard-of-regional-power-politics-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China to set up \$15b oil complex

ISLAMABAD: A consortium of Chinese state-owned companies has offered to set up a \$15 billion oil refinery complex that may provide some relief to Pakistan, which is grappling with the challenge of huge outflows of foreign investment in recent years. The China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company LTD (CCP) and China Zhen Hua Import and Export Corporation have shown interest to invest \$15 billion in oil refinery complex, Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar told The Express Tribune on Tuesday. China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company Limited is a subsidiary of the China National Petroleum Corporation and the primary builder of pipelines in China.

The company has planned to set up the refinery in four years at a site, which is not located at any of the nine prioritised Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). But the secretary said that the any company can seek the status of SEZ under the new rules and would be entitled to same taxes and duties concessions available to SEZs. However, the company-specific SEZ would not be entitled for the government-funded provision of utility services. China is the third country that has showed interest in setting up an oil refinery in Pakistan after the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The first two proposals have so far remained on paper.

Mazhar said that the BOI would ensure fast-track processing of the Chinese offer and has already requested the Petroleum Division to review the business proposition and respond to it this week. The BOI makes efforts to bring in foreign investors but they get stuck in undue regulatory approval procedures, said the secretary. She hoped that unlike the first phase of CPEC, which was largely about loans for energy and infrastructure projects, the Chinese would make real investments under the second phase of CPEC. Initially, there was expectation that CPEC would supplement the existing foreign direct investment but the numbers speak otherwise. After China started making investments in Pakistan, US was the first country to withdraw or reduce its investment in Pakistan, said Mazhar. From 2002 to 2012, Chinese investment in Pakistan amounted to \$814 million as compared to \$5.7 billion the US investment during this period, said the secretary.

Between the years 2013 to 2021, the Chinese investment increased six-and-a-half times to \$6.1 billion but the US investment dropped three-fourth to \$1.5 billion, said the BOI secretary. To a question about the government's less focus on bringing the foreign direct investment, she replied

that without increasing both the foreign direct investment (FDI) and exports, the country cannot overcome its external sector problems. After remaining in surplus for few months, Pakistan's current account deficit has started widening again as the economy showed some positive growth. The official statistics showed that from 2016 through June 2021, foreign investors withdrew \$2 billion. The highest amount of \$572 million or one-fourth of the total outflows was withdrawn in 2020. Mazhar said that major investment withdrawal decisions had been taken by the Chinese companies. The Covid-19 outbreak caused huge losses and the companies facing capital shortages withdrew investment from Pakistan as part of their business strategies, she added. "We have talked with the companies and are hopeful that the situation would reverse in three months, the BOI secretary said.

The Afghanistan situation and terror incidents like attack on Chinese workers in Kohistan are major obstacles to foreign investment in Pakistan. Before Dasu attack, the BOI was expecting \$3.6 billion foreign direct investment in this fiscal year, which has now been downward revised to \$2.8 billion, she added.

She counted different steps that the BOI took recently to encourage the foreign investors to invest in Pakistan. The BOI has been encouraging the foreign expats working in Pakistan to apply for work visa. The number of foreign expats seeking work visa has been enhanced from 3,485 in 2019-20 to 5,035 by end of last fiscal year, showing an increase of 44%.

The BOI has also granted permission to 148 companies for opening branch and liaison offices in 2019-20 to 382 in the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 158%. The BOI has facilitated the local and foreign investors by taking up their grievances with the federal and provincial departments. The secretary said that the China International Investment Promotion joint business portal has been established where the Chinese government recommended companies would share their business proposals with Pakistani authorities. So far 13 Chinese companies have showed interest. An investor relationship management system is also setup for tracking the issues being faced by the foreign investors.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313762/china-to-set-up-15b-oil-complex>

Balancing ties with China and the US

Talat Masood

Pakistan is no stranger in being caught in global cold and hot wars. It has generally suffered seriously in the long term by taking sides, even if initially the momentary economic and political gains appeared attractive. The most glaring example of that was the fallout when Pakistan was a principal player in the US efforts to counter the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. A more balanced approach in dealing with the Soviet invasion would have protected the country from its disastrous consequences. But this is wisdom in hindsight and we also have to recall as to what were those compelling and motivating circumstances that became the basis of these decisions. Military governments have no international legitimacy and are subjected to severe sanctions and facing isolation, but by being an ally in these wars or ideological supporters they suddenly

become the favourites and most sought-after regimes. For civilian governments the temptation has been short-term economic benefits and propping up their political standing.

Pakistan is once again faced with the challenge of navigating its relations with Beijing and Washington as their mutual relations sour and require renewed vigour. The US is of the view that China's economic power is rising fast and poses a serious challenge to its supremacy and needs to be curbed now. Moreover, the US has been accusing China of stealing its technology and engaging in malpractices that violate international trade practices. In this it has the support of its allies — India, Japan and Taiwan. The European Union too is largely supportive of the US policy toward China.

Disrupting the international financial and economic system in which China is one of the key players after the US may not be that easy and could hurt not only these two countries but the entire global trading system. Over the years, the economies of the US and China had got so integrated that it would take a few years before the shift would be feasible. It is also not sure if the US, Japan and EU countries are in a position to manufacture on such a large scale the products and items that China sells to the US at present on competitive prices.

The political fallout would have its consequences at the global and regional level. The UN, UNSC, their affiliates, and other international organisations like IMF and World Bank could also be affected. China so far has been responding to US moves with caution and it is taking several preventive measures to counter or reduce its adverse impact.

America's focus is to step up its design and manufacturing capabilities. The US Senate recently passed a bill to bolster its technological and industrial capacity so that it remains much ahead of China in the scientific and technology race. Clearly, the US today is the leading power in science and technology and has the best education system to support it. This race will go on and America will try not only to maintain the lead but pursue relentlessly to take measures to put brakes on China's progress. This is taking several forms. The US has taken several legislative measures to strengthen and tighten the transfer of sensitive and critical technologies. Many Chinese firms have been blacklisted for malpractices that according to US authorities were illegally transferring technology for product manufacturing and innovation. Through these legal and administrative measures, it is tightening the technology transfer regime coupled with offensive policies thwarting Chinese scientific and technological progress. In fact, former President Trump having a business background saw the impending challenge to American industry and commerce from China and introduced several legislative measures to restrict it.

The question however arises: will any other country or countries be able to replace China in meeting US needs in the near future and produce products or systems at the same cost and at such large scale? More significantly, by taking these protective measures including restrictive legislation, the US will be abandoning the very foundational policy of free trade that itself has been rightly claiming to be the trigger for its phenomenal economic and technological progress. Will this also not justify other nations to ignore the present trade practices and distort the international trade system? Raising these concerns are necessary so that the global trading

system that had developed over the years despite certain lacunae has worked for the benefit of the world. Furthermore, in the past fight for economic supremacy or to perpetuate the status quo by nations unfairly has given rise to serious cold or even hot wars which should be avoided.

In this confrontational global scenario Pakistan has been treading carefully. It maintains strong strategic and economic ties with China and has been able to establish a cooperative working relationship with Washington which lately has shown signs of promise. In this the military leadership and the Foreign Office have played a key role. America though is withdrawing from the region physically but would be closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan in which it realises the importance of Pakistan. The Biden administration also seems to be reviewing its relations with Iran and the nuclear agreement that former President Trump set aside may be revived with some modifications. Moreover, the Indian hostility toward Pakistan is not in the interest of the US as it only pushes it closer to China and promotes instability in the region. The US-China rivalry would adversely affect the global economy and Pakistan could be one of its major victims if Chinese projects were to slow down. In that scenario the possibility of India getting emboldened and stepping up its hostility toward us cannot be ruled out. Pakistan has faced similar situations in the past and is well prepared to counter these potential dangers.

Earlier, it was in the realm of conventional and nuclear defence capabilities that major powers competed. This race still continues rather discreetly on land, air, sea and space as technology takes strides with its inherent dangers, but the real competition and focus of major powers is mainly on trade, commerce, economic supremacy and dominance.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313687/balancing-ties-with-china-and-the-us>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک، اومان پاکستان کا بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر بن سکتا ہے، احسن وگن

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) اومان میں تعینات پاکستانی سفیر احسن وگن نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کی تکمیل کے بعد اومان پاکستان کا بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر بن سکتا ہے، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے تجارتی وفد کے تبادلے انتہائی ضروری ہیں۔ اومان میں پاکستانی سفار تھانے کے زیر اہتمام آن لائن سمینار کا انعقاد کیا گیا، اومان میں پاکستانی سفیر احسن وگن، اسلام آباد میں اومانی سفیر شیخ محمد عمر المرحون، ایف پی سی سی آئی کے قائم مقام صدر حنیف لاکھانی، اومان چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر انجینئرید الصالح نے شرکت کی، امینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے اومان میں پاکستانی سفیر احسن وگن نے کہا کہ سی پیک کی تکمیل کے بعد اومان پاکستان کا بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر بن سکتا ہے، پاکستانی سفیر نے گواہ اور سی پیک میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے آگاہ کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے تجارتی وفد کے تبادلے انتہائی ضروری ہیں، دونوں ممالک میں تجارتی نمائشوں کے انعقاد سے تجارت کو فروغ حاصل ہوگا، اومان چیئرمین آف کامرس کے صدر انجینئرید الصالح نے کہا کہ اومان نے سرمایہ کاری کے قوانین کو کاروبار دوست بنایا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-04/page-10/detail-44>

August 05, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese co to invest \$360m in Rashakai SEZ

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Century Steel (Pvt) Ltd, a Chinese company will invest \$360 million in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CPEC Project Director Dr Liaquat Ali Shah said this, while talking to Business Recorder on Wednesday.

He said that all the utility facilities including electricity, gas, water, and others for Rashakai Special Economic Zone would be completed at the end of this year.

He said that in the first phase, Chinese iron and steel conglomerate has become the first foreign enterprise to establish its plant in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone under the CPEC with a planned investment of \$50 million.

He said that industrial relocation to Pakistan under the CPEC is our policy and other foreign companies are ready to invest in Pakistan.

The CPEC project director said that 40 acres land has been allocated to Century Steel Ltd owned by Fuzhou Julitaihe International Company of China in Rashakai Special Economic Zone, which owns steel mills in Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Ethiopia with a net capacity of 3,000 million tonnes of iron and steel products.

He said that the Rashakai SEZ comes under the CPEC umbrella and is the first industrial cooperation project between China and Pakistan.

He said that the 1,000-acre zone will create 200,000 direct and indirect jobs and is expected to attract Rs347 billion investment.

According to a statement of the Board of Investment (BoI), having the capacity to produce 0.25 million tonnes of steel products per annum at the proposed plant in Rashakai, the project will consume 45MW of electricity and create job opportunities for 1,000 employees directly or indirectly.

The BoI said 10MW of electricity at the economic zone had already been arranged through 11kV feeder, while work was in progress on the 160MW, 132 kV grid station.

Due to its location on the motorway and proximity to the Torkham border and Central Asia, the Rashakai SEZ is expected to be the game-changer for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Answering a question, CPEC Project Director Dr Liaquat Ali Shah said that the first phase of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Faisalabad Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Punjab under the CPEC has been completed.

He said that development work on Dhabaji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) in Thatta and Bostan Industrial Zone situated at district Pishin Balochistan is continuing and all utility facilities (gas, electricity, water, access road, security etc) would be completed at the end of this year.

Answering another question about agriculture sector, Dr Shah said that we are focusing on development work on two sectors, first industrial sector and second is the agriculture sector. He said that we have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China on agriculture sector.

“We have prepared an Action Plan on agriculture sector and shared it with the Chinese government. We will discuss the Action Plan in the next Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting, which is expected in this month (August),” the CPEC project director said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/05/1-page/895844-news.html>

Daily Times

Way Forward for CPEC

News that General (r) Asim Bajwa resigned as CPEC Authority chairman as soon as Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed Khalid Mansoor as his special assistant on everything related to the Corridor didn't really catch anybody by surprise; at least not anybody associated with CPEC. Word in Islamabad was that both the Chinese and the planning ministry, which handles CPEC, were not exactly very happy with the way he was handling the project. Things had, in fact, been going sideways since his family business empire became the subject of much controversy in the local press and also since he decided to step down as special advisor to prime minister on information and broadcasting.

CPEC is now moving beyond the initial phase of setting up the necessary infrastructure in Pakistan for such an extensive venture and into the second stage which, according to Planning Minister Asad Umar, will 'focus on industrial cooperation'. And the PM office very rightly believed that it needed someone with more entrepreneurial skills to deal with the Chinese at this fragile time. Reports in the international media suggest that Beijing is pretty unhappy with Islamabad at the moment because the speed of the Corridor has slowed down somewhat. If that is true then we will not only have to make up for the time already lost but also work much faster in the future because of the nature of the negotiations to come.

Nobody needs any reminding that CPEC is truly a godsend for Pakistan. Without it we would never have been able to erect the kind of infrastructure that we are in the process of doing right now. And with it will come the kind of economic and financial bonanza that can really turn our fortunes around. The Chinese idea of resurrecting the ancient silk route in the modern setting can change everything about this region; and CPEC is a small but very important part of the wider Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Pakistan must make sure that it is ahead of the curve on all important developments and milestones when it comes to CPEC. Anything less would amount to letting a very precious opportunity go begging.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/801275/way-forward-for-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

New Ezs being established to generate more jobs

In order to put industrial sector on the track of sustainable development and to accelerate industrial activities in the province, a number of new economic zones (Ezs) are being established. During the last fiscal year, four new economic zones have been launched including Rashakai Special Economic Zone, Jaloza Economic Zone, Nowshera Economic Zone (Extension) and D.I.Khan Economic Zone.

Collectively around 0.3 million new employment opportunities are expected through these economic zones. Besides, 89 acres Ghazi Economic zone and 40 acres Chital Economic Zone are also ready and expected to be launched during the next two months. Ghazi Economic Zone would generate around 17980 employment opportunities whereas Chital Economic Zone is also expected to generate 8000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

This was disclosed in a meeting of Economic Zones Development & Management Company held here with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair, the other day.

Special Assistant to CM for Industries Abdul Karim, Secretary Industries Hamayun Khan, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Chief Executive Officer KP-EZDMC Javed Khattak and other relevant senior officials attended the meeting. The meeting was given a detailed briefing about establishing industrial units in the existing economic zones, newly launched and upcoming economic zones in the province.

The forum was informed that an investment of over Rs. 31 billion has been mobilized in existing economic zones and 1290 industrial units have been setup so far in the existing economic zones adding that work on the revival of closed industrial units in the economic zones was also in progress which will bring in new investment and employment opportunities as well.

Besides, establishment of Women Business Park has also been proposed to promote women entrepreneurship and to provide business friendly environment to women entrepreneurs in the province.

<https://pakobserver.net/new-ezs-being-established-to-generate-more-jobs/>

Pakistan's export to China up 70.3pc

Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.735 billion in January-to-June in the first half of 2021, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). China Economic Net reported that exports from Pakistan to China increased by 70.3% during the first half of the current fiscal year (2020-2021), according to GACC figures.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, bilateral trade has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports stood at \$1.735 billion in the first half of FY21, up 70.3 percent from \$1.019 billion in the same period of the previous year. Last month Pakistani Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and

Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that Pakistan's export to China registered an increase of 34% in FY2020-21.

"I'm pleased to share that our exports have done quite well in our major markets.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-export-to-china-up-70-3pc/>

The Express Tribune

China looks forward to 'jointly promote' CPEC with its new civilian chief

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Wednesday congratulated newly-appointed Special Assistant to Prime Minister on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) affair Khalid Mansoor, saying that his country was looking forward to jointly promoting the mega project with high-quality development. Mansoor was appointed SAPM on CPEC affair a day earlier, resulting in the resignation of chairman of CPEC Authority, Lt-Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa.

"[The] prime minister is pleased to appoint Khalid Mansoor as special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC affairs with immediate effect," according to a notification issued by the PM Office. The appointment will be in an honorary capacity, it added. Mansoor's appointment symbolises with giving the control of CPEC back to the civilians, which appears in line with the strategy of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who was against setting up the CPEC Authority.

"Congratulations to Mr Khalid Mansoor and looking forward to jointly promoting CPEC with high quality development," Nong Rong wrote on his official Twitter handle late Wednesday.

He also paid tribute to Bajwa for his contribution in advancing the multi-billion dollar project. "Our cooperation will be valued, friendship cherished, and efforts recognised," he added.

Bajwa has approval of the CPEC Authority Act and making Gwadar port operational to his credit. He tried to remove obstacles in implementation of the CPEC projects but did not get full cooperation from the line ministries that are directly responsible for execution of these schemes. Bajwa also enjoyed good relations with Chinese authorities.

But an attack on Chinese nationals working on World Bank-funded Dasu hydropower project and its mishandling by Pakistani authorities gave a jolt to Pak-China relations. The new appointment is also in line with the government's strategy of ending a distinction between the CPEC and non-CPEC projects and dealing with all economic matters under one roof. Premier Imran has already set up Pak-China Relations Steering Committee, which had sealed the fate of the CPEC Authority as an independent body. The Ministry of Planning issued a handout to welcome the appointment of Mansoor, suggesting that Umar was fully onboard on these changes. "Mansoor brings with him over four decades of experience working with multiple organisations in energy, petrochemicals, and fertilizer industries," the planning ministry said. He is expected to lead the second phase of CPEC which will focus on industrial cooperation, it added. Mansoor has extensive experience of working with Chinese companies and has a deep understanding of joint ventures, project development and execution with Chinese partners, the

ministry stated. Mansoor is a well-known business leader and has served as the president of Overseas Chamber of Commerce of Industry (OICCI). He has also worked closely with international financial institutions, like the World Bank, IFC, MIGA, OPIC, ADB, DEG, OFID as well as Chinese financial institutions such as China Development Bank, China Exim Bank, ICBC, Sinosure etc, according to the planning ministry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313910/china-looks-forward-to-jointly-promote-cpec-with-its-new-civilian-chief>

The Nation

To build a community of health for all

Nong Rong

The once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic is still wreaking havoc, posing a great threat to the lives and health of people all over the world, and is a big challenge to global public health. In the face of this common crisis for mankind, the international community needs solidarity and cooperation more than ever. Regrettably, an unhealthy trend of politicisation of the origin-tracing of the coronavirus by certain countries have seriously undermined the global combat against the pandemic, instigating the WHO Secretariat to unilaterally put forward a plan for the second phase of studies into the origins of coronavirus, without the consent of Member States. Many countries have raised concerns and voiced objection to the move. It is a shared belief that the plan is inconsistent with the resolution of the 73rd WHA, or the conclusions and recommendations of the China-WHO Joint Study of the Origins of the Novel Coronavirus. It failed to reflect the latest outcomes of global research and cannot serve as the basis for the second phase of joint origin studies. 70 countries have written letters, made statements or sent notes to the WHO Director General, stating that they welcome the China-WHO Joint Study of the Origins of the Novel Coronavirus and reject politicising virus origin-tracing issue. This is the legitimate appeal and voice of justice from the international community.

China has always taken an open, transparent, scientific and cooperative attitude on the issue of origin-tracing. China has taken the lead in cooperating with the WHO on origin-tracing, and has twice invited WHO experts in for origin-tracing studies, and opened the Wuhan Institute of Virology to international experts. China is ready to actively participate in the origin-tracing studies in a truly scientific manner, meanwhile is firmly against the use of origin-tracing as a tool for political gain and an excuse to slander other countries. At the Global Health Summit in May this year, President Xi Jinping made an important address and clearly advocated unity and cooperation among the international community. President Xi promised that China will provide an additional 3 billion US dollars in international aid over the next three years to support COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in other developing countries. China supports its vaccine companies in transferring technologies to other developing countries and carrying out joint production with them. China proposed to set up an international forum on vaccine cooperation for vaccine-developing and producing countries, companies and other

stakeholders to explore ways of promoting fair and equitable distribution of vaccines around the world. As of July, China had provided more than 500 million doses of vaccines and its raw fluids to more than 100 countries and international organizations, equivalent to one-sixth of the current global production of COVID-19 vaccines, and contributed to the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Pakistan have worked hand in hand to help each other, setting a good example for global cooperation against the pandemic. China has made Pakistan a priority for vaccine aid and exports, providing more than 35 million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan as of July. At the 3rd Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held recently, the two sides agreed that the origin-tracing of the coronavirus is a scientific task, and should not be politicised. China also appreciates Pakistan's joint letter to the Director-General of WHO and the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, stressing that virus tracing is a scientific task and clearly opposing the politicization of the origin-tracing of the coronavirus. China will continue to meet the vaccine demand of Pakistan within all its capacity, and assist Pakistan in strengthening the national health system and tackling the disruptions of the pandemic to economic and social development.

On August 5, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi will host the First Online Meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation. Foreign ministers or competent ministers of relevant countries, representatives of the United Nations and other international organisations, and representatives of relevant enterprises are invited to the meeting. It is really appreciated that my friend, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mr Asad Umar will attend the meeting on Pakistan's behalf. I firmly believe that the successful convening of the meeting will further promote international cooperation and the equitable access to vaccines around the world, and bring countries to work together to prevail over the pandemic.

As long as the international community stand together and help each other in times of difficulty, advance anti-pandemic cooperation unswervingly, and build a community of health for all at all our efforts, we will have more confidence to win a complete victory over the pandemic at an early date, and usher in a better future for mankind.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-05/page-6/detail-2>

Army brigade to guard Dasu Dam workforce, PAC told

MUHAMMAD ASAD CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD - Secretary Ministry of Water Resources on Wednesday informed the Public Accounts Committee that an army brigade is being moved at the site of Dasu Dam to provide security to the Chinese company workforce.

He said this while replying to a question asked by Senator Mushaid Hussain Syed regarding resumption of work on Dasu Dam, which was suspended following a terrorist attack at the bus

carrying the Chinese company's work force. At least 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals were killed in the blast.

The secretary said that an army brigade is going to be moved at the site of Dasu Dam within next few days. He said it is expected that the construction work on the project would be resumed within this month.

He informed that the Chairman WAPDA is not present in PAC meeting because he is in a meeting at the Military Operations Directorate along with Deputy Ambassador of China in Pakistan. Work on hydel power project to restart this month

“We have assured the Chinese that we will ensure foolproof security in future”, he added. The meeting of the subcommittee of PAC was held at Parliament House with MNA Riaz Fatyana in the chair. Meanwhile, discussing an audit para regarding encroachment over 4248 kanals of WAPDA's land, it was informed that the said land is occupied by local people as well as government department. The auditors pointed out that neither any effort was made to take up the matter with the AJK government nor the case was pursued against private persons that caused a loss of billions of rupees.

In response, the Secretary informed the committee that the original encroached land is only 596 kanals and a total of 39 cases are pending in civil court from where the encroachers have taken restraining orders. The PAC after discussing the matter referred the matter back to the Ministry of Water Resources to reach an amicable solution with the AJK government.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-05/page-12/detail-1>

Nawaiwaqt News

شنگھائی میں چین پاکستان ثقافت و فن کے تبادلے کی نمائش کا انعقاد

شنگھائی (شہنہوا) سال 2021 میں چین اور پاکستان کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہونے کی 70 ویں سالگرہ ہے اور شنگھائی باکو فن مرکز (شنگھائی بینار) نے 26 جولائی سے 8 اگست تک "ایچ میکنگ" قومی خزانہ جمع کرنے والوں کی ایک نمائش کا انعقاد کیا۔ نمائش کو شنگھائی میں پاکستانی قونصلیٹ کی حمایت حاصل تھی، اس کا مقصد 2 قدم تہذیبوں کے ساتھ ساتھ قدیمی اور عصری فنون کے درمیان ثقافتی تبادلے کو واضح کرنا ہے۔ "ایچ میکنگ" میں قالین، بیننگلز اور تصاویر بطور کیریئر استعمال ہوتی ہیں جو کہ قالین اور فوٹو گرافی کے میدان میں ایچ میکنگ کی تاریخ کا پتہ لگاتی ہے۔ قالین آرٹ کی مرکزی ٹائم لائن کے طور پر قالین آرٹ 4 ادوار پر مشتمل ہے جن میں قدیم مصر، عرب کا سنہری دور، مغلیہ سلطنت اور ہم عصر دور شامل ہیں۔ یہ حاضرین کو پورے قالین کے فن کی ترقی کے سیاق و سباق کو تیزی سے سمجھنے میں مدد کیلئے ڈیزائن کیا گیا ہے۔ نمائش میں چھت، دیواروں اور فرش پر قالین لٹکائے اور بچھائے گئے تاکہ حاضرین مکمل طور پر ایک شاندار قالین کی دنیا میں داخل ہو سکیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-05/page-6/detail-45>

August 06, 2021

Daily Times

China-Pakistan Medical Corridor a win-win cooperation: PMA

China-Pakistan Medical Corridor (CPMC) is a win-win cooperation for people's livelihood, which is significantly important not only for Pakistan, but also for the Chinese medical industry.

According to Gwadar Pro, the CPMC is jointly initiated by PMA and China Medical Association (CMA) to deepen bilateral medical cooperation and improve the health level of the Pakistani and Chinese people. "Since the mechanism was launched, a number of events have been held to improve bilateral medical level covering the fields of obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, osteology and so on."

This was stated by Ashraf Nizami, the chairman of international relations, Pakistan Medical Association (PMA).

In an interview, a spokesperson of CMA said, "Against the backdrop of COVID-19 sweeping the world, the importance and significance of CPMA has become increasingly prominent, it's time to speak out for deeper medical cooperation between the two countries."

The PMA expressed the same desire as CMA. Nizami said, "CPMC, inspired by BRI and CPEC frames, is a historic event in the medical sector for the two countries. Once Pakistan and China have cooperation and solidarity in economic affairs, why don't we extend them to cover the medical sector? We have to learn from each other in this field. Certainly, Pakistan is eager for all the expertise and the research that Chinese have got, so as we can improve national health level stably and efficiently.

On the other hand, Chinese colleagues also saw unlimited potential in Pakistan's medical industry, so they are taking a positive attitude towards bilateral cooperation." Regarding the reasons why Pakistan should strengthen communication with China in the medical industry, Prof. Nizami attributed it to three respects.

He said: "The first and most important factor is that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and have a historical friendship basis. The deep friendship rooted in the people's hearts of both countries has laid a foundation for medical cooperation which needs solid trust." "The second reason is that China has made great progress in science and research in the past two decades. Especially in the medical sector, China has surpassed Western countries in various fields, and walked in the forefront of the world," he added.

Nizami said: "In addition, the facilitative policies under BRI and CPEC have ensured the construction of CPMC to be convenient and affordable. As Chinese president Xi Jinping said, no one can make progress in isolation."

He emphasized again that CPMC is a win-win cooperation for people's livelihood. He said: "China's medical industry has been booming and reached great heights on a global scale.

Pakistan with its 216 million people, developing medical industry, favorable policies and friendly people has provided a huge space for China to learn, invest and communicate. It is not only the Pakistanis who can benefit from CPMC, but also a great opportunity for our Chinese colleagues to get information, improve expertise, and share experiences mutually.”

“Finally, I must say that CPMC, the medical cooperation between Pakistan and China, between PMA and CMA, is a very positive sign which will certainly reflect a very positive impact on the patients, medical professions, medical practitioners, and health sciences of the two countries. And definitely, it will play an important and positive role under BRI in Asia and around the world,” Prof. Nizami said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/801741/china-pakistan-medical-corridor-a-win-win-cooperation-pma/>

China for peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue

China on Thursday reiterated its consistent and clear position on Kashmir issue and called for its proper and peaceful settlement under the United Nations (UN) Charter, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and bilateral agreements.

“China’s position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. The Kashmir issue is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan and should be properly resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements,” a Chinese foreign ministry’s spokesperson said in response to a question regarding completion of two years of India’s illegal act of August 5, 2019.

On August 5, 2019, in violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and of international law, India took unilateral measures in a bid to change demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and tried to obliterate the distinct identity of Kashmiri people.

The spokesperson said that as a common neighbour of India and Pakistan, China sincerely hoped that India would live in harmony, peacefully resolve dispute between the two countries through mutual dialogue, and work together to maintain peace and stability in South Asia.

The remarks of the Chinese spokesperson came at a time when entire Pakistan nation is observing ‘Youm-e-Istehsal’ to protest the completion of two years of India’s illegal act of August 5, 2019.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/801706/china-for-peaceful-resolution-of-kashmir-issue/>

The Nation

‘Pakistan Film Week’ kicks off with screening of movie ‘Motorcycle Girl’ in Beijing

BEIJING - “Pakistan Film Week” kicked off with screening of “Motorcycle Girl” a biographical adventure drama film based on the life of a young motorcyclist Zenith Irfan here at Art Cinema of China Film Archive.

Five movies from Pakistan will be screened to entertain local movie lovers during the first-ever Pakistan Film Week as part of celebratory activities of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.

Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and China-Film Administration have jointly organized the four-day film week to further enhance cultural exchanges and people to people contacts between the two countries.

In a video message to the audience at the premier show, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said the screening of five movies from Pakistan will further enhance cultural exchanges and people to people contact between Pakistan and China.

“It also provides a great opportunity to Pakistani filmmakers to showcase their movies in China,” he added. He thanked the Chinese film administration for this opportunity to Pakistani movie makers showcase their films in China, and hoped that the cooperation between China and Pakistan will further enhance in the field of movies, dramas, and other information and media departments.

Welcoming the viewers, Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ahmed Farooq said that this was the first film festival of Pakistani films in China, which was a part of the celebrations of 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. He shared that after this film festival, Pakistani movies would be participating in another films festival in the beautiful city of Qingdao as well as in the prestigious Hainan Film Festival later this year. “We are working not only to bring Pakistani movies to the Chinese viewers but also undertake joint production with Chinese film producers,” he added.

The movies to be screened during the film week include Motorcycle Girl, Punjab Nahi Jaungi, Bin Roye, Ho Mann Jahan and Blind Love with Chinese and English subtitle. Two films will be screened on the last day of the film week. In November last year, “Parwaaz Hai Junoon” became the first Pakistan film to hit the silver-screens in China first time in 40 years.

The movie received the applause from around 400 people including officials of the Chinese government, institutions, enterprises, think tanks and media during its premier show.

The screening of movies during the film week is expected to build a new bridge for cultural exchanges between the two countries and further consolidate the Pakistan-China friendship.

It is also likely to pave way for joint ventures and joint productions of Pakistani movies between Pakistan and China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-06/page-15/detail-1>

August 07, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC and CPEC Authority

Farhat Ali

The Pakistan-China Relations Steering Committee in its meeting, held early this week under its Chairman Asad Umar, has set a one-month deadline for the Power Division to devise a policy to deal with the problems of delay in achieving Commercial Operation Dates (CODs) of five power projects with a generation capacity of 3,600MW being executed under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The five power projects being 884MW Suki Kinari hydropower project (10 months delay), 720MW Karot hydropower project (four months delay), 330MW Thar Block-II (12 months delay), 330MW Thal Nova Thar block-II (15 months delay) and 1,320MW Thar Block-I (12 months delay). All these projects are of high strategic and commercial importance.

The reasons for the delays are reported to be overall slowdown of the work on the CPEC projects, Covid-19-related delays, bureaucratic hurdles at Federal and Provincial levels, absence of 660KV HVDC transmission network to evacuate the power and even workers' strikes at some projects.

The growing frustration among our Chinese counterparts at these delays is quite understandable. Specifically, the delay in achieving a COD has serious contractual and financial consequences in terms of performance bonds and guarantees by the suppliers, commitments to lenders, penalties and additional financial burden on account of cost and time escalation. All this affects the project feasibility. The ministry and the other related government entities lack capacity to appropriately fathom and comprehend the sensitivity of the consequences of delays.

To streamline and expedite CPEC projects on a fast track, the government through an act of parliament, established the CPEC Authority for the planning, facilitation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of CPEC projects; it is meant to act as a one-point interface to the Chinese counterparts on all CPEC matters. All of this is not effectively happening. The implementation and enforcement of CPEC project continue to vest in the line ministries and other related government entities, functionaries and regulators. This is the major fault line in the CPEC landscape resulting in sluggish delivery. The project implementation organisational structure is too bureaucratic while the regulatory framework is superfluous.

Implementation and managing costs and timelines constitute the weakest point all along the bureaucratic hierarchy, processes and systems. It gets worse when it comes down to financial

and technical management projects and their execution. Inherently, bureaucracy is not tuned to perform such functions and it is a mistake to expose bureaucrats to these challenges. This needs to be changed not only for CPEC but for all Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) engaged in businesses, project management and commercial activities.

CPEC Authority has to be empowered as a sole authority which calls all the shots on all matters related to the CPEC. Apart from sovereign functions like Water Use Agreements with provincial governments, Power Purchase Agreements with Central Power Purchase Agency (CPPA) and Implementation Agreements with Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB). Besides these functions the entire implementation, enforcement and regulatory responsibility should be placed under CPEC Authority and all government entities and functionaries should accordingly align themselves in support of CPEC Authority. This change would require going through the cumbersome process of seeking amendment to the act by parliament, but it is inevitable if CPEC has to be moved ahead on fast track - which it must.

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

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/07/4-page/896164-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani mango festivals held in Chinese cities

Pakistani mango festivals were held in Shanghai and Suzhou. According to Gwadar Pro, Hussain Haider, consul general of Pakistan in Shanghai attended the event. “Pakistan grows high-quality mangoes, which are exported to more than 100 countries. With unique soil quality, temperature, and a long history of growing mangoes Pakistani mangoes are special in taste and aroma,” said Hussain Haider. In his speech on the occasion, he introduced the latest development of the mango industry. “Mango is an important part of Pakistani culture. One of the most famous varieties is the Chaunsa mango.

It has strong fragrance, high sweetness, fine fiber, thinner skin and smaller size compared with other mango varieties. “The 500-kilograms Chaunsa mangoes provided at the mango festivals come from Multan, Pakistan. “The mangoes arrived at Pudong Airport. After nucleic acid tests, the mangoes were delivered to us, said staff from HQIICET. “Pakistani mangoes are sweet and glutinous with a delicate fragrance. They are even more refreshing to quench thirst than ice cream,” a Shanghai consumer commented. Pakistani mangoes can not only be tasted at the mango festivals, they are also sold online.

During the event, activities such as trade negotiation live streaming interaction, cultural promotion and other activities were carried out, which laid a solid foundation for the sales of Pakistani mangoes in Chinese market. “By introducing mangoes on their platform, HQIICET has done an immensely commendable job, in bringing our two nations and cultures closer. We believe that mango tasting events in both Shanghai and Suzhou will be a success and our Chinese friends will taste and enjoy this special gift from Pakistan.” Hussain Haider said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802034/pakistani-mango-festivals-held-in-chinese-cities/>

The Express Tribune

Thar coal project to be audited

Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh on Friday said that Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had endorsed a health and safety audit of the Thar Coal Power Project.

The provincial minister made these remarks during a meeting with energy department officials at his office, said a spokesperson. Sheikh continued the Sindh government has decided to conduct health and safety audit survey by an ISO certified firm of all the companies operating in all blocks of the Thar Coal project.

The approval will only be given to companies after health and safety arrangements survey by an ISO certified firm, he said. Imtiaz Sheikh added that this decision of the Sindh government would help ‘Thar Coal Power Project’ to be executed in line with the best practices, while any flaw or weaknesses identified during the health and safety survey, would also be rectified.

The minister continued that the Sindh government wanted to make the Thar Coal Power Project a state-of-the-art power project in accordance with international standards and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2314388/thar-coal-project-to-be-audited>

The News

CPEC’s M-14 enters its final phase of completion

ISLAMABAD: :The Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway (M-14), a project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has entered its final phase of completion, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

M-14 is a 293 km long mega project under the Western Alignment of CPEC, connecting the southern parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province with the rest of the country that will lead to social and economic prosperity in the area.

In addition to connectivity, M-14 will play a major role in boosting agricultural development in southern KP, which has remained underdeveloped for a long time.

“The Motorway will help bring an agricultural revolution in the southern parts of KP. Farmers will get access to the main market of the country,” said Shafiullah Khan, a farmer from the Gandhi area of Lakki Marwat..

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/874585-cpec-s-m-14-enters-its-final-phase-of-completion>

Jang News

چین سے سائینوفام کی نئی کھیپ پہنچ گئی

چین سے کورونا وائرس کی ویکسین سائینوفام کی نئی کھیپ پاکستان کے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد پہنچ گئی۔
 ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ چین سے 7 لاکھ 92 ہزار سائینوفام ڈوز اسلام آباد لائی گئی ہیں۔
 ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان نے سائینوفام ویکسین کی چینی کمپنی سے خریداری کی ہے۔
 ذرائع نے بتایا کہ چین سے کورونا وائرس کی سائینوفام ویکسین کی کھیپ رات گئے اسلام آباد پہنچی۔
 ذرائع کا مزید کہنا ہے کہ چین سے سائینوفام ویکسین کی 2 کھیپ آئندہ 36 گھنٹے میں لائی جائیں گی۔
 ذرائع کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ ان 2 کھیپ میں چین سے سائینوفام کی 12 لاکھ 8 ہزار ڈوز لائی جائیں گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/967378>

August 08, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC must go on

Retired Lieutenant-General Asim Bajwa's decision to voluntarily step down as chairman of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) Authority, once Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed Khalid Mansoor as his special assistant on all affairs related to the Corridor, is appreciated as the honorable thing to do. Yet the show must go on and as the CPEC enters its second phase, which will focus on industrial cooperation between the two countries as well as their private sectors, the government's preference for someone with an entrepreneurial and corporate background is understandable. It also helps that the new special assistant has vast experience of working and dealing with international financial institutions (IFIs) and also a long history of working with Chinese companies.

So Khalid Mansoor seems to fit the bill rather well and the fact that he's also had a very long and healthy working relationship with Planning Minister Asad Umar, who oversees the CPEC, is something like the cherry on the cake. It also helps that he's being pretty candid right at the outset. Rather than start his stint by brushing rumours that the Chinese might be a little uncomfortable with the pace of progress of late under the carpet, he very rightly, and responsibly, said that if that is indeed the case then we will do what we have to in order to bring them around. That makes a lot of sense since the CPEC is clearly more of a game changer for us than for them and nobody, including the government, opposition as well as the establishment, ought to have any second thoughts about it.

It is, however, very true that things are not moving as fast as the Chinese would like, or even as fast as they were moving under the previous administration in Pakistan. One big reason is the pandemic, of course, but another is also the limited fiscal space that we have at the moment. And the present year's expansionary budget, which will need the government to sprinkle subsidies here and there and also live with the reemergence of an unpleasant current account deficit, would limit that fiscal space even further. Also, now that the nuts and bolts of the Corridor have been put in place and the right kind of infrastructure is being erected, the Chinese would no doubt

want to push the pace even further as negotiations between companies takes centre stage. That's where Khalid Mansoor's skills and experience should come in handy. He has enough experience of international business as well as dealing with the Chinese to know how and what to do and he's close enough to Asad Umar to have the right steps taken at home in the right amount of time. Keeping the CPEC on track is not just important because it takes care of a lot of our problems and gives us much to celebrate, but also because it has made China the biggest foreign direct investor in Pakistan. And since the IMF programme is technically suspended again, which makes us all the more vulnerable to exogenous financial shocks, we need to make extra sure that no eggs fall out of our basket at this point in time. FDI inflow, which is the kind of foreign exchange we need because it does not create any debt, already shrank about 29 percent year-on-year in FY21.

PM Imran Khan seems to have been advised well enough by the finance and commerce ministries to know which pieces to move on the board and at what time to make sure that the country is not checkmated economically and financially. Pakistan has done well, all things considered, to meet all the threats from the pandemic. But the problem hasn't yet gone away and we will continue to do well only if we have the reserves for it. The country should be able to preserve the CPEC, take it to new heights, and also broaden the base of our foreign investors to make the economy really take off.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/08/4-page/896241-news.html>

Daily Times

Two million Covid-19 vaccine doses arrive from China

Three special planes of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) airlifted a fresh batch of two million doses of Sinopharm vaccines from the Beijing Capital Airport to Pakistan amid the fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Three flights of the national flag carrier, PK-6856, PK-6857, and PK-6858 have transported consignments of two million doses of the Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccines to Pakistan from China, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP here on Saturday.

Another batch of 1.5 million purchased by Pakistan from Chinese company CanSino will be brought to Pakistan in the next few days. Pakistan has expedited the vaccination process in the wake of the fourth wave of Covid-19 in the country.

According to official sources, over 30 million people have so far been inoculated in Pakistan. Pakistan has been using mainly Chinese vaccines namely Sinopharm and Sinovac besides other vaccines. The government has run a massive vaccination drive across the country to achieve the target of providing 70 million doses of vaccines aimed at fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

The health authorities had launched a nationwide vaccination drive with around a million doses of Sinopharm vaccine donated by China, starting with older people and frontline healthcare workers, in March this year.

The drive began with a focus on the oldest people in the community, generally over the age of 80 but now the vaccine is being administered to people aged over 18 years. Islamabad received the first COVID-19 vaccine consignment after a military aircraft transported it from Beijing on February 01, this year.

It may be mentioned that China will provide a total of 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the world this year, in the latest effort to honor its commitment to making vaccines a global public good by ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability. China will donate \$100 million to the COVAX global vaccine initiative for the distribution of vaccines to developing countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802552/two-million-covid-19-vaccine-doses-arrive-from-china/>

The Apparatus of CPEC

Iftekhar A Khan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been the subject of speculation. Its proponents, which are in huge numbers, consider it a game changer for Pakistan's economy, while its critics think it is a debt trap for us, and that China will accrue far more benefits than Pakistan ever will. It is only a matter of opinion.

It is our dilemma that many politicians keep their personal interests above the national interests. For instance, it was the PML-N leadership that negotiated the terms of the CPEC and how its various projects were to proceed. But when the PTI government took over, it wanted to renegotiate terms and conditions of some of the projects, including realignment of some routes.

CPEC looks like a massive project ever undertaken in the country. But in the overall context of China's Belt and Road Initiative proposed to run through 60 countries of Asia, Europe and Africa, it is relatively a small part of the gigantic plan. China, under CPEC, plans to set up industrial zones, power plants to boost energy supply and expand rail and road networks. The energy projects developed under CPEC have not only improved the power supply, but also created about 28,000 jobs. According to stats, development of infrastructure of various projects have absorbed more than 55,000 working hands.

Although there is a long history of policy mess-ups, let's allow the CPEC to proceed according to the laid-out plans.

While creating jobs is Pakistan's compulsion being the world's fifth most populous country with the population of over 220 million, developing land routes is China's compulsion as well. China is the world's largest importer of oil. Presently, it procures its oil supply from the Middle East and routes it through the Strait of Malacca. This narrow stretch could be blockaded by aggressive designs of the US and India – both opposed to China's developing as the global economic power. Besides importing oil through Strait of Malacca, 80 percent of Chinese exports pass through the same route.

When CPEC promises to be the harbinger of prosperity for Pakistan, it provides a land route from our sea port Gwadar to the Xinjiang port of China. For China's imports and exports, the land route will reduce the distance by thousands of kilometres compared with the sea route through Malacca Strait. It will save both the time and distance.

At the same time, Chinese cargo transported by the land route laid out by the CPEC will provide us a regular source of income by way of toll taxes. Along the 3,000 km long Gwadar-Kashgar corridor, roadside hotels and motels will most likely spring up, creating job opportunities and promoting economic growth for the local populace.

The economic activities generated because of the CPEC are unimaginable. Consider exploration of untapped mineral resources of Baluchistan undertaken by the Chinese companies. Both the countries will benefit, further strengthening the Sino-Pakistani relationship. So far, we had to cough up millions of dollars in fines for abrogating the Reko Diq contract with an Australian-Chile joint venture. A former chief justice, in his convoluted sense of justice, cancelled the contract, pushing the country into litigation in the international courts.

Another bombshell has recently fallen on this poor nation when the UK High Court asked NAB to pay \$1.2 million to settle Broadsheet's claim. Company's chief, the Moussavi guy and his coming generations won't have to work again for a living, thanks to Pakistan. Surprisingly, the huge sum has to be paid by 4.30 p.m. on August 13, just a day before our Independence Day. Pakistan already paid \$28million to the company in January this year.

Although there is a long history of policy mess-ups, let's allow the CPEC to proceed according to the laid-out plans. If China benefits more out of the CPEC projects, let it be. After all, China is pouring huge investment and bringing in technical know-how to develop our country. It deserves to benefit from it. If we had the required technology and will to develop our land, we could have done it by now. Instead, we have had to pay fines to foreign firms for failing to honour our commitments.

Recall how Saudi Arabia was developed. In the late 30s and 40s, people lived in shacks and rode on camels before the oil was discovered. The oil wealth was buried deep underneath, but Saudis neither had the capacity nor the technology to capitalise on the hidden wealth. Saudi Arabia could not have been developed into what it is today had foreign technology not been allowed to explore the oil resource. Now people head for the Saudi land to seek employment. Who knows the CPEC might turn our country into a land of opportunities!

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802375/the-apparatus-of-cpec/>

CPEC's M-14 to help boost livestock farming

CPEC's M-14 to help boost livestock farming, besides a lot of other opportunities for the local people, like jobs, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

With the completion of this section, travel time from Mianwali to Rawalpindi and other destinations would be greatly reduced with less stress for the road users. The motorway is great

news for livestock owners to have easy access to markets to sell and purchase animals and to bring supplementary feeds from outside,” Muhammad Owais, a son of local farmer told Gwadar Pro.

He lives in the village of Muhammad Wala in Mianwali, Punjab. Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway (M-14), a project under CPEC, passes through his village. According to him, “The motorway has integrated with their village. It connected them to the rest of the country. At the moment they could only sell their livestock in the animal markets of Kamar Mushani, and the city of Esakhel. However the motorway would allow them to reach cattle markets of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Like Muhammad Owais, the livelihood of the majority of people living in rural of D.I. Khan, Mianwali and Attock districts mainly depends on agriculture and livestock rearing.

DI Khan and Mianwali have some irrigated agriculture while Attock is mainly rain fed. Livestock, for the people of these districts, serve as the main economic bank that they sell in hours of need. The villagers of these regions mainly raise sheep, goats and cows while keeping donkeys and camels for loadings.

Muzammil, 27, is another resident of Muhammad Wala. While standing in the mung bean field, he said the CPEC road explored their village. “Who knew our village before this motorway? It has integrated us with the rest of Punjab and southern KP as well,” he added.

Besides agriculture, Muhammad Muzammil also grows cattle at home. “Rainwater destroyed mung bean crops near the Indus River. Agriculture and cattle ranching are the main sources of our survival. If your crops are damaged then you only have to rely on livestock to meet household expenses,” he told Gwadar Pro.

Ataullah Khan from Kalowala village in Mianwali said, “If we could supply our products to main regional vegetable markets, we would get a fair amount,” adding they are anxiously waiting for the completion of M-14.

M-14 is also all set to help Attock farmers to send their poultry products across the country.

According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2021, more than eight million rural families are engaged in livestock production and deriving more than 35 to 40 percent of their income from this source.

The four-lane motorway that starts from Yarik (D.I. Khan) on Indus Highway N-55 to Hakla on M-1 would play a crucial role in agricultural development with livestock as a key subsector.

Besides connectivity, the impact of M-14 will be felt in many ways, which means a spurt in local enterprises and small businesses to cater to the increased purchasing power of the farmers, more schools and health facilities supported by the influx of new prosperity in the area, more private and public transport, more food shops, more local production, and more construction of residential and commercial properties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802445/cpecs-m-14-to-help-boost-livestock-farming/>

Pak envoy chairs meeting with Chinese scholars

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque chaired a virtual roundtable with leading Chinese academics and scholars on regional and international issues, peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, non-traditional security threats, and challenges posed by long-unresolved issues such as the illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir to regional peace and stability.

The event coincided with the Youm-e-Istehsal, marking the unilateral and illegal Indian actions of 5 August 2019, aimed at altering the status quo in the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802439/pak-envoy-chairs-meeting-with-chinese-scholars/>

Dawood visits FIEDMC to review progress of CPEC industrial city

Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce Razak Dawood on Saturday visited Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) office to review the progress of state of the art Allama Iqbal Industrial City, the first Special Economic Zone of the Punjab, under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq while briefing the advisor, said that the project was being executed on fast track basis on the directive of Prime Minister Imran Khan, said a press release received here. He said that the facility of gas, power, water and basic infrastructure, civic centre, etc, required for new industrial units had been provided. He said that Federal Minister Mian Hammad Azhar and Minister Industries Punjab Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal had also issued directives to the concerned departments for early completion of the mega project of national importance. The Chairman FIEDMC further informed that nearly 20 industrial units had started their production which covered one third of land of first phase of Allama Iqbal Industrial city while remaining would go into operation by end of the year.

He said during a recent meeting, the prime minister further directed to minimise the time allotment of industrial plots to foreign and local investors besides all investors must also be facilitated through one window operation. He said that spreading over 3300 acres of land, the project was being completed on a fast track basis which included a furniture city, apparel park, modern business centre and the largest Expo Centre for displaying Pak made products to attract local and foreign buyers.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said in line with the transparent policy of the Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar, industrial plots are being allotted to export based industries, imports substitute industries and relocation of local industries. He said that the prime minister was optimistic about the future of the country and fully committed to providing the best possible package of incentives to foreign and local investors to boost industrial production to strengthen the national economy which promised better living conditions for poor strata of the society.

He said that the prime minister approved 500 megawatt grid stations and 40 mmcf gas to meet the future demands of the industrial units. He said an amount of rupees 7.5 billion has so far been spent on the completion of the first phase.

Razak Dawood expressed satisfaction over the pace of development and progress of this project achieved so far and highly appreciated the dedication, devotion and leadership qualities of Mian Kashif Ashfaq demonstrated in the FIEDMC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/802525/dawood-visits-fiedmc-to-review-progress-of-cpec-industrial-city/>

Dawn News

Closure feared due to cheap Chinese products

GUJRAT: Manufacturers of pottery and ceramic products have lodged a strong protest against the recent hike in gas tariff which is the basic fuel for the industry.

They said the move would render their products uncompetitive and Chinese products could capture the entire Pakistani market in this sector.

Pakistan Pottery Manufacturers Association president Chaudhary Zuman said the tariff had almost been doubled in the fresh bills received by the manufacturing units in Gujrat that shocked the local industry.

He said the Gujrat-based pottery units were actually domestic cottage industry as some major manufacturing units had already been shut due to worst conditions of doing business. “Now the new gas tariff could result in closure of the cottage industry as well”.

Pottery, ceramics industry shocked by gas tariff hike

He said the PPMA had decided to stage a sit-in outside the Parliament House in case the hike was not withdrawn.

He said some local glass factories had already been closed due to high cost of doing business.

Raja Waqas Ahmed, the PPMA general secretary, said such an increase of gas tariff had never been witnessed before. “The government has purchased the RLNG on hefty prices from international market but the local industry was not capable of bearing such a pressure.”

He said that the manufacturers were compelled to increase the rates of their products due to hike in gas prices but the local industry might not survive before the Chinese products in terms of prices. Gujrat houses at least 150 pottery manufacturing units where around 25,000 workers are employed and hundreds of people are also affiliated with the trade of pottery products across the country.

The manufacturers have called upon Prime Minister Imran Khan to take notice of the matter and order withdrawal of the hike in gas tariff.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1639433>

Dunya News

Will not allow CPEC to fall prey to external conspiracy: Sheikh Rashid

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has reiterated determination that Pakistan will not allow the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to fall prey to any external conspiracy.

According to state media, the Interior Minister gave the remarks during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong who called on him at his residence. Issues of mutual interest, including Pak-China bilateral relations, were discussed on the occasion.

The minister said that the ongoing investigation into the Dasu hydropower bus accident came under discussion. The parties agreed to complete the investigation as soon as possible. Sheikh Rashid said that the security of Chinese citizens and Chinese companies operating in Pakistan would be made foolproof.

Rashid said that no force can be an obstacle in the relations between Pakistan and China. During the meeting, the Chinese Ambassador said that many Chinese companies in Pakistan are working on various projects. He also thanked the Interior Ministry for providing facilities to Chinese citizens.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/613995-Will-not-allow-CPEC-to-fall-prey-to-external-conspiracy:-Sheikh-Rashid>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China complementary to promote capacity promoting trade relations:

Wang

With Pak-China economic and trade relations upgrading continuously, capacity cooperation has become one of the important carriers of complementary advantages between both countries. According to Gwadar Pro, trade volume between both countries has grown rapidly showing an increase from \$4 billion in year 2004-2005 to around \$20 billion in recent years.

It is also worth mentioning that as per China Customs, Pakistan's exports to China in first half of 2021 amounted to \$1.73 billion, a huge growth of 84% as compared to 1H 2020 which shows great potential of China-Pakistan trade investment and Pakistan's growing visibility and advantages in trade and logistics.

Wang Zihai, Executive Director, Pakistan China Center (PCC) who was appointed as Honorable Investment Counsellor (HIC) by Pakistani Board of Investment (BoI) recently, said in an interview with Gwadar Pro that the center is focusing on making this platform to gather capital, technology and talents, incubate high-tech industries and promote people-to-people exchanges. "In the next step, we will sort out Pakistan's industrial categories and find the space for

complementarity with China's related industries, so as to encourage China's capacity to complement Pakistan's strengths."

Talking about the challenges facing Pak-China trade and its prospect, Mr. Wang highlighted that although the volume of trade is growing every year, the total volume is still insufficient compared with the political situation that has been friendly for generations and the population of the two countries.

"There is trade deficit between Pakistan and China, which will affect the balanced development of trade in the long run. But we are delighted to see that CPFTA Phase II has brought huge benefits and if we work on innovative trade model, the deficit can be bridged soon hopefully."

Presently the new model and new business type emerge one after another. Cross-border e-commerce is in full swing and barter trade is also in preliminary exploration. China-Pakistan cooperation needs to keep up with the pace of the times.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under construction provides immense physical space and corresponding market opportunities for the expansion of China-Pakistan trade. Mr. Wang stated that recently, together with relevant departments, PCC has launched a cross-border e-commerce development strategy workshop for Pakistani youth to learn new business type.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-complementary-to-promote-capacity-promoting-trade-relations-wang/>

The Nation

UNSC condemns Dasu terror attack, asks members to help Pakistan, China bring perpetrators to justice

Ambassador Munir Akram says Pakistan concerned at support being provided to TTP by a third country | Criticises India for denying Pakistan an opportunity to address Security Council

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) urged the member states to "cooperate actively" with Pakistan and China in holding the perpetrators of the July 14 terrorist attack of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa that had killed nine Chinese nationals and three Pakistanis.

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice," a press statement issued by the UNSC on Saturday said.

The UNSC condemned in strongest words the terrorist attack and called upon the member States to cooperate "in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions." They reaffirmed the need for all states to combat by all means, in accordance with the UN Charter and other obligations under international law of human rights, refugee law and the international humanitarian law, to counter the threats to international peace and security.

The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the governments of Pakistan and China, and wished a speedy and full recovery to the injured. They reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted “one of the most serious threats to international peace and security”.

The UNSC members reiterated that “acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed”.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, Pakistan strongly deplored allegations made by Afghan and Indian diplomats that terrorists use its territory as a safe haven. Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram, addressing a news conference in New York, said Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan has been fenced and there is no free flow of people.

He said Pakistan will never allow its soil to be used to destabilize Afghanistan and expect the same from Afghanistan. Ambassador Akram also criticized India, the council president for the month of August, for denying Pakistan an opportunity to address the Security Council as a neighbouring country with a direct stake in peace in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan is especially concerned at the support being provided to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Jamat ul Ahrar by a third country. Ambassador Akram also slammed regional “spoilers” who he said are attempting to derail the Afghan peace process that Pakistan had facilitated.

He warned against spoilers, “both within and outside Afghanistan” against their machinations to promote their vested interests. The Pakistani envoy said Prime Minister Imran Khan has consistently called for a political solution as the only way to restore durable peace and security in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has made earnest efforts to promote such a political settlement.

Munir Akram said we strongly believe that any military takeover or imposition by force of a government in Afghanistan will further aggravate and prolong the conflict.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-08/page-1/detail-12>

Pak-China Technical Institute Gwadar to be functional by December-end

ISLAMABAD - Almost ninety percent construction work at Pak-China Technical and Vocational Training Institute has been completed while the remaining would be completed in stipulated time. According to official sources, the project was being built under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the port city of Gwadar with a total cost of Rs 2 billion and would be fully functional by December 2021 through which local youth would be provided technical training to prepare skilled force. The project was aimed at establishing state-of-the-art vocational and technical training institute in Gwadar. “The project will enhance skills of local population of Gwadar to participate in the growth of the Port City and bring investment, business and tourism in the area,” sources added. The Institute would help fulfilling maritime skilled manpower requirements of the Gwadar Port after the development of industrial projects including the Gwadar Port Free Zone, Export Processing Zone and other industrial and port-related projects.

The Institute comprises a main building, having two blocks, an administration block, four workshops, cafeteria, hostels, parking areas, an examination block and a teachers lodging facility, they disclosed.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-08/page-8/detail-1>

Asad Umar asks Shehbaz Sharif to keep CPEC out of politics

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Saturday asked President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Shehbaz Sharif to keep the national project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) away from his politics. In his tweet, the minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan's government was committed to take the mega project to new heights. "Building industrial zones, new working groups for agriculture, science & technology & information technology, significantly accelerating work on western alignment, expanding scope of Gwadar all show PMIK government commitment to CPEC", he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-08/page-12/detail-5>

The News

CPEC's M-14 to help boost livestock farming

ISLAMABAD: CPEC's M-14 to help boost livestock farming, besides a lot of other opportunities for the local people, like jobs, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

With the completion of this section, travel time from Mianwali to Rawalpindi and other destinations would be greatly reduced with less stress for the road users.

The motorway is great news for livestock owners to have easy access to markets to sell and purchase animals and to bring supplementary feeds from outside," Muhammad Owais, a son of local farmer told Gwadar Pro. He lives in the village of Muhammad Wala in Mianwali, Punjab. Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway (M-14), a project under CPEC, passes through his village.

According to him, "The motorway has integrated with their village. It connected them to the rest of the country. At the moment they could only sell their livestock in the animal markets of Kamar Mushani, and the city of Esakhel. However the motorway would allow them to reach cattle markets of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Like Muhammad Owais, the livelihood of the majority of people living in rural of D.I. Khan, Mianwali and Attock districts mainly depends on agriculture and livestock rearing.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/875143-cpec-s-m-14-to-help-boost-livestock-farming>

Jang News

چین سے سائنوفام کی مزید 6 لاکھ 80 ہزار ڈوزز آگئیں

چین سے انسدادِ کورونا وائرس ویکسین سائنوفام کی ایک اور کھیپ پاکستان کے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد پہنچادی گئی ہے۔

وزارتِ صحت کے ذرائع کے مطابق چین سے پی آئی اے کی پرواز کورونا وائرس کی ویکسین سائنوفام کی 6 لاکھ 80 ہزار خوراکیں لے کر اسلام آباد پہنچی ہے۔

The President reiterated Pakistan's commitment to "One-China Policy" and firm support to China on core issues of its national interest, such as Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. He appreciated China's support for Pakistan's core national issues like Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Nuclear Suppliers Group and Financial Action Task Force. He also thanked the Chinese government for providing support to Pakistan in containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President underlined that Pakistan is committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project that has huge potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that certain hostile players are not happy over the project and are trying to sabotage it but they would not succeed as both the iron brothers are strongly committed to implement the project. Offering condolences to the Government of China and the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in Dasu, the President underscored that the security of Chinese nationals, working in various projects in Pakistan, is the highest priority of Pakistan and the Government is making all-out efforts for their protection and security.

Nong Rong said that Pakistan is the closest friend of China and his country wants to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. He added that his country would share its experiences with Pakistan that would help in its social and economic prosperity. He lauded the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan that successfully contained the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador informed that China would provide six million vaccine doses this week while 100 million vaccine doses would be provided by the end of the year. He also referred to the recently held Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries last month and expressed the hope that the Dialogue would further push forward the relations between the two brotherly countries.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/614153-Hostile-players-trying-to-sabotage-CPEC-President-Alvi>

Pakistan Observer

Any hurdle to CPEC not to be tolerated, Pakistan minister says

ISLAMABAD – Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that any hurdle in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will not be tolerated at any cost. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that Pakistani nation is united on CPEC and Kashmir issue. Rashid said that India and Israel wanted to create in Pakistan, adding that unity is required to foil the nefarious designs by anti-Pakistan powers.

He said that opposition is unaware of changing situation of the region. Talking about Dasu dam incident in which 13 people including nine Chinese were killed, the interior minister said that investigation into it has been completed, adding that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will share the details in this regard.

He said that passport of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was cancelled, adding that he should return to the country. Talking about the Islamabad police performance, Sheikh Rashid said that 2,000 more police men would be inducted in the department.

He said IG Islamabad has been directed to immediately install 190 cameras in the federal capital, adding that Rescue 1122 would also be launched soon to facilitate the citizens. Responding to a question about the alleged abduction of Afghan ambassador's daughter, he said the Kabul's investigation team went back on Sunday, adding that full cooperation was extended to them.

<https://pakobserver.net/any-hurdle-to-cpec-not-to-be-tolerated-pakistan-minister-says/>

The Nation

Pakistan, China decide to complete Dasu incident probe as soon as possible

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday said that foolproof security would be provided to the members of Chinese companies functioning in Pakistan.

Sheikh Rashid was speaking to the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who visited him at his residence to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two countries. During the meeting, the Chinese envoy and the interior minister also discussed the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China.

The minister told the Chinese envoy that the government would take further measures to ensure security to Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.

The minister said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will not become a victim of any external conspiracy. He added, "No one can become a hurdle in the relations between Pakistan and China".

The Dasu Hydropower Bus incident also came under discussion during the meeting. It was decided that the investigation into the incident would be completed as soon as possible. The Chinese envoy said that a number of Chinese companies were working in Pakistan on several projects. He said that the Chinese government was thankful to the interior ministry for the provision of facilities to its nationals working in the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-09/page-1/detail-6>

India's diplomatic terrorism

Masud Ahmad Khan

The alleged kidnapping of Afghanistan's ambassador's daughter in Islamabad made headlines in international media. India took full advantage of the situation and distorted facts about the abduction. Indian history is full of assassinations, kidnappings and sabotage, particularly in other countries, and using such incidents to malign Pakistan is not fair.

A Romanian diplomat in India, Iviu Radu, was kidnapped in Delhi in 1991 and the responsibility of the kidnapping was claimed by an organization called the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF). This was linked with the death of a Sikh and arrests of two others in an attempted assassination of Julio Riberio, the Indian ambassador to Romania. He was the Director General (DG) of the Punjab police during the Sikh insurgency. Their demand was the release of three Sikhs who were facing a death sentence for the 1986 assassination of the former Indian Chief of Army Staff. Later it was revealed that it was a plot made and carried out by RAW to malign the Sikhs' freedom struggle.

In February 1984, Ravindra Mhatre was kidnapped from Birmingham by group known as the Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA). They messaged the Reuters office that they will kill the diplomat unless their demands are met. Their demand was the release of the JKLF leader, Maqbool Butt, who was facing a death sentence. JKLF and the Pakistani intelligence agency were accused of plotting the kidnapping of the RAW official. However, it was once again a RAW plot to malign Pakistan and JKLF and it ultimately led to Maqbool Butt being hanged.

Ajit Doval, the Indian National Security Advisor, lived in Lahore disguised as a Muslim for seven years. He has notoriously been famous for his covert operations against Pakistan. The 'Doval Doctrine' is based on fomenting insurgency in Balochistan as payment for the secession of former East Pakistan. Amar Sinha, a former ambassador of India to Afghanistan, was notoriously famous as Daesh handler in Afghanistan. His assignment was to manage the funding and supply line of anti-Pakistan terrorist groups. In the past, Pakistan expelled dozens of Indian diplomats and officials of RAW and IB under the garb of diplomatic assignment for their involvement in fueling violence in Balochistan, Karachi and targeting CPEC projects. They were also involved in running spy rackets and contacts with banned TTP.

As far as the alleged kidnapping of the Afghan ambassador's daughter is concerned, the police has found that the daughter had not been abducted. The PM has taken a serious notice of this case and is personally supervising the investigations personally. Islamabad's police had reviewed over 700 hours of footage from 300 cameras installed on the travelling route and interviewed over 200 citizens.

According to Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid, "she was never kidnapped and it was conspiracy hatched by Kabul and New Delhi to defame the country." Resultantly, Afghanistan called back its ambassador and senior diplomats from Pakistan. The Pakistan's foreign office termed the step as 'unfortunate and regrettable'. Indian media propagated a picture of a TikTok star with blood marks on her face as the disappeared daughter of the Afghan ambassador.

Efforts are being made by India to give an impression to the international community that Pakistan is not safe even for diplomats. The timing of the incident is important as the alleged abduction occurred ahead of the Afghan peace conference, which Pakistan was scheduled to host. The riddle will be solved and all aspects of the case will be unearthed soon.

Pakistan is facing hybrid warfare, as proved by the timings of some other recent incidents. After a thorough investigation of the Lahore blast, it has been confirmed that the incident was linked to RAW. The blast took place closer to the residence of Hafiz Saeed before the crucial meeting of FATF. The aim was to highlight the name of Hafiz Saeed. The Dasso blast targeting Chinese workers occurred days before a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of CPEC. India concocts fake news to malign Pakistan and perpetuates terrorism in and subversion against Pakistan. The EU Disinfo Lab has already uncovered a network of NGOs and fake media organisations linked to India that, for 15 years, have engaged in anti-Pakistan propaganda. India is desperately maligning Pakistan to divert attention from its domestic affairs and state-sponsored terrorism in IIOJK. India will never succeed in its nefarious designs. The whole nation is standing behind the armed forces to protect country's sovereignty and dignity.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-09/page-6/detail-2>

Pak exporters need to establish good brands to enhance exports to China

BEIJING - Expressing satisfaction over tremendous increase in exports to China in first half of 2021 as compared to six months of last year, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Badar uz Zaman on Sunday said that the Pakistani exporters needed to establish good brands to attract Chinese customers and further increase exports to China.

“Since China has offered many concessions to the Pakistani exports, and many exhibitors and exporters are also working to market their products into the Chinese market after signing of free trade agreement between Pakistan and China, there is a tremendous export of 85per cent in the first half of the year 2021 as compared to the first half of the year 2020,”he told APP in an interview.

He said that the per capita income was increasing in China, and now consumer products were gaining a lot of attraction from all over the world.

“As Pakistan is also good in the consumer products, especially in the textile, leather, sports goods, surgical and food related industries and agro. So, in these areas there will be a strong Chinese demand,” he added.

Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.735b in Jan-to-Jun in first half of 2021, registering an increase of 70.3 per cent

Badar uz Zaman opined that the Pakistani exporters needed to establish good brands because Chinese prefer to buy the brands and added, “If we are able to market our good brands in China by setting up export offices and by engaging the big importers, then we will definitely see the growth in exports.”

According to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.735 billion in January-to-June in the first half of 2021 registering an increase of 70.3per cent during the first half of the current fiscal year (2020-2021).

The bilateral trade between Pakistan and China witnessed a significant increase despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan's exports stood at \$1.735 billion in the first half of FY2021, up 70.3 per cent from \$1.019 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Last month, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that Pakistan's export to China registered an increase of 34per cent in FY2020-21.

"I'm pleased to share that our exports have done quite well in our major markets. During financial year 2021, our exports to China increased by 34per cent to \$2.33 billion as compared with \$1.74 billion in the previous financial year, increasing \$586 million," tweeted Dawood.

This half fiscal year China's export to Pakistan also increased 48 per cent amounting to \$10.87 billion as compared with the previous year which was \$7.35 billion. The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan had increased by 50.8 per cent amounting to \$12.6 billion as compared with 2020 which was \$8.37 billion due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, textiles, seafood and agricultural products have increased year on year, which has promoted Pakistan's economic recovery and increased its exports to China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-09/page-8/detail-6>

Five Pakistan films screens during Pakistan-film-week in Beijing

BEIJING - As part of the celebratory activities of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, five movies from Pakistan were screened during a first-ever Pakistan Film Week where a lots of interest was witnessed among Chinese movie lovers. The movies screened with Chinese and English subtitle during the week were Motorcycle Girl, Punjab Nahi Jaungi, Bin Roye, Ho Mann Jahan and Blind Love. Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and China-Film Administration jointly organised the four-day film week to further enhance cultural exchanges and people to people contacts between the two countries.

The film premier event was attended by officials of China Film administration, China Film Archives, China Film Co-production Cooperation, National Administration of Radio and Television, representatives of Media and officers from Embassy.

While commenting on the films, a senior official of China Film Administration said that with access to five of Pakistan's best films, the Chinese audience could know more about the Pakistani culture and enjoy its beauty. We have seen the 2018 Urdu-language film Parwaaz Hai Junoon before and I do like it! I can hardly wait to see these 5 Pakistani movies a Chinese movie fan said excitedly.

We would like to take the importation of Parwaaz Hai Junoon as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in film industry between both countries, noted Xiao Ping, president of China Film Import & Export Corporation, in an exclusive interview.

In the future China will stay tuned for Pakistani films, take into account their genres and market performance and choose the suitable ones for Chinese audiences, Xiao Ping said.

A young Chinese lady who saw four out of five films told that now cultural exchanges between the two countries became more and more frequent.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-09/page-15/detail-4>

The News

All parties united on Kashmir, Palestine, CPEC: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD: Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said despite political differences, all parties stood together on issues like Kashmir, Palestine, nuclear programme and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He was addressing a special meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir here on Sunday. The meeting was held to brief the visiting IPHRC delegation of the OIC.

He reminded that The New York Times has reported that due to the Indian oppression, about 500,000 people have become jobless and USD five billion have been lost. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the OIC must use a third country to help raise the Kashmir issue at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) like the Rohingya genocide.

Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi urged the OIC-IPHRC to act immediately to help save the suffering humanity in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) before it is too late as the Indian genocide of the Kashmiri people was touching new highs.

The chairman said the United Nations was formed after the failure of the League of Nations. He deplored the fact that the United Nations was also failing to resolve issues like Kashmir and Palestine. The humanity is bleeding in the occupied Kashmir but the prosperous world is a silent spectator, he added.

He reminded that the demographic changes are taking place in the IIOJ&K and about 4.1 million new domiciles have been issued to non-Kashmiris brought from the mainland India, which is a violation of the Indian constitution.

The Indian regime is not providing medical facilities to the jailed freedom-loving Kashmiris. Afridi said India is violating the basic rights of freedom of speech and any Kashmiri who writes anything on the digital media, is pushed behind bars under the notorious UAPA laws.

He said all the political parties took part in the elections recently held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir Premier League has been launched to help showcase the talent of the Kashmiri youth. He said it is not about Kashmir and rather it is about the suffering humanity which needs assistance from the OIC and the United Nations.

He said Pakistan has fought war against terrorism to save the world from this menace and have given unprecedented sacrifices and the world needs to value the sacrifices given by the brave Pakistani nation.

The chairman of the delegation, Dr Muhammad Saeed Abdullah, said despite coronavirus spread, the IPHRC had decided to undertake the visit due to the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Another prominent member of the IPHRC, Dr Haji Alo Aeikgul, briefed the committee about the updates on the steps taken by the OIC delegation and said that India was neither cooperating nor allowing the delegation to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Waleed Rasool, head of the Kashmir Committee's Advisory Board on Academia, said the Indian government had waged a war against Kashmiris from all sides and systematically, the Hindu population was being increased in the IIOJ&K, while the Muslim population was decreasing. Quoting the Indian official data, Dr Waleed said India was manipulating data to turn the Muslim-majority Kashmir into the Hindu-majority state by using all unethical means.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/875593-all-parties-united-on-kashmir-palestine-cpec-mushahid>

August 10, 2021

Daily Times

Investigation into Dasu bus incident complete: govt

Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed on Monday announced that the probe into the Dasu attack has been completed. However, Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi will inform media about the findings of the probe in detail.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the interior minister said India's RAW, Afghanistan's NDS and Israeli spy agency are trying to sabotage peace in Pakistan and they are also using media to create disharmony among various sections of the society. He said it is high time to jointly fail the conspiracies of enemies as they are always active against Pakistan. He said opposition parties are unaware of the regional changes which are expected in coming six months.

The minister said he has held two meetings with Chinese ambassador and assured him of further tightening the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. He made it clear that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will not become a victim of any external conspiracy. "No one can become a hurdle in relations between Pakistan and China," he maintained.

He said the interior ministry has completed its investigation in Afghan ambassador's daughter case and also shared the factual situation with Afghan investigation team through the Foreign Office. Referring to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Sh Rashid said that he only has two options – either to file for an appeal or seek asylum in any other country. He asserted that Nawaz Sharif should return to the country immediately since his passport has expired. "Nawaz Sharif

makes big claims only when he has authority but other than that, he just flees as soon as he loses power,” he added.

Rasheed also expressed his views over ‘disintegrations’ within the federal government and said that he will keep supporting prime minister Imran Khan and added that he will confront those who want a political war.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/803201/investigation-into-dasu-bus-incident-complete-govt/>

Chinese students take part in essay writing contest

To mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China, the Pakistan embassy in China and Silk Road Cities Alliance (SRCA) have jointly held a Chinese language essay writing contest among Pakistani students in Chinese universities and an Urdu essay writing contest among Chinese students. Pakistani students in China often participate in various Chinese essay competitions, but Chinese students know less about Urdu. It is believed that organizing Chinese students to write in Urdu will deepen two-way cultural exchanges between the two countries. The judges, professional Urdu teachers from the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing, will evaluate the works with rigorous professional attitude, and pay attention to the spiritual atmosphere and literary values, and select the excellent works.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/803152/chinese-students-take-part-in-essay-writing-contest/>

Dawn News

China to provide 100m vaccine doses, envoy tells president

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi was apprised on Monday that China would provide 100 million doses of coronavirus vaccine to Pakistan by the end of this year.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, during a meeting with the president, informed Dr Alvi that China would provide six million doses of vaccine this week, while 100m more doses would be provided by the end of the year, said an official press release issued by the Presidency.

During the meeting, Pakistan and China reaffirmed their resolve to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Both sides emphasised the need for making collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity and development in the region. The meeting also underlined the need for enhancing cooperation in the field of information technology.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said that China and Pakistan enjoyed excellent relations and the “All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” between the two countries would further take the bilateral relationship to new heights. He said that the two time-tested friends had always stood by each other through thick and thin.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1639716/china-to-provide-100m-vaccine-doses-envoy-tells-president>

Dunya News

COAS, Chinese ambassador discuss matters of mutual interest

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the meeting between the two leaders at the GHQ also discussed progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the regional security situation.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong appreciated Pakistan's serious efforts for peace and expressed his determination to continue the strategic partnership with Pakistan.

According to ISPR, DG ISI Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed was also present in the meeting. <https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/614340-COAS-Chinese-ambassador-discuss-matters-of-mutual-interest>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China reaffirm resolve to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields

Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their resolve to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries. China's support to Pakistan in fight against Covid-19 is unprecedented and China would provide 6 million vaccine doses this week while 100 million vaccine doses would be provided by the end of the year.

The resolve for bilateral cooperation was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong, who called on the President at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.

The meeting underlined the need to enhance cooperation in the field of Information Technology.

Talking to the Ambassador, the president said China and Pakistan enjoyed excellent relations and the "All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries would further take the bilateral relationship to new heights.

He stated that both time-tested friends had always stood by each other through thick and thin.

He emphasized the need for making collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity and development in the region. The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to "One-China Policy" and firm support to China on the core issues of its national interest, such as Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. He appreciated China's support for Pakistan's core national issues such as Jammu and Kashmir dispute, NSG & FATF. He also thanked the Chinese government for providing support to Pakistan in containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The president underlined that Pakistan was committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project that had huge potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He

stated that certain hostile players were not happy over the project and were trying to sabotage it but they would not succeed as both the iron brothers were strongly committed to implement the project.

Offering condolences to the Government of China and the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in Dasu, the president underscored that the security of Chinese nationals, working in various projects in Pakistan, was the highest priority of Pakistan and the Government was making all-out efforts for their protection and security.

Ambassador Nong Rong said Pakistan was the closest friend of China and his country wanted to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

He added that his country would share its experiences with Pakistan that would help in its social and economic prosperity. He lauded the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan that successfully contained the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-reaffirm-resolve-to-further-boost-bilateral-cooperation-in-various-fields/>

August 11, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese tech can help increase honey production in Pakistan

The production of Pakistani honey has the potential to rise ten-fold, said a report released by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Cooperation Platform (CAPIC).

Quoting CAPIC, Gwadar Pro referred to FAO statistics that show about 390,000 people in Pakistan are involved in beekeeping. They produce over 4,000 tons of honey annually. However, if modern production technologies and standard production procedures are adopted, the country's honey production is expected to surge to 70,000 tons a year and create about 87,000 green jobs, said a statement by Pakistani Prime Minister Office.

In Pakistan, honey is a "sweet" industry, not only for its luscious taste, but also for its favorable reputation and huge potential in making people's life sweeter. Endowed with rich bee species and flower plants, Pakistan can and should go further in this industry. The report notes that jujube honey produced in Pakistan is recognized as one of the most valuable types of honey in the world. Apart from it, studies have proven that the quality of most natural raw honey of Pakistan meets all requirements of international standards.

Tests on total sugar, acidity, pH value, HMF invert sugar, proline, protein and other essential nutrients indicates that Pakistani honey is of superb quality. But the potential of this lucrative industry has not been fully unleashed restricted by low yield and low prices. In 2019, each beekeeper brought 11.7 kg of honey in Pakistan on average, while the world average is 20.6 kg. Nectariferous plants falling victim to pesticides, absence of modern technologies, and lack of certification system are adding a taste of bitter to apiculture. In this regard, China's experience is

worth being drawn on. China is the largest honey producer in the world all these years. With the promulgation of national policies on supporting beekeepers' professional cooperatives and the gradual adoption of scientific beekeeping, the beekeeping industry is increasingly organized and scaled up.

As stated in the CPAIC report, a lot of local governments in China have chosen apiculture since 2013 as a method of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization. China is willing to share experiences and techniques with Pakistan on large-scale apiculture, nectariferous plant growing, bee breeding, etc. An industry insider in Pakistan reveals that for now, exports only take up 20% of total production. If the industry is modernized, the sales will boost by around 20 folds. While introducing techniques and production modes from China, Pakistan can export by-products to the Chinese market such as bee milk, beeswax, and propolis, which can create far higher values than honey. "The government can intervene in beekeeping areas, develop the industry value chain, and connect beekeepers with regional and national markets", recommended the CPAIC report.

Studies have found that more than 59% of beekeepers sell their honey to merchants who come to the beekeeping area from other areas, and 32% directly sell their honey in the local market. In both scenarios the prices the beekeepers get are rather low. Eventually, traders will buy honey from the middlemen and sell them at a relatively high price. Only 9% of beekeepers directly sell their honey to traders.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/803420/chinese-tech-can-help-increase-honey-production-in-pakistan/>

Sino-Pak cooperation in cottonseed research untapped, says expert

Collaboration is quite significant, that's why Pakistani scientists are interested in exchanging cotton germplasm lines with China for research preparation, said Dr Muhammad Tehseen Azhar, Associate Professor at Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Bahauddin Zakariya University

For example, he said, cottonseed research is one of the untapped territories in cotton research between both countries. And Pakistani and Chinese researchers can collaborate to increase the choice of cotton genes (the gene pool). According to a report published by China Economic Net, cottonseed is the principal oilseed crop grown in Pakistan, accounting for more than 84pc of domestic oilseed production. However, Pakistan's oilseed production is on a declining trend mainly due to falling cotton production. Marketing Year (MY) 2020/21 (Oct-Sept) production is forecast at 3.36 million metric tons (MMT), down 3pc from the current marketing year primarily due to a projected decrease in cottonseed.

"There were some managerial issues in Pakistan," said Dr Muhammad Tehseen Azhar. First, "We don't have specific cotton production zones like China." To solve this, Dr. Muhammad Tehseen Azhar thinks the government of Pakistan should arrange some areas dedicated for cotton.

“We are exploring new garden area in Balochistan. And the government is giving subsidies to cotton farmers, like seeds, fertilizer, management exercise...”

Also, the lack of technology in Pakistan could be problematic for some time. “Pakistan is still a developing country, and there are lots of differences in cotton research between Beijing and Islamabad, like the lack of proper infrastructure in agriculture.” In order to tap the potential of Pak-China cooperation in cotton research, he has signed MoUs of joint research program with different Chinese institutions, including Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU), Xinjiang Agricultural University (XAU), School of Agriculture Sciences, Zhengzhou University (ZZU), and Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Anyang.

According to Professor Du Xiongming, director of ICR, CAAS, the two countries have already exchanged over 300 cotton germplasm resources.

“We have a couple of PhD students who complete their studies in Anyang and Pakistan. We have jointly released research publications and my cotton lines from Pakistan are growing very good in Anyang,” Dr Muhammad Tehseen Azhar said full of hope. As he puts it, the Chinese lines didn’t grow well in Pakistan right now because they have not been bred for high temperature. But they are trying to get the Chinese lines fit in the system. Recently he as the team leader from Pakistan, together with some Chinese cotton experts, applied for the “Belt and Road” Innovative Talent Exchange Project for Foreign Experts. He believes that China and Pakistan can be complimentary on cottonseed research.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/803641/sino-pak-cooperation-in-cottonseed-research-untapped-says-expert/>

Pakistan Observer

Passing the baton of CPEC development

Hassan Daud Butt

CPEC continues rather augments to be of significant importance for Pakistan. The change of CPEC lead in Islamabad becomes of huge importance amid the economic implications of COVID-19 pandemic and regional geopolitical transition due to Afghanistan.

According to the World Bank’s Global Economic Prospects report, the global economy probably shrank by 4.3% in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic.

Additionally, the world is also focused towards a post-US withdrawal Afghanistan and its possible impact on regional economies.

The challenges for developing countries are multiple as they struggle to eliminate poverty, bring economic growth and in combating the threats of the pandemic. In these challenging times leadership high-performance expectations are growing. At this crucial juncture, Mr. Khalid Mansoor steps into the shoes of his predecessor to navigate the affairs of the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor at a time when 10th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting is about to take place.

The interaction this time is happening when Pakistan and China celebrate their 70 years of strong friendship and showcase CPEC as a “model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity” with industrial and agriculture cooperation entering the Period of Maturity and an endogenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth being put in place.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister has the experience required to steer CPEC in its second phase, however, will immediately be confronted with a challenge to address the negative campaign by naysayers who become active as JCC approaches.

This happens each year since China announced its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan commenced CPEC.

CPEC is now the principal vehicle for the pursuit of bilateral ties at renewed and heightened ebb of engagement.

This time the focus will be on populating the priority SEZs through industrial cooperation which is entering vital stage with immediate steps required to encourage private sector participation and creating enabling environment reducing risks and promoting complementary policies can help share the gains including policies to strengthen sustainable trade, logistics and business cooperation and improve business-to-business (B2B) links as attracting investment requires a proactive approach for nurturing their long-term success.

On the IC front the challenge is growing to attract investment that brings export led industry with new technology at a time when economies are getting insulated as an immediate response to the pandemic and investors are becoming risk averse.

We may have a deep study of Chinese expert’s report given in 2017, wherein incentives were discussed and an incremental start from labor intensive industries (shoe making etc) followed by modern hi-tech industries was suggested.

It was suggested that continuity of policies, productivity of labor, cost of land and provision of utilities are the key bottlenecks which are being addressed through various initiatives of the government.

An active CPEC business forum can help in establishing B2B linkages that are critical in this regard.

While this year the focus may be on new areas of cooperation including Agriculture, Maritime and Research and Development sectors, the projects like ML-1 railway line will be the main deliverables. Entering into the second phase, the government is gearing up to lift less developed areas of Pakistan and promising greater regional integration. Under the Agriculture Joint Working Group, the establishment of Centers of Excellence in the fields of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cotton Research and Establishment of FMD Free Zones are in the advanced stages of discussion.

Similarly, there are several projects that can be viable on a BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis to find ways to optimize the cost-to-benefits ratio and ensure that the advantages of CPEC are experienced and shared by all in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, linkages through CPEC are leading towards a true inclusive growth and the impact of development initiatives is visible from the fact that Pakistan is transforming into a better place for foreign investors. The Chinese experts on socio-economic development may be invited on priority as we move forward recovering from the pandemic and reimagine what we want to do in phase II and III of socio economic projects of the Chinese grant.

The Joint Working Group on third party cooperation would also need to focus on forging partnerships with friendly countries to build on the successes of the Belt and Road Initiative and create a solid foundation for deepening cooperation.

Similarly, where required, sub groups supported by Chinese sector specialists may be formed to progress key work streams and tasks supporting the high-quality growth of CPEC.

The CPEC project can also be projected as a model of development for Afghanistan as stable and prosperous Afghanistan would in turn offer unprecedented opportunities for regional cooperation and development.

In support of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, necessary cooperation in capacity building of experts in Afghanistan for infrastructure development through BRI may be extended as the transport infrastructure construction under CPEC has been an important part of the initiative and plays an important role in the development of bilateral cooperation.

Under the CPEC planning (monographic study of CPEC approved in 2015) it was endeavored to establish a convenient, unblocked, safe, highly efficient and comprehensive transport channel with large capacities and coordinated development of numerous transport corridors by 2030 including building new roads and railway connectivity from China and improve safety, traffic capacity and service levels on the basis of achieving comprehensive connection of the Kashgar-Islamabad Section and on the east and westerly corridor and making Gwadar the trans-shipment hub for the entire region.

According to the World Bank's report, China's next transformation is well under way, and a "New Economy" is emerging, all set to make global impact through innovations and economic initiatives leveraging its demographic and economic diversity.

In order to accrue the benefits of this transformation, Team CPEC has to now mobilize all resources for accomplishing the daunting task of timely implementation of CPEC projects and maintaining synergy amongst the stakeholders.

We also need to have an aggressive strategy to address the false narrative campaign. We may continue to use technology to showcase our strengths with a clear plan of action to thwart any threat to CPEC. Of course, there are many challenges ahead and in the face of such challenges, we will need to work together in partnership and across a range of fronts through a pragmatic

joint action plan that will require hard work and commitment while adapting to the consequences of situation in Afghanistan as well as pandemic which if not handled adequately has the potential to be a hampering challenge to regional economic integration.

<https://pakobserver.net/passing-the-baton-of-cpec-development-by-hassan-daud-butt/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan ready to export rice to China

LAHORE: Considering the surplus after meeting annual domestic consumption of 2.5 million tons, Pakistan is ready to export 3.75 million tons of rice to China, said Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed. According to a statement issued on Tuesday, Naveed said that China had emerged as one of the destinations for Pakistani rice export, as reflected in the 244% increase in paddy shipments to the neighbor over the last two years. He added that the PCJCCI had initiated a move to double exports to China within a year. “The dream of exporting around 10 million tons of Irri-6 rice to China could turn into a reality if sustained efforts to market Pakistani rice are pursued, focusing on the need of Chinese population,” the PCJCCI chief stated. In the same statement, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed said that new hybrid rice varieties were being developed in Pakistan, which would give maximum yield with minimum input costs during water scarcity. “The Rice Research Institute has developed new techniques to cultivate rice through the ‘broadcasting system’ instead of manual sapling plantation,” he revealed, adding that under the technique, if farmers succeeded in cultivating 80,000 plants in a field, they would get more production besides saving input costs up to Rs14,000 per acre.

“This technique is not only cheaper but also helps to save 30-35% of irrigation water,” Ahmed stressed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2314966/pakistan-ready-to-export-rice-to-china>

Express News

کراچی گرین لائن منصوبے کی بسیں چینی بندرگاہ پہنچ گئیں، گورنر سندھ

گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل کا کہنا ہے کہ گرین لائن منصوبے کے لیے بسیں بہت جلد کراچی پہنچ جائیں گی۔

گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل نے گرین لائن منصوبے میں استعمال کی جانے والی بسوں کے حوالے سے اپنے ایک ٹوئٹ میں کہا ہے کہ گرین لائن منصوبے کی بسیں چین کی بندرگاہ تیانجن کی جانب روانہ ہو گئی ہیں، دو بڑے بحری جہازوں پر 80 بسیں ہیں۔ یہ بحری جہاز تیانجن بندرگاہ سے رواں ماہ اگست کے وسط تک نکل جائیں گے اور امید ہے کہ بسیں بہت جلد کراچی پورٹ پر پہنچ جائیں گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2211594/1/>

K2 Daily

لیس کے قیام کے لئے مالی اعانت، گلگت بلتستان میں تھارتی پیمانے پر چیری کی کاشت۔ چائے کے ساتھ کپاس کی پیداوار اور ریسرچ پر کام کرنا کے شعبہ کو جدید بنیادوں پر استوار کرنے کے لئے جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ پاکستان میں کپاس کی پیداوار میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ کھیتی باڑی کے شعبہ کے لئے ایگز ایٹو ایڈوانس ہاؤس ٹیکنالوجی میں چینی سائنس دانوں کے ساتھ طویل اناج گرین سپر چاول اور اعلیٰ پیداوار دینے والے گنے اور روٹی کی ترقی کے لئے بھی کام کر رہے ہیں۔ ٹھوڑے سی عرصے میں مقامی کاشت کے لئے فصلیں دستیاب ہوں گی جس سے ملک میں زراعت کے شعبے پر انقلابی اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ سی پیک کے دوسرے فیز میں زراعت کی ترقی فروغ مل رہا ہے، پاکستان کو چینی ماہرین کی بھرپور معاونت حاصل رہے گی زرعی پیداوار میں نمایاں اضافہ کیا جاسکے گا۔ چینی ادارے پاکستانی اداروں کے مل کر زرعی پیداوار کو محفوظ رکھنے کے لئے گوداموں کا نظام ترتیب دیں گے جس میں مصنوعات کی خریداری اور انہیں محفوظ رکھنے کے گودام، صوری گودام اور بندرگاہ پر بنائے جانے والے گودام شامل ہیں۔ سبزیوں کے پراسیسنگ پلانٹ لگائے جائیں گے۔ ٹریڈنگ، ایگز ایٹو ایڈوانس ہاؤس کی مشینری بازمی سوگ، میٹس، کمادوں اور بیج بونے اور فصل کاٹنے کے آلات خریدنے کے لئے مختلف وزارتیں اور چین کا ترقیاتی بینک بلا سو قرضے فراہم کرے گا۔ 100 ایگز ایٹو ایڈوانس پر مرچ فارم کا پائلٹ پروجیکٹ مکمل دوسرے مراحل مرچ فارم کا رقبہ 3 ہزار ایکڑ تک دوسرے فیز میں کئی کے اور سندھ میں 30000 ایکڑ پر کاشت کی منصوبہ بندی، مقامی کسانوں کو ایک ایکڑ سے ایک لاکھ روپے سے لاکھ آدھی ہوگی جبکہ 8000 ٹن سے زیادہ خشک مرچیں پیدا ہوگی۔ جنوبی پنجاب میں بھی اچھی قسم کی مرچ کاشت اچھا ہے۔ چائے اور دیگر پر کام ہو رہا ہے۔ سی پیک پاکستانی معاشرے اور عوام کی حالت زار میں بہتری کیلئے انتہائی اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ حکومت زراعت کے شعبہ کی اہمیت دے رہی ہے، اس کو اپنی ترجیحات میں شامل کر لیا ہے۔ مسائل پر توجہ، اس عمل ہو رہے ہیں۔ اس سے زراعت کا شعبہ دن دو دن اور رات چوتنی ترقی کرے گا ان شاء اللہ۔ پاکستان خوشحال ہوگا، عوام آسودہ ہوں گے۔ ان شاء اللہ۔ پاکستان ترقی وسائل سے مالا مال ملک ہے۔ اس کو اللہ تعالیٰ نے وافر افرادی قوت سے بھی نوازا ہے جو ہر مند اور باصلاحیت ہے۔



سی پیک کے تحت زراعت کے شعبے میں ترقی کیلئے بھی مشن کر تعاون کیلئے ترقی دینی گئی ہے۔ سی پیک کا بنیادی مقصد صنعتی ترقی اور توانائی کے بحران کا خاتمہ ہے لیکن درحقیقت اس منصوبے سے سب سے زیادہ فائدہ ہمارے زرعی شعبہ کو ہوگا۔ زراعت پاکستان کی معیشت کا اہم ستون ہے جس کا بی ڈی پی میں حصہ 21 فیصد ہے۔ زراعت کے شعبہ کی پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے کلیدی اہمیت ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت مقصد کے حصول کیلئے فصلی منصوبے ترتیب دیے گئے ہیں جن پر کام کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے۔ زراعت کی میکاٹریڈیشن پر خاص توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ بیج اور زراعت کی میکاٹریڈیشن کے ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر ایپورٹ منسٹیج، چین سے متوقع سرمایہ کاری اور زرعی سائنسدانوں کی ملاجیٹوں کی ترقی شامل ہوگی۔ جیٹھ میں سی پیک اتھارٹی لیٹینڈ جنرل عامر سیم ہا جو نے کہا کہ 2021 میں چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت پاک چین اقتصادی اور زرعی تعاون پر بھرپور توجہ دے جانے کی۔ چین نے زراعت کے شعبے میں بہت ترقی کی ہے، کاشت کاری کے جدید طریقے، جدید مشینری کا استعمال شامل ہیں۔ چین میں نہ صرف زرعی پیداوار اضافہ ہوا ہے کسانوں کی آمدنی میں اضافہ، ان کا معیار زندگی بہتر، خوشحالی ہوئی ہے پاکستان چین کے کئی تجربات سے سیکھے گا بلکہ چین کی مدد سے کاشت کاری کے جدید طریقے پر بھی استوار ہوگا۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ زراعت سے وابستہ صنعت کو بھی فروغ ملے گا۔ بلوچستان میں آبیاری کی سہولیات نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے ہزاروں ایکڑ قابل کاشت رقبہ بخر رہا ہے، سی پیک میں شامل منصوبوں کے ذریعے دستیاب پانی کو ذخیرہ کرنے اور آبیاری کے نظام کو جدید طریقے پر استوار کرنے کے لیے سائنسی طریقے کار استعمال کیا جائے گا۔ بلوچستان، چولستان، ڈی آئی خان، سابق قبائلی اضلاع وہاں نئی زرعی تکنیک کو بروئے کار لائیں گے اور زمینوں کی کاشت کر سکتے ہیں۔ چین کے زرعی ماہرین پاکستان دورے مقامی افراد کو تربیت سی پیک دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت کے شعبے میں ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی ہے۔ تحقیق کے شعبوں میں تعاون، پودوں کے کیڑوں کی بیماریوں کے پائیدار کنٹرول کے لئے مرکز کے قیام، چین نے زراعت، مویشیوں اور ماہی گیری قومی زراعت ریسرچ سینٹر میں سنٹر آف ایگس

ہے۔ کسان کھیتی باڑی کی بجائے اپنی زرعی زمینیں فروخت کر کے شہروں میں منتقل ہو رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں زراعت کا معیشت میں بہت بڑا کردار ہے۔ پاکستان بنیادی طور پر زرعی ملک ہے جس کی 50 فیصد زیادہ آبادی دیہات میں رہتی ہے اور ان کا تمام تر دار و مدار زراعت پر ہے۔ معیشت کو سنبھالنے کے لیے اسے بہتر اور جدید زراعت نظام بنانا لازمی ہے۔ اس سے عوام کو خوشحال کیا جاسکتا ہے ہر سال فی ایکڑ پیداوار کو زیادہ سے زیادہ کیا جائے تاکہ قومی آمدنی میں اضافہ ہو۔ آج کل پوری دنیا میں میکاٹریڈیشن کا طریقہ رائج ہے جس میں کیڑے مار ادویہ، مصنوعی کھاد، ٹریڈنگ، ٹریڈنگ وغیرہ کا استعمال شامل ہیں۔ پنجاب بھی پورے ہندوستان کے صوبوں کو گندم فراہم کرتا تھا مگر اب خود بیرونی ممالک سے گندم درآمد کرنا پڑتی ہے۔ کسان نہ صرف جدید معنی ذرائع تک رسائی حاصل ہو۔ حکومت اسے وسائل کے حصول میں مدد دے۔ تاکہ ملک ترقیاتی اجناس میں خود کفیل ہو سکیں یہ جب ممکن ہے زراعت کے جدید طریقوں سے استفادہ کیا جائے حکومت زراعت کی ترقی کے لئے انفراسٹرکچر پر توجہ دے رہی ہے آج کل پیداوار کی کامیابی کا انحصار جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال پر ہے۔ کم بجلیوں پر زیادہ فصل یہ کسان کے لئے زیادہ نتیجہ خیز اور منافع بخش ہے، پاکستان کی زرعی جامعات میں اس پر کام ہو رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کی آبادی زیادہ ہو رہی ہے خوراک کی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کیلئے زراعت کو ترقی دینے کی بہت ضروری ہے زراعت کے جدید طریقے نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے بھی پیداوار میں کمی آ رہی ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے پہلے مرحلے کے منصوبوں کے شرٹ عوام کو ملنا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ پہلے مرحلے کے منصوبوں میں توانائی کے منصوبے اور انفراسٹرکچر کے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ اب دوسرے مرحلے میں صنعتی ترقی اور زراعت پر توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان سی پیک کے تحت زراعت کو جدید رجحانات ترقیاتی بنیادوں پر اقدامات کر رہی ہے، کاشت کاروں کے معیار زندگی کو بہتر بنانے اور قومی معیشت میں اس کے مثبت اثرات کو بدھانے کے لئے خاص توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت کے شعبے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان چین نے

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

August 12, 2021

Dawn News

Govt trying to include Dera road project in CPEC

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan was informed on Wednesday that Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway scheme would be placed in the agenda of upcoming Joint Coordination Committee meeting to include it in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

According to a statement, the chief minister was chairing a high level meeting here to review progress on mega road projects in the province.

The meeting was told that PC-I of Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway project had already been approved by Central Development Working Party (CDWP).

It was told that commercial and financial feasibility of the project had also been approved for its implementation under public-private partnership if it was not included in the CPEC project.

The meeting reviewed in detail the progress so far made on mega projects in the road sector including Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway, Dir Motorway and other schemes in communication sector.

Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Communications and Works Secretary Ijaz Ansari, the managing director of Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed about the progress so far made on the proposed 365-kilometre long Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway and 30-kilometre long Dir Motorway projects.

About Dir Motorway project, the meeting was told that PC-I of the scheme had also been approved by CDWP while work on financial and commercial feasibility was also in progress for its implementation under public-private partnership.

Regarding Swat Motorway Phase-II project, the meeting was informed that purchase of land for the scheme was in progress.

The chief minister said that those projects were of vital importance for sustainable development of the province.

He said that government was taking concrete steps for timely launching of those projects.

He said that after completion, the projects would promote trade activities in the province besides providing quality transport facilities to the people.

The chief minister, on the occasion, directed the quarters concerned to ensure progress on those projects as per the stipulated timelines.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1640122>

Chinese firm reluctant to resume work on Dasu project

Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA: The talks between the Water and Power Development Authority and China's Gezhouba Group Company on the resumption of work on Dasu hydropower project remained inconclusive in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Chinese ambassador was present in the talks.

Wapda chairman retired Lt-General Muzammil Hussain led the Wapda team.

Work on the World Bank-funded energy project came to a halt following the death of 13 people, including nine Chinese workers, in a bus blast on July 13.

A member of Pakistani negotiators told Dawn that the parleys, which were postponed last week, were held in presence of Chinese ambassador Nong Rong but the Chinese company continued to be reluctant to resume work on the project for security and other reasons.

He, however, said the two sides decided to hold another round of talks to ensure early resumption of work.

Talks with Wapda inconclusive

The source said the Wapda chairman informed the Chinese company's representatives and ambassador about the deployment of the Pakistan Army's troops in Upper and Lower Kohistan and Kolai-Palas districts.

He said the Pakistan Army's brigades deployed in Kohistan district would escort Chinese nationals to work and respective camps via the Karakoram Highway.

The source said both sides also discussed progress on the bus blast probe by the Chinese agencies and counter-terrorism department.

He said the Chinese government thanked the Pakistani government for the provision of facilities and required security to its nationals working on the Dasu dam and other projects in Hazara division under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative.

The source said the joint bus blast investigation by the military and civil agencies was almost complete and led to the collection of 'important evidence' of the culprits.

Meanwhile, a World Bank team returned to Islamabad after a weeklong visit to Upper Kohistan district.

It held meetings about Dasu power project with the Chinese company's representatives and district administration and sought foolproof security for workers both local and foreign.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1640115>

Pakistan Observer

Seminar for Young Media Professionals held by MOFCOM, NRTA

The Seminar for Young Media Professionals from Pakistan was held by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) China, Research and Training of NRTA, Senate of Pakistan, and Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. The seminar focused on the theme training programs including, understanding China, China's national conditions, media policy exchanges between China and Pakistan, innovation & development of News, construction of Smart Radio & TV, OTT business operations, film prod & content innovation. Mr. Saud Faisal Malik, Chief Digital Officer of Pakistan Observer also attended and extended his expertise as the representative for the meeting. The conference looked back on 70 years of bilateral ties between China and Pakistan, focusing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as well as bilateral, regional, and global topics of mutual concern. Views on digital media and the future of digitization, media cooperation, climate change & modern agriculture were also exchanged.

In this regard NRTA, The National Radio and Television Administration extended its services. The NRTA, formerly the State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television (SARFT, 1998–2013) and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television (SAPPRFT, 2013–2018), is a ministry-level executive agency of the People's Republic of China that reports directly to the State Council. Its primary responsibility is to manage and supervise state-owned companies in the television and radio sectors. It has direct authority over state-owned businesses such as China Central Television, China National Radio, and China Radio International, as well as various film and television studios and non-profit organizations at the national level. Mr. Yan Chengsheng, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, National Radio and Television Administration, the People's Republic of China hosted the conference. Soon after beginning the seminar, Mr. Chengsheng introduced the guests. After which, H.E. Meng Dong, Vice Minister National Radio and Television Administration, the People's Republic of China gave his remarks.

He was followed by H.E. Faisal Javed, Chairman of the Committee on Information of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who spoke on the topic of digitization and media policy exchanges between Pakistan and China. Mr. Faisal Javed was followed by H.E. Nong Rong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He shared his views regarding media cooperation, climate change, and modern agriculture. After Ambassador Rong, Mr. Chen Runyun, Vice President, the Training Center of the

Ministry of Commerce, the People's Republic of China shared his views and lastly remarks by H.E. Mirza Afridi, Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were read by H.E. Faisal Javed, Chairman of the Committee on Information of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Mr. Saud began by asking the question on Digital media. He was eager to converse about the future of newspapers in relation to the advancement in digital media.

It was discussed that all newspapers should strive towards extending their digital platforms however the importance of newspapers cannot be ignored as the newspaper readers still hold a significant position.

<https://pakobserver.net/seminar-for-young-media-professionals-held-by-mofcom-nrta/>

The Nation

Govt assures full security to Chinese working on Dasu site

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has assured China of a safe and more secure environment in the Dasu hydropower project area for the Chinese workers.

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Lt Gen (r) Muzammil Hussain Wednesday called on Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong and discussed the progress on Dasu incident probe in which nine Chinese were killed.

During the meeting, the matters pertaining to the resumption of construction work and security arrangements made for the safety of Chinese nationals in the country area were discussed in detail. The Chinese ambassador said that the Chinese government is thankful to government of Pakistan for the provision of facilities and the required security in this regard.

Meanwhile, WAPDA chairman assured the Chinese ambassador to provide a safe and more secure environment in the project area for the safety of Chinese workers. He said that we are taking all necessary measures to ensure foolproof security of Chinese nationals working on WAPDA projects.

It is pertinent to mention that a bus of the Chinese construction company China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC), carrying 41 persons including 36 Chinese, 2 FC personnel and 3 other Pakistanis, met an accident on July 14 on the way to construction site of Dasu Hydropower Project from the contractor's camp. Consequently, 9 Chinese, 2 FC personnel and 2 other Pakistanis died, while 28 were injured. The rescue operation was immediately started by Dasu Hydropower Project authorities and the district administration, Upper Kohistan. In the wake of the incident, the civil administration, WAPDA and CGGC decided with mutual consultation to suspend construction on the project for a few days so that the matter could be re-organized and construction may be resumed in a more secure atmosphere.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-12/page-8/detail-4>

Asif awarded CPEC medal of 'Outstanding Pakistani Employee'

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

Lahore - Asif Majeed has been awarded the medal of "Outstanding Pakistani Employee" of CPEC. Asif, technical manager of the land acquisition and immigration department of Kohala Hydro-power project, has been working at the company for 4 years.

On receiving medal Asif said, “It’s been a great honour to receive the award, which is not only an acknowledgement of my work but also that of the whole construction team. While I appreciate the recognition by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, I’m grateful to China Three Gorges Corporation for their cultivation and proud to be part of the team. I will continue my devotion to work and have better performance.”

He said: “I feel proud and excited to have worked at CPEC projects as I can witness, right on the front-line, the changes and development of my hometown and my country brought about by these projects. The work I’m responsible for, land acquisition and immigration, is arduous and complicated, and when it comes to the site work it is even more challenging, but it’s also a crucial part of the whole project that lays the ground for following constructions. Besides, I have learned both technical skills and Chinese culture in this process while working with my Chinese colleagues who are wise and diligent, dedicated to work with professionalism.”

The Kohala Hydropower Project is built on Jhelum River in AJK, northeast region of Pakistan. With a total investment of \$2.4 billion, it is hitherto the largest privately-operated hydropower project in Pakistan funded by China. In 2014, it was listed as the “actively promote project” in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, China Three Gorges Corporation has invested six projects in Pakistan, registering an amount of \$6 billion. The year 2018 is memorable to Asif when he was assigned to the headquarters of China Three Gorges Corporation for 15-day training on enterprise culture and technical skills.

Asif said when COVID-19 broke out in Pakistan in February last year and the situation was severe, the Chinese government, China Three Gorges Corporation and other Chinese organizations supported Pakistan. “China’s care and support for Pakistan has proven that China-Pakistan friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey,” he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-12/page-10/detail-6>

Express News

داسو بس حملے میں را اور این ڈی ایس ملوث ہیں، منصوبہ افغانستان میں بنا، وزیر خارجہ

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ داسو واقعے میں 100 سو سے 120 کلوگرام دھماکہ خیز مواد استعمال کیا گیا، حملے کی منصوبہ بندی افغانستان میں کی گئی جس میں را اور افغانستان کی خفیہ ایجنسی این ڈی ایس ملوث ہیں۔

اسلام آباد میں میڈیا سے گفتگو میں انہوں نے بتایا کہ داسو واقعے میں 100 سو سے 120 کلوگرام تک دھماکہ خیز مواد استعمال ہوا، حملے کی منصوبہ بندی افغانستان میں کی گئی جس میں را اور افغانستان کی خفیہ ایجنسی این ڈی ایس ملوث ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی تحقیقاتی ٹیم پاکستان ضرور آئی لیکن تحقیقات پاکستان نے کیں، تاہم تحقیقات میں چین نے بھی تعاون کیا اور پاکستانی تحقیقات پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ تحقیقات سے متعلق تمام تفصیلات چینی سفیر سے شیئر کر دی گئی ہیں۔ پاکستان باضابطہ طور پر حکومت افغانستان سے رابطہ کر رہا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور افغانستان کا ایک دوسرے کی سر زمین استعمال نہ کرنے کا معاہدہ ہے، امید ہے افغانستان اسے حوالے سے پاکستان سے تعاون کرے گا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ افغان سفیر کی بیٹی کے مبینہ اغوا پر تحقیقاتی ٹیم کو پاکستان آنے کی اجازت دی، امید ہے افغانستان بھی داسو واقعے پر تحقیقات میں پاکستان کی مدد کرے گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ عاصم باجوہ کے استعفیے کا داسو واقعے سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے۔

سربراہ سی ٹی ڈی خیبر پختونخوا ڈی آئی جی جاوید اقبال

سی ٹی ڈی خیبر پختونخوا کے سربراہ ڈی آئی جی جاوید اقبال نے داسو واقعے پر میڈیا کو بریفنگ کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کرائم سین سے گاڑی کے پارٹس، ایک انگلی، انگوٹھا اور جام کے اعضا ملے ہیں، تمام جسمانی اعضا خود کش حملہ آور کے تھے

ڈی آئی جی نے کہا کہ نادراریکارڈ سے ان اعضا کے شوہد نہیں ملے، ہونڈا اکارڈ گاڑی آئی ای ڈی کے طور پر استعمال کی گئی، گاڑی پر 'پلائیڈ فار نمبر' لگا ہوا تھا، گاڑی پر چمن موٹرز بارگین سوات کا انکسکر ملا۔

جاوید اقبال نے کہا کہ واقعے میں 14 مختلف کردار شامل ہے، افغانستان میں مقیم کالعدم ٹی ٹی پی طارق اس گروہ کا سربراہ تھا، تین کردار گرفتار بھی کیے جا چکے ہیں، معاویہ اور طارق نے افغانستان سے 'را' اور 'این ڈی ایس' سے تربیت لے کر داسو واقعے کی منصوبہ بندی کی، دہشت گردوں کا نیٹ ورک پاکستان میں موجود تھا، خود کش بمبار کا نام خالد شیخ تھا جو افغانی تھا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2212384/1/>

K2 Daily

چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات میں 23 فیصد اضافہ
گزشتہ مالی سال کے دوران برآمدات کی مالیت 2043.206 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گئی
کراچی (ماہنامہ ڈیک) گزشتہ مالی سال آف پاکستان کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق مالی سال 2021 کے دوران چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات کے 2020 کے دوران چین کو 1663.962 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گئی۔ یہ 23 فیصد اضافہ ہے۔ ٹیٹ ویٹ ایک ملین ڈالر مالیت کی (ہائی سلو 6 بیہ نمبر 51) رقم میں

بقیہ 51
برآمدات کی کل قیمت تاہم گزشتہ مالی سال 2021 میں برآمدات کی مالیت 2043.206 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گئی۔ اس طرح مالی سال 2020 کے مقابلہ میں گزشتہ مالی سال 2021 کے دوران چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات کی مالیت میں 379.244 ملین ڈالر یعنی 22.79 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ مالی سال کے دوران پاکستان سے درآمدات کے حوالے سے چین تیسرا نمبر والا ملک رہا ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-08-12

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-08-12

August 13, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese cellphones' customs valuation raised

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi has raised customs values of the accessories of Chinese-origin mobile phone brands for accurate assessment of duties and taxes at the import stage.

The directorate has issued a valuation ruling number 1580 of 2021 to supersede the earlier ruling 1448 of 2020.

Under the new ruling, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will charge custom values in US dollars on the import of various types of mobile phone accessories, ranging between \$0.06 to \$7. The minimum customs values have been fixed on the basis of specific type of the accessory and its origin.

The directorate communicated the new ruling to all Model Customs Collectrates (MCCs), on Thursday.

The directorate has re-determined the values under section 25-A of the Customs Act, 1969, after conducting a detailed market survey and hearing the viewpoint of the stakeholders/importers. The directorate has also allocated new Pakistan Customs Tariff (PCT) headings to each accessory of mobile phone for clearance under the WEBCO system.

The FBR has categorised the mobile phone accessories in three categories and created three new valuation tables of category-A (16 items); category-B (15 items), and category-C(10 items). According to the new ruling, the minimum customs values of the mobile phone accessories has been enhanced on the import of various types of mobile chargers, car charges, mobile phone batteries, power bank, selfie sticks, glass protectors, mobile phone hands free, Bluetooth handsfree, desktop battery charger, ear phones with smart jack, wired headphones, wireless headphones, mobile data charging cable, card readers, wireless charger stand/pad, mobile charger smart jack, pouch, built in mobile battery, mobile bar phones and other accessories specified in the new ruling.

The ruling added that the values of the mobile phone accessories of Apple brand and official partner of Apple are available at Apple website.

Customs officials should refer to the said website for the accurate assessment of duties at the import stage.—SOHAIL SARFRAZ

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/13/4-page/896879-news.html>

Daily Times

China hails Pakistan for ‘quick’ probe into attack

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s on Thursday told a regular press briefing that the Pakistani side’s investigation into the terrorist attack has seen major progress within a short period of time. “China pays great attention to this and expresses appreciation to Pakistan’s active efforts. Further investigation by Pakistan is still ongoing at the moment. China and Pakistan will follow the important consensus reached by the leaders on both sides, ascertain all the facts and truth, and hold the culprits accountable and bring them to justice,” the spokesperson said. “In the meanwhile, both countries will keep strengthening security cooperation mechanisms to ensure the safety of Chinese projects, people and institutions in Pakistan.” The spokesperson said terrorism is the common enemy of all mankind. “China firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical gains and calls on countries in the region to collaborate in eradicating all terrorist organizations so as to uphold common security and development interests of all countries.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804319/china-hails-pakistan-for-quick-probe-into-attack/>

Pakistan to take part in 10 Chinese trade exhibitions

Pakistani experts would participate in 75 international exhibitions proposed for the promotion of commercial activities during fiscal year 21-22.

At least 28 such events are taking place in nine Asian countries, with China in the lead with 10 exhibitions. Due to Covid-19, more emphasis has been placed on virtual activities, including online seminars, webinars, and participation in virtual exhibitions; however, some physical exhibitions will also be held during the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistani experts are participating in 75 exhibitions, according to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)’s official data; 39 Pakistani delegations would visit foreign countries to attend the proposed exhibitions while many foreign delegates would come to Pakistan to participate in such events. According to TDAP, 17 are related to Agro and food, 24 to textile and leather, 17 to engineering and minerals, 10 to services and tourism, and 10 to IMDD.

The 10 exhibitions, with Pakistanis’ participation, include the China Intl Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), which will take place in September in Beijing. Regarding textile products, Intertextile Shanghai Apparel is expected to occur on September 21 to 23. China-ASEAN Expo (in Nanning) and The 18th Western China International Fair, both online activities, are also expected during the same year. Pakistan experts will physically participate in the 25th China Seafood and Fisheries Expo in Qingdao, China in October. China International Import Expo (CIIE), an online event, would take place in November.

A Pakistani delegation is also expected to participate in InterTextile Shanghai Fabric, China in March 2022. Similarly, the online China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) will take place in March 2022. Shoes and Leather, Guangzhou, China is an event with physical attendance in June

2022. The exact date of the event would be determined later. According to TDAP, the Annual Business Plan for international exhibitions is finalized keeping in view the policy of the Ministry of Commerce for focusing more on China and Africa regions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804165/pakistan-to-take-part-in-10-chinese-trade-exhibitions/>

Dunya News

CCoCPEC approves summary for acceleration of power supply to Gwadar

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCoCPEC) approved on Thursday a summary moved by the Power Division containing proposals for the acceleration of the power supply to Gwadar.

The CCoCPEC allowed National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) to change its executing agency to expedite the work and ensure that the project is completed by March 2023.

The meeting of the committee was held here under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar. The committee also gave go-ahead to the Power Division to discuss the options of import of additional power supply from Iran. The Chairperson of the Committee directed that dedicated power supply for the Gwadar Industrial Zone must be ensured.

The Committee reviewed the progress on various projects under CPEC and the overall progress of CPEC in Industrial Cooperation, Energy, Infrastructure, and Gwadar Port Marketing Plan. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Shaukat Tareen, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar, Abdul Razak Dawood Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Power and Petroleum Tabish Gauhar, SAPM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Chairman NHA, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Secretary Planning, Secretary Power, Secretary Maritime Affairs and official of various Ministers and Divisions.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/614681-CCoCPEC-approves-summary-for-acceleration-of-power-supply-to-Gwadar>

Pakistan Observer

The China-Pakistan-Afghanistan triangle

Huma Baqai

CHINA may not be a very vocal player in the situation unfolding in Afghanistan; nevertheless, it is an important one. It has a lot at stake in Afghanistan. Chinese stakes in Afghanistan are not limited to the potential for it to become a safe haven for militant groups targeting China, its economic and political stakes in the South Asian region and beyond have grown considerably.

Beijing is also conscious of the negative spillover in Pakistan which would have a direct impact on CPEC. The Chinese government has long sought to reach agreements with the Taliban largely focused on the question of their ties with Uyghur groups and the recent meeting between Mullah Barader and Wang Yi in Tianjin was unusually publicized but the two sides have been interacting with each other for decades now.

Having said this China still does not tend to perceive Afghanistan through the prism of opportunities, it is almost entirely about managing threats and ensuring the security of One Belt One Road initiative. Since 9/11 the US military presence in Afghanistan has presented a dilemma for China. Beijing by instinct perceives American troops in Chinese backyard as a strategic threat. However, China is also convinced that it has benefited from the security umbrella that the United States has provided there specially in curtailing anti-China terrorist groups. Thus, in principle China does not have a problem with US withdrawal but is extremely weary of the power vacuum that may ensue and destabilize the entire region.

Beijing is conscious of what happened to Britain, the (former) Soviet Union and the US in Afghanistan and thus does not want to get entangled directly into Afghan conflict. More interestingly, America's unending wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East are seen by many in China as a window of opportunity for it to build its strength, while Washington was distracted and in a state of utter strategic confusion spending trillions of dollars initiating one war after another. Today China is in a position to make the US rethink its foreign policy thrust.

The Biden Administration's Interim Security Strategic Guidance released in March 2021 asserts that China is the only competitor potentially capable of combining its economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to mount a sustained challenge to a stable and open international system. Biden followed President Trump's policy of pressuring China, and cold shouldering it. Many are of the opinion that the policy has backfired.

The US increasingly finds itself in need of China's support and coordination on various fronts, including issues like Iran, Afghanistan, climate change and international trade regimes. US State Department spokesperson Ned Price is on record saying US China relationship is fundamentally competitive at the core, there are elements of this relationship that are adversarial, but there are also going to be elements where interests align. This so-called competition, cooperation and confrontation approach of the US dealing with China will have repercussions for Afghanistan.

Previously, Beijing had viewed the US and Soviet military presence in Afghanistan as a geopolitical threat, but it had gradually grown to see it as the lesser of two evils. Ridding China's backyard of Islamic militancy and elimination of militants on China's hit-list ranked above the fear of US' presence in Afghanistan.

The risk of entanglement in Afghanistan is a huge concern for China. Beijing does not want to involve itself too deeply in Afghanistan as it is concerned about the strategic trap that has weakened the other great powers. China is more inclined "to work with all stakeholders of

Afghanistan, including Pakistan, Taliban, Afghan government and the US, to make concerted efforts to promote peace talks and mediation.”

At the same time, China is likely to continue relying on Pakistan to conduct its Afghan policy, and in managing responses to the situation on the ground. On the other hand, Pakistan is in the middle of redefining its relationship with the Biden Administration, nevertheless at this point in time it seems that Pakistan is most likely to support China, if Washington and Beijing are unable to settle their differences on Afghan affairs.

The blame game and public humiliation used as a tool of foreign policy by the United States against Pakistan is not helping the situation.

China's and Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan are not entirely identical but are broadly in sync, however, a growing convergence is expected that can lead to deeper engagement in the future between the two, post-complete American withdrawal. China is convinced that Pakistan has a key role to play in the stabilization of Afghanistan. While advancing its own interests in Afghanistan, China knows it cannot ignore Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan and will have to accommodate its interests as well.

The list of challenges China will have to face due to its Afghanistan commitment is long and concerning, from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) possible alliance with Uyghur and Baloch separatists, the disjointed Afghan peace process, to the seemingly inflexible Pakistan-Afghanistan discord.

The China-India-Pakistan triangle is another major regional fault-line that can impact the prospects for stability in Afghanistan.

Through its OBOR initiative China hopes to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the region as terrorist activities can become an obstacle to the operations of OBOR initiative; a testament to this is the Agreement on the Coordination Mechanism on Counterterrorism by Afghanistan-China-Pakistan-Tajikistan Armed Forces and the Protocol on Counterterrorism Information Coordination Center by Afghanistan-China-Pakistan-Tajikistan Armed Forces. In addition, China's deepening involvement in Afghanistan is closely tied to the country's economic aspirations. Afghanistan has a competitive advantage over its neighbors as it lies at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia, and its geographically strategic location makes it a possible regional hub for trade and transit. China aims to link its own markets with South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia through Afghanistan.

Chinese economic and political interests in Afghanistan have grown considerably since it became a major player in the super-power competition. The security situation in Afghanistan is spiraling out of control and in the light of the current developments Beijing needs to rethink its Afghanistan policy in order to protect its interests in the region.

With the aim of achieving great power status, Beijing maybe pushed to assume a more assertive role in Afghanistan in the coming future.

There are also talks about the possibility of China deploying a peacekeeping force into Afghanistan for coping with the worsening security situation.

China needs to learn a lesson from history and not repeat the mistakes of the US and Soviet Union, in order to avoid stepping into a hellish quagmire.

China can take on a more active political role in Afghanistan to deal with the fallout of US withdrawal; without being completely sucked in. The China-Pakistan convergence may do the magic.

The extended Troika that includes US, Russia, China and Pakistan are actively seeking to develop a regional consensus on Afghan conflict.

The 31st August deadline for the completion of the withdrawal of US forces is fast approaching and the prospects of reduction in violence are diminishing.

The Taliban have captured nine provincial capitals. As per EU official Taliban are now controlling 65% of Afghanistan.

If anything the Taliban have become more aggressive and have leverage to economically strangle the Afghan government.

The only way forward perhaps is strong regional pressure on the Taliban to let go of violence and return to a negotiated {political} solution. Three regional countries Russia, China and Pakistan have decent relations with the Taliban and could collectively put requisite pressure on them to reduce violence and opt for a political solution. Pakistan cannot and should not be expected to do this alone.

—The author is an Associate Professor of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts at the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-china-pakistan-afghanistan-triangle-by-huma-baqai/>

Xinjiang, Uyghur donate 110 oxygen cylinders to GB

Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit Baltistan is one the leading NGOs of GB which not only looks after the Overseas Chinese community of GB but also the locals. At the crucial times of pandemic spread. A generous donation of 110 oxygen cylinders was sent by Foreign Affairs Office, People's Government of Xinjiang, Uyghur Autonomous Region.

<https://pakobserver.net/xinjiang-uyghur-donate-110-oxygen-cylinders-to-gb/>

The Express Tribune

Govt finds Gwadar plan lacking

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CCoCPEC) on Thursday termed Gwadar port marketing plan prepared by Chinese operators unsatisfactory, as the government also remains unable to provide required support to make its free zone fully

operational. Due to a delay in starting work on Gwadar power plant of 300 megawatts coupled with lack of transmission network, the cabinet committee also decided to import another 100MW of electricity from Iran to meet the port's energy requirements. The CCoCPEC meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar and reviewed the progress on various projects under the CPEC and Gwadar Port marketing plan, according to a press statement.

The Gwadar Port and its Free Zone is said to be the jewel of CPEC but the progress on these two major CPEC initiatives remains far below expectations despite it being a top priority of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa. The Chinese operators of the Gwadar port - the China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan Limited (COPHC) made a presentation on the prospects of the Gwadar port and its marketing plan to the committee, sources told The Express Tribune.

However, the cabinet members raised some serious objections over the marketing plan and found it unsatisfactory, they added. A cabinet minister said that the plan lacked clarity on the strength of the Gwadar port - which is its strategic location. There was also no mention of industrial clusters that can be set up in the free zone, he added.

Two federal ministers suggested in the meeting that a way forward has to be found as everything cannot be left on Chinese operators, said the sources. However, the maritime affairs ministry officials informed that the government cannot do much as its hands were tied under the concession agreement signed with the port operators. When contacted, a senior executive of COPHC said, "Gwadar port is in operation and is capable of handling any kind of cargo."

However, the road network is not being completed and all cargo of Gwadar has to go to the destination via Karachi, thus, reducing the competitiveness of Gwadar port, he added. The Chinese company official further maintained that the infrastructures, including power, water and road connection are the bottleneck of Gwadar port and free zone development. Land resettlement, incentive policy are preventing further development of the Gwadar Free Zone.

"However, Prime Minister (Imran Khan) visited Gwadar on July 5 and instructed the relevant authorities to remove bottlenecks of Gwadar development and the port operator is confident that with the input of all stakeholders, Gwadar can be developed as a new economic hub of Pakistan," he added.

The Pakistan Coast Guard and Pakistan Navy still occupy nearly 97 acres of land that is part of the Gwadar Free zone, said the sources. However, the cabinet committee advised the port operators in the meeting that occupied land was only 4% of the overall zone land and the operators should expedite work to develop the rest of the area.

Electricity import

The cabinet committee also took up a summary to address the issue of less availability of the power supply to the Gwadar port and its free zone.

“The committee gave the go-ahead to the Power Division to discuss options of import of additional power supply from Iran,” according to the planning ministry.

Umar directed that dedicated power supply for the Gwadar Industrial Zone must be ensured, it added.

The Power Division had not recommended importing 100MW electricity from Iran, although the option was part of the summary that it tabled before the cabinet committee.

Under the CPEC framework agreement, Pakistan and China had planned to set up the 300MW power plant at Gwadar.

But the coal-fired power plant is expected to be commissioned by December 2023 and till that time the government does not have firm arrangement in place to meet the port city’s energy requirements.

Gwadar’s energy requirements in fiscal year 2020-21 were 199MW that are projected to increase to 236MW by 2023. The demand will further increase to 378MW by the year 2028-29, according to estimates by the Quetta Electricity Supply Company (Qesco).

In February this year, the CPEC body had directed the Power Division to present a plan for power supply to Gwadar. The existing 132KV regional grid of Makran and Gwadar is not connected with the national grid and is being fed from Iran. Pakistan is importing from 70MW to 100MW electricity from Iran since 2003.

The Power Division had recommended that in the short-term some areas of Makran grid be shifted to the national grid to meet the shortfall and also install equipment at Punjgoor to augment electricity supply. It also proposed that a new regional grid of 220KV be installed for Dadu-Makran-Gwadar transmission line that will cost \$475 million. The CCoCPEC also allowed National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) to change its executing agency to expedite the work and ensure that the transmission line project for import of electricity and supplies to Gwadar is completed by March 2023. The government in 2007 had approved a project for import of additional electricity from Iran. The NTDC signed the contract with SUNIR Company in February 2009 for import of additional 100MW electricity. However, the matter could not proceed further due to international sanctions on Iran.

Tavanir and SUNIR of Iran have offered to finance the construction of line against the Tavanir payables by the power purchaser.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2315298/govt-finds-gwadar-plan-lacking>

The Nation

Pakistan’s exports to China likely to reach \$3b at end of this year:

Ambassador Haque

BEIJING - Pakistan has registered over 80 percent increase in its exports to China in the first six months of 2021 and keeping in view the momentum, the country is all set to achieve historic

milestone of \$3 billion at the end of this year, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haq said on Thursday.

“The bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has registered 80 percent increase in the first half of this year as compared to same period of the last year,” he told APP. He said that the phase two of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was launched last year and its positive results were there.

“Pakistan Embassy and Consulates in China are also setting up Pakistan pavilions and holding promotional events in different cities to promote Pakistani products and goods into the Chinese market,” he added.

The FTA now allows Pakistani manufacturers and traders to export around 313 new products to the Chinese market with zero duties. Pakistan is already enjoying zero duties on exports of 724 products to China under the first free trade pact signed between the two countries in 2006. After implementation of the second pact, Pakistan has been now allowed to export more than 1,000 products to China with zero duties.

The new facility is particularly benefiting the agriculture, leather, confectionary items, and biscuits product sectors as well.

According to a senior official, Pakistani exporters and traders should establish good brands to attract Chinese customers and further increase exports to China.

With increase in the per capita income in China, the consumer products were now getting a lot of attention from all over the world.

“As Pakistan is also good in production of the consumer products, especially in the textile, leather, sports goods, surgical and food related industries and agriculture, there will be a strong Chinese demand in these areas,” the official said.

According to official data from the General Administration of Customs of People’s Republic of China (GACC), the bilateral trade between Pakistan and China witnessed a significant increase despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan’s exports stood at \$1.735 billion in the first half of 2021, up 70.3 percent from \$1.019 billion in the same period of the previous year.

This half fiscal year China’s export to Pakistan also increased 48 percent amounting to \$10.87 billion as compared with the previous year, which was \$7.35 billion.

The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan had increased by 50.8 percent amounting to \$12.6 billion as compared with 2020 which was \$8.37 billion due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, textiles, seafood and agricultural products have increased year on year, which has increased Pakistan’s exports to China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-13/page-8/detail-0>

CCoCPEC allows PD to discuss additional electricity's import from Iran

Fawad Yousafzai

Work on 300MW coal fired power plant is under process and it will be completed by December 2023

ISLAMABAD - Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCoCPEC) Thursday gave go-ahead to the Power Division to discuss the import of additional 70MW to 100MW electricity from Iran to meet the power demand of Gwadar.

Cabinet Committee on CPEC also allowed NTDC to change its executing agency for the construction of transmission line for connection of Gwadar to national grid to expedite the work and ensure that the project is completed by March 2023. A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCoCPEC) was held under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar here.

The CCoCPEC reviewed the progress on various projects under CPEC and the overall progress of CPEC in Industrial Cooperation, Energy, Infrastructure, and Gwadar Port Marketing Plan. The implementation plan for vacation of Pakistan Coast Guard and Pakistan Navy land at Gwadar was also on the agenda of the CCoCPEC meeting but it was deferred. Various options for fulfilling the energy requirements of Gwadar were discussed in the meeting. Power Division submitted a summary containing proposals for the acceleration of the power supply to Gwadar.

The meeting was informed that 100MW electricity is imported from Iran which is being supplied to Makran division including Gwadar, Kech and Panjgur. Pakistan is importing electricity from Iran, and Quetta Electricity Supply Company is supplying it to Makran division through 132 kV transmission line. However due to disruption of supply in July from the neighbouring Iran last month, all the three districts of Makran division including Gwadar, Kech and Panjgur were facing severe power outages. The total demand of Makran division is around 150MW and even the supply of Iranian electricity can cater for only 70 per cent of the total demand of the area.

Beside, work is in progress on the connection of Gwadar to the national grid and for the purpose 100s of kilometers long transmission line is being laid. Similarly, it was also informed that work on 300MW coal fired power plant is also under process and it will be completed by December 2023.

During the meeting, the power division requested for change of the executing agency for the transmission line. The CCoCPEC approved the summary and allowed NTDC to change its executing agency to expedite the work and ensure that the project is completed by March 2023. The meeting was informed that two companies are interested in the project.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Shaukat Fayyaz Ahmed Tarin, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom

Khusro Bakhtyar, Abdul Razak Dawood Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Power and Petroleum Tabish Gauhar, SAPM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Chairman NHA, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Secretary Planning, Secretary Power, Secretary Maritime Affairs and official of various ministers and divisions.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-13/page-8/detail-5>

The News

Pak-China Intercropping Research Center inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the Intercropping Research Center jointly established by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB).

According to China Economic Net (CEN), this is the first-ever national research center dedicated to intercropping within Pakistan.

The advanced ‘maize-soybean strip intercropping technology’ from China, and the close Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation were highly praised by the PM.

Muhammad Ali Raza, Pakistani post-doc from Sichuan Agricultural University, presented maize-soybean strip intercropping technology to PM Imran Khan. “The intercropping technology can use light so efficiently and produce two crops at one time. With new technologies like it, we can bring about revolution in the agriculture sector of Pakistan,” said PM Imran Khan at the farmers’ convention.

Intercropping, the cultivation of two or more crop species on the same land for a whole or specific period, is suitable for countries with large population and limited cultivated land like Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the technology is urgently needed by Pakistan as edible oil and oilseed are among the largest food and feed imports into the country.

Presently, Pakistan is importing 1.8 to 2.0 million tonnes of soybeans from other countries. Revitalizing soybean production may well be in order.

“Ali, a young PhD., who came from China, is the future of Pakistan. I acknowledge your mentor’s abilities because he has trained you very well,” PM Imran Khan said. At the convention, PM Imran Khan awarded Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza for his diligent and effective work.

Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar also appreciated maize-soybean strip intercropping technology and expressed his willingness to provide support for further promoting this technology in Pakistan. In 2018, Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza started to promote maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan under his Chinese professor Yang Wenyu’s guidance and support. In the first half of 2021, the technology was being applied to 100 acres of land for

demonstration throughout Punjab and Sindh, and achieved promising results after harvesting two weeks ago.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/877729-pak-china-intercropping-research-center-inaugurated>

August 14, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China are ‘iron brothers’: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday, while expressing the government’s resolve to complete projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a timely manner, said no hostile force would be allowed to undermine the ‘iron-clad friendship’ between the two countries.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, the prime minister termed CPEC a transformational project, for which he stressed that both sides needed close collaboration to make it a high-quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on China-Pakistan bilateral relations, CPEC, vaccines and mutual cooperation in other sectors.

The Chinese ambassador conveyed the cordial greetings from President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to the prime minister. He also conveyed felicitations on Pakistan’s Independence Day.

The prime minister warmly reciprocated the greetings of the Chinese leadership and also appreciated China’s consistent support to Pakistan in its fight against Covid-19 besides provision of vaccines, including under the COVAX facility. China-Pakistan cooperation in trade, commerce and investment, people-to-people contacts, and mining and natural resources were also discussed.

In the context of the regional situation, the prime minister reiterated that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. He expressed Pakistan’s resolve to steadfastly support efforts for a negotiated political settlement.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804614/pakistan-china-are-iron-brothers-pm/>

Land allocated to nine more investors in Rashakai SEZ

In a major step towards the development of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, the government approved applications of nine investors for a total of 25 acres of land in the flagship industrial estate of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to Gwadar Pro, the applications were approved during second meeting of the Rashakai SEZ Committee held here this week the KP Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT) revealed in a tweet. KPBOIT is responsible for promoting industrialisation and trade potential in the KP province. According to Arbab Haroon, spokesperson for KP Economic Zones

Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), the following firms have been awarded land in the Rashakai SEZ. GEO Crete Absolute Construction Co. has been awarded 2 acres of land. The company will manufacture a chemical to stabilise land for construction of roads, buildings and other structures. One acre land has been awarded to Gul Steel, while 10 acres have been allotted to Wah Nobel, a chemical manufacturer.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804533/land-allocated-to-nine-more-investors-in-rashakai-sez/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China relationship to weather all storms: Masood

The AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has said that Pakistan- China strategic cooperative partnership aims at building a community of shared future and the relationship between the two countries will weather all storms. In his article written for English Edition of Armed Forces' Hilal Magazine, he said this is not empty rhetoric; it embodies a strong commitment of the two states to promote peace, stability, and development in the region and safeguard each other's core interests. He stated that China supports Pakistan's security, independence and territorial sovereignty, whereas Pakistan fully endorses the One China Policy.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-relationship-to-weather-all-storms-masood/>

Sindh establishes SEZs to boost economy: Qasim

Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Board of Investment and Private Public Partnership Projects Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar has said that Sindh government has established Special Economic Zones in the province to boost up economy of the province and the purpose of these zones is to attract investors to Sindh in order to create more employment opportunities and prosperity as well.

He stated this while talking to CEO Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) Abdul Azeem Uqaili here in his office on Friday. On the occasion, Abdul Azeem Uqaili briefed Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Dhabeji Special Economic Zone Project in detail.

He told that government of Sindh had earmarked 1530 acres of land to be developed as Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) in Thatta, a Priority Project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which would facilitate the potential investors of China and other countries to either start new enterprises or transfer their facilities to Pakistan.

Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar appreciated the measures taken for boosting economic activities in Sindh and expressed his hope that these economic zones would bring very positive change in the economy of Sindh and ultimately we would see a prosperous Sindh.

<https://pakobserver.net/sindh-establishes-sezs-to-boost-economy-qasim/>

August 15, 2021

Daily Times

Sino-US Rivalry and Pakistan's Predicament – I

M Alam Brohi

The Foreign policy options for Pakistan in the coming decade need to be viewed within the perspective of the intensifying Sino-US competition and confrontation. The US-led Western states, after humiliation in Afghanistan, have already launched an insidious campaign to hold Pakistan responsible for the swift advances of the Taliban. This is a dangerous narrative and could cost the country heavily. The venomous propaganda, systematically carried out by the adversarial forces, owes a great deal to Pakistan's partnership with China in the BRI than the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan.

The Sino-US contestation would be intense spawning confrontation and probably conflict. The Foreign policy options for small states of greater Asia would shrink in the coming decades. The chessboard of realignment, neutrality and appeasement by states, commensurate with their national interests, was laid by the President Obama's "pivot to Asia" policy, which was given an impetus by China's dizzying economic development, the strident expansion of trade and investment in many continents after joining the WTO, and within two decades, it emerged as the second largest economy of the world, even surpassing the US in purchasing power parity. Pakistan being the host of the flagship project of BRI figures prominently in the game.

The Obama administration signed Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreements with Australia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and recognized India as "Major Defence Partner" in June 2015. This entitled India for strategic as well as technological handshake with USA in the region and elsewhere. For the first time, since the Second World War, Japan was allowed to enhance its military capability for self defence. President Obama visited Vietnam in that year and allowed it defence imports of over \$6 billion. He also hosted the ASEAN Summit in February 2016.

The USA goaded major countries of the region to join hands together in close defence cooperation to strengthen their military capabilities. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam have since been cooperating with each other within over \$1.5 billion USA sponsored "Asia Maritime Security Initiative". While conducting missile attack warning exercises with Japan, South Korea separately, the US has held a series of naval exercises with quad states. These are all China-specific strategic realignments.

All these economic, diplomatic and military rebalances in the South East Asia and Asia Pacific reaffirm one obvious fact that the coming decades would witness an intense rivalry between China and USA in the greater Asia.

The Secretary of Defence, Ash Carter hosted 10 ASEAN Defence Ministers in September 2016 assuring them that the US would play equally important roles from sea, air and underwater with its robust military presence more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and

politically sustainable. He disclosed the US had committed 60% of its home porting naval and overseas air assets to the region including F-22 and F-35 Stealth Jets, marine patrol aircrafts, submarines, undersea drones and long-range bombers. Through the Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) Initiative launched in 2016, USA has since been conducting multilateral military exercises. The last military exercise in the region had brought together as many as 26 countries. Now, the NATO warships have been moved close to South China Sea.

The trade dispute that was used by President Donald Trump as the main weapon of his anti-China armoury has been lingering on with no apparent urgency on US side to address it. The Biden's Democratic administration would concentrate on exploiting the weaknesses of China with regard to Taiwan and South China Sea Islands and alleged human rights violations in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The US would, in all probability, fuel insurgency of East Turkestan Islamic Movement in Xinjiang and create stalemate in the conflict in Afghanistan to undermine BRI and CPEC, particularly after its initiative of B3W enunciated in the recent G7 Summit that failed to gain traction.

All these economic, diplomatic and military rebalances in the South East Asia and Asia Pacific reaffirm one obvious fact that the coming decades would witness an intense rivalry between China and USA in the greater Asia. The USA perception about China's threat to its world domination would compel the American leaders to intensify and further speed up their China-specific political and strategic moves. These competitions and confrontation would be the dominant themes of international affairs in the decades to come, posing great challenges to the current USA-dominated international order, and developing nations dependent on foreign economic assistance.

The Western world perceives international order to be under threat from the economic and strategic strength and influence of China; the turmoil in the Middle East and the aggressive posturing of Russia in Europe. Particularly, the undeclared alliance between China and Russia to give effect to multi-polarity in the global power politics has further exacerbated the US concerns for world leadership. This alliance has been marked by cordial cooperation between the two major powers within the SCO, and understanding each other's stances in the Middle East and Afghanistan. While China is careful in overstepping on the Russian political and strategic interests in Central Asia, it has been steadily augmenting its economic clout in the region.

Given its policy of restraint in international affairs with a view to strengthen the economic gains that it has acquired over the past three decades, China will continue to avoid any military conflict with the US unless rendered inevitable by its uncompromising stance on Taiwan and South China Sea Islands. China will rather like overcoming the wide military and technological gap with the USA within the coming decades. The Chinese leaders are well conscious that their country is an emerging power while the US has started decaying. The time is on their side.

The likelihood of strategic confrontation between the US as the dominant power and China as the rising state with the potential power to displace the former in Southeast Asia and Pacific, if not in the world, in the coming decades is too strong to be ignored in the fast changing

geopolitical, geo-economic and geostrategic dynamics in the world, particularly when both the powers have already embarked on strategic moves to countervail each other in almost all the regions. The South Asian region being in close proximity of the South West and Central Asia will be one of the significant battle fields for the colliding powers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804695/sino-us-rivalry-and-pakistans-predicament-i/>

Pakistani handmade carpet exhibition opens in Shanghai

An exhibition themed “Image-Making” recently opened in Shanghai center at Baoku Art Centre to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, according to China Economic Net.

With Pakistani carpet art collection, Chinese contemporary paintings and images as carriers, the exhibition aims to carry out dialogue between two ancient civilisations of the silk road, reveal the connotation of “community with a shared future for humanity”, and provide inspiration for the development of art globalisation in the new era.

“I am very happy to see such an exhibition and I would like to thank the organisers for promoting cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan.

The year 2021 not only marks the 70th anniversary of our bilateral friendship, but also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

The government and the people of Pakistan are appreciative of the contribution of CPC in serving its people wholeheartedly and hope that in the future, the development of the two countries will go further and reach a new climax,” this was stated by Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai at the opening ceremony.

“Handmade carpet is one of Pakistan’s cultural treasures. Pakistani handmade carpets are made of wool and silk, with exquisite and varied patterns. Along the ancient Silk Road, Chinese merchants exchanged silk for wool carpets in Pakistan. After the handmade carpets were introduced to China, Chinese weavers combined Pakistani weaving techniques with traditional Chinese craft of hand-knitting carpets. This is a kind of cultural interaction,” said Zubair Jan, one of the exhibition designers and a collector of the Pakistani carpet art pieces.

The video and part of photography works on display were created by Li Rongkai, a photographer and director of art films in China, also the curator of the exhibition. He hopes to present a wonderful dialogue between Chinese and Pakistani art through narration, visual presentation and multimedia interaction. “The different histories, cultures and social systems are as old as human societies, and they are the inherent features of human civilisation. Due to the different cultural backgrounds, the art exhibitions of China and Pakistan show their differences. Therefore, we adhered to the philosophy of seeking harmony without uniformity while preparing the exhibition,” said Joshua Gong, academic adviser of the exhibition. “There will be no human civilisation without diversity, and such diversity will continue to exist for as long as we can

imagine. We should respect each other, and seek common ground while reserving differences,” Gong told China Economic Net.

“In the future, we can also conduct in-depth cultural exchanges in all directions by holding forums, academic seminars, co-producing documentaries and releasing publications. We hope to continue to enhance mutual understanding and interaction, so that cultural practitioners from both countries can unite closer,” Gong added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/804779/pakistani-handmade-carpet-exhibition-opens-in-shanghai/>

Dawn News

China to be approached to get scholarships for 300 students from Balochistan:

Sanjrani

Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani has said he will talk to the Chinese leadership about granting scholarships to at least 300 students of Balochistan.

Mr Sanjrani was speaking to a 100-member delegation of students from seven districts of Balochistan at the Parliament House on Saturday.

“I will take every possible step to bring the students of Balochistan at par with other students of the country. The Saudi government has also sought details of 50 to 60 students in terms of scholarships and higher education,” said Mr Sanjrani, according to an official handout issued by the Senate Secretariat.

“Steps are being taken to promote education in Balochistan and soon universities will be set up in Chaghi and Gwadar,” he said.

To questions regarding power outages and water issues, Mr Sanjrani assured the delegation that a permanent solution to electricity and water would be sorted out in a year.

He apprised the students about the consultations on the electricity and water issues with the newly-elected president of Iran during his recent visit. He said six trade routes on the border had also been identified during the meeting with the president of Iran. “Development of Gwadar is imperative for the prosperity of the country. People from all over the country would come to Balochistan, and this province will be at the forefront in coming days,” he maintained.

Mr Sanjrani said the development of the country was interlinked with Gwadar. He said the completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects would bring development and prosperity to Balochistan and the whole nation.

Mr Sanjrani said full utilisation of natural resources and promoting education was essential for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. He said Balochistan was rich in natural resources, and the people, especially the educated youth, could benefit from CPEC projects.

He said Balochistan had vast investment opportunities, and efforts should also be made for enhancing trade and investment in the province.

Replying to a question, he said with a cost of Rs18 billion Gwadar would soon be connected to the national grid. Furthermore, he said, with the installation of a 50MW solar plant, the electricity requirement of one district could be met. For the permanent solution of the water issue, a plan would be put in place to desalinate salted water, he said.

“There are vast opportunities to generate electricity from alternative sources in the province,” he added.

Talking about the employment opportunities in Gwadar, Mr Sanjrani said companies operating in Gwadar had vast employment opportunities which should be taken advantage of. He said the students of Balochistan should also learn from the expertise of those who were already working in Gwadar. He said the youth population in Balochistan comprised 1.1 million, and if these young people were provided with adequate education and facilities, they could play a vital role in the country’s development. He maintained that the issues would also be taken up with the government of Balochistan, and every possible step would be taken for the promotion of trade, investment and completion of projects in the province.

Mr Sanjrani also cut a cake to commemorate the Independence Day.

The students’ delegation also visited the Senate Museum and Senate Hall.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1640660/china-to-be-approached-to-get-scholarships-for-300-students-from-balochistan-sanjrani>

Pakistan Observer

Remove CPEC-related snags

PRIME Minister Imran Khan has once again emphasized the need for closer cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad for early completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong in Islamabad on Friday, he remarked that CPEC being a transformational project Pakistan and China should work more closely on it to make it a high-quality demonstration project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

What the Prime Minister said carried significance in the backdrop of unending rumours that projects under the framework of CPEC have lost momentum for a variety of reasons and no new projects are being added despite bright prospects for expanding the scope of the initiative.

One would, therefore, welcome the views of the Prime Minister about the importance and relevance of the CPEC to the economic wellbeing of the people of Pakistan.

The Chinese Ambassador has held a series of meetings with the top leadership of Pakistan in recent weeks where the two sides understandably discussed all aspects of the CPEC and other dimensions of the bilateral relations, which is a clear indication of the deep commitment of Beijing to carry forward the historic initiative.

According to an official statement, besides other issues, Imran Khan and Nong Rong also discussed China-Pakistan cooperation in trade, commerce and investment, people-to-people contacts and mining and natural resources.

The resolve expressed by the Prime Minister augurs well for strengthening and widening the cooperation but there is dire need to take necessary practical steps to realize this objective.

Why are several communication and energy projects running behind schedule despite the willingness and commitment of the two countries to pursue CPEC cooperation to new heights? Why is ML-I not moving beyond files? What are the bottlenecks in the way of establishment of much-talked-about industrial estates where Chinese are eager to set up plants? Why is cooperation in the agriculture sector not getting the required priority despite the challenges of food insecurity and food inflation? We have repeatedly been emphasizing in these columns that it is, perhaps, for the first time in the history of the country that the bilateral aid by a foreign country is having a positive impact on the overall economy and welfare of the people

The most important feature of the Chinese economic collaboration is that it has no political strings attached to it and is motivated purely by the commitment of the Chinese leadership to help the friendly country overcome its chronic problems in different sectors.

This is already evident from the role that the CPEC power projects have played in addressing the perennial issues of electricity shortage while communication sector initiatives have linked hitherto inaccessible regions with other parts of the country. China is also the only country of the globe that has helped Pakistan carry out its programme for addition of environment friendly nuclear power to the national grid. It is rightly said that neither any bilateral donor nor any multilateral institution is willing to offer as much assistance as China is providing and that too without any conditions.

CPEC initiative is a golden opportunity for Pakistan to address its critical problems and clear road-blocks that hinder its smooth march on the road to socio-economic growth and development.

There is no doubt that the country is facing not just conspiracies aimed at derailing the CPEC-process but also foreign pressure for abandoning it altogether or slowing progress on implementation of the agreed projects but it is a test of nationalist credentials of the leadership that is expected to make sovereign decisions based purely on national interests, which must reign supreme at all costs.

Under these circumstances, we would urge the Prime Minister to convene an all-inclusive briefing session where relevant ministries and departments especially the CPEC Authority should give a project-by-project presentation including launching date, completion date originally envisaged, reasons for lack of progress if any, and proposals for fast-pacing implementation. The shortcomings/snags so identified should be removed without loss of further time and the Prime Minister may get weekly feedback reports in this regard. Similarly, issues affecting progress on fresh initiatives under the CPEC also need to be addressed urgently as their

implementation could accelerate the pace of progress in the country. We would also propose that Prime Minister Imran Khan may undertake a visit to China after elaborative homework for talks on different aspects of CPEC cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/remove-cpec-related-snags/>

The Express Tribune

Japan sees Gwadar as transit port

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can utilise Gwadar port as a transit hub in the short-term, as the country needs another five years to make it an international standard seaport that also has an industrial complex, says Japanese envoy to Islamabad, Matsuda Kuninori. Countries like Pakistan need second and third trade ports and for that matter it is very wise for Pakistan to build a second port like Gwadar because Karachi is very congested, said Matsuda told The Express Tribune on Thursday. “But Gwadar at this time does not have any industrial complex or commercial hinterland,” said the ambassador, saying there were second and third stage projects that will take longer time to be completed. “I am always a positive thinking person and I will give it five years for make Gwadar an international standard port”, said Matsuda. “We are closely following how fast and to what extent second and third stage projects will be prepared so that Gwadar can become a trade hub in a true sense.” The ambassador’s remarks are in line with the ground realities. This week, the Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor rejected the marketing plan for the Gwadar port prepared by the Chinese operators. But the port operators blame the government for its inability to provide the logistics to make Gwadar a hub of economic and commercial activities. “Gwadar has a future but for that matter there has to be good planning of the second and the third stage including building an industrial complex and some kind of logistic support area and inland road networks which connects Gwadar with inland cities,” said Matsuda.

He said that Gwadar has a great future in the medium and long term but for a short period of time Gwadar can be utilised as a place where people can use it as a transit station. If the Gwadar port area is designated as an international tax free storage area then you bring goods to store in Gwadar and then send to neighbouring Gulf countries, he added. Gwadar can be used as a support port for Karachi port. Pakistan has given Gwadar port to China on lease but both the countries have not yet been able to present it as the most viable port in the region despite declaring it the crown jewel of CPEC.

He said that the prioritised Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under CPEC were also not located at places where Japanese automobile investors can set up factories. “If Pakistan would like to get new investment in the automobile industry that will have to be in the vicinity of Karachi and Lahore where the automobile factories are located,” said the ambassador. He said that CPEC SEZs, Dhabeji in Sindh and Faisalabad’s industrial zones, are not in the vicinity of these two cities therefore, it will be difficult for Japanese investors to set up factories in these cities. Faisalabad would make sense only for textile related investment.

“The SEZ is a magic word but it cannot come out of the blue and you have to build water, gas, and electricity and waste management facilities,” said the ambassador. Sometimes, we hear so much about the SEZ but not necessarily enough facilities are provided in these zones, he added.

To build a successful SEZ the key to success is selection of land, it is usually successful if it is related to export, which means it should be located close to the trade port or border area with trade partners.

In case of Pakistan, for short-term SEZ should be built closer to Karachi area for mid-term it could be built in other parts of the coastal areas and in the long-term border area might be considered, advised the ambassador.

The ambassador also briefly spoke about Pakistan’s fiscal conditions. He said that Japan was no longer providing loans to Pakistan.

“We are concerned about a worsening financial position and I understand that the prime minister himself does not like receiving loans, instead he prefers to get investment and trade,” said the ambassador.

In terms of Pakistan’s financial structure and ongoing negotiations with the IMF, the Pakistani government does not like to receive new loans which are going to add into the debt of Pakistan. We intentionally avoid giving new loans.

If in the future the financial position improves and there is really a needy project of Pakistan’s socio economic development, we will be happy to provide softer loans as Japan gives much softer loans than those given by many countries including China, he added. He maintained that China was not a reason for not giving loans to Pakistan.

Automobile policy

The ambassador said that he was in favour of the new automobile policy that the government has prepared for a five-year period. The Pakistani car market has been dominated by Japanese cars for the past three decades. “I am personally satisfied with the new automobile policy that will ensure Pakistan’s transfer from combustion engine technology to hybrid and then to electric vehicles.” “Right now, Pakistan’s automobile industry is practically assembling units.” Pakistan’s automobile market is mature enough to move from assembling stage to full-scale manufacturing base, he added.

In light of local conditions including the electricity generation capacity, it is a bit difficult to jump from combustion to EV stage. Pakistan needs to take a step by step approach.

The ambassador said that during the past 25 years, Japanese carmakers have done a lot for localisation and “I know the speed of localisation is unsatisfactory in view of local buyers and we also have received some complaints”.

He said that there are some areas where the quality of local supplies is not high. There are some components that still have to be imported from Japanese suppliers.

Localisation also means new investment by Japanese suppliers and setting up factories in Pakistan. Japanese automakers are struggling to set up factories in Pakistan, he added. The Pakistan government could help us to give some incentives in taxation and some other benefits.

Japanese manufacturers can set up plants if incentives are given in the shape of tax and tariff reduction on import of necessary machinery, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2315657/japan-sees-gwadar-as-transit-port>

The Nation

Pakistan rejects India's denial of involvement in deadly attack on Chinese engineers

Mateen Haider

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri Saturday categorically rejected the 'absurd remarks' by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denying India's involvement in the recent Dasu terrorist attack.

"Fully exposed, India typically resorts to sophistry, obfuscation and re-fabrication. Bland denials and regurgitation of a false narrative, however, will not change facts," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in response to media queries,

On July 14, at least 13 people including 9 Chinese engineers died when a blast took place in a bus carrying Chinese nationals and accompanying Pakistani staff working on the Dasu hydropower project, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohistan district.

Investigation into the deadly suicide blast revealed that it was an act of terrorism planned and executed by India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and

One-sided invocation of 1947 tragic events by Modi shameful: FO

Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS).

Pakistan had repeatedly presented irrefutable evidence of India's active planning, promoting, aiding, abetting, financing and execution of terrorist activities in Pakistan, the spokesperson said in a press release.

Pakistan had presented a detailed dossier to the international community last year. Recently, it also presented evidence on India's involvement in the Lahore attack. The most familiar and undeniable face of India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan is Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav — caught red-handed in March 2016, it was added.

"We reiterate our call on India to abjure the use of state-terrorism as an instrument of policy. Pakistan will continue to resolutely oppose Indian machinations imperiling regional peace and security," the spokesperson said.

Also, Pakistan on Saturday categorically rejected as “irresponsible and misleading” a statement by the Indian officials leveling false allegations against Pakistan in connection with an encounter in Kulgam area of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

“It is ironic that without any corroboration, the Indian government has once again resorted to leveling serious allegations against Pakistan. This is yet another manifestation of the baseless propaganda and smear campaign against Pakistan that is characteristic of the Indian government and an amenable Indian media,” Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

He said it was typical Indian strategy to shift blames, employ unfounded assertions against Pakistan as a smokescreen, and seek to undermine the indigenous struggle for self-determination of the people of IIOJK.

The spokesperson said the latest allegations further confirmed what Pakistan had consistently pointed out that the BJP government staged “false flag” operations to malign Pakistan with terrorism-related allegations for narrow political gains. “Pakistan calls upon India to refrain from its reprehensible propaganda campaign as no number of Indian falsehoods can succeed in diverting attention from India’s serious crimes in IIOJK,” the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office spokesperson Saturday while commenting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tweet on 1947 events said it was shameful to one-sidedly invoke the tragic events and mass migration in wake of Independence in 1947.

Responding to questions regarding the Indian Prime Minister’s remarks, the spokesperson said no modern state was so much in contradiction with itself as the Indian state - the so-called “largest democracy”.

“It is shameful that the practitioners of “Hindutva” ideology, and purveyors of hate and violence, would so hypocritically and one-sidedly invoke the tragic events and mass migration that occurred in the wake of Independence in 1947,” he commented.

The spokesperson said distorting history and stoking communalism was the special forte of the RSS-BJP regime. Far from doing anything to heal old wounds, they would go to any extent to sow further dissensions for electoral gains, he maintained.

“We are sure that the people of goodwill in India would completely reject this political and publicity stunt that only seeks to divide,” the spokesperson added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-15/page-1/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

بلوچستان سی پیک کی بدولت ترقی کی نئی منازل طے کریگا، صادق سنجرانی

اسلام آباد (نیوز پورٹ) بلوچستان ترقی و خوشحالی کی راہ پر گامزن ہو چکا سی پیک منصوبوں کی بدولت نہ صرف صوبہ بلوچستان اور پاکستان ترقی کی نئی منزلیں طے کریگا بلکہ علاقائی ترقی و خوشحالی کا سورج بھی نئی آب و تاب کیساتھ طلوع ہو گا۔ نوجوان نسل قوم کا مستقبل ہونے کے ناطے ملکی ترقی، خوشحالی اور اپنے روشن مستقبل کیلئے اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا

کریں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار قائم مقام صدر پاکستان محمد صادق سحرانی نے یوم آزادی کے پر مسرت موقع پر پارلیمنٹ ہائوس کا دورہ کرنے والے بلوچستان کے مختلف تعلیمی اداروں کے طلباء طالبات کے وفد سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ قائم مقام صدر نے صوبہ بلوچستان کے 17 اضلاع کے طلباء طالبات کے 100 رکنی وفد کو پارلیمنٹ ہاس میں خوش آمدید کہا۔ ایوان بالا میں بلوچستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے 23 سینیٹرز ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادری کی ترقی اس ملک کیلئے بہت ضروری ہے۔ چیئرمین سینیٹ نے کہا کہ یقین سے کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ ملک بھر سے لوگ بلوچستان آئیں گے اور یہ صوبہ سب سے آگے ہو گا۔ بلوچستان کے مختلف تعلیمی اداروں کے طلباء طالبات کے وفد نے سینیٹ میوزیم اور سینیٹ ہال کا دورہ بھی۔ قائم مقام صدر کی جانب سے وفد کے اعزاز میں ظہرانہ بھی دیا گیا۔ ظہرانے میں سینیٹرز پرنس احمد عمر احمد زئی، نصیب اللہ بازئی، ثنا جمالی اور سینیٹ کے اعلیٰ حکام بھی شریک تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-15/page-12/detail-25>