



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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

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August 16, 2022

Daily Times

Chinese companies celebrate Pakistan's 75th Independence Day

To express solidarity with the people of Pakistan on 75th Independence Day celebrations, various Chinese companies operating in the port city of Gwadar, Balochistan, distributed gifts, cakes, sweets and flowers amongst the people.

Senior officials and staff of Hengjing Private Limited, Li Ni Trade City, Gwadar Free Zone Company, Gwadar International Terminals Limited, HK Sun, Gwadar Green Ecological Company and China Overseas Pakistan Holding Company spend time with the local people. In the event organized in connection with Independence Day on Sunday night, a spectacular display of fireworks was performed, which lit up the sky with beautiful and colorful lights.

Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, GOC 44 Division Major General Inayat Hussain and other officials were also present. The whole beach lit up with beautiful and colorful fireworks. A large number of citizens were also present on the west coast to watch the fireworks.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/982185/chinese-companies-celebrate-pakistans-75th-independence-day/>

China supports Pakistan in geomatics technology upgrading

The Advanced Seminar on Geomatics Technology for Pakistan sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China is ongoing online to help improve Pakistani scientists and officers' expertise in geomatics, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

It's learned that a total of 19 Pakistani experts and officers from the Society of Engineering, National Institute of Computer Sciences, University of AJ & K Muzaffarabad, etc. attended this seminar. According to the seminar's organizer Hunan International Business Vocational College, the seminar is specifically designed to meet the actual needs of Pakistani geo-technical experts based on a series of investigation and research on the development of surveying and mapping technology in Pakistan.

During the 20-day seminar, Chinese experts have been sharing the latest geomatics technology of data analysis, processing and application, and the successful experience and practice in the surveying and mapping industry in China with the Pakistani participants. The seminar is composed of classroom teaching, discussion on specific topics and visits to renowned Chinese enterprises, etc. Notably, cutting-edge equipment including VR drones has also been used for practice.

“Through this seminar, Pakistani experts can learn about the updated development of geomatics technology in China, and the Sino-Pak cooperation potential in the field of surveying and geographic informatics has been fully discussed,” Zhong Huiqun from Hunan International Business Vocational College told CEN.

It's learned that in recent years seminars on various subjects including automotive industry, engineering and business management have been organized by Hunan International Business Vocational College under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Commerce of China to help drive Pakistan's industrial upgrading and enhance technical exchange between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/982286/china-supports-pakistan-in-geomatics-technology-upgrading/>

PM forms committee to resolve problems of Chinese companies

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday constituted a committee to resolve the problems faced by the foreign investment companies, particularly related to Gwadar Free Zone.

The committee will submit a comprehensive report along with recommendations to the prime minister within 10 days.

Chairing a high-level meeting on investment, Prime Minister Sharif said the Chinese investment companies would be provided facilities on a priority basis.

He directed to remove hurdles in the issuance of visas to Chinese personnel without any discrimination against the project workers related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor with other countries.

The prime minister directed the Investment Board, Planning Ministry and Finance Ministry to jointly devise a comprehensive plan to promote investment.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Miftah Ismael, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Ahsan Iqbal, and Advisers Tariq Fatemi, Zafaruddin Mehmood, and senior officials.

The prime minister was apprised about the investment of \$10 billion by companies in areas of energy, infrastructure, railways and other projects. It was told that in the first phase, an investment of one to two billion dollars was expected in the projects, which would lead to the creation of 45,000 employment opportunities besides improving the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' of the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed to ensure the provision of Rs 50,000 relief to each flood affected family in the flood hit areas through a transparent process within the three days.

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will provide Rs 50,000 cash relief to every flood affected family under the supervision of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he added.

The prime minister was presiding over a meeting of the Relief Coordination Committee constituted for the flood affected areas.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Miftah Ismail, Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyam Aurangzeb, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Maulana Asad Mehmood, Advisor to PM Qamar Zaman Kaira, Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Akhtar Nawaz and relevant senior officials.

Minister for Housing Maulana Abdul Wasay, Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Balochistan Sanaullah Baloch attended the meeting

through video-link. The prime minister further said that the disbursement of cash relief should be ensured through electronic transfer so that the deserving people get relief.

He directed the Flood Relief Coordination Committee to finalize the process of Rs 50,000 cash relief disbursement and present its report by today evening.

The prime minister said that the joint survey in coordination with the provincial governments for the assessment of flood-related losses should be completed in three weeks instead of five weeks. The provincial governments should also cooperate and coordinate with NDMA regarding the joint survey at the earliest and to ensure timely relief for the flood affected people, he added.

The prime minister said that it was the provincial governments' prerogative to become part of the federal government's flood relief efforts, adding, however, the federal government would ensure the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people through its own resources. He also directed the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to formulate a comprehensive awareness campaign in that regard. The meeting was told that a survey would be conducted in coordination with the provincial governments to assess the damages caused by the recent spell of rains and floods.

It was further told that by the time survey was completed, the government, through BISP, will provide Rs 30,000 cash relief to each flood affected family.

The prime minister, however, directed to enhance the cash relief to Rs 50,000 for each affected family and disburse the same under the supervision of NDMA. The meeting was further told that as the federal government was in contact with international donors and other welfare institutions, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank had already assured to provide necessary funds for the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure and rehabilitation activities in the flood affected areas.

Besides, the meeting was told that teams of doctors and paramedics had been sent to the flood affected areas and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) was assessing the damages in affected educational institutions. Chief Minister Balochistan and Provincial Chief Secretary briefed the meeting in detail about the life and material losses in Balochistan due to recent rains and the rescue and relief measures taken by the provincial government.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a tragic fire incident that broke out in Abu Sefein Church in Giza, Egypt.

The prime minister on behalf of the people of Pakistan, extended his condolences to Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi and families of the deceased. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

An electrical fire swept through an Egyptian Coptic Christian church during Mass on Sunday, causing a stampede and killing at least 41 people, most of them children and many suffering from smoke inhalation, the Reuters said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/982232/pm-forms-committee-to-resolve-problems-of-chinese-companies/>

The News

US-China standoff will have bearing on Pakistan: Maleeha

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former ambassador Dr Maleeha Lodhi has said that Pakistan is seeking a reset of ties with the United States, but relations will inevitably be affected by Washington's standoff with Beijing.

“Islamabad wants to avoid being sucked into this big power rivalry. But this is easier said than done. So long as US-China relations remain unsteady, it will have a bearing on Pakistan's effort to reconfigure ties with Washington,” she said taking part in a discussion under the auspices of Washington based United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on “Pakistan and India at 75: Prospects for the future” on Monday. Other participants were former Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jailani while India's former envoys to the United States Nirupama Rao, and Arun Singh.

Dr Lodhi said that redefining Pakistan-US relations would be a daunting task in the changed context of America's military withdrawal from Afghanistan and its choice of India as its strategic partner in the region in its strategy to contain China. “Aspects of America's Indo-Pacific strategy also have security implications for Pakistan, not least because it injects Cold War dynamics into the Indian Ocean, which Islamabad has long sought to prevent becoming India's Ocean,” she added.

She maintained that Pakistan's greatest security challenges would continue to emanate from its neighborhood — from the unsettled situation on its border with an unstable Afghanistan and from troubled relations with India. “An imposing foreign policy challenge will be to navigate the growing confrontation between the United States and China, two global powers with which Pakistan has its most important bilateral relationships. Ties with China will remain an overriding priority for Islamabad. The strategic direction the relations have taken in recent years has given this long-standing partnership added significance at a time of a fundamental change in the international balance of power brought about by China's rise as a global power; the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is emblematic of it,” she explained.

The former ambassador said that managing difficult relations with India would continue to preoccupy Pakistan. “Dialogue has been suspended for years. Trade was halted and diplomatic representation downgraded in 2019 after India's illegal action of incorporating and bifurcating the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir. The hope that back-channel communication between the two countries in 2021 would yield a thaw turned to disappointment when no headway was made on any front, beyond the re-commitment by both neighbors in February 2021 to observe a ceasefire on the Line of Control. This was an important development, however, as only two years earlier the two states were locked in a dangerous confrontation epitomized by the Balakot crisis, when Indian planes carried out bombing inside Pakistani territory. In view of the persisting

deadlock, the future outlook for Pakistan-India relations is uncertain. Given the impasse on Kashmir, an uneasy and fragile state of “no war, no peace” is likely to continue.”

She believed that outside powers could play a constructive diplomatic role in helping Pakistan and India reinitiate a broad-based peace process, which proceeded with some promise in the past, especially between 2004 and 2008.

Jalil Abbas Jailani said that the history of Pakistan-India relations could be characterized as one of lost opportunities. “Mistrust, hostility and conflict has undermined efforts toward peace and stability. India’s position on almost every issue regarding Pakistan has hardened ever since the emergence of India as a “strategic partner” of the United States and other Western powers,” he added.

“Although issues between Pakistan and India are long-standing, progress is possible. Leaders on both sides of the border need to develop a national consensus in support of the peace process and bring all stakeholders including the core constituencies, media and opposition parties on board,” he observed.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=117817>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین: گلگت یونیورسٹی کو موسمی مرکز کی تعمیر کیلئے 5.4 ارب روپے دیگا: پروفیسر انیس احمد بنگش

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین گلگت یونیورسٹی میں موسمی مشاہدے کے مرکزی تعمیر کیلئے 5.4 ارب روپے دے گا، قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد میں زمینی سائنس پر مشترکہ تحقیقی مرکز قائم کرنے کیلئے کام جاری، چائینیز اکیڈمی آف سائنسز اور ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن کے درمیان مشترکہ تحقیقی مرکز برائے ارتھ سائنسز کے قیام کیلئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط، چین پاکستان کی 44 یونیورسٹیوں کے طلبہ کیلئے سکارلر شپ پروگرام شروع۔ چین اور پاکستان قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد میں زمینی سائنس پر ایک مشترکہ تحقیقی مرکز قائم کرنے کیلئے کام کر رہے ہیں تاکہ موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے تدارک کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-16/page-10/detail-4>

August 17, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan Food & Cultural Festival held in China

Pakistan Embassy Beijing on Saturday organised a food and cultural festival at the state-of-the-art Silk Road Art and Cultural Centre in the city of Langfang, an hour drive from Beijing, to celebrate the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan.

The two-day festival is aimed to showcase Pakistan’s rich history, beautiful landscapes, cultural heritage, products, arts and crafts, literature, and traditional food.

The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 people including Chinese dignitaries, government officials, business executives, members of the diplomatic corps, media

representatives and Pakistani community. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moinul Haque stated that 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence was a historic milestone for Pakistan which stands today the fifth largest nation of 220 million hard working, talented people.

He highlighted the strengths of Pakistan as an investment and tourist destination and invited people of China to visit Pakistan next year being celebrated as Year of Tourism Exchanges.

The ambassador also spoke at length about the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China and Pakistan which is time tested.

He hoped this festival would help in promoting cultural cooperation and people to people exchanges between the two countries. President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Ambassador Sha Zukang said that Pakistan and China have a long history of friendly relations and both the countries have been helping each other at difficult times.

He expressed the confidence that the all-weather friendship between the two people would further deepen in future.

CEO of Ennova Culture Group, Ms Li Xiaofei welcomed the audience and threw light on the importance of the festival.

A number of activities were being organized as a part of this festival, including cultural performances, display of Pakistani products and handicrafts, photo exhibition, children games and famous Pakistani dishes.

A special children art activity to make a large painting symbolizing China-Pakistan friendship was held on the occasion. A Virtual Reality Booth offered virtual tours of Lahore Fort and Lake Saif ul Malook. Two famous movies 'Parvaz hai Janoon' and animated movie 'Allahyar' and legends of 'Markhor' are also being shown at the festival.

Four in a series of seven mini-documentaries were released this week on Chinese social media platforms by the Pakistani embassy in China to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Pakistan's independence, China Economic Net reported on Saturday.

About two minutes each in duration, the videos explore the rich repertoire of Pakistani foods, handicrafts, festivals and architecture, juxtaposing artistic cooking and hand making processes with a presentation of culinary delights and hand-made rarities, ranging from basmati rice to carpets and markhor-themed sculptures.

Launched on the three popular platforms of Kuaishou, Douyin and Weibo in China, the three clips have grabbed favourable comments and responses from Chinese netizens. "The delicacies make my mouth water! I'd like to visit our brotherly Pakistan when the pandemic ends," read one comment.

"Where can we get those handicrafts? Please share a link for purchase," said an audience. Another three clips will also be released to equip the Chinese audience with a better

understanding of Pakistan, as per an online statement issued by the embassy. Over the years, the Pakistani embassy has organised a wide range of activities to enhance people-to-people bonds between Pakistan and China. Starting from July 2021, the embassy has produced the Discover Batié series on Chinese social media platforms, with seven episodes out as of July 2022.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/982888/pakistan-food-cultural-festival-held-in-china/>

Dunya News

Ahsan reviews CPEC projects, preparation for upcoming JCC

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday reviewed the progress of CPEC projects and preparation for the next Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Commission, Secretary Communication, Executive Director CPEC and representatives from various ministries.

During the meeting, it was informed that seven meetings of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) of CPEC have been held which includes the JWG on Socio-Economic Development, Industrial Cooperation, Science & Technology, Transport Infrastructure and International Cooperation.,

The latest meeting on JWG on Information Technology was held on July, 28, 2022. The Secretary Information Technology & Telecommunication gave a detailed briefing on the JWG meeting and stated that two sides have agreed on 10 specific areas of cooperation in the Information Technology sector.

The meeting was further informed that JWG on agriculture will be held in the third week of September, 2022 for which proposals have been finalized by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research. Similarly, the Power Division informed that the agenda for JWG on energy has been finalized and the meeting will be held in September 2022 and the agenda was discussed in detail.

The Minister directed that energy policy for Gilgit Baltistan (GB) be approved at the earliest so that already agreed projects for GB could be pushed forward. He further directed that the Development and Production Facility of Solar Panels for domestic use as well as export may be considered for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting.

Professor Iqbal also directed that proposals for collaboration with the Chinese side for water desalination and water treatment technology may also be included in the CPEC framework. The meeting of JWGs on Safety & Security and CPEC long term plans are also expected next month.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/664044-Ahsan-reviews-CPEC-projects,-preparation-for-upcoming-JCC>

Pakistan Observer

BRI & Vietnam and Emerging Geopolitical Trends in Indo-Pacific

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) is “stimulating” massive infrastructural development in Vietnam, the centre of the ASEAN. It also facilitates qualitative education and an integrated transport system in the country.

However, the rapidly changing socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios in ASEAN and Indo-Pacific in the shape of Taiwan and ASIA-NATO demand a close liaison between China and Vietnam to mitigate spill over repercussions.

Vietnam is also offering diplomatic support to BRI. Thus Vietnam may be seen as a crucial part of the maritime component of China’s ambitious BRI.

Under BRI flagship, the Dau Tieng Solar Power Project invested by Power China, with a total investment capital of USD 310 million; and the Nam Dinh 1 Coal Power Project with a total investment capital of USD 2.16 billion.

In this regard, Kunming-Hanoi Highway and Vietnam Long Giang Industrial Park are completed. However, Hanoi Light Rail and Vinh Tan 1 Coal-fired Power Plant are under construction. Moreover, Kunming-Hanoi Road and China-Laos-Vietnam Grid Connection are planned.

Another proposed project is a rail link from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City. The proposed Pan-Asia Railway Network extending from Kunming, China to Bangkok, Thailand passes through Vietnam and Cambodia. This rail line is the backbone of China-Indochina Peninsular Economic Corridor (CIPEC).

The Vietnam National High Speed Train is expected to connect Hanoi with Ho Chi Minh City. It was planned, halted and reconsidered.

The Vietnam economy has been developing rapidly since 1986 with the adoption of the “open door and integrating global market” policy and further rail cooperation between the two countries would provide a win-win situation.

Interestingly, for the past 30 years, Vietnam has maintained an annual economic growth of nearly 7% on average which has been termed as an economic miracle in the modern world by various international organizations like the IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

In 2018, Vietnam’s GDP was \$US 224 billion, while the value of gross trade was \$US 415 billion, accounting for 185% of GDP.

It suggests that Vietnam’s economy has been depending largely on production of export products and supply chain, logistics, and communications should be paid special attention by the Vietnamese government.

Thus BRI proposed projects will also play an important role in the further development of the Vietnam economy in the days to come.

Most recently, China and Vietnam agreed to further strengthen the development strategies and speed up cooperation under the BRI and the “Two Corridors and One Economic Circle” plan.

The China-Vietnam Initiative “two corridors, one economic belt” (TCOB) had been proposed between the two countries’ border provinces and localities along the Tonkin Gulf in a series of areas such as trade, agriculture, industry, tourism, transport and communication.

The TCOB is around Vietnam’s Red River Delta and Tonkin Gulf, connecting North Vietnam and three Chinese provinces (Yunnan, Guangxi and Hainan). TCOB directly links MSR while it connects SREB through Yunnan Province.

Thus the “Two Corridors and One Economic Circle” plan is an initiative to boost regional economic cooperation between China and Vietnam.

It involves a number of areas in southern and south-western China and northern Vietnam.

The agreement was reached at the 14th Meeting of the China-Vietnam Steering Committee for Bilateral Cooperation in Nanning.

The Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Vietnamese Standing Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh co-chaired the meeting.

BRI was proposed by China in 2013, it comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

It aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said China and Vietnam should carry on their special friendship, consolidate solidarity and mutual trust, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to serve the development of the two countries and make greater contribution to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

He suggested that the two countries should upgrade economic and trade cooperation and strengthen cooperation in fields such as climate change, green development, photo voltaic and clean energy.

The Vietnam Foreign Minister Minh said the two countries are socialist brothers and friendly neighbours, adding that they are also comprehensive strategic cooperative partners.

Vietnam regards its relations with China as a top priority in its foreign policy. He assured that Vietnam stands ready to enhance high-level exchanges between the two countries, consolidate their strategic mutual trust and promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang called on the two sides to be committed to the path of socialism and the development of China-Vietnam friendship, safeguard the common strategic interests of the two countries, and jointly address regional and global challenges.

The two sides agreed to properly handle sensitive issues at sea and strive for more tangible outcomes in maritime cooperation.

The two countries also agreed to strengthen solidarity and coordination in regional and international affairs and uphold true multilateralism.

The two sides signed an agreement on economic and technological cooperation as well as documents on agricultural, marine environmental and maritime cooperation.

World Bank economic update (2022) indicated that Vietnam's economic recovery accelerated over the last six months because of resilient manufacturing and a robust rebound in services.

Its GDP growth is estimated to surge from an estimated 2.6% in 2021 to 7.5% in 2022, while inflation is projected to average 3.8% over the year.

To conclude, the policy makers of Vietnam need to increase productivity by 2-3% every year. Thus investment in higher education may be fruitful. It would be an X-factor to boost Vietnam's productivity and help achieve its goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2035 and high-income country by 2045.

Moreover, critical analysis confirms that Vietnam stands to benefit from China's BRI due to its growing demand for infrastructure investments to fuel the country's growth.

On the other hand, Vietnam is facing challenges in meeting this demand because of the decreased inflow of official development assistance following its attainment of the middle-income country status in 2009, difficulties in promoting Public-Private Partnership projects due to tightening financial and legal regulations, and limited state funded investment due to budgetary constraints.

Based on one estimate, Vietnam's infrastructure needs (in terms of road, rail, airports, ports, telecoms, electricity and water) would reach a staggering US\$605 billion from 2016 to 2040. It will need to actively seek different sources of funding including from the BRI.

Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang welcomed the BRI when he attended the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in May 2017 also emphasized that cooperation under the initiative must ensure "sustainability, effectiveness and inclusiveness, openness, mutual respect and benefits, and compliance with the UN Charter and international law".

For the strengthening of bilateral relations and expanding of the BRI orbit both countries should cooperate in the development of renewables, green energies, maritime trade, logistics, transportation system and last but not least, higher education, health capacity building.

Sensitive issues pertaining to regional security, South China Sea, Oil Rigging and One China Principle should be mutually settled because Hanoi has already endorsed One China Principle in case of Taiwan.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-vietnam-and-emerging-geopolitical-trends-in-indo-pacific-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC vital for Afghanistan development

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

China, the 2nd largest economy of the world and initiator of the historical plan of international development 'Belt and Road Initiative' has come forward to help the war-ravaged Afghanistan by extending China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs in America has stated that since invading Afghanistan in 2001, the United States has spent \$2.313 trillion on the war, which includes operations in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Note that this total does not include funds that the United States government is obligated to spend on lifetime care for American veterans of this war, nor does it include future interest payments on money borrowed to fund the war. This \$2.313 trillion spent on Afghanistan is a portion of the total estimated cost of the post-9/11 wars.

The longest American war fought in Afghanistan has killed thousands of Afghan citizens and damaged the fabric of the society.

The responsibility of destruction of Afghan society and halting its development process leads to the US.

By withdrawing from Afghanistan with its allies, the United States also did everything bad with the war-torn country by seizing Afghan's assets of \$7 billion frozen in the United States.

Following the US act, Afghanistan's economy is on the verge of collapse. Inflation is soaring, and millions of Afghans are on the brink of starvation looking forward towards the international community.

The major responsibility of the development of Afghanistan and Afghan people lies on the United States and its allies who have destroyed the country in the last years during the war period by using every kind of lethal and destructive weapon.

In this time of crisis for Afghanistan, China has stepped forward to help the war-torn country by discussing the idea for the extension of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan.

The idea to extend the flagship programme of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was discussed during a meeting between China's special envoy on Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at the Foreign Office in Islamabad.

In the context of regional connectivity, both sides exchanged views on extension of CPEC to Afghanistan to promote economic development and prosperity.

Afghanistan at this stage of time is in a dire need of financial assistance from the international community for developing the better life standard of locals who have faced the wrath of the US-led war in the last years.

One of the reports by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) states that focusing on infrastructure development will help bring about long-term growth in Afghanistan and address persistent issues affecting the country's economic prospects, apart from security, including poor connectivity, poor access to limited energy supply and low agricultural productivity.

Better infrastructure can strengthen economic growth, enlist improved mobility to energize commerce and agriculture and boost government revenues available for development spending.

China, as a major country pursuing the development patterns for all in the region, holds very clear, coherent and exclusive development policies for all including Afghanistan that is passing through the critical times of its history.

Initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) envisions trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes.

Over the past 10 years or so, the BRI has followed the guiding principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

CPEC being a flagship project of the BRI that has gained marvelous achievements in various sectors has huge opportunities of development to Afghanistan.

China with its global agenda of development for the fulfillment of the development needs of various countries maintains an independent policy which reflects China's priorities even for Afghanistan.

The idea of extension of CPEC towards Afghanistan shows the initiative has gained the desired results and with its productive development it is ready to extend its scope of work beyond the borders.

The landlocked Afghanistan in a very first may avail and connect itself with international destinations for the exposure of its trade.

The move also shows that China is well aware of the development needs of its neighbouring countries as the destroyers of Afghanistan do not belong to Asia and they will not come back for the contribution of the development process in Afghanistan.

So the expansion of CPEC based in mutual consultation for the development of Afghanistan will be a key of growth in the region as well that is hit with economic hardships in the wake of war on terror.

The needs of Afghanistan in the sectors of infrastructural development, vocational training, education, health and others may be fulfilled under CPEC that has attracted billions of dollars from China in Pakistan and many more billions of dollars are yet to be invested. The development of Afghanistan will be the development of the region that needs integration for the extended economic activities for the betterment of locals.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-vital-for-afghanistan-development-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC laying foundation for sustained economic modernisation: PM

Pakistan-China relations are an important factor for peace and stability in the region , says premier

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is laying the foundation for sustained indigenous economic modernisation.

In an interview with the Global Times, he said over the past 10 years, the construction of CPEC projects has helped Pakistan reduce the bottlenecks caused by past power shortages and weak infrastructure.

PM Shehbaz said the government will continue to work closely with China to enhance the momentum of cooperation between the two countries.

Regarding Pak-China friendship, he said the all-weather strategic partnership between Pakistan and China is deeply rooted in people's hearts, covering all areas of bilateral cooperation.

PM Shehbaz further said that the two countries support each other on the issue of mutual core interests. Pakistan has always firmly supported the One China Policy and believes that Taiwan is its inalienable part, he added.

Moreover, the premier stated that Pakistan-China relations are an important factor for peace and stability in the region and the world.

He went on to say that the development strategy of the coalition government depends on how to repair the economic fundamentals that constrain us from realizing our existing potential.

Furthermore, PM Shehbaz said in order to stabilize the economy, we urgently need to lay the foundation for the long-delayed structural reforms, adding that the government also needs to deepen economic and trade relations with friendly countries.

In his concluding remarks, the prime minister said that public policy transformation from geopolitics to geo-economics represents a consensus that we should realise the potential to accelerate Pakistan's development.

He added that the core of our development strategy remains to safeguard the well-being of the Pakistani people and make Pakistan a self-reliant state.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371647/cpec-laying-foundation-for-sustained-economic-modernisation-pm>

The Nation

Pakistan Willing To Bridge US-China Differences: PM

NEW YORK – As the US-China relations grow increasingly tense over Taiwan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan will be “happy” to play a positive role to bridge their differences in the interest of peace and stability in the world, if the two parties so desire.

“If China and the US so desire, Pakistan would be happy to play a positive role to bridge their differences, as we had done in the past,” he said in response to a question during a wide-ranging interview with Newsweek, while referring to Islamabad’s pivotal role in bringing the two countries together for talks that served as the foundation for their modern relationship.

Newsweek Senior’s Foreign Policy Writer Tom O’Connor, who conducted the interview via e-mail, pointed out that the Pakistani leader spoke about the need for greater international cooperation, the role Pakistan could play in preventing the world from sliding into an ever deeper set of crises, and other key issues.

PM Sharif not only expressed his views on the stark deterioration of relations between the United States and China, but also on his stance about Russia’s ongoing war in Ukraine.

Closer to home, Sharif discussed the turmoil plaguing neighbouring Afghanistan, the unresolved Kashmir dispute, and an uptick in militant attacks within Pakistan’s own borders that threatens its own national security at a time of domestic political challenges.

“The present government is truly national in nature,” Sharif said, referring to the coming together of the country’s all political force on an agreed-upon national agenda of economic reform and stabilization.

In the interview, he said Pakistan has traditionally maintained good relations with China and the United States, pointing out that historically, it was Pakistan that acted as a bridge in opening up the relationship between the two countries.

Pakistan continues to highlight the need for avoidance of a confrontational approach, he said, adding that bloc politics and any drift towards cold war will not produce any positive results, and in fact would be counterproductive for growth and stability.

“Pakistan strongly believes that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect and peaceful resolution of disputes by upholding the principles of the UN charter and international law.”

The prime minister said that polarization would have serious consequences for the global economy afflicted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis. The developing countries, like Pakistan, are already suffering from external shocks to their

socioeconomic well-being, and do not desire aggravation of these challenges induced by major power rivalry.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan desires to build a broad-based and sustainable partnership with the United States on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit.

“We encourage major US companies to invest in Pakistan’s lucrative market and enhance commercial ties, particularly in its growing IT sector,” PM Sharif said.” There is a strong Pakistani Diaspora in the US that is acting as a bridge to deepen the ties between our two countries and the people.

On tensions with India, the prime minister said Pakistan desires good relations with all neighbours, but New Delhi’s India’s illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 in IIOJK [Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir] were a huge setback to Islamabad’s efforts to build regional peace.

Here is the transcript of the interview:

Newsweek: Transitions of power are always difficult, as the US itself experienced just last year. Former prime minister Imran Khan’s departure was acrimonious and divisive for Pakistan. What is your plan to bring your nation together, to unite behind your leadership and look toward the future?

PM: What we need to understand first of all is the fact that the change of the government took place through a constitutional process. All political forces of the country minus Imran Khan’s PTI [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf] came together to form this vastly representative government to take on the most urgent issues facing the people.

In terms of the vote cast in the previous General Elections of 2018, the political parties that are part of the coalition government represent 70 percent of the electorate. The present government is truly national in nature.

Newsweek: Pakistan has long called for improving relations between Islamabad and Washington, yet there have been a number of negative developments on this front in recent years. How do you view the importance of this relationship, in what direction is it headed, and what challenges remain?

PM: Pakistan and the US have a longstanding relationship encompassing diverse areas of common interest. It is our endeavor to build a broad-based and sustainable partnership on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit.

We have instituted dialogues in the areas of health, energy, climate, investment and trade. These dialogues are playing an important role in strengthening our bilateral ties. Most recently, we held the health dialogue with the US, which will help facilitate more bilateral cooperation in the health sector. We also hope for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Ministerial level meeting this year.

Newsweek: Pakistan has traditionally enjoyed a close relationship with China, but today heightened friction between China and the United States is having global repercussions. Are you concerned about the ability of these two countries to manage their relations peacefully, and what a potential worsening in their tensions, or even a clash, could mean for Pakistan and the rest of the world, especially if nations were asked to choose sides?

PM: While the Pakistan-China relationship is very special, Pakistan and the US have also maintained a longstanding historic bilateral relationship which covers all issues of mutual interest.

We believe that constructive engagement with all countries can promote peace and security as well as development and connectivity in the whole region. We look forward to remaining engaged with the international community for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Conflict or crisis anywhere in the world has negative consequences for global peace, security and economy; particularly for the developing countries.

The world can ill-afford descent into another era of Cold War or bloc politics. I believe polarization would have serious consequences for the global economy afflicted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis. The developing countries, like Pakistan, are already suffering from external shocks to their socioeconomic well-being, and do not desire aggravation of these challenges induced by major power rivalry.

It is our considered view that cooperation, not confrontation, should be the main driver of international relations. Ways should be found to address concerns through mutual understanding, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win solutions.

Newsweek: Pakistan played a pivotal role in bringing China and the United States together half a century ago for talks that served as the foundation for their modern relationship. Can Pakistan play a similar role as it did in the past in de-escalating tensions between these two powers?

PM: Pakistan's foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. Pakistan has traditionally maintained good relations with China and the United States. Historically, it was Pakistan that acted as a bridge in opening up the relationship between the United States and the Peoples' Republic of China.

Pakistan continues to highlight the need for avoidance of a confrontational approach. Bloc politics and any drift towards cold war will not produce any positive results, and in fact would be counterproductive for growth and stability.

Pakistan strongly believes that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect and peaceful resolution of disputes by upholding the principles of the UN charter and international law.

If China and the US so desire, Pakistan would be happy to play a positive role to bridge their differences, as we had done in the past.

Newsweek: It's been exactly one year since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, and the nation continues to suffer from a range of issues in realms such as economics, security and human rights. As a neighbouring country that has a unique relationship with the Taliban, how does Pakistan evaluate the leadership of the Islamic Emirate, and what can Pakistan and the international community can do to continue supporting the Afghan people, who are suffering greatly, when the winter season will soon be upon us?

PM: If we review what has happened in the one year since August 15, 2021, the initial priorities for the international community were avoidance of protracted conflict, ensuring safe evacuation of personnel of international organizations, regulating the flow of migrants, and ensuring timely and effective humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, especially in the wake of the last winter season.

Despite initial fears, these matters were handled in a relatively satisfactory manner through continuous and practical engagement of the international community, the neighbours of Afghanistan and efforts of the Interim Afghan Government.

In view of the continued precarious and humanitarian and economic situation, our message to the international community would be to remain engaged, continue to assist the Interim Government in key social and economic areas, and unfreeze Afghanistan's financial assets to help build a sustainable economy. These are the international community's expectations as well. We will continue to impress upon the Interim Afghan Government the importance of taking demonstrable actions on its commitments including those relating to inclusivity, respect for human rights of all Afghans, including girls' education, and effective counter-terrorism action.

Newsweek: Elsewhere on Pakistan's frontiers, the conflict over Kashmir continues, and relations with India have suffered greatly in recent years. What are your plans to improve this dynamic, and is India's growing rapprochement with the United States and the Quad coalition of concern to you?

PM: Pakistan desires good relations with all neighbours' including India. India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 in IIOJK [Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir] were a huge setback to our efforts to build regional peace. While India is perpetuating its brutal military occupation of the valley through draconian laws, partisan judiciary and strong-arm tactics, including flagrant use of brute force and attempts to illegally change the demographic structure of the occupied territory, it is also bent on disrupting the stability in the region through its hegemonic ambitions.

Pakistan supports building of an equitable, open and inclusive Asia-Pacific community in the spirit to promote peace, stability and prosperity. Furthermore, we believe that creation of blocs in Asia-Pacific will only incite divisions and confrontations, exacerbate the arms race and lead to instability in the region and beyond.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/17/pakistan-willing-to-bridge-us-china-differences-pm/>

August 18, 2022

Daily Times

Corn experts in China expecting cooperation under CPEC

China's 70pc of corn imports come from the United States and 29pc from Ukraine but China's demand for corn imports is gradually expanding amidst global political and social upheavals.

In June this year, water-logging jeopardized maize yields in China's north east region, especially in Liao Ning and Ji Lin, causing a 6-8million tones lost in yield, Chinese media revealed.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's maize production has been winning over the last decade: in Punjab alone, maize production jumped from 794,000 tonnes in FY00-01 to 8.04m tones FY20-21, with only a 130pc rise in terms of cultivated areas over the same period of time.

Admittedly, Pakistan is also facing risks. This year's wheat harvest has caused uncertainties to domestic food security. There are debates over whether Pakistan should continue to export crops or not. However, the convenience in trade because of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the windows of opportunity brought about by the drastic changes in the global market cannot be ignored.

How to mix up two iron-brothers' comparative advantages and achieve best interests is a more important question to ask. "We are more than happy to collaborate with Pakistan," said Corn Experts in China as reported by CEN.

At present, nearly 65pc of maize in China is used as animal feed and 30pc as raw materials for industrial processing. China has a huge demand for silage corn which has been mentioned in several high-level meetings.

Zhao Jiuran, Chief Expert of the Corn Research Institute of Beijing Academy of Agricultural & Forestry Sciences said that in order to feed cattle in China with high-quality silage maize, at least 4.95m acres of land were needed for maize growing – based on the fact that there were about 15m dairy cows and almost 100m beef cattle in the country, the current output of silage corn feed was obviously not enough.

"We have high-yield, pest-resistant seeds, leading cultivation techniques and relatively advanced harvest machines," Zhao told reporters while showcasing a test-field at Beijing's Yu Jiawu International Seed Industry Technology Park. Since the establishment of the Technology Park in 2011, more than 100 types of maize seeds have been bred. Drip irrigation technology can be observed all over the test-field-an irrigation method that is popular in China's Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia region, is saving both water and energy. The average yield for 1 acre of maize can reach 4.8 tons in China, Zhao revealed.

"We have also developed maize varieties that can resist high temperatures in Si Chuan, Hai Nan and Xin Jiang's test field, the upper limit of heat tolerance is 40 degrees. If heat is a problem for Pakistani farmers, we are more than happy to collaborate," he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/983602/corn-experts-in-china-expecting-cooperation-under-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

PM Shehbaz ‘deeply’ cares about Sino-Pak relations; China commends PM’s remarks

Beijing: China once again appreciated the efforts and stance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the Sino-Pakistan relationship and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that the prime minister has done a lot for their progress.

In a regular press conference, the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Wang Wenbin was asked to comment on Prime Minister Shehbaz’s recent interview with Global Times in which the premier talked about a variety of topics, including China-Pakistan relations, regional and international situation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the 20th National Congress of the CPC.

“Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has spoken highly of China-Pakistan relations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on several occasions. He cares deeply about the practical cooperation between our two countries and has done a lot for its progress. This is appreciated by China,” Wang Wenbin said.

Regarding the strong bonding between the two brotherly countries, he said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to follow through on the “common understanding between Chinese and Pakistani leaders” and based on ensuring sound implementation and operation of existing projects, further focus on cooperation in such areas as industries, livelihood, agriculture, science and technology and information technology, to build CPEC into a demonstration program of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, he added, China had achieved remarkable development achievements.

The spokesperson expressed confidence that the successful convening of the 20th Party Congress would pave way for a new blueprint for China’s development in future.

“It will surely and greatly promote China’s cooperation with countries around the world, including Pakistan and make a positive contribution to the progress of mankind,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-deeply-cares-about-sino-pak-relations-china-commends-pms-remarks/>

The Express Tribune

PM gives nod to abolish CPEC Authority

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday approved, in principle, to abolish the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority subject to consent by China – a

decision that the government says will help fast-track the implementation of the multi-billion-dollar project.

The decision was made on the basis of a summary that the planning and development ministry had moved two months ago to wrap up the body that had remained controversial since its inception.

“This is in the interest of CPEC that the authority should be dissolved to ensure fast implementation of its projects,” Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal said while confirming the development.

He added that PM Shehbaz had instructed that China should first be taken into confidence before going ahead with the move to ensure that the strategic ally should not be left with the impression that Pakistan was rolling back CPEC.

The minister further said the CPEC Authority Act would be repealed once the Chinese authorities give their consent.

Sources said China did not interfere in Pakistan’s internal decision making about the CPEC implementation mechanism.

They added that its name in the past was misused to neutralise people, who were not in favour of having a military-dominated authority.

The decision to wind up the CPEC Authority is in line with the PML-N’s old policy that was never in favour of establishing a parallel set-up.

Even the PTI government took over two years to set up the authority. However, it largely remained dormant as the last political dispensation too was not in favour of having the authority.

Iqbal said the CPEC Authority had become an obstruction in the fast implementation of the projects because of the breakdown of the decision-making chain.

He said now the planning and development ministry would play a facilitator role. The execution of the CPEC projects would be in the hands of the line ministries, he added.

The minister noted that the government would restore the old institutional arrangement that helped the swift implementation of CPEC projects between 2014 to 2018. He also said the CPEC Secretariat would be revived in the planning and development ministry.

Last month, the government had decided that the CPEC Support Project would be strengthened. The Centre of Excellence for CPEC would be transferred back to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

The previous PTI government had reluctantly enacted the CPEC Authority but it never filled the chairman’s post after Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa’s resignation.

Because of a delay in making the final decision to dissolve the authority, people had started lobbying for the vacant post of the CPEC Authority chairman. Lately, special assistant to the Prime Minister Zafaruddin Mahmood had been active for the slot.

The Chinese authorities were irritated because of Pakistan's decision to put CPEC on the backburner during the past four years. They were particularly irked by Islamabad's failure to honour its contractual obligations under CPEC framework.

The establishment of a revolving account has been pending since the signing of the CPEC Energy Projects Framework Agreement in 2014.

A day before departure to China to seek a major bailout, the then government had announced to open the account but when a summary was presented before the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet for approval on April 1, 2022, then finance minister Shaukat Tarin had deferred the final approval.

The CPEC projects were also facing delays because of the change in taxation policies by the last government in violation of commitments given to China.

The PTI government had last year withdrawn the sales tax exemption on imports.

As per the initial CPEC plan, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were supposed to be ready by 2020 but unfortunately, in the last four years, there has been zero progress on them.

Iqbal on Wednesday also reviewed the progress of CPEC projects and preparation for the next Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. Pakistan has been trying to hold the meeting of the JCC -- the strategic decision-making body since May. However, the Chinese authorities were first interested in knowing the incumbent government's commitment to CPEC.

So far, meetings of seven different Joint Working Groups (JWGs) of CPEC have been held. They include the JWGs on socio-economic development, industrial cooperation, science and technology, transport infrastructure and international cooperation.

The latest meeting on the JWG on information technology was held on July, 28, 2022 in which the two sides agreed on 10 specific areas of cooperation in the sector.

The sector-specific JWGs finalise the agenda for the JCC. Their meetings are critical for holding a successful JCC.

The JWG on agriculture will be held in the third week of September this year for which proposals have been finalised by the national food security and research ministry. The Power Division said the agenda for the JWG on energy had been finalised and the meeting would be held next month.

China has put the issue of the outstanding payments of over Rs260 billion to its independent power producers for its amicable resolution.

The meetings of the JWGs on safety and security and CPEC long-term plans are also expected next month, according to a statement issued by the planning and development ministry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371790/pm-gives-nod-to-abolish-cpec-authority>

CPEC to boost digital economy

Biggest challenge is absence of internet facility in backward areas

BEIJING: China's digital economy grew at an average of 15.9% from 2012 to 2022, according to data released at the Global Digital Economy Conference recently held in Beijing.

Security Experts (Pvt) Limited CEO and Centre of Information Technology (CIT) former director general Ammar Jaffri believes that Pak-China cooperation can help accelerate the digital economy development in Pakistan. "The digital economy of Pakistan is going forward at a very good pace," stressed Jaffri.

"There are two really important things for its development. First, the economy is documented now. Our national database institution NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority) has assigned a specific ID number to each citizen, according to which their economic behaviours can be checked. Other institutions, like the banking system, are also documented.

"Secondly, the youth are very dynamic. Their earnings through Amazon ranked fifth or sixth in the world. Also, people learnt to work from home during Covid-19, and many are earning good."

Jaffri told the China Economic Net that the biggest issue for some backward areas in Pakistan in the way of developing the digital economy was that there was no internet facility available there. "For that, the SDGs academy is trying its best to get these services available in those places."

"These underdeveloped areas have also got benefits through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs from Khunjerab to Gwadar," added Jaffri.

He believes that cooperation with China could play an important role in developing the digital economy in the whole country.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371743/cpec-to-boost-digital-economy>

What CPEC can do for our health sector

Construction of BHUs, trauma centres, burn centres and drugs shops in the vicinity of CPEC projects

The SDG 3 aims at good health and well-being for all at all ages. It is one of the most important goals among the UN's 17 SDGs especially in the context of Covid-19 and its impacts on health security across the world. Health sector needs to be a priority in any country's development agenda if we are to avoid a post-Covid-19 scenario. Also, there is no denying that a healthy population adds to any country's socio-economic growth and development, making the attainment of SDG 3 crucial.

According to SDG Status Report 2021, Pakistan has showed modest progress in health sector. However, due to the massive population growth and lack of financial resources, the health infrastructure remains under pressure to meet the needs of people in both rural and urban areas.

The inefficient healthcare delivery, lack of trained health workers particularly in remote areas, malnutrition, lack of clean drinking water and associated water-borne diseases and poor infant mortality rates are the challenges our health sector is faced with. Especially the number of basic health units (BHUs) and hospitals is not sufficient for the rapidly growing population.

There is thus the need for sufficient budgetary allocations for health sector with a focus on building state-of-the-art facilities across Pakistan. But there is something cost-effective that can be done to revolutionaries the health sector; and that is to associate the attainment of SDG 3 with CPEC. This can help attain the objective of socio-economic development, which is the core of both CPEC and SDGs.

One way CPEC can contribute to health sector is through constructing health facilities. Construction of BHUs, trauma centres, burn centres and drugs shops in the vicinity of CPEC projects can meet people's health needs. Setting up tube-wells and water filtration plants as part of CPEC can resolve the issue of lack of clean drinking facilities in remote areas, especially in Sindh and K-P.

Under CPEC, Pakistan should think of constructing 'medical cities' in urban centres of all four provinces as well as G-B and AJK. The Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani Institute of Medical Sciences in Gambat, Sindh is a classic example of a medical city with a cluster of hospitals and health centres equipped with modern facilities. In the ongoing second phase of CPEC, with a prime focus on socio-economic development, Pakistan can propose construction of medical cities in major urban centres.

One key goal of CPEC is to improve connectivity across urban and rural Pakistan through a network of roads and railway tracks. The first phase of CPEC focused on the improvement of road infrastructure across Pakistan. In terms of SDG 3 attainment, this factor is important to see how improved connectivity and mobility is helpful in bringing people closer to the health facilities. It is crucial that health facilities are accessible to people in remote and marginalised areas with little transport facilities.

Last but not least, skills development programmes for capacity building of locals have been planned as part of the ongoing second phase of CPEC. The health sector should be prioritised in these programmes, whereby nursing institutes or laboratory training centres can be opened in Special Economic Zones. For example Rashakai SEZ is located near Peshawar, where all major hospitals of the province are located and the city's hospitals also share the burden of Afghan refugees and patients coming from Afghanistan. If health training facilities are available near Peshawar, it can further benefit common people.

These small but important steps through synchronisation of CPEC and SDG 3 can bring significant improvements in Pakistan's health sector. China has helped Pakistan in every sector including health, especially during Covid-19. It played an instrumental role in vaccine and equipment supply. If health sector is given consideration under various ongoing and future CPEC

projects, China can help address the mentioned challenges faced by Pakistan on a sustainable basis.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371669/what-cpec-can-do-for-our-health-sector>

China interested in importing maize from Pakistan

Pakistan's maize production has grown to 8.04 million tonnes

ISLAMABAD: Chinese experts have said that there is a huge demand for maize silage in China, and the current production is not enough, therefore, they are eager to cooperate with Pakistan where varieties of sugar maize can be cultivated.

According to Gwadar Pro, 70 percent of China's maize imports come from the United States and 29 percent from Ukraine, however, the demand the steadily expanding.

Chinese media revealed that in June, maize production was threatened by drought in northeastern China, estimating the loss to be 6 to 8 million tonnes.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's maize production is higher than in previous decades. In Punjab alone, maize production had increased from 794,000 tonnes to 8.04 million tonnes. The latest figures show the production for the financial year 2020-21. During this growth period, the cultivated area increased by 130 percent. However, Gwadar Pro reported that Pakistan too is facing threats, and this year's wheat harvest created a situation of uncertainty when it comes to food security. For the last few months, the export of crops has been thoroughly discussed.

With that said, the window of opportunity is too large to be ignored due to the trade facilitation brought by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the tremendous changes in the global market. It remains to be seen how a balance in comparative advantages would be achieved between the two neighbouring countries.

Zhao Jioren, the chief expert at the Corn Research Institute of the Beijing Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, said that currently, about 65 percent of maize in China is used as animal feed and 30 percent as raw material for industrial processing.

“There is a huge demand for maize silage in China; I have mentioned it in several high-level meetings,” he said. “To feed high-quality silage maize to livestock in China, at least 4.95 million acres of land are needed for corn cultivation.” “The fact is that there are about 15 million dairy cows and about 100 million beef cows in the country,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371782/china-interested-in-importing-maize-from-pakistan>

Jang News

پاکستان چین کا ملکرسی پیک منصوبوں کو سبوتاژ کر نیوالوں سے نمٹنے کا عزم

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان چین کا ملکرسی پیک منصوبوں کو سبوتاژ کر نیوالوں سے نمٹنے کا عزم، چینی وفد کا نیکیا ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ، دہشتگردی و شدت پسندی کی روک تھام کے حوالے سے بریفنگ دی گئی

چین کی وزارت پبلک سیوریٹی کے ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جنرل گائونگ کی قیادت میں ایک اعلیٰ سطح کے وفد نے قومی ادارہ برائے انسداد دہشت گردی (نیٹا) کے ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ کیا۔
 نیٹل کو آرڈینیٹر نیٹا رائے محمد طاہر نے وفد کو دہشت گردی و شدت پسندی کی روک تھام میں نیٹا کی کاوشوں پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ نیٹل کو آرڈینیٹر نے انسداد دہشت گردی کے سلسلے میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔
 معزز مہمان نے انسداد دہشت گردی و شدت پسندی میں پاکستان کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ ملاقات میں دونوں اطراف سے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا کہ سی پیک پروجیکٹس کو سبوتاژ کرنے والے تمام مشترکہ دشمن عناصر کے خلاف مل کر نمٹا جائے گا۔
 ملاقات میں یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ نیٹا اور نیٹلو کو پرتشدد عناصر کی سرکوبی کے لیے مشترکہ حکمت عملی بنائیں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1125092>

August 19, 2022

Business Recorder

Govt expediting CPEC projects: minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that after steering the country out of default danger, the government is now working on its recovery while expediting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

He made these remarks while speaking at a high-level dialogue, “CPEC-Green Development” organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Thursday.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong was also present at the occasion.

He said that the upcoming projects between Pakistan and China would be based on the green economy and in energy sectors as the present government is planning for renewable energy projects.

He said that as per President Xi’s vision of the CPEC, Pakistan is ready to prioritize those projects which favour and promote the green economy. He added that the environment and climate change are important sectors as these are creating impacts worldwide. Despite our low carbon footprint, we are still one of the most vulnerable to the climate crisis, he added.

The minister said that the iron brother country has been supporting infrastructure development in Pakistan since President Xi Jinping during his visit announced to invest \$46 billion under the CPEC in 2014.

He said this agreement was followed by an investment inflow of \$29 billion in the same year. These investments proved instrumental for CPEC and supported development of infrastructure such as road networks and introduced alternative energy sources in the country. He said that the government is reinvigorating to complete the development of nine Special Economic Zones in Pakistan and moving to strengthen industrial cooperation. He termed political stability, social solidarity and continuity of policies as the prerequisites for socio-economic progress and prosperity. He said that creating an enabling environment for business-to-business relations is key to attracting and availing foreign investments in the country and re-

emphasized the government's commitment to fast-track green development projects under the CPEC.

He added that in April 2014, when President Xi visited Pakistan, \$46 million worth of cooperation agreements were signed and the entire world began to look at Pakistan as a potential investment destination.

However, he said that it was unfortunate that during the last four years not a single CPEC project was completed. We are now trying to fast track this initiative particularly the construction of industrialization zones which were shelved by the previous government, stated the minister.

He said political stability, social solidarity, and continuity of policy are important pillars for achieving development and progress for any country. He said that the government will complete all the CPEC projects without any further delay.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/19/3-page/940288-news.html>

Daily Times

Speakers for strengthening policy communication between Pakistan and China

Speakers at a dialogue on China's Xinjiang Policy stressed for strengthening the policy communication, promote people-to-people connections and trade cooperation between Pakistan and China to resolve all issues.

They expressed these views while addressing the dialogue organized by China Study Centre of COMSATS University here on Wednesday.

The programme started with the recitation of verses from Holy Qur'an followed by national anthems of the countries sung by the students of PEAK School, Rawalpindi.

The inaugural session started with the welcome address of Prof. Dr Shams ul Qamar, Campus Director of COMSATS University Islamabad, who welcomed all the speakers and discussants to the dialogue while thanking the Chinese Embassy for their assistance in arranging such events.

He said that Pak-China friendship was embedded deeply in the roots of both the countries.

Dr Shams gave a brief introduction about the CUI faculty and alumni who are working closely with the Chinese academia and seeking education from the leading Chinese universities.

Wang Shengjie, First Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China talked about the beauty and cultural prosperity of Xinjiang by calling it a wonderful land.

He mentioned some of the quotes of Moin-ul-Haque, Mushahid Hussain Syed and Zafar-ud-din Mahmood where they described Xinjiang as a land of beauty and peace that accounts for 25% increase of Uyghur population between 2010 and 2018.

Addressing the session, Group Captain (Rtd.) Sultan M. Hali, Defence Analyst, said that Xinjiang was in a very poor condition in 1974 but it was much more beautiful and prosperous than even New York at present times.

The GDP of Xinjiang had been recorded as 1.38 trillion in 2020 with major high speed rails projects and more than 21 airports, he added.

Muhammad Nasir Khan, President, Ex Chinese Association, Pakistan, mentioned fast economic development as the secret of Xinjiang and China's success.

He said that the Chinese government paid a lot of attention towards the development of Xinjiang and worked out several measures for bringing economic prosperity.

Khan mentioned that the rights of all the ethnic groups in Xinjiang including Muslims were well protected by the government and there had been a sharp decrease in the terrorist attacks after 2016.

Prof. Dr Tsui Yenhu, Professor of Social Anthropology, Institute of Social-Cultural Anthropology, Urumqi, Xinjiang, also spoke on the occasion by joining the session via a video link from China.

Later, the second session, which was the dialogue about China's Xinjiang Policy, was moderated by Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Head of China Study Centre.

Dr Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, considered academia as the important player to properly showcase the reality in front of the people by reducing the gap between researcher and the main stream researcher.

She briefly explained the developmental projects initiated by China in Xinjiang including poverty alleviation, providing fishing and shipping rights, and education and vocational training to the people.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO, Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Development, regarded understanding China's policy and their economic model to deal with them in a better manner.

Hina Naveed, Researcher, Overseas Chinese Association, mentioned that they had initiated a separate desk to study the matter of Xinjiang and its people.

The discussion wrapped up with question answer session and the distribution of souvenirs among the participants and the keynote speakers.

The programme concluded with the performances inspired by Xinjiang culture and a Qawali night.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/983956/speakers-for-strengthening-policy-communication-between-pakistan-and-china/>

Gwadar Then and Now

Yasir Habib Khan

If compared with the past, Gwadar is passing through a positive change in terms of its outlook and public life. It is still in the phase of transformation with flying colours. On the whole people of Gwadar are witnessing a pragmatic and promising change in their living standards, livelihood, business and socio-economic dynamics. Credit goes to China-led developments indeed.

“Back in 2015, when I landed in Gwadar, I could hardly find any movement. Roads were congested. There was no luxury hotel, apart from PC, which too remained closed for most of the time. Commercial activities in the city were close to none. But seven years since then, the picture is different. Gwadar has developed, if not upto the expectations of the people, yet remarkably,” recalls Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company.

It is indeed a matter of fact that Gwadar has transformed from a small fishing town to a commercial and tourist hub. Undoubtedly, development is a progressive and time-taking process and to say that Gwadar is set to be the commercial torchbearer for Pakistan would not be an overstatement. The infrastructural transmutation over the period was largely initiated during the early period of the port’s construction and later compounded by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Chinese enterprises working in Gwadar, under the framework of CSR, extend a helping hand to their local brothers.

The period from 2015 was particularly a watershed moment for Gwadar, thanks to President Xi Jin Ping’s stupendous One-Belt One Road mega project. Apart from the operationalization of the port, China has undertaken several initiatives in Gwadar. East Bay Expressway (EBEW), New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), China-Pakistan Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCVTI), China-Pakistan 300 Bed Friendship Hospital, 1.2 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) desalination water plant and several other infrastructural development projects are some of the China-funded schemes. Many of these projects such as EBEW and PCVTI are functional. Others are expected to be completed soon.

Since, China’s takeover of Gwadar port in 2013, a number of direct and indirect benefits have been offered to the local community. Several job opportunities have been provided. With the ongoing process of industrialization, especially in Gwadar Free Zone, thousands of additional jobs will be created. Moreover, indirectly, Gwadar has benefitted considerably. The real estate and construction sectors in the city have been boosted. The tourism sector has gained traction, thanks to the unpremeditated marketing due to CPEC. In addition to the infrastructure developments, Gwadar is witnessing multiple social welfare programs, such as Gwadar Women’s Development Centre, aimed at skills development, women empowerment and poverty alleviation. Furthermore, the planned projects can eventually make the locals self-sufficient. Moreover, China has so far installed over 7,000 solar panels in district Gwadar to provide efficient electricity to local users.

Gwadar port is functional with a remarkable capacity to process containers, bulk cargo and LPG vessels. Hundreds of thousands of cargo are processed annually. Recently, a web-based one custom (weboc) service has been instituted as well, which will accelerate the clearance process. In Gwadar Free Zone more than 50 companies, both from Pakistan and abroad, have been registered and are in the operational stage. Their areas of manufacturing/ processing range from agriculture to trading, food processing, chemical fertilizer, metal processing and agricultural production. The Scientific Research Laboratory in Free Zone equipped with sophisticated technology is working selflessly on modern techniques to explore new varieties of plants favourable to Gwadar's environment. So far they have cultivated several varieties of banana. Cultivation of other plants such as figs and king-grass which are seemingly unfeasible has made it possible for the local farmers to prospect new avenues of livelihood.

Apart from managing commercial activities, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), the concession-holder and operator of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, has undertaken many initiatives in the social sector, within the port premises and beyond. The China-Pakistan High School for girls in Faqeer Colony, which is governed by COPHC, has proved to be a great achievement in the education sector.

The Women Garments Factory and the goat farm in the Free Zone, in addition to skills enhancement, are a source of livelihood for the local workers. Besides, Chinese enterprises working in Gwadar, under the framework of CSR, extend a helping hand to their local brothers. During the floods earlier this year, COPHC reached the families on the outskirts of Gwadar. Edible items to 1000 affected families were distributed. Fishing nets were given to the local fishermen. Apart from social services, China has also strived to enhance the institutional efficiency of Gwadar. Motorcycles and laptops have been given to Gwadar Police to increase their productivity. For the pursuit of clean and green Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest has been established where more than 50,000 plants have been planted. This has improved the natural environment of Gwadar.

That is not the end. Gwadar is yet to achieve its full potential. With the construction of the breakwater, completion of the port's dredging process and operationalization of the international airport, Gwadar port will truly prove to be the engine of Pakistan's economic development. The industrialization of the Gwadar Free Zone will start a new era for Pakistan's progress. With the commencement of manufacturing in the free zone, Pakistan will emerge as a production hub in South Asia. Exports will increase, curtailing Pakistan's current account deficit and increasing the foreign reserves.

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/984032/gwadar-then-and-now/>

Fake news create misperception about Xinjiang's life, prosperity

Fake and planted media reports have created misperception about Xinjiang's cultural beauty and its socio-economic rise. This was stated here by Wang Shengjie, a senior diplomat of Chinese Embassy while addressing a dialogue on 'China's Xinjiang Policy', as a guest of honour. He

said, many countries are suffering because of war on terror. The main reason behind this is the spread of fake news through social media which creates panic and chaos among the general public. The seminar was organized by China Study Centre of COMSATS University. Wang Shengjie gave a keynote address, presenting China's viewpoint on the issue of Xinjiang. He talked about the beauty and cultural prosperity of Xinjiang by calling it a wonderful land. According to him, many countries are suffering because of this war on terror.

The main reason behind this is the spread of fake news through social media which creates panic and chaos among the general public. Only people who get benefit from terrorism are the military complexes. He mentioned some of the quotes of Moin-ul-Haque, Mushahid Hussain Syed and Zafar-ud-din Mahmood where they described Xinjiang as a land of beauty and peace that accounts for 25% increase of Uyghur population between 2010 and 2018.

He concluded by giving some suggestions for the improvement of the problem by strengthening the policy communication, promote people to people connections and trade cooperation. The inaugural session started with the welcome address of Prof. Dr. Shams ul Qamar, Campus Director of COMSATS University Islamabad, who welcomed all the speakers and discussants to the dialogue while thanking the Chinese Embassy for their assistance in arranging such events.

He mentioned that Pak-China friendship is embedded deeply in the roots of both the countries. He gave a brief introduction about the CUI faculty and alumni's who are working closely with the Chinese academia and seeking education from the leading Chinese universities. Group Captain (Rtd.) Sultan M. Hali, Defence Analyst, gave the second keynote speech by rightly portraying Xinjiang. He said that Xinjiang was in a very poor condition in 1974 but it is much more beautiful and prosperous than even New York at present times.

The GDP of Xinjiang has been recorded as 1.38 trillion in 2020 with major high speed rails projects and more than 21 airports. According to provided information, 20,000 mosques are currently present in Xinjiang where Islamic education is being taught to young Muslims leaving behind extremism.

Nasir Khan, President, Ex Chinese Association, Pakistan, and the 3rd keynote speaker mentioned fast economic development as the secret of Xinjiang and China's success. He said that the Chinese government paid a lot of attention towards the development of Xinjiang and worked out several measures for bringing economic prosperity.

He happily mentioned that the rights of all the ethnic groups in Xinjiang including Muslims are very well protected by the government and there has been a sharp decrease in the terrorist attacks after 2016. Prof. Dr. Tsui Yenhu, Professor of Social Anthropology, Institute of Social-Cultural Anthropology, Urumqi, Xinjiang, also played his role as the last keynote speaker by joining the session via a video link from China. Later the second session which was the dialogue about China's Xinjiang Policy, moderated by Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Head of China Study Centre.

Dr. Awan opened the discussion by highlighting the three main themes of discussion. The session started with Mr. Khizar Hayat, Eurasian Century Institute, Islamabad, who completely

nullified the accusations made by the global world against China on the Xinjiang matter by announcing them as false accusations. Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, considered academia as the important player to properly showcase the reality in front of the people by reducing the gap between researcher and the main stream researcher.

Hamza Rifaat Hussain, Researcher, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, focused on lack of narrative inertia, need to differentiate between separatism, secessionist tendencies and religious persecution and lack of international verification of information as the leading causes of the false propaganda which is being created against China.

Hina Naveed, Researcher, Overseas Chinese Association, mentioned that they have initiated a separate desk to study the matter of Xinjiang and its people. She said that these conspiracies are done against China so as to create hurdles in their economic rise.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/983923/fake-news-create-misperception-about-xinjiangs-life-prosperity/>

Jang News

سی پیک پاکستان کا مستقبل ہے، جنرل (ر) زبیر حیات

اسلام آباد میں بزنس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کا مستقبل ہے، یہ پاکستان کا اسٹریٹجک منصوبہ ہے۔ جنرل (ر) زبیر محمود حیات نے کہا کہ بیلنس آف ورلڈ پاور بدل رہا ہے، دنیا میں بڑھتی آبادی کے ساتھ مہنگائی میں اضافہ ہو، 40 سال کے ریکارڈ ٹوٹ گئے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اب کا بھارت گاندھی اور نہرو کا نہیں بلکہ مودی کا بھارت ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ بھارت کو ہند تو اور آریس ایس کے چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے، وہاں اقلیتوں کی نسل کشی کی جارہی ہے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاک فضائیہ کے سابق سربراہ ایئر چیف مارشل (ر) سہیل امان نے کہا کہ بہتر لیڈر شپ اداروں کی ترقی کا باعث ہوتی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں لیڈر شپ کا بہت پوٹینشل ہے، چیلنجز سے ہی مواقع پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم اپنی محنت سے ہتھیار درآمد کرنے کی بجائے برآمد کرنے والے بنے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ملکی ترقی کے لیے مقامی ٹیکنالوجی کا فروغ بہت ضروری ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1125284>

August 20, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Chinese People's Liberation Army: A strategic asset

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

MOST recently the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has celebrated its 95th anniversary which coincided with the unfortunate visit of the US Congress Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, the split-away province of China mainland.

In this connection, the PLA stood first and immediately initiated all possible “countermeasures” to defend its “One China Principle”, professional preparedness and tactical comparative advantage by holding numerous live fire drills in the waters but did not indulge in any kind of “military misadventure” which showed its strong belief in “deterrence”, peace and stability.

It has been one of the “forefront” guarantors of the Chinese “territorial integrity” and national sovereignty.

It has been “symbol” of peaceful endeavors in the country and abroad. Even the United Nation highly appreciates its positive, productive and participatory role in various global peace missions which confirms its “constructive” engagement policies with the outer world.

PLA, by holding live fire drill recently, demonstrated multiple types of cutting-edge hardware, such as the DF-17 hypersonic ballistic missile and the YY-20 aerial refueling plane which has further strengthened its fighting dexterity and made it one of the best equipped militaries in the world.

It seems that the Chinese military commissioned a great deal of high tech weaponry and equipment in the past decade which has been an unprecedented time.

During this period the country has enabled to bring desired modernization of national defence and the armed forces which will be completely achieved till 2035.

In this regard, President Xi Jinping always attaches great importance to the development of hardware and technology for China’s armed forces, stressing that advanced weaponry and equipment are critical to military modernization.

Since Xi is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, time and again he has urged the PLA to make full use of modern science and technology to strengthen its combat capabilities.

Thus scientific and technological transformation of the PLA has been one of the main strategic priorities of the Chinese President.

Speaking at a top-level military conference in Beijing several years ago, President Xi told high-ranking commanders that along with the evolution of military technologies, the factor of hardware “is becoming more significant” when it comes to winning modern warfare.

He advised them to abridge weapons generational gaps as soon as possible.

Moreover, he termed advanced weaponry as a key symbol of a powerful military and also an essential pillar of national security and rejuvenation in 2014 while meeting the military’s hardware development planners and executives from State-owned defence contractors.

He highlighted that it has always been the Party’s goal to build and operate a well-equipped military.

While celebrating the PLA's 9th anniversary in 2017, Xi called on the armed forces to uphold scientific and technological innovation and closely follow the latest global trends in defence technology.

During his keynote speech, he emphasized the importance of visionary planning as well as the research of strategically crucial, cutting-edge and game-changing technologies.

He urged to use and utilize science and technology facilitating the military's development and boost its operational capabilities.

Furthermore, the report to the 19th CPC National Congress in late 2017 set the goal of basically realizing the modernization of national defence and the armed forces by 2035 and fully building the armed forces into world-class forces by the middle of the century.

In this context, at the 19th National Congress of the CPC, Xi "Thought on Strengthening the Military", answered the major questions on building strong armed forces in the new era, including the tasks, targets, principles, strategies and approaches, was included in the Constitution of the CPC.

He emphasized that workers in the defence sector and equipment officers in the armed forces should uphold the Party's thought on strengthening the military and its defence strategies in new era, speed up the implementation of tasks planned for the coming years and establish a modern management system for equipment.

Resultantly, the PLA has now been transformed and blessed with much advanced hardware such as stealth fighter jets, aircraft carriers, large destroyers and hypersonic missiles.

It seems that the new equipment has greater firepower, higher information-processing capacity and better mobility.

Interestingly, the PLA Air Force has become the world's second largest operator of stealth fighter jets following the United States thanks to the deployment of the country's domestically developed J-20.

In this context, China's first stealth combat aircraft, the J-20 was designed and manufactured by Aviation Industry Corp of China and is widely deemed as one of the best fighter jets built in modern times.

The plane conducted its maiden flight in January 2011 and was officially declassified in November 2016 when it staged a brief flight performance at the 11th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition.

It was commissioned in the PLA Air Force later that year, becoming the third stealth fighter jet in the world to enter service following the US' F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II.

Thus the J-20 is outstanding in terms of situational awareness, electronic warfare and collaboration ability and the service of the J-20 is accelerating the air force's transformation

toward a modernized, strategic force and also helping it gain superiority in the global race for an aerospace force.

So the aircraft has enabled the PLA Air Force to engage any other top fighter jets and has substantially enhanced its operational capabilities.

Same is the case of Y-20 which also boasts a world-class transportation capacity that was made possible by the Y-20 strategic transport plane.

It is one of the world's largest strategic heavy-lift jets, which was first flown in January 2013, making China the third nation following the US and Russia that is capable of developing strategic transport aircraft.

It was delivered to the PLA Air Force in July 2016. It easily carries weight of about 200 metric tons and can ferry cargo and personnel over long distances in all types of weather, strengthening the PLA Air Force's strategic power projection capability.

To conclude, the PLA has become a "strategic asset" of China. Even Chinese Navy has achieved tremendous modernization in the last decade.

It is hoped that the world's largest and most advanced conventionally powered aircraft carrier which is under final stages of construction at China State Shipbuilding Corp's Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai will be a gigantic ship which will displace more than 80,000 tons of water.

It will use an electromagnetic launch system, or electromagnetic catapult, to launch fixed-wing aircraft.

China always observes a defence policy that is defensive in nature. Nevertheless, it is necessary for the Chinese military to have world class weaponry and equipment as it must be able to defend China's territorial integrity and mitigate all adversaries and ensure it will never be bullied again by any external imperialistic forces in the future.

Armed Forces of Pakistan and PLA have strategic partnership which ensures regional peace and stability and acts like a balancing act.

—The writer is Director, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies Islamabad & regional expert, China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-peoples-liberation-army-an-strategic-asset-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

The CPEC riddle

One of the prime objections is that the CPEC Authority was devoid of taking ownership

The Chinese flagship initiative of trans-regional development is under the scanner in Pakistan. The government's decision to abolish the CPEC Authority has not only raised eyebrows, but has

also led to the can kicked down the road. There are a plenty of questions but not many satisfactory answers. It is claimed that the Authority was a parallel decorum and had impeded the smooth functioning of CPEC projects. While it operated in a quasi-independent manner by bypassing the ministries concerned, it was seen as a hurdle of sorts in realising the implementation of several projects especially in laying the infrastructure, which are in the doldrums to this day. Thus, with the PML-N taking over the reins, it was on the cards that the CPEC Authority would be liquidated and its assets and synergies merged back with various tiers of the federal government. The rest is fait accompli.

One of the prime objections is that the CPEC Authority was devoid of taking ownership. The reason why it was established by the previous government was to ensure more coordination, and to pool in more investment. But the present dispensation argues that not a single penny poured in, and it rather led to bifurcation of work, obstructing rapid implementation of several ongoing projects. It was said that the chain of decision-making too was cumbersome. One more blame is that the impugned Authority attained no remarkable progress in setting up the Exclusive Economic Zones, and Gwadar's dilapidated situation is a case in point.

Now with the threads of CPEC closely knitted with the Planning Division, it has come as a challenge. The staggering Chinese investment that Pakistan was supposed to realise in its infrastructure, energy and industrial projects is yet to make an impact. Improving the situation obviously requires some innovative startups. Will the bureaucratic-laden ministries be able to deliver is a million-dollar question — and that too at a time when the chips are down and the economy is reeling under debt and inflation. The point is that CPEC forms the lifeline of Pakistan's economy and it should be seen progressing rather than getting entangled in regression.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2372057/the-cpec-riddle>

August 21, 2022

Daily Times

CPEC helping boost green development in Pakistan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has contributed to the high-quality green and sustainable development in Pakistan, and it will push for more such cooperation to promote sustainable and green development in the country.

The views were expressed by Chinese and Pakistan envoys at a webinar exploring green development under CPEC, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday. While delivering a keynote speech at the forum, Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan said that China and Pakistan have boosted cooperation in green energy. "Five wind power projects have been completed under CPEC with a total capacity of 300 megawatts, and another 300-megawatt solar power project has been completed," noted

Nong Rong revealed that more green projects are ongoing under CPEC as "[the] Karot hydropower plant has successfully entered commercial operation[s] and large hydropower

projects such as SK are progressing,” adding that the Matiari-Lahore power transmission line helps cut “the line loss from 17% to 4%, greatly reducing energy loss and improving efficiency.”

Green and sustainable development is also generating huge employment opportunities in Pakistan, shared the envoy. “According to statistics, CPEC has created 85,000 jobs for Pakistan,” Nong explicated, “For example, the construction of Gwadar port has created 4,000 jobs among which 3,800 are [taken by the] Pakistani people.”

Such ideas are echoed by Moin Ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China, who termed CPEC as a “people-centric, socially inclusive, environmentally friendly, and green and sustainable” initiative.

Haque said that “the recently completed Karot hydropower project is an example of [the] clean, green vision of CPEC” and that he was more than “happy to see more CPEC projects [being] taken into consideration in the green development aspect.”

With a growing emphasis on green development, said Haque, China and Pakistan have been working to build a green corridor to focus on areas of agriculture, environment, food, climate change, and food security. “Our two sides are now working to finalise the blueprint of the green corridor to carry out practical cooperation. And in this respect, agriculture has been identified as a key area of cooperation,” noted Haque.

As per Haque, a bilateral meeting to this end will be held before the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC this year, and an action plan is also underway with the support of many research institutions, the academia and ministries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/984318/cpec-helping-boost-green-development-in-pakistan/>

Chinese teacher performs ‘Boohey barian’

A video of a Chinese teacher performing Hadiqa Kiani’s classic ‘Boohey Barian’ is going viral on social media platforms. A video that has been circulating on various social media sites sees Ms Vicky – a music teacher at Pakistan Embassy College in Beijing – perform one of the most iconic tracks by the prolific singer. The Chinese teacher chose the iconic ‘Boohey Barian’ by Kiani to perform for students and visitors at a cultural event organized at ‘Silk Road International Arts Centre’ to mark the 75th independence day of Pakistan earlier this week. The video which was originally published by Pakistan’s ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on the micro-blogging site, received a hearty response from social users who loved this cultural exchange between friendly neighbours. Here is what the comments read on the viral video. Wow Beautiful Voice, Hufffff its like hadiqa herself is singing, She slayed it, She did justice to her song, Woah such perfection, What a beautiful song she choosing herself and also appreciate for her dress look.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/984528/chinese-teacher-performs-boohey-barian/>

Express News

5 سی پیک منصوبوں کی لاگت کا 20 فیصد ایڈوائس لینے پر غور

حکومت پاکستان کا چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے 5 منصوبوں کی مجموعی لاگت کا 20 فیصد پیشگی حاصل کرنے کی تجویز پر غور، یہ رقم مرکزی بینک میں: اسلام آباد بطور ڈپازٹ حاصل کی جائیگی تاکہ گرتے ہوئے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو سہارا ملے۔

کابینہ کے ایک وزیر نے ایکسپریس ٹریبیون سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس تجویز پر اعلیٰ ترین سطح پر غور کیا گیا ہے اور وزیر اعظم نے اس تجویز کو مزید بہتر بنانے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ مذکورہ وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ اجلاس میں 5 سی پیک منصوبے پر زیر غور لائے گئے جن پر آنے والی مجموعی تخمینہ لاگت 7 ارب ڈالر ہے۔

تجویز کے مطابق پاکستان کے مرکزی بینک کو کم از کم 1.40 ارب ڈالر موصول ہو سکتے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب ان منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار میں تیزی لائی جاسکے گی جنہیں برسوں کی تاخیر کا سامنا ہے۔ تجویز کے مطابق اسپانسر کرنے والی چینی فرم مجموعی لاگت کا 20 فیصد امریکی ڈالر میں لائے گی اور یہ رقم ایک خصوصی اکاؤنٹ میں رکھی جائے گی۔ مذکورہ کمپنی پاکستان میں ہونے والے اخراجات بشمول تنخواہوں کی ادائیگی کے لیے رقم پاکستانی روپے میں نکلوا سکے گی۔

وزیر اعظم کے زیر غور لائے جانے سے قبل اس تجویز پر پاکستانی اور چینی حکام گفت و شنید کر چکے تھے۔ تجویز کے مطابق چینی کمپنیوں کو لیٹر آف کریڈٹ کھولنے سمیت کسی بھی صورت میں ان فنڈز کو واپس لے جانے کی اجازت نہیں ہوگی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2362049/6/>

August 22, 2022

Business Recorder

PIA offers discounts to students travelling between Pakistan, China

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has offered discounts of 10 per cent for Pakistani students on flights between Pakistan and China.

At present, the national flag carrier is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad and Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad routes. The students who are returning to their homeland from China after completion of their education could immediately take benefit from the discount, an official of the airline said in a media interview Sunday.

A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in the Chinese universities and stranded in Pakistan following Covid-19 travel restrictions also want to come to China to join off-line classes. They are waiting for the approval of the Chinese government in this regard.

On June 20, a special PIA flight brought the first batch of Pakistani students from Islamabad to Xian, China. These students were stuck in the motherland because of Covid-19.

It may be mentioned that PIA had resumed its passenger flights between Pakistan and China section after a gap of nearly six months as the airports in Xian and Beijing closed for the international flights in wake of Covid-19 prevention and control measures.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/22/5-page/940558-news.html>

The News

India to undermine Afghanistan's participation in CPEC

Jan Achakzai

As Pakistan is internally focused on its political situation and economic revival, less attention is being paid to what India is doing to undermine Islamabad's vital interest.

The proposition has to be consumed in the context of the recent Indian reaction to China and Pakistan's common resolve to extend CPEC/BRI towards Afghanistan. It precedes the latest visit of an Indian high-level delegation to Iran's Chabahar Port in a bid to expand what India believes is the North-South Trade Corridor – linking Central Asia with the South Asian region via Chabahar Corridor.

“China hopes to push the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the development strategies of Afghanistan”, China's top diplomat Wang Yi told Afghan interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The two officials met in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit of foreign ministers. Afghanistan is a member of the SCO. Wang said Beijing “supports the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan and shares China's development opportunities”.

Pakistan has already welcomed China's commitment to extend CPEC towards Afghanistan.

However, India has strongly reacted to the announcement of the two countries. India issued a statement (through its MEAs) warning against third countries' participation in CPEC. It was an implicit reference to Afghanistan and also an underlying threat to the Taliban regime in Kabul.

There has been some news in Indian media about the inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC, but no credible news on the subject came to the fore since Sept 2021 when Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan said this in a benign tone.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had also given an offensive statement on the so-called “Pak Occupied Kashmir” a day before which was responded to by Pakistan's Foreign Ministry calling it “provocative” and “completely unacceptable”.

As the Taliban are believed to be by and large friendly towards Pakistan, they may not accept Indian dictates and pressure exerted to stay away from joining CPEC and BRI. However, geopolitics is always fickle and there are no permanent friends and foes. The Taliban regime may reach an understanding with Delhi for exchange of other incentives i.e. market access, the Chabahar transit route and other benefits like trade and investments in Afghanistan.

Still there can be a clear quid pro quo between Islamabad and Kabul. Pakistan in exchange for land access to India can persuade the Taliban to ensure Islamabad's access to Central Asia via WaKhan Corridor (Wakhan Corridor is a narrow strip of territory in Afghanistan, extending to

China and separating the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan from the Gilgit-Baltistan region).

Secondly, Islamabad presses upon the Taliban to allow CPEC-related land infrastructure on exit points like Khyber and Chaman so roads are built between Kabul and Peshawar and Kabul and Quetta linking Gwadar and Karachi ports with Afghanistan directly through CPEC.

On the other hand, India has also complained to Russia that their tilt towards China on so many issues is not in India's interest including support for the BRI/CPEC. However, whether Moscow keeps Indian interest at heart is another ball game. Moscow is in strategic alliance with Beijing working on many projects like developing ballistic missiles to supersonic technology.

Many defence watchers believe that probably amid worst economic and political instability in Pakistan, India seeks to open an external conflict aimed at choking Pakistan's responses on the internal front. If this is true, it would have serious repercussions for Pakistan's security interests. Nevertheless, Pakistan's defense forces and its auxiliary institutions would be aware of India's shenanigans linked with Afghanistan and CPEC.

Jan Achakzai is a geopolitical analyst, a politician from Balochistan and ex-adviser to the Balochistan Government on media and strategic communication. He tweets @Jan_Achakzai

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=120120>

CPEC and its execution

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The PTI government had created CPEC Authority to accelerate implementation of its 2nd phase. Although, the government did not empower the Authority with decision-making powers, it still helped eliminate hurdles and smoothen implementation of CPEC programmes.

Now, the PMLN government is abolishing the Authority. The government claims it could not deliver as special economic zones (SEZs) are not fully operational. The government has decided to go back to past approach which it adopted during the first phase.

It has the right to decide about the future of CPEC Authority. However, before taking any decision there is need to look for the reasons and impediments in the smooth execution of the second phase. For that purpose, Pakistan should search for answer to two questions. First, either 2nd phase is similar to the 1st phase or not? The answer is no. The 2nd phase is entirely different. The first phase was led by government-government or government-business cooperation.

As Government of Pakistan was taking lead to implement, there was not much hassle of getting licences or registration or execution of the projects.

However, the second phase is all about Business-Business (B-B) or private sector-led cooperation. Business community will have to take care of everything from registration to execution of plans and dealing with all tax agencies. Unfortunately, business environment of

Pakistan is not very conducive. The issues are complicated institutional framework, complex and lengthy procedures and corruption.

Though EODB ranking of Pakistan has improved, the problems are still haunting the country. For example, it takes 113 days to get electricity connection, 125 days for construction permit and 105 days for property registration, by book. In reality, it takes many more days.

The 18th Amendment has further complicated the institutional framework.

Tax system is another problem which really bothered the investors and industrialists. First, industry has to bear major burden of tax revenue. Services and agriculture sectors are not paying taxes according to their contribution in national economy. Second, there are 35 departments or agencies which are involved in the taxation system.

On top of that provincial tax systems and legal requirements further aggravate the situation. Lack of harmonisation of tax policies of provinces is one of the biggest bottlenecks to attract foreign direct investment. Inconsistency is another problem in taxation policy which is impacting the trust of business community.

Second question is why SEZs are not fully operational and attracting investment from countries other than China? The analysis of situation suggests lack of right set of policies and ignorance of global best practices are the leading factors of lower performance.

The study of global SEZs suggests there are five key elements which play a leading role in deciding the future of SEZs. First, location of SEZs plays a vital role. Therefore, experts believe that economic rational should dictate the selection of location. Unfortunately, in Pakistan political preferences dictate the decisions. Second, innovative policies according to situation help make any SEZ successful. Third, policies should be designed to attract investment and industry, not to please certain audience.

Fourth, sound marketing policies and strategies, based on facts and data, are required to attract investors. But, Pakistan does not have such a marketing policy or strategy for SEZs. We are trying to attract investors by giving big statements, not rational choices. For example, till today, we do not conduct any comparative analysis of Pakistani SEZs with global SEZs to figure out comparative advantages of Pakistani SEZs. We have hundreds of universities and many research institutions. Planning Commission dedicates research centre for CPEC and PIDE, but no study is available which can help convince investors. The only available study on the subject is commentary on the SEZs of different countries, not a comparative analysis of policies, rules, procedures or incentives.

In the absence of such analysis, how can we attract investors. For example, a few months back Pakistan organised a special meeting for ASEAN countries to invite them to join CPEC. One wonders how we can ask ASEAN countries to join CPEC in the presence of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Thus, to convince ASEAN we need a strong rational which can only be provided by a comprehensive comparative analysis.

Fifth, effective and efficient management of SEZs plays a major role in determining the success or failure of any SEZ. The level of effectiveness and efficiency in designing, execution and facilitation plays a leading role in attracting foreign direct investment. Foreign investors look for minimum hassles and they do not like to run after multiple institutions or agencies. They prefer to invest in SEZs which help them against the political interference, complicated institutional framework, complex procedures and corrupt practices.

In the conclusion, the present institutional arrangement does not allow any ministry or institution to play a decisive role. Rather, it has given birth to tug-of-war among the ministries and institutions. Therefore, there is need of a strong central body which can help avoid tug-of-war and pave the way for smooth implementation of 2nd phase of CPEC.

The body must have decision-making and implementation powers and there should be no interference from any ministry or institution. The body should be only answerable to the Prime Minister. Lastly, if PMLN does not like CPEC Authority, it can come up with a better idea or name, but what required is smooth implementation.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=120138>

August 23, 2022

Business Recorder

China opens visas for students, business card holders

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Embassy on Monday announced opening up of visas for long-term Pakistani (international) students receiving academic education in China as well as allowed entry for business card holders.

The Chinese Embassy, in a notice on its website, said, “From now on, long-term international students receiving academic education in China can apply for the student visa (X1visa) by submitting the form of Visa Application for Study in China (JW201 or JW202) and the school admission notice (fresh student) or no objection to returning China certificate (continuation study).

“As per the latest visa application policy, from 24 August 2022, foreign nationals holding APEC business travel card holders and foreign students with valid study residence permits are permitted to enter China.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/23/12-page/940717-news.html>

The Express Tribune

PM Shehbaz arrives in Qatar on two-day official visit

In Doha on two-day visit; Shehbaz seeks investment in energy and aviation sectors

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the Qatari investors on Tuesday of the Pakistan government's full support in deepening their footprints in Pakistan and urged them to explore the opportunities presented by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Shehbaz arrived on Doha on a two-day official visit. On the first day of his visit, he interacted with the prominent Qatari and Pakistani business leaders at a 'Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable' besides a meeting with the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) officials.

As the prime minister landed at the Doha airport, he was warmly received by the Qatar's Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti. This is Shehbaz's first visit to Qatar since assuming office of the prime minister in April 2022. The prime minister is accompanied by the several ministers.

In Doha, Shehbaz interacted with prominent Qatari and Pakistani business leaders at a 'Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable 2022', which was also attended by Finance Minister Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO, Qatar Financial Center Chief Executive Officer Yousaf Al Khater Jaida and others.

On the occasion, the prime minister highlighted his government's firm commitment to providing a friendly environment for business and investments in Pakistan. He assured the Qatari investors of his government's full support in deepening their footprint in Pakistan.

Shehbaz underscored that with large consumer market and an ever-expanding middle class, Pakistan offered attractive business opportunities for investors in the fields of food security, energy, agriculture and livestock, information technology, hospitality and tourism sectors.

Meanwhile, at the QIA – one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world -- Prime Minister Shehbaz invited investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy, aviation, agriculture, livestock, maritime, tourism and hospitality sectors.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2372710/pm-shehbaz-arrives-in-qatar-on-two-day-official-visit>

The Nation

A Rethinking Of CPEC Security

Dr Kaleem Imam

It is time to alter the paradigm of CPEC security. An unstable security situation is the number one fear of foreign investors. Foreign investors are always more risk averse than local investors. Investors' confidence is directly affected by a lack of security which eventually results in capital outflow. Several academic studies examine the impact of security issues on capital markets. Because of such caveats, no prudent person would expect any increase in foreign direct investment.

Rather than opting for quick fixes, one should accept that police are the premier law enforcement agency. There should be no ambiguity that our police can provide adequate security to CPEC

projects where presently they are trusted to protect the Presidency, Prime Minister, Senate, Supreme Court, Governor Houses, and even foreign heads of State.

So, it is high time that the first responder, federal and provincial police take the lead and oversee CPEC security, which will lessen the sense of deprivation if any among the natives. Local police are best aware of their vicinity as well the temperament of its people. Recruiting people from the area will also give a sense of ownership to its residents.

Nevertheless, the police will require some capacity building, modern resources, operational autonomy with stringent accountability, and for the first time be absolved away from illegal extraneous interferences. A specialised security arrangement should be deputed to oversee sensitive locations as well as the travel of high-profile personnel.

State-of-the-art equipment required to cordon off certain areas should be provided. More so, uninterrupted coordination with other security agencies must be ensured to assure a prompt synergised response. As a result of running away from these measures, we have not succeeded to this day, and expecting a different outcome henceforth will be a classic example of insanity.

‘Policies are the conscience of a government’. But then in practice countrymen unanimously agreeing on any policy matter is rare in today’s polarised society. A notable exception though is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is widely agreed among all political and apolitical stakeholders that CPEC will prove to be a ‘game-changer’ for the common man and will improve our geo-economics position, but words can be worthless without prudent actions.

CPEC is touted by all political actors as their brainchild or a product of their visionary and unwavering efforts. Whereas China’s counterpart states that CPEC had been envisioned decades before 2015, the year when it was formally launched.

It is expected that this \$62 billion connectivity project will provide much needed access to China’s landlocked region Xinjiang and our Gilgit-Baltistan region as well as Gwadar Port along the Arabian Sea. According to Mr Akram Zaki, ex-Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, China wants to push Pakistan toward self-reliance, away from the dependency syndrome created by fair-weather friends, as it gains access to the Arabian Sea. Moreover, considerable parts of South and West Asia, the Middle East, Europe, as well as Africa will be milking CPEC in some way or another.

Pakistan is one of the major beneficiaries of this mega project. Whether those benefits are fully realised is not a point of contention now, as CPEC also produces a variety of by-products. On the ground, various noteworthy efforts are being made to improve the livelihoods of the local population through projects like Gwadar Livelihood Project and Gwadar Women’s Employment Development Centre.

Electricity shortages are expected to improve from the China Hub Coal Power Project and the Coal-Fired Power Project as well as 3000 solar panels that provide “free of cost” electricity. Several road projects are currently in the process of being constructed. Moreover, a mass transit system for Quetta is to be considered.

The question arises, with all such potential projects, why is Pakistan not reaping the benefits and experiencing an economic crisis? The short answer to this question is our long-term entanglement with temporary arrangements. This meandering situation can be better understood by examining the slip-ups that led to it.

Another plague that must be cured is a fragile legal skeleton. Taking a closer look at this will help us understand it better. With the formal launch of CPEC, a secretariat under the Ministry of Planning was tasked with overseeing the ongoing activities and ensuring there are no unscheduled interruptions. The need for a dedicated authority appeared later. As smooth as it could have been, the path to that authority hasn't been as easy as it could be.

Potential investors expressed serious concerns about having to overcome bureaucratic hurdles in different industries to obtain approvals and licenses. As a result, the creation of a one-stop shop, like the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission, was recommended.

Against this backdrop, in October 2019, the President passed an Ordinance establishing CPEC Authority. The Ordinance was extended in January 2020 due to the significant disposition of CPEC. As a result of the inherent sunset clause in Article 89(2) (i) of the Constitution, the Ordinance was eventually repealed in June 2020. However, our then government was unable to pass an act until May 2021. As a result, the CPEC Authority was working without legal protection from June 2020 until May 2021.

When this void was realised, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs moved for immediate consideration of the bill for The PEC Authority constitution. Due to opposition concerns about the Minister's qualification for the role of Advisor, Mr Shibli Faraz tabled the said bill in parliament, which was passed.

One of the major amendments to the Act was the elimination of the Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, the role of the Ministry of Planning as an oversight body was replaced by the office of the Prime Minister. The Authority was also given the power to enforce the Act. In terms of how enforcement would be carried out, the Act is silent.

Authority has been disparaged since its inception, both in terms of its utility and efficacy. Nevertheless, most of it is uncalled for; some of it is not. Without a vision for the future, how can an authority work? The Government did not appoint a chairperson after the resignation. Investors' confidence was bound to be shaken by such a lack of political will.

At this juncture, we are back at square one and lamenting the Authority's very existence. Currently, the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform maintains that this debacle in the 'game-changer' project is solely the responsibility of the Authority. Thus, it would be best if a secretariat under his ministry was reinstated.

It is underlined that the Authority was specifically enacted to cater for the hurdles faced by foreign nationals. If anything, the on window arrangement is better equipped to deal with

security concerns. Eliminating the Authority would be tantamount to disregarding the investors' confidence and reinstating their concerns.

Our habitual approach to dilemmas and lack of clarity in legislation reflects our failure to solve problems. International investors look at the legal framework even before considering any opportunity, though our countrymen are now accustomed to such insecurity. Due to the same reasons, Delaware, USA is deemed to be more business-friendly than Maryland, USA.

Our country has little chance of attracting foreign investment under these political circumstances, where a government promises exemption from import taxes, and then withdraws it. For foreign investors to be attracted and provided with necessary assurances, a long-term policy is required. What about a charter for timely implementation of agreed and established policies, where we don't have to worry about the change of regime anymore?

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/23/a-rethinking-of-cpec-security/>

The News

Pakistan China trade up by 12pc

Islamabad: Pakistan's export to China crossed \$2.190 billion in the first seven months this year, up 11.14 per cent year-on-year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in China, told China Economic Net that Pakistan's exports to China increased even when trade decreased with other countries in the month of July, showing the commitment of the government to enhance bilateral trade.

"It is very promising that Pakistan's exports to China are growing. The Government of Pakistan is keen to harness the real potential of exports through value addition, digital marketing, export-oriented investments, and encouraging enterprises from both countries to make Pakistan an integral part of China's supply chain", Qadir added.

According to data from GACC, in the month of July, Pakistan's exports to China increased nearly 13 per cent year-on-year to \$272.92 million, whereas in the same month last year, it was \$242.30 million.

Overall, from January-July 2022, China's imports from and exports to Pakistan counted \$16.73 billion, up 13.51 per cent year-on-year, while in the same period in 2021, it was \$12.76 billion irrespective of monsoon, flood, and Covid-19 which impacted Pakistan's exports to other countries in FY2022. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan's exports declined by around 3 per cent y-o-y in July and the major reasons are monsoon, flood and Covid-19, with the major decline noted in cotton yarn, copper, and Chromium.

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) further stated that Pakistan's imports declined by around 10 per cent y-o-y in July. Major decline was noted in machinery (-\$178 million), fertilizers (-\$79 million), iron & steel (-\$77 million), electrical equipment (-\$76 million), SKD/CKD kits for cars

(-\$75 million), coal (-\$56.5 million), vessels (-\$39 million), rape seeds (-\$56 million), fruits and vegetables (-28 million) and Covid-19 vaccines (-\$167 million). The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan increased by nearly 8 per cent in the month of July to \$2.35 billion as compared to 2021 in the same month which was \$2.18 billion. The exports of major products to China increased in rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts, seafood, and other agricultural, which has promoted Pakistan's economic recovery.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=120384>

August 24, 2022

Daily Times

Promoting RMB-PKR direct conversion to enhance Sino-Pak bilateral trade

It is the best time to promote direct conversion between RMB and PKR to enhance bilateral Pak-China economic and trade cooperation. Such a direct exchange will reduce the cost and exchange rate risk and make funds more secure, which will facilitate a more stable and widespread use of the Pakistani Rupee internationally, said Sun Hui, Head of Wholesale Banking & Treasury Dept, Bank of China (BoC) Pakistan Operations.

Against the background of the recent balance of payments crisis in Pakistan, the Pakistani government, enterprises and financial institutions have repeatedly called for expanding scale of direct settlement between RMB and PKR in the economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Sun Hui told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview that BoC Pakistan Operations has proposed two policy suggestions to the Pakistani government, that is, RMB facilitation Policy and direct exchange between RMB and PKR, which are being investigated by the Pakistani government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement. SBP has put in place a regulatory framework and loan mechanism to ensure RMB to be freely used in the imports and exports and financing transactions, including the opening of L/Cs.

As financial market risk is increasing, RMB is becoming a more competitive hedging instrument. Wind Data shows that China's cross-border RMB settlement is growing rapidly, with cross-border trade settlement business rising 33.84% year-on-year to RMB 806 billion in May.

There are approximately 240 countries and regions engaging with RMB cross-border settlements and about 2,300 financial institutions using RMB for international settlements.

More than 60 central banks and monetary authorities across the world have maintained RMB as part of their foreign exchange reserves. The use of RMB for cross-border settlement effectively avoids the risk of exchange rate fluctuations and increases the predictability of financial costs.

East and Southeast Asian countries account for about 40% of Pakistan's total imports and exports. In these regions, RMB is highly acceptable and widely used.

Sun Hui said, when dealing with cross-border transactions with Asian countries in the region, denomination and settlement in RMB provide Pakistani enterprises with more options in various market environments. Besides, China has become Pakistan's largest foreign direct investor. RMB settlement will help Pakistan attract more Chinese investment.

Sun Hui added, however, that a considerable number of enterprises have little experience in using RMB for business transactions and investment. Pakistan has few financial assets and liabilities denominated in RMB. This calls on all stakeholders to further explore the aspects of policies and measures and to make more efforts to promote the use of RMB in practice. Sun believes that the growth in use of RMB can be achieved by providing more RMB denominated financial products and solutions, stimulating and expanding the scope of RMB's use by settling convenient bilateral trade and investment transactions and promoting cooperation and coordination among Chinese investors and local enterprises.

In 2018, BoC Pakistan Operations launched local CNY settlement and clearing setup in Pakistan to provide RMB account opening for FIs, RMB clearing, RMB settlement, RMB liquidity support, RMB financing and other financial services.

“We are ready to contribute more talent and strength to the direct settlement of RMB and PKR to strengthen economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan”, Sun Hui concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/986670/promoting-rmb-pkr-direct-conversion-to-enhance-sino-pak-bilateral-trade/>

Dunya News

Pakistani pine nuts exports to China hit \$41.48 million in first seven months of 2022

BEIJING (Web Desk) - Pakistani pine nuts' exports to China in the first seven months of this year crossed US \$41.48 million, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Data from GACC showed that during January-July of 2022, China imported 3,770.76 tons of pine nuts from Pakistan worth \$41.48 million while in the same period, China imported 11,513.7 tons of pine nuts around the world valuing about \$88.020 million. Overall, China has imported \$88.020 million of pine nuts and out of that 47.12% is from Pakistan.

Data also showed that China imported 6,954.64 tons of pine nuts worth \$39.19 million from Russia, 568.1 tons worth \$4.32 million from Kazakhstan and 220.18 tons of pine nuts valuing \$3.01 million from Afghanistan in the first seven months of this year.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/664838-Pakistani-pine-nuts-exports-to-China-hit-41-48-million-in-first-seven-m>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: The metamorphosis of a northerner

Kiran Naz

“I am no longer what I was. My Chinese colleagues helped complete my metamorphosis, he said with deep appreciation.”

Oshikhandass, a small beautiful mountain village is situated near Gilgit in Northern Pakistan.

Because of the remote location, many people are engaged in agriculture and handicraft industry and living a relatively traditional and simple life. As there are not many local employment opportunities, most of the young and middle-aged in the village choose to work in big cities to support their families.

Manzoor Alam, 35, is one of many middle-aged men who have travelled from the north to the big cities to pursue their dreams. He can still recall that when he first came to Karachi alone in 2004 he could hardly find any better job than a driver due to lack of adequate education and skills. He earned 16,000 rupees per month at that time, which could barely cover his basic living expenses. Since then, he had changed jobs several times, but none of them were very satisfactory.

He could only engage in livelihoods such as driver, purchasing officer, salesman and other positions that do not require much skill. In 2010, he decided to quit his job and started his own business by opening a pharmacy and a grocery store in a small town near his village.

The business was good in the beginning and he had a pretty good surplus after deducting the costs and staff salaries. However, the good times did not last long. Since 2014, the business has become more and more miserable, and he even couldn't support the rent and staff salaries. Just when he was at his wit's end, he was forced to leave his hometown again in 2015 on the recommendation of a friend who later introduced him to an interview at the Islamabad office of a Chinese company.

According to its profile, the company entered Pakistan in 2013 and participated in a series of CPEC or non-CPEC projects, especially Chinese-aided projects. It's been seven years but Manzoor can still remember the warm reception he received from his two Chinese colleagues when he first entered the office. At that moment, he felt, for the first time, the corporate culture of the Chinese company and the warmest friendship between the Chinese and Pakistani people.

The company offered him a monthly salary of Rs 25,000 as a driver, his most familiar position. To be honest, he could have made it elsewhere, but something mysterious in his mind made him decide to stay.

One day, Mr. Li, the in-charge of the office, suddenly called him into his office and said that he found him very responsible and intelligent in his work. Most importantly, he found him very talented at learning Chinese culture and language.

So Li decided to send him to a professional school for studying Chinese language and the company would bear his tuition. Manzoor was so encouraged that he readily accepted Li's offer. So he spent three months at a Chinese language training school in Blue Area, Islamabad and another six months at Chinese department NUML.

Since then, he has mastered basic everyday Chinese and performed better in his work. His colleagues were all surprised by his changes and promotions. Two years after his joining, he was promoted to house manager, responsible for daily management and reception of delegations.

And his income was more than thrice as much as when he joined the company. With the help of the company and his Chinese colleagues, Manzoor has greatly improved his various abilities and his dedication to the work has brought him enormous praise and he was conferred with the Excellent Employee Award in 2021.

According to him, his life changed dramatically after joining the Chinese company. In 2017, he used his savings of the past few years to build a small but warm house in his village, which enabled the family to no longer suffer snow and cold in winter.

With the improvement of his financial status, he fathered a third child and all of them are now enjoying better education. He attaches great importance to education and hopes that one day his kids will be able to leave the mountains and avoid the similar fate as he has endured.

With his help, a total of 15 relatives and friends got jobs in different Chinese companies, and many of them were lifted out of poverty. Since 2018, in particular, he has quietly funded two poor students in Islamabad and two families in need in his village by providing them tuition and food.

"I am no longer what I was. My Chinese colleagues helped complete my metamorphosis." Chinese companies have been working to help Pakistan improve its infrastructure, actively participate in the fields of agriculture, industrial cooperation and social livelihood which has greatly improved the employment, local people's livelihood and brought various opportunities to the social and economic development of Pakistan, he said with deep appreciation.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-the-metamorphosis-of-a-northerner-by-kiran-naz/>

BRI & US punitive measures and Chinese Integrated Strategies

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It seems that the US government, its establishment and its trans-regional allies have now speeded up their efforts to entangle "Asia's Century Doctrine" by "encircling" China's socio-economic rise and supply chains mechanism. The Chinese President Xi Jinping's project of the century

“One Belt & One Road” is under serious attack by the forces of imperialism and modern capitalism through different “punitive” measures.

To further tighten the screw against China, the US President Joe Biden has signed a series of legislations mainly CHIPS & Science Act, Inflation Reduction Act and Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) along with sudden increase in the Federal Reserve System policy basic points up to 2 to 2.50% which have created serious socio-economic impact on global supply chain systems, production cycles, V-shaped economic recovery prospects, fiscal and monetary policies and money markets etc..

All these legislative promulgations and fiscal & monetary administrative measures clearly indicate that the US has started some kind of new “corporate holy battle” against China and its allies. Thus CHIP Act has become flashpoint and potential “time bomb” for World War III in the future.

Moreover, the US has been planning to implement its perpetual “China Containment Theory” through its backyard by forming QUAD (United States, Australia, India, and Japan), AUKUS (Australia, UK and US), Indo-Pacific Strategy, Asia Pivotal Policy, military partnerships with South Korea, Japan, India, Australia and many other regional countries and highlighting the strategic importance of a “NATO-Asia” in the Indo-Pacific and South-East Asia all indicate that the US is seriously “worried” about the development of Chinese BRI. It seems that the global movers & shakers have somehow redrafted, redesigned and re-planned the global cheeseboard of power politics which seemingly has been shifted and schemed new military alliances and maritime choking points against China in Indo-Pacific region, Central Asia and South-East Asia.

On the other hand, strangely, the Group of Seven (G7) introduced USD 600 billion in funding by 2027 to deliver transparent and game changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India mainly to counter China’s BRI. The US has pledged to raise USD 200 billion of the total through grants, federal funds and private investment.

The White House Fact Sheet describes this “Build Back Better World” (B3W) plan as so-called “values-driven, high-standard and transparent infrastructure partnership.” It also prominently alludes to strategic competition with China. Critical analysis reveals that since BRI’s inception, the G7 has expressed concerns about its potential to expand China’s political, economic, technological and military influence at the expense of the West and so-called the rules-based international order. Independent estimations conclude that the B3W cannot compete with China’s lower costs, massive productive channels, and faster timelines. On its part, China has announced plans to develop the “Health Silk Road,” the “Digital Silk Road” and the “Green Silk Road,” its overwhelming focus remains on traditional projects such as ports, roads, dams, railways, power plants, and telecommunication facilities.

The world currently faces a \$40 trillion infrastructure gap, a deficit only exacerbated by COVID-19 and slow economic recovery. The world economy relies on human as well as physical infrastructure to connect supply chains and efficiently move goods, people and services. The

Chinese BRI has already invested more than US 1 trillion in the numerous infrastructural projects in its member countries.

Moreover, the European Union (EU) unveiled its “Global Gateway” project on December 01, 2021. The project aims to mobilize up to €300 billion in investment between 2021 and 2027 to underpin a lasting global recovery, considering the EU’s partners’ needs and the EU’s interests. The project aims to support infrastructure development around the world which is perceived as a European alternative to China’s BRI. EU Commission President von der Leyen stated that the EU wants to be seen as a reliable and trusted partner in the world and to be appreciated for its democratic values, while explicitly stating that Global Gateway is “a different way to deliver this infrastructure globally“. In most basic terms, the EU wants to replicate the Chinese model, gaining a foothold in new markets through contribution to the infrastructure and enhanced dialogue with many countries. However, the EU has a long way to go to catch up with China and it must work hard to convince its partners of its own project. It should also be noted that some countries already have a negative perception of the BRI. That could have a leverage effect on the Global Gateway project. But the question surely rests with how the EU calculates them and adapts its subsequent steps.

Apparently, the US has diversified expertise in forming new media hypes and dissemination of false, fake and fictional propaganda against its enemies. In this regard, its government, establishment, policy-makers, trans-regional puppetry journalists, paid economists, cheap NOGs, so-called civil society and sponsored think tanks have been purposefully indulged in promoting and highlighting Chinese BRI as so-called “Debt Trap Strategy”, reflection of Chinese ancient philosophies and extension of the Chinese imperialism resultantly, so-called enslaving the member countries, economies and communities alike. It is absolutely untrue, ineffectual and irreverent. Thus does not have any direct correlation with Chinese BRI.

It seems that the US government and its manipulative politicians have a “Wild Card Entry ” privilege in case of visiting Chinese split-away province Taiwan. First the US Congress Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid a controversial visit to Taipei which proved unfortunately a lethal plenty stroke and afterward, the US Congress five member delegations and now the US Governor visited Taiwan and thus entered into the “game of thrones of titanic” leading towards unconsciously “sudden death destination”.

Now the regional allies of the US are also preparing themselves to enter the deep waters of the Indo-Pacific and have planned to visit Taiwan as a gesture of solidarity and boosting of so-called democracy. Resultantly, the maritime/blue economy worth US\$ 5-6 trillion is under stress and going to be marginalized in the days to come. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and People’s Liberation Army (PLA) initiated befitting statements and countermeasures to show firm commitments and professional preparedness to combat any external infringement and aggression.

To conclude, the policy-makers of China should immediately overhaul its regional as well as international policies in terms of successful execution of the BRI projects, flushing out negative

impact of the US punitive legal & administrative measures and last but not the least socio-economic realignments, geopolitical readjustments and renewed geostrategic partnerships.

From now onward, China should give more focus to massive social transformation and modernization alike in all the BRI member countries by supporting their education (higher & technical), health, housing, SMEs, micro-financing and tourism sectors which will further strengthen the BRI successful economic and infrastructural journey in the world. Because humans do matter this is also in line with the ancient Chinese philosophies and traditions.

To counter and mitigate the negative effects of the US Chip Act, unilateral global supply chains schemes, Inflation Reduction Act and many more just to contain China's socio-economic rise, the Chinese policy makers should start thinking to form a "BRI CHIPS Initiative" to counter the economic and technological blackmailing and sanctions of the US and the West. Early implementation of the "BRI Digital Silk Initiative" would be a game changer.

Moreover, joint projects in artificial intelligence technologies should be pursued and implemented in all the BRI member countries which would be a value addition for the science & technological development among the BRI family.

A comprehensive and holistic "BRI Climate Change Initiative" should be initiated as soon as possible which would play a decisive role in the human survival and safety of the productive channels in the BRI member countries. Thus early execution of "BRI Green Silk Initiative" is the need of hour.

Global energy insecurity has already badly disturbed the confidence of economic recovery in the post COVID-19 period. Thus "BRI Energy Market or Bank" may be an effective policy shift.

More focus should be given to the development of "Blue and Green Hydrogen Fuels" and renewables with the option of transfer of technology among the BRI members enabling them to deal with their widening import bills and energy shortages.

Global food insecurity has become one of the main hurdles for world inflation and price hike. A "BRI Food Security Initiative" should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-us-punitive-measures-and-chinese-integrated-strategies-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

Control Room To Be Set Up For Security Of Chinese

FAISALABAD – A control room would be established in Faisalabad for providing foolproof security to the foreigners especially Chinese.

This was stated by City Police Officer (CPO) Umar Saeed Malik while visiting FIEDMC (Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company) area here on Tuesday.

He said that a large number of Chinese were working in various projects especially CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) related schemes in Faisalabad. Therefore, security of all foreigners especially Chinese would be beefed up, he said and directed SSP Operations Muhammad Afzal and SP Madina Town Division Nabeel Ahmad to ensure verification of security guards and workers on urgent basis.

He said that special cameras should also be installed in all police vans which were bound to conduct patrolling in FIEDMC area. He said that police was duty bound to provide tight security to all foreigners.

1,300 POLICEMEN DEPLOYED ON SECURITY OF ANTI-POLIO WORKERS

A five-day anti-polio vaccination campaign is underway in the district as 1,300 policemen are performing security duty. According to a police spokesman on Tuesday, the policemen were providing security to polio workers while a security squad and Elite Force teams would continue patrolling.

DPO M Tariq Aziz appealed to the public to cooperate with officials to ensure complete eradication of the disease from the country. Meanwhile, polio workers were visiting door to door to administer drops to children under the age of five years.

Meanwhile, FCCI has launched first ever “Loyalty Card” to facilitate its members with special offers and discounts by the leading international and national brands with a focus to improve the image of Faisalabad as the fastest growing city of Pakistan, said Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing the launching ceremony of the FCCI loyalty card, he said that this innovative and unique idea was conceived and materialized with the help of interns from LUMS & NTU. He was optimistic that this idea would earn popularity and acceptance among FCCI members and its scope would be further expanded in the coming days and years.

He said, “Faisalabad is one of the most vibrant cities of Pakistan but we could not brand it in proportion to its industrial and economic strength.” He said, “We have successfully utilized the talent of LUMS and NTU who have given best results within a period of only 90 days. The interns visited various cities to convince leading brands to ink MOU with FCCI,” adding that among these include educational institutes, health and hotels etc.

He said that the first MOU was inked with national flag carrier PIA that is offering special discounts on domestic and international flights to the FCCI members. “A special desk has also been established at Faisalabad International Airport to attend the FCCI members with a unique warmth and hospitality”, he said and added that currently this facility is available on existing FCCI cards while new loyalty cards would be issued very soon.

Mian M Idrees, former President FPCCI and FCCI, appreciated the loyalty card program and gave suggestions to further improve it. He was of the opinion that a focused approach is necessary to promote the branding of Faisalabad.

M Azhar Chaudhry, Project Chairman FCCI Loyalty Card Program, disclosed that some financial institutes are also intending to become part of it while “we are considering to print Bar Code or QR code to identify the FCCI members.” The interns gave a comprehensive presentation on the FCCI loyalty card program. Later Mian M Idrees thanked participants and presented bouquet to the partner companies.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/24/control-room-to-be-set-up-for-security-of-chinese/>

August 25, 2022

The Nation

Gwadar Then And Now: A Comparative Look

If compared with the past, Gwadar is passing through a positive change in terms of its outlook and public life. It is still in the phase of a transformation with flying colours. On the whole the people of Gwadar are witnessing a pragmatic and promising change in their living standards, livelihood, business, and socio-economic dynamics. The credit goes to China-led developments.

“Back in 2015, when I landed in Gwadar, I could hardly find any movement. Roads were congested. There was no luxury hotel, apart from PC, which too remained closed most of the time. Commercial activities in the city were close to none. But 7 years since then, the picture is different. Gwadar has developed, if not up to the expectations of the people, yet remarkably”, recalls Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company.

It is indeed a matter of fact that Gwadar has transformed from a small fishing town to a commercial and tourist hub. Undoubtedly, development is a progressive and time-taking process, and to say that Gwadar is set to be the commercial torchbearer for Pakistan would not be an overstatement. The infrastructural transmutation over the period was largely initiated during the early period of the port’s construction and later compounded by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The period from 2015 was particularly a watershed moment for Gwadar, thanks to President Xi Jin Ping’s stupendous One-Belt One Road mega project. Apart from the operationalisation of the port, China has undertaken several initiatives in Gwadar. East Bay Expressway (EBEW), New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), China-Pakistan Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCVTI), China-Pakistan 300 Bed Friendship Hospital, 1.2 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) desalination water plant, and several other infrastructural development projects are some of the China-funded schemes. Many of these projects such as EBEW and PCVTI are functional. Others are expected to be completed soon.

Since China’s takeover of Gwadar port in 2013, several direct and indirect benefits have been offered to the local community. Several job opportunities have been provided. With the ongoing process of industrialisation, especially in the Gwadar Free Zone, thousands of additional jobs will be created. Moreover, indirectly, Gwadar has benefitted considerably. The real estate and construction sectors in the city have been boosted. The tourism sector has gained traction, thanks

to the unpremeditated marketing due to CPEC. In addition to the infrastructure developments, Gwadar is witnessing multiple social welfare programs, such as Gwadar Women's Development Centre, aimed at skills development, women empowerment, and poverty alleviation. Furthermore, the planned projects can eventually make the locals self-sufficient. Moreover, China has so far installed over 7,000 solar panels in district Gwadar to provide efficient electricity to local users.

Gwadar port is functional with a remarkable capacity to process containers, bulk cargo, and LPG vessels. Hundreds of thousands of cargo pieces are processed annually. Recently, a web-based one custom (web) service has been instituted as well, which will accelerate the clearance process. In Gwadar Free Zone more than 50 companies, both from Pakistan and abroad, have been registered and are in the operational stage. Their areas of manufacturing/processing range from agriculture to trading, food processing, chemical fertilizer, metal processing, and agricultural production.

The Scientific Research Laboratory in the Free Zone, equipped with sophisticated technology, is working selflessly on modern techniques to explore new varieties of plants favourable to Gwadar's environment. So far they have cultivated several varieties of banana. Cultivation of other plants such as figs and king-grass which are seemingly unfeasible has made it possible for the local farmers to prospect new avenues of livelihood.

Apart from managing commercial activities, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), the concession-holder and operator of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, has undertaken several initiatives in the social sector, within the port premises and beyond. The China-Pakistan High School for girls in Faqeer Colony, which is governed by COPHC, has proved to be a great achievement in the education sector.

The Women Garments Factory and the goat farm in the Free Zone, in addition to skills enhancement, are a source of livelihood for the local workers. Besides, Chinese enterprises working in Gwadar, under the framework of CSR, extend a helping hand to their local brothers. During the floods earlier this year, COPHC reached the families on the outskirts of Gwadar. Edible items to 1000 affected families were distributed. Fishing nets were given to the local fishermen. Apart from social services, China has also strived to enhance the institutional efficiency of Gwadar. Motorcycles and laptops have been given to Gwadar Police to increase their productivity. For the pursuit of clean and green Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest has been established where more than 50,000 plants have been planted. This has improved the natural environment of Gwadar.

That is not the end. Gwadar is yet to achieve its full potential. With the construction of the breakwater, completion of the port's dredging process, and operationalisation of the international airport, Gwadar port will truly prove to be the engine of Pakistan's economic development. The industrialisation of the Gwadar Free Zone will start a new era for Pakistan's progress. With the commencement of manufacturing in the free zone, Pakistan will emerge as a production hub in

South Asia. Exports will increase, curtailing Pakistan's current account deficit and increasing the foreign reserves.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/25/gwadar-then-and-now-a-comparative-look/>

The News

China announces emergency aid for flood victims of Pakistan

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China expressed deep condolences and sympathies with the victims of flash floods in Balochistan and Sindh and announced the provision of emergency humanitarian aid, including tents and urgently-needed relief material.

A spokesman of the Chinese government on Wednesday said the emergency humanitarian aid, including 25,000 tents and relief materials, is being dispatched forthwith while 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, 50,000 tarpaulins and other reserves provided by China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) social and people's livelihood cooperation have been put into the frontline for relief.

“Red Cross Society of China has already provided emergency cash assistance of \$300,000 to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. “

“China has noticed that severe floods in Pakistan recently caused heavy casualties and property losses. We would like to express our deep sympathies to the victims and offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and the people hit in the disaster,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

“The statement shared by the Chinese Mission in Islamabad reminded us that China and Pakistan are true friends who shared weal and woes and had a fine tradition of helping each other in major natural disasters.

Since the floods in Pakistan, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed condolences to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto,” the spokesperson said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=121061>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستانی زرعی ماہر کا چین کیساتھ سمارٹ ایگریکلچر تعاون کے فروغ پر زور

راولپنڈی (آئی این پی) سمارٹ ایگریکلچر کا مقصد فصلوں کو ضرورت کے مطابق ان پیٹ فراہم کرنا اور پیداوار اور منافع میں اضافہ کیلئے کھاد، فصل کے بیج، کیڑے مار ادویات، فنگسائڈز وغیرہ کا درست استعمال کرنا ہے۔ ہم ڈرپ ایریگیشن اور ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی ایپلی کیشن سمیت مختلف تجربات کر رہے ہیں اور ہم جی پی ایس کی بنیاد پر مٹی کی زوننگ کرنے کے بعد مٹی کی فرٹیلائزیشن کیلئے ایک ماڈل تیار کرنے جارہے ہیں۔ چین پہلے ہی ان میں سے بیشتر چیزوں کو زیادہ تر انجام دے چکا ہے۔ ہم چین سے زمین کی زرخیزی کے سینسرز اور گندم کی کٹائی کی ٹیکنالوجی کی مدد لینا چاہتے ہیں۔

ان خیالات کا اظہار پی ایم اے ایس۔ ایرڈ ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی راولپنڈی کے شعبہ باغبانی کے چیئرمین پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد اعظم خان نے چائے اکنامک نیٹ کو ایک انٹرویو میں کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا جیسا کہ سی پیک دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے۔ مقامی لوگوں کی معیشت کو بہتر بنانے پر زیادہ زور دیا گیا ہے اور چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان بہت زیادہ زرعی تعاون ہو رہا ہے۔ چائے اکنامک نیٹ کے مطابق پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد اعظم خان اب پی ایم اے ایس ایرڈ ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی راولپنڈی میں سی پیک ایگریکلچر کو آپریشن سینٹر کے ڈائریکٹر کے طور پر بھی کام کر رہے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-25/page-12/detail-12>

چینی تو نسل جنرل راؤ شیرین کا پنجاب تیانجن یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی کا دورہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کے تو نسل جنرل راؤ شیرین نے گزشتہ روز پنجاب تیانجن یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی کا دورہ کیا اور مختلف شعبوں میں جاری تدریسی عمل کا جائزہ لیا۔ یونیورسٹی کے وائس چانسلر نے منصوبے کے بارے میں گفتگو کی۔ سیکرٹری صنعت و تجارت ڈاکٹر احمد جاوید قاضی، سی ای او پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ جلال حسن، ڈی جی پی سی پیک کے تحت پنجاب اور چین کے درمیان (PTUT) ایس ڈی اے اور یونیورسٹی کی انتظامیہ اور اساتذہ بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ پنجاب تیانجن یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی سماجی اقتصادی تعاون کا ایک تاریخی منصوبہ ہے۔ تو نسل جنرل کا دورہ ٹیونا (پنجاب) کے کنسورشیم اور چین کے تیانجن شہر کی 3 ٹیکنیکل یونیورسٹیوں تیانجن یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی اینڈ ایجوکیشن، تیانجن پولی ٹیکنیکل یونیورسٹی اور تیانجن یونیورسٹی کے کنسورشیم کے ذریعے قائم کیے گئے۔ اس تاریخی منصوبے کیلئے پنجاب اور چین کے درمیان جاری تعاون کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے تھا۔ سیکرٹری صنعت و تجارت ڈاکٹر احمد جاوید قاضی نے تو نسل جنرل کے دورے کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پنجاب تیانجن یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کے حوالے سے سنگ میل کی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔ دوطرفہ تعاون کے کو مزید فروغ دینے کی ضرورت ہے اور دوطرفہ تعاون کو بڑھانے کا یہی صحیح وقت ہے تاکہ انسانی وسائل کو متعلقہ اور جدید ترین مہارتوں اور تکنیکی علم سے آراستہ کر کے اسے صنعتی توسیع کیلئے استعمال کیا جاسکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-25/page-12/detail-2>

سی پیک اقتصادی زون کیلئے 3 ہزار ایکڑ اراضی کرنے کی تجویز

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی پیک کے تحت ضلع ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان میں درابن خصوصی اقتصادی زون کیلئے 3 ہزار ایکڑ اراضی مختص کرنے کی تجویز، پنجاب، خیبر پختونخوا اور بلوچستان صوبوں کے سنگم پر واقع درابن زون سی پیک مغربی روٹ سے منسلک، معدنی اور زرعی صنعتیں، فوڈ پروسیسنگ یونٹس، فارماسیو ٹیکل اور سٹیل کی صنعتیں قائم ہوگی۔ بیرونی سرمایہ کاری اور روزگار میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت پنجاب، خیبر پختونخوا اور بلوچستان صوبوں کے سنگم پر قائم کیے جانے والے ضلع ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان میں درابن خصوصی اقتصادی زون کیلئے تقریباً 3 ہزار ایکڑ اراضی مختص کرنے کی تجویز ہے اور اسے خیبر پختونخوا میں سب سے بڑا اقتصادی زون بنانے کا منصوبہ ہے جہاں غیر ملکیوں سمیت مقامی سرمایہ کار اپنی مصنوعات افغانستان، وسطی ایشیا اور اس سے باہر ممالک کو برآمد کر سکیں گے۔ خیبر پختونخوا اکنامک زونز ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ مینجمنٹ کمپنی کے مارکیٹنگ اور کمیونیکیشن آفیسر ارباب ہارون نے بتایا کہ درابن زون ایک مثالی جگہ پر واقع ہے جو سی پیک کے مغربی روٹ سے صرف 2 کلومیٹر کے فاصلے پر ہے۔ درابن زون مربوط انفراسٹرکچر فراہم کر کے سرمایہ کاروں کو راغب کرے گا۔ درابن زون میں مختلف قسم کے صنعتی یونٹس قائم کیے جائیں گے جن میں معدنی اور زرعی صنعتیں، فوڈ پروسیسنگ یونٹس، فارماسیو ٹیکل اور سٹیل کی صنعتیں شامل ہیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-25/page-12/detail-21>

August 26, 2022

The Nation

China Offered To Set Up Industry At Dhabeji SEZ For Export Purpose

ISLAMABAD – Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Syed Murtaza Mahmud here on Thursday offered China to set up its industry in 1,500-acre Dhabeji Special Economic Zone in Sindh, manufacture products there and export to the world.

The minister was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who called him, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Industries. Both the dignitaries exchanged views on range of bilateral issues of mutual interest and cooperation, it added. The minister asked the Chinese companies, already working in mobile manufacturing, automobile and other sectors in Pakistan, to bring more investment keeping in view cheap and competitive labour in the country. For export promotion, the minister said both the countries could work together on long term policies and exchange ideas with regard to exporting zones. He said currently 700 processing zones were working in China while only 8 processing zones were operational in Pakistan. He said Pakistan had a great potential in agriculture sector especially fruits could be exported to China after its value addition. He also stressed the need to increase volume of chilli export although Pakistan was already exporting the commodity to China.

The minister informed the ambassador that the floods incurred heavy loss to the agricultural sector, especially different crops were damaged badly. On the occasion, the ambassador told the minister that China had given financial assistance to flood affectees through Red Crescent Society and Chinese companies working in Pakistan were being mobilized for fund raising for the purpose. Chinese ambassador assured the minister of supporting Pakistani agricultural sector through modern technology and trained management to enhance yield of crops.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/26/china-offered-to-set-up-industry-at-dhabeji-sez-for-export-purpose/>

Exports To China Set To Cross \$4 Billion Target This Year

BEIJING – Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that Pakistan’s exports to China had registered an upward trend in the first seven months of current year and with this momentum, exports were likely to cross \$4 billion target by end of this year.

“Our exports to China remained at US\$3.6 billion with a record increase last year and with this momentum, we are likely to cross US\$4 billion target this year”, he said while talking to a group of businessmen here. Ambassador Haque called upon the businessmen and traders to join hands with the Government of Pakistan and embassy to further enhance exports from Pakistan to China and invited them to propose different means and methods. “On our part, we have already established Pakistan pavilions in different cities to aware the Chinese buyers and customers about Pakistani products and are also using online platforms like JD.Com to sell Pakistani

products in China”, he added. He informed that agreements with other popular online platforms would soon be signed to seek their cooperation in promoting Pakistani products in the Chinese online market which was world’s largest ecommerce market. Ambassador Haque remarked that Pakistani enterprises could take benefit from offline and online platforms to sell Pakistani goods in wake of China’s import-friendly policies. According to a senior official here, Pakistan’s exports to China increased even when trade decreased with other countries in the month of July, showing the commitment of the government to enhance bilateral trade.

“It is very promising that Pakistan’s exports to China are growing. The Government of Pakistan is keen to harness the real potential of exports through value addition, digital marketing, export-oriented investments, and encouraging enterprises from both countries to make Pakistan an integral part of China’s supply chain”, he added. An economic expert said that China had opened up its market for Pakistani goods. The two countries could benefit from long-term relationships and Pakistani traders could export more goods to China which was the second largest economy in the world. “Pakistan can become a food basket for China because the Chinese market is huge and has good buying power, therefore Pakistan should take advantage of its good relationship and China can help relocate its industries and technologies to Pakistan to increase its exports”, he added. The exports of major products to China increased in rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts, seafood, and other agricultural products, which has promoted Pakistan’s economic recovery.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/26/exports-to-china-set-to-cross-4-billion-target-this-year/>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 27
اور دیگر مہنگے خاص متاثر ہونے والے ایک افراد میں
انہوں نے کہا کہ سابق دور حکومت میں عمران خان
کی قیادت میں ہی ایک کے منصوبوں سے فائدہ نہیں
ہوا اور ایک کو مزید فروغ دینے کی کوشش جاری
رہی۔ چینی قرضوں میں بڑھنے کے ساتھ ساتھ
مطلوبات قفل ہیں، انہوں نے تمام شعبوں میں کام
آگے بڑھانے کی کوشش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ
منصوبوں میں تاخیر کی وجہ سے سیاسی محافل میں جھگڑے
سب سے بڑی وجہ عالمی وبا اور دوسرا سیکر رٹی کا
مخاطر تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاروں کی سب
سے اولین توثیق سیکر رٹی ہونا ہے، اس کے بغیر
پروڈیکٹ ٹیکر کے لیے کام کمزوروں کے مطابق جاری
رہنا مشکل ہو جاتا ہے۔ چینی قرضوں میں بڑھنے
کے بعد منصوبوں میں پاکستانی پالیسیوں میں تبدیلی
کی وجہ سے قفل آیا جس کی وجہ سے چینی سرمایہ
کاروں اور ایک کے منصوبوں پر خطرہ آ کر سنے والی
عم کو توثیق ہے تاہم انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر پچیس
کھو سائل کا سامنا ہے لیکن ہم ان سائل کو حل کر لیں
کے اور اس پر توجہ دینی ہم کام کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے
کہا کہ پاکستانی اور چینی ہم بڑی محنت سے ان منصوبوں
پر توجہ سے کام کر رہے ہیں۔

عمران حکومت میں سی پیک کرونا سے متاثر ہوا، چین
منصوبوں پر سے توجہ نہیں بنائی بلکہ مزید فروغ دینے کیلئے کوششیں جاری
کچھ منصوبوں کی پالیسیوں میں تبدیلی کی وجہ سے توثیق ہے جلد مل کر لینے قرضوں
کا چینی (این آئی) کر پٹی میں توجہ۔ منصوبے کسی حد تک متاثر ہوئے ہیں، جس کی سب
بھین کے قرضوں میں کمی بیجا بن گئی ہے۔ بڑی وجہ عالمی وبا اور وائرس کی گونج رہی ہے
پاک بھین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے کچھ سے سہاٹی، بی اوار (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 27)

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

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

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کی 9ویں سالگرہ: چینی سفیر، احسن اقبال نے کیک کاٹا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ یہ کہنا درست نہیں کہ کرپشن کی وجہ سے پاکستان ترقی نہیں کر سکا۔ ”نجی سرمایہ کاری اور سی پیک سے فوائد اٹھانا“ کے موضوع پر رپورٹ لاجنگ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر کوئی کہتا ہے کہ پاکستانی قوم کرپشن کی وجہ سے ترقی نہیں کر سکی، غلط ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اتنی ہی کرپٹ ہے جتنی کہ دوسری اقوام۔ پاکستان چین میں سالانہ 2 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کرتے ہیں۔ چینی حکومت پاکستانی برآمد کنندگان کی مدد کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ گزشتہ 4 سال ضائع کر دیئے۔ ہمیں غلطیوں سے سیکھنا ہو گا تاکہ مزید غلطیاں نہ کریں۔ چینی کمپنیوں اور سرمایہ کاروں کے ویزا مسائل حل کرنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ مل کر کام کریں گے تو یقیناً سی پیک یہ کم چمنجر ثابت ہو گا۔ چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ کی طرف سے عشائیہ دیا گیا، اس موقع پر احسن اقبال، نوٹنگ روٹنگ کی نویں سالگرہ کا کیک کاٹا گیا، دونوں برادر ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کو فروغ اور سی پی کے منصوبوں کو دوبارہ فعال کرنے پر اتفاق ہوا۔ چینی سفیر نے پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات کے فروغ دینے کیلئے تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ ادھر اقوام متحدہ کے ورلڈ فوڈ پروگرام کی خصوصی مشیر، اردن کی شہزادی سارا زید نے وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل اور وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال سے الگ ملاقاتیں کیں۔ وزیر خزانہ نے شہزادی سارا زید رعد کا پرتپاک خیر مقدم کیا اور پاکستان میں انسانی ہمدردی کی بنیاد پر عالمی ادارہ خوراک کی مسلسل معاونت پر ڈبلیو ایف پی کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ ملاقات میں خواتین کی ترقی، زچہ و بچہ کی صحت، غذائی سہولیات اور بچوں کی تعلیم سمیت کئی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ شہزادی سارا زید رعد نے کہا کہ ڈبلیو ایف پی کی جانب سے پاکستان میں مختلف شعبوں میں معاونت فراہم کی جا رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے پاکستان میں وفاقی اور صوبوں کی سطح پر ڈبلیو ایف پی کے ساتھ تعاون کی تعریف کی۔ پروفیسر احسن اقبال سے اقوام متحدہ کے ورلڈ فوڈ پروگرام کی خصوصی مشیر اردن کی شہزادی سارا زید نے ملاقات کی۔ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی پروفیسر احسن اقبال نے صحت کے شعبہ میں بالخصوص بچوں میں غذائیت کی کمی، زچہ و بچہ کہ دیکھ بھال جیسے مسائل کو اجاگر کرنے پر زور دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-26/page-1/detail-20>

August 27, 2022

Daily Times

China to provide technical support to Punjab Police

Inspector General Police Punjab Faisal Shahkar has said that the Punjab Police is ensuring foolproof measures for the security of all foreigners, especially Chinese citizens, experts and investors, who come for business or private purposes in different districts of the province. IG Punjab said that we are taking all possible measures for the security of Chinese citizens' residences as well as working sites and offices.

IG Punjab said that the experiences of friendly country China will be benefited to increase the efficiency of the police force. Talking about the Special Protection Unit (SPU) responsible for the security of Chinese citizens, IG Punjab said that the specially trained personnel of SPU are performing the security duties of Chinese citizens in all the districts of the province with full zeal. IGP added that full security measures in this regard are being further improved with effective supervision. IG Punjab expressed these views today during a meeting with the Chinese Consul General, Lahore, Mr. Zhao Shiren at the Central Police Office.

In the meeting, the security of Chinese citizens, experts and investors residing in Punjab was discussed. Chinese Consul General Lahore Mr. Zhao Shiren appreciated the performance of Special Protection Unit and Punjab Police for the protection of Chinese citizens.

The Chinese Consul General expressed his sympathy for the loss of life and property in the flood affected areas in Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan. Chinese Deputy Consulate General, DIG Operations Punjab Waqas Nazir and other officers were also present on the occasion.

At the end of the meeting, commemorative souvenirs were also exchanged between IG Punjab and Chinese Consul General.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/988008/china-to-provide-technical-support-to-punjab-police/>

August 28, 2022

Daily Times

Chinese firms seek 20-year tax holiday in Pakistan's SEZs

The Chinese companies working in Pakistan want the government to offer a 20-year tax holiday in special economic zones to make Pakistan an attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

“I believe that the Pakistani government can consider the 20-year tax exemption policy for SEZs. Because in my opinion, only flexible policies can form certain advantages and attract more investors to choose Pakistan instead of other potential countries,” said Yang Jiandou, Chairman of All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association (APCEA), in an exclusive interview with Daily Times. “Long-term care and support for investors is of utmost importance. Investors who come to invest in Pakistan will definitely encounter many problems, and most of them cannot be solved by themselves, so they need long-term care and support from the local government and partners,” he said to a question as to what will be his top three recommendations to policymakers to make the environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

“It is essentially valuable for the Chinese investors to have the support of the Pakistani government and local partners. It is necessary for the Chinese investors, to have the specific channels for addressing their concerns and have them resolved within a certain period of time. In this way, the investor feels cared for and well-supported. He will not only invest himself, but also introduce more investors and endorse the business sector of Pakistan. In this process, local investors and companies in Pakistan can grow and develop, and eventually evolve into regional or world-renowned enterprises,” he further said.

“A good reputation – as far as I know, many investors place great importance on the credibility of the government and local private sector companies, rather than the benefits of the project itself,” the APCEA Chairman said, narrating his another recommendation. “A good reputation will increase the confidence of investors. There is a saying in China that ‘trust is more precious than gold’. Maintaining a stable and good reputation is a long-term work, depending on a period

of 10 to 30 years,” he continued. “As long as an investor comes to Pakistan for inspection, even if he does not invest in the end, he will create employment opportunities in Pakistan’s aviation, hospitality and service industries, and will naturally generate taxes,” Mr Yang added.

To a question as to which sectors would you like to recommend for the Chinese investors to invest in SEZs in Pakistan, he replied, “The advancements in energy and transportation/infrastructure sectors in the first phase of the CPEC have greatly paved way and laid a firm foundation for the development of SEZs, hence attracting many Chinese investors. Although, the current circumstances are somewhat complicated especially with the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan has its own distinctive orientation and an advantage of human resources,” he said. “According to the assessment of APECA, an increasing number of Chinese industrialists and investors are seeking collaborations with the local industries to secure win-win situations. Their present priorities include; enhancing the trade/business facilitation between Pakistan and China in the field of business services and logistics industry, increasing Pakistan’s potential and physical industrial capabilities at the automotive industry and textile industry, as well as improving the digital capacity building in the information industry, etc,” he further said. “I believe that industrial cooperation will continue to expand, and will certainly be extended to other fields,” he hoped.

To a question as to what role Chinese companies can play in producing skilled labour for win-win benefits both for Pakistan and Chinese investors, Mr Yang said, “I think Pakistan has good resources of skilled labor. For example, the company that I work for, POWERCHINA, already has a huge amount of skilled Pakistani labor active in various projects across Middle East, and even some excellent technical personnel are providing support to our projects in Eastern Europe and Africa. However, it is worthy to mention that Pakistan lacks skilled labor in some of the emerging industries. To overcome these gaps, I think local training institutes and Chinese companies need to work together to meet the international standards.”

“Chinese vocational training institutions are seeking cooperation with Pakistani training institutions to enhance skilled labor ability; Huawei also has a “Seed for Future Program” that continuously attracts Pakistani youth interested in the IT sector to enhance their skills. For this reason, many Chinese companies have launched several student aid programs. For example, the CRBC Hundred-Student Scholarship Program has funded 50 students to study in China so far; CPHGC has sponsored 30 students from Balochistan to go to China for training, of which 27 technicians participated in the construction of the Hub project. Some Chinese enterprises have also established local schools offering free technical training for the local youth. For example, Huaneng Sahiwal Power Plant has established a vocational and technical training school, which is free for the society to recruit students, and can produce 600-800 Pakistani youths every year with professional and technical training in Chinese, as well as welders, electricians, thermal power simulators and other professional and technical training,” the APCEA Chairman said.

“I would like to acknowledge that the Pakistani government has already established mechanisms for Chinese companies and investors to put forward their concerns and many issues have been resolved.”

“In addition, some companies have signed MOU with local colleges also. For example, Bank of China Karachi Branch signed a MOU with Confucius Institute in Karachi to provide various types of internship positions for local students; Energy China Gezhouba Dasu Project Department signed a MOU with COMSATS University to cooperate in scientific research, and other fields to harness the talents of the youth and pursue the goals of high-quality development together. I believe that with the in-depth investment and long-term development of Chinese companies in Pakistan, this gap will be reduced. APCEA will also provide active support and guidance in this regard,” he maintained.

On a question about political and security-related factors impacting Chinese investments in Pakistan, Mr Yang said, “I think the political stability of a location plays an important role in securing the confidence of the investors. Even more so, the security conditions and safety is a matter of utmost concern for the Chinese investors. We are well-aware that Pakistan has been working with laudable determination to overcome the security issues and has made successful efforts in this regard. Pakistan and China have maintained their collaborations and their ironclad bond through all scenarios. We are positive that with the continuation of this spirit, all such factors can be eliminated.”

About problems being faced by Chinese investors in Pakistan, Mr Yang said, “I think there are some general issues. The consistency and continuity of relevant policies is a crucial issue. Well-regulated policies, especially those pertaining to taxation, increase the confidence of investors. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge that the Pakistani government has already established mechanisms for Chinese companies and investors to put forward their concerns and many issues have been resolved, consequently. However, some problems may take relatively longer to be addressed due to inter-departmental or intra-departmental issues that may arise. But, with the continued support of our Pakistani counterparts, such little hurdles can surely be omitted.”

“The consistency and continuity of policies is a crucial issue. Well-regulated policies, especially those pertaining to taxation, increase the confidence of investors.”

“When we talk about industrial parks, aside the land and policies, the operation of an industrial park requires many auxiliary projects, all of which are of indispensable importance such as; electricity, gas, water, transportation, human resources, visas for the foreigners, etc. So issues might be encountered in these regards but they can certainly be considered and resolved in advance,” Mr Yang said.

“Established with the similar goals, Pakistan-China Business & Investment Forum (PCBIF), is our joint collaboration with Board of Investment (PMU-CPEC-ICDP). It has been endorsed by the government of Pakistan and China in a joint statement. One of the key aspects of this platform and its (soon-to-be launched) website is not only to guide and facilitate industrial/B2B

endeavours but also address, and resolve, the difficulties and problems that Chinese enterprises face while operating businesses in Pakistan,” Mr Yang added.

The APCEA is an influential organization with more than 200 member Chinese enterprises and organizations based in Pakistan. It strives to enhance the economic and social cooperation between the member and local enterprises/ organizations – thus elevating China-Pakistan diplomatic ties. It has successfully established an avenue that facilitates mutual business ventures as well as economic and social connectivity. Currently, APCEA has three branches operating in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. Its member enterprises sustain projects all across Pakistan in various sectors ranging from energy, aviation, infrastructure, textile, and telecommunication to industrial manufacturing, mining, and minerals.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/988744/chinese-firms-seek-20-year-tax-holiday-in-pakistans-sezs/>

Gwadar undergoes repaid transformation under China-led developments: report

Gwadar is undergoing repaid transformation phase under China-led developments, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. Compared with the past, Gwadar is passing through a promising and positive change in terms of its outlook and public life. It is still in the phase of transformation with flying colors.

According to the reports, the people of Gwadar are witnessing the change in their living standards, livelihood, business, and socio-economic dynamics. Credit goes to China-led developments indeed. It is a matter of fact that Gwadar has been transformed from a small fishing town to a commercial and tourist hub. Undoubtedly, development is a progressive and time-taking process, and to say that Gwadar is set to be the commercial torchbearer for Pakistan would not be an overstatement.

The infrastructural transmutation over the period was largely initiated during the early period of the port’s construction and later compounded by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The period from 2015 was particularly a watershed moment for Gwadar, thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative. Apart from the operationalization of the port, China has undertaken a number of initiatives in Gwadar. East Bay Expressway (EBEW), New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), China-Pakistan Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCVTI), China-Pakistan 300 Bed Friendship Hospital, 1.2 million Gallons per Day (MGD) desalination water plant, and a number of other infrastructural development projects are some of the China-funded schemes.

Many of these projects such as EBEW and PCVTI are functional. Others are expected to be completed soon. Since China’s takeover of Gwadar port in 2013, a number of direct and indirect benefits have been offered to the local community. Several job opportunities have been provided. With the ongoing process of industrialization, especially in Gwadar Free Zone, thousands of additional jobs will be created. Moreover, indirectly, Gwadar has been benefitted considerably.

The real estate and construction sectors in the city have been boosted. The tourism sector has gained traction, thanks to the unpremeditated marketing due to CPEC. In addition to the infrastructure developments, Gwadar is witnessing multiple social welfare programs, such as Gwadar Women's Development Centre, aimed at skills development, women empowerment, and poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, the planned projects can eventually make the locals self-sufficient. Moreover, China has so far installed over 7,000 solar panels in district Gwadar to provide efficient electricity to local users. Gwadar port is functional with a remarkable capacity to process containers, bulk cargo, and LPG vessels. Hundreds of thousands of cargo is processed annually. Recently, a web-based custom (weboc) service has been instituted as well, which will accelerate the clearance process. In Gwadar Free Zone, more than 50 companies, both from Pakistan and abroad, have been registered and are in the operational stage.

The areas of manufacturing/ processing range from agriculture to trading, food processing, chemical fertilizer, metal processing and agricultural production.

The Scientific Research Laboratory in Free Zone equipped with sophisticated technology is working selflessly on modern techniques to explore new varieties of plants favorable to Gwadar's environment. So far, they have cultivated several varieties of bananas.

Cultivation of other plants such as figs and king-grass which are seemingly unfeasible has made it possible for the local farmers to prospect new avenues of livelihood.

Apart from managing commercial activities, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), the concession-holder and operator of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, has undertaken a number of initiatives in the social sector, within the port premises and beyond.

The China-Pakistan High School for girls in Faqeer Colony, which is governed by COPHC, has proved to be a great achievement in the education sector.

The Women Garments Factory and the goat farm in the Free Zone, in addition to skills enhancement, are a source of livelihood for the local workers.

Besides, Chinese enterprises working in Gwadar, under the framework of CSR, extend a helping hand to their local brothers. During the floods earlier this year, COPHC reached the families on the outskirts of Gwadar. Edible items to 1000 affected families were distributed.

Fishing nets were given to the local fishermen. Apart from social services, China has also striven to enhance the institutional efficiency of Gwadar. Motorcycles and laptops have been given to Gwadar Police to increase their productivity.

For the pursuit of clean and green Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest was established where more than 50,000 plants have been planted. This has improved the natural environment of Gwadar.

This is not the end. Gwadar is yet to achieve its full potential. With the construction of the breakwater, completion of the port's dredging process and operationalization of the international airport, Gwadar port will truly prove to be the engine of Pakistan's economic development.

The industrialization of the Gwadar Free Zone will start a new era for Pakistan's progress. With the commencement of manufacturing in the free zone, Pakistan will emerge as a production hub in South Asia. Exports will increase, curtailing Pakistan's current account deficit and increasing the foreign reserves.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/988740/gwadar-undergoes-repaid-transformation-under-china-led-developments-report/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China join hands in weather observation

A lidar station set up at the University of Peshawar can provide atmospheric clouds, aerosols, temperature, humidity and other data concerning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) area, and facilitate research on climate change, pollution and sand storm.

The station was put into use in Peshawar, Pakistan earlier this month for climate observation under a Belt and Road project jointly undertaken by Chinese and Pakistani universities, according to People Daily.

Jointly built by the two universities, the station is the most advanced climate and environment observation station in Pakistan, according to Huang Zhongwei, a professor with the Lanzhou University based in northwest China Gansu province. The Peshawar station is part of a lidar network that also includes eight stations in northwest China's Gansu Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Combining the lidar network and weather satellites, scientists have built a regional comprehensive weather monitoring system, which will help them build a high-quality database, develop a weather disaster warning system and meet the needs in building new energy, transportation and other key infrastructure, according to Huang. Preparation to build the station started as early as in 2018. Key equipment provided by Chinese side were sent to Pakistan last year.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-join-hands-in-weather-observation/>

The Express Tribune

PBC for addressing concerns

Asks govt to resolve issues faced by Chinese firms to attract FDI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Business Council (PBC) in a research report launched recently called for resolving the issues faced by Chinese investors to attract further direct investment from China.

The report, “Catalysing Private Investment in Pakistan; Leveraging the CPEC Opportunity”, noted that China has been the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for Pakistan since 2015.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has afforded Pakistan a unique opportunity to galvanise private investment and FDI, and transform its economy, it stated.

The report noted that Pakistan attracted a relatively modest share of around 5% of China’s outward FDI in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries since 2015, adding that the country has not been able to successfully leverage CPEC to catalyse domestic private investment, non-CPEC Chinese investment and non-China FDI.

According to the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA), a total of 202 Chinese firms are operating in Pakistan.

PBC, in collaboration with APCEA, surveyed 16 larger Chinese businesses in Pakistan to ascertain the main issues and challenges being faced by them, and compiled the same in the report to stress upon the policymakers to address concerns of Chinese enterprises to attract more Chinese investors.

Based upon the findings of the survey, PBC called for clearing contractual payments to the Chinese investors, including capacity payments to Chinese independent power producers (IPPs), interest on accumulated arrears as well as liquidation damages.

In the survey, four Chinese IPPs reported payment arrears and stuck amounts of up to Rs170 billion (around \$912 million).

The report also called for addressing taxation-related issues faced by Chinese companies, including “arbitrary, inconsistent and unfair application of tax codes by the central and provincial tax collectors”.

The report called for putting an end to large tax demands, reopening of settled cases, frequent audits and withholding of tax refunds to Chinese firms.

Security issues as well as localised law and order concerns were also highlighted mainly by Chinese firms operating in remote areas of Sindh, Balochistan and the northern parts of the country.

Delays in granting licensing approvals or one-time tariff adjustment, cumbersome procedure for utilities (electricity, water, gas) as well as visa issues are also among the key challenges faced by Chinese firms operating in Pakistan, the report added.

The report suggested floating sovereign CPEC bonds to clear outstanding dues to Chinese investors in the power sector.

It called for allowing Chinese companies to conduct foreign exchange hedging and to hold foreign debt repayment reserves in foreign exchange.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2373471/psc-for-addressing-concerns>

August 29, 2022

Daily Times

China stands solidly behind Pakistan amid floods

China stands solidly behind Pakistan amid floods, as the Chinese Embassy is highly active these days to support Pakistan at this hour of distress. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong held several meetings over the weekend to discuss the flood situation with the Pakistani leaders and hand over Chinese donations to the Pakistani government. The Chinese envoy held meetings among others with federal ministers Shazain Bugti and Ahsan Iqbal to assure China's unwavering support during this difficult time. "Had a fruitful discussion with Shahzain Bugti, Minister for Narcotic's Control. He highly appreciated the emergency humanitarian assistance from the Chinese government for flood relief, including to Balochistan. We are with Pak in times of difficulties," Ambassador Nong Rong tweeted after a meeting on Saturday afternoon.

Earlier, the envoy held a meeting with Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives). he tweeted as he handed over the Pakistani Rs 15 million donation to PM Relief Fund by Chinese companies. "China is always together with Pakistan to overcome the flood disaster and pull through at an early date," Ambassador Nong Rong added. A few days earlier, China expressed deep condolences and sympathies with the victims of flash floods in Balochistan and Sindh and announced the provision of emergency humanitarian aid, including tents and urgently-needed relief material. A spokesman of the Chinese government said the emergency humanitarian aid, including 25,000 tents and relief materials, was dispatched forthwith, while 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, 50,000 tarpaulins and other reserves provided by China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) social and people's livelihood cooperation had been put into the frontline for relief.

"Red Cross Society of China has already provided emergency cash assistance of (US) \$300,000 to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society," the spokesman informed. He further stated: "China has noticed that severe floods in Pakistan recently caused heavy casualties and property losses. We would like to express our deep sympathies to the victims and offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and the people hit in the disaster." The Chinese spokesman mentioned that the "statement shared by the Chinese Mission in Islamabad reminded us that China and Pakistan are true friends who shared weal and woes and had a fine tradition of helping each other in major natural disasters. Since the floods in Pakistan, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed condolences to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/988885/china-stands-solidly-behind-pakistan-amid-floods/>

Jang News

چین کا پاکستان کو ہنگامی بنیاد پر امداد کی اضافی کھیپ دینے کا فیصلہ

چین نے پاکستان میں آئے تباہ کن سیلاب کی معلومات کو دل دہلا دینے والی قرار دیا ہے۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان ژاؤ لی جیان نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان ہنگامی بنیاد پر انسانی امداد کی اضافی کھیپ دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ عالمی موسمیاتی رد عمل میں پاکستان سے تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، چین اپنے دوست ملک کو سیلاب سے متعلق امداد اور تعمیر نو میں مزید مدد دے گا۔

ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان میں تباہ کن سیلاب کی معلومات دل دہلا دینے والی ہیں، مشکل وقت میں دل کی گہرائیوں کے ساتھ پاکستان کے ساتھ ہیں۔

اُن کا کہنا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کی خوشی اور غم میں شریک ہیں، ہم موسمی اسٹریٹجک تعاون میں بھی شراکت دار ہیں۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے یہ بھی کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے پاکستانی ہم منصب سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کو 4 ہزار ٹن، 50 ہزار ٹن، 50 ہزار ٹن پائیس فراہم کی ہیں، ہم نے ہنگامی انسانی امداد کی اضافی کھیپ دینے کا بھی فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ چینی ریڈ کراس پاکستان ریڈ کریسنٹ کو 3 لاکھ امریکی ڈالر نقد دے گی۔

اُن کا کہنا تھا کہ آل پاکستانی چائنیز انٹرنیشنل ایسوسی ایشن نے سیلاب ریلیف فنڈ میں ڈیڑھ کروڑ روپے عطیہ دیا، چینی سفارتخانہ پاکستان میں اور پاکستانی سفارتخانہ چین میں فنڈ ریز کے لیے رابطے میں ہے۔

ژاؤ لی جیان نے اس یقین کا اظہار بھی کیا کہ پاکستانی اس آفت پر قابو پالیں گے اور جلد ہی اپنے گھر دوبارہ تعمیر کریں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1129574>

Nawaiwaqt News

ریلوے کو چین سے جدید 230 کوچز کی پہلی کھیپ دسمبر میں ملے گی

کراچی (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستان ریلوے کو چین سے جدید ترین 230 ریلوے کوچز کی پہلی کھیپ دسمبر میں مل جائے گی۔ پاکستان میں ریل سے سفر کرنے والے شہریوں کیلئے خوشخبری ہے کہ اب پاکستان میں بھی ترقی یافتہ ملکوں کی طرح ریلوے کا جدید ترین سفر کرنے کا وقت جلد آ رہا ہے۔ موجودہ حکومت کی کوششوں سے پاکستان ریلوے نے جدید ترین سہولیات سے آراستہ ان کوچز کا آرڈر چند ماہ قبل دیا تھا۔ آرام دہ اور 160 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ کی رفتار سے چلنے کیلئے موزوں یہ کوچز چین میں تیار ہو رہی ہیں۔ یہ کوچز دنیا کے جدید ترین ریلوے نظام کے ہم پلہ ہیں اور تمام جدید ترین سہولتوں سے آراستہ ہیں۔ بویگوں پر پاکستان ریلوے کا سبز رنگ کیا گیا ہے۔ پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کی جانب سے ان کوچز کی تصاویر سوشل میڈیا پر پوسٹ کی گئی ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-29/page-6/detail-1>

عالمی چیلنجر: چین کیساتھ ڈیجیٹل کنیکٹیوٹی کو ڈیجیٹل اکانومی سے لیس کرنا ضروری

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) ابھرتے ہوئے عالمی چیلنجر سے نمٹنے کیلئے ترقی یافتہ ممالک خصوصاً چین کے ساتھ ڈیجیٹل کنیکٹیوٹی کے ذریعے پاکستان کو ڈیجیٹل اکانومی سے پوری طرح کے زیر اہتمام ”گلوبل ڈیجیٹل گورننس“ کے موضوع پر سیمینار میں کلیدی مقرر کی حیثیت (GREF) لیس کرنا وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ گزشتہ روز گولڈرنگ اکنامک فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی ٹیکس محتسب کے کوآرڈینیٹر مہر کاشف یونس نے کہا کہ چین، امریکہ اور یورپی یونین اپنے جامع، مستحکم اور باصلاحیت سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی نظام کی

بدولت عالمی ڈیجیٹل جیو پالیسیکل منظر نامے کے تین قطب بن گئے ہیں جب کہ مجموعی طور پر چین اور یورپی یونین کا امریکہ کے ساتھ نمایاں فرق موجود ہے۔ ڈیجیٹل اکانومی میں امریکہ 13.1 ٹریلیون ڈالر کے ساتھ پہلے نمبر پر ہے اس کے بعد چین 5.2 ٹریلیون ڈالر، جرمنی 2.44 ٹریلیون ڈالر، جاپان 2.39 ٹریلیون ڈالر، برطانیہ 1.7 ٹریلیون ڈالر اور فرانس 1.17 ٹریلیون ڈالر کی سطح پر ہیں۔ چینی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی ہواوے مواصلات اور چپ ڈیزائن جیسے متعدد دہائی ٹیک شعبوں میں امریکہ کی اجارہ داری ختم کر رہی ہے۔ اس پس منظر میں چین اور یورپی یونین کے تعلقات بہت سٹریٹجک اہمیت کے حامل ہیں کیونکہ امریکہ دیگر ممالک کی پرواہ کیے بغیر اپنے نیٹ ورکس اور مفادات کا تحفظ کرتا ہے۔ ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی کی طاقت خاموشی مگر شدت کے ساتھ موجودہ جغرافیائی حدود اور دفاعی نظام کو متاثر کر رہی ہے اور اس کے زیر اثر بین الاقوامی قواعد و ضوابط کی تشکیل نو بتدریج عالمی سطح پر سامنے آئے گی۔ بڑی عالمی طاقتوں کے مابین مقابلہ و مسابقت مزید بڑھے گی اور صورت حال مزید پیچیدہ ہوتی جائے گی جس کا مزید بہتر اور موثر انداز میں جواب دینے کی ضرورت محسوس ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-29/page-10/detail-16>

August 30, 2022

Daily Times

China pledges all-out help to flood-stricken Pakistan

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a message of condolence to his Pakistani counterpart, Arif Alvi, over the severe floods hitting the country.

The Chinese president noted that severe floods have occurred recently in Pakistan, causing heavy casualties and serious property losses. Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in his own name, expressed deep condolences over the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families, the injured and the people in the affected areas.

Xi pointed out that as all-weather strategic cooperative partners and “ironclad” friends, China and Pakistan have been sharing weal and woe for a long time, reaching out to each other and responding to major challenges such as natural disasters side by side. After the floods struck, China has responded immediately, and will continue to provide urgently needed assistance to Pakistan and support the country in its disaster relief work, he said.

Xi also said he believes that with the joint efforts of the Pakistani government and people, those in the disaster-hit areas will surely overcome the flood and rebuild their homes as early as possible. On the same day, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a message of condolence to Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif

China will continue to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in disaster prevention and mitigation as well as global climate response and provide more assistance to Pakistan in its flood relief efforts and post disaster reconstruction, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Monday. “Recently, on television, through newspapers and online, we have seen a lot of information on the ravaging floods in Pakistan, which are heart wrenching,” he said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP regarding devastated floods caused by heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan.

The spokesperson said, “China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperative partners and true friends and good brothers sharing weal and woe. Since, Pakistan was hit by the floods, our thoughts have been with the people in the affected areas. We feel deeply for the Pakistani side in this difficult time.” He informed that China’s State Councilor and a Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed sympathy to his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari upon learning the news of the floods. Zhao Lijian said, under the social and Livelihood Cooperation Framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has provided 4000 tents 50,000 blankets and 50,000 pieces of tarpaulins to Pakistan. They have been delivered to the frontline of disaster relief.

He remarked a ruthless disaster can bring out the best of humanity, adding, “We will not forget that in the wake of the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, the brotherly Pakistani people rushed to our assistance and sent all their tents in reserve to the earthquake-stricken area in China. The Chinese people were deeply moved.” Now as the Pakistani people grapple with the floods, the Chinese side is standing with them. Going forward, China will continue to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in disaster prevention and mitigation and global climate response and provide more assistance to Pakistan in its flood relief efforts and post disaster reconstruction.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/989645/china-pledges-all-out-help-to-flood-stricken-pakistan/>

Pakistan to participate in CIFTIS supply chain, business services exhibition in Beijing

Pakistan is all set to participate in the supply chain and business services exhibition of the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) to be held in Beijing from September 1 to 5, featuring renowned Chinese and international business service providers and their achievements in innovation.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Commercial Counselor, Ghulam Qadir will attend the opening ceremony scheduled to be held on August 31.

The Pakistani side will also participate in other activities including signing ceremony of Royal Group and JW Group, China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Roundtable Seminar on Digital Trade with relevant organizations, international forum on the development and investment of modern food supply chain, and Summit Forum on China’s International Economic Cooperation Going Global.

More than 120 companies and organizations, such as well-known law firms, leading asset evaluation agencies, large business service providers in China and abroad, and national-level human resources industrial parks, have registered to attend the exhibition online and offline. Among them, many are the world’s top 500 firms and leading companies in their respective industries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/989541/pakistan-to-participate-in-ciftis-supply-chain-business-services-exhibition-in-beijing/>

USA, China and UK top three destinations of Pakistani exports during July 2022

The United States of America (USA) remained the top exports destination of the Pakistani products during the first month of current fiscal year, followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July 2022 were recorded at US \$499.686 million against the exports of US \$503.118 million during July 2021, showing decline of 0.68 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$174.076 million against the exports of US \$165.787 million last year, showing an increase of 4.99 percent.

UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$160.108 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$180.353 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US \$139.056 million against US \$129.063 million during last year, showing an increase of 7.74 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US \$110.646 million against US \$114.556 million last year, the data said.

During July 2022, the exports to Holland were recorded \$113.414 million against \$98.822 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$105.300 million against \$89.971 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$92.327 million against the exports of US \$70.001 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded \$31.757 million against \$ 38.613 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$71.507 million against US \$51.135 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the month under review were recorded at US \$43.074 million against US \$40.427 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$65.549 million against US \$58.173 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$29.666 million during the current year compared to US \$28.254 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US \$31.763 million against US \$31.818, to Malaysia US \$24.459 million against US \$354.359 million.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed an increase of 2.68 percent during the month under review, from US \$2235.039 million to US \$2295.027 million, the SBP data revealed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/989550/usa-china-and-uk-top-three-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-during-july-2022/>

Dawn News

Pakistan close to China in strategic ties, says Khar

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Monday emphasised Pakistan's close strategic ties with China and recalled the political consensus in the country on the relationship.

Ms Khar, while speaking at an event on the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China hosted by Pakistan-China Institute, said Pakistan was "unapologetically close" to China in a strategic partnership which was growing.

She said that there was a broad consensus across the political divide that China was the cornerstone of the country's foreign policy. This emphasis on ties with China, she said, was given by former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and no subsequent government altered this fundamental principle of the foreign policy.

China, Ms Khar said, united Pakistan and was a pillar of peace and stability in the region and a preserver, promoter and protector of principles of peaceful coexistence in the region.

"The initiatives launched by President Xi Jinping, whether it is Global Development Initiative or Global Security Initiative, were a testament to the fact that China prioritised human security and stability over confrontation," she observed.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong expressed solidarity with Pakistan over the floods that have wreaked havoc across the country and said China would not leave Pakistan in such testing times.

Commenting on the National Peoples' Congress, he said it was the most important political agenda towards the end of the year.

The Congress is held every five years, where China watchers look for clues to the country's future. President Xi Jinping is expected to be re-elected for his third term as Secretary General of CPC and President of China. Moreover, the Congress will set key priorities for the next five years, in particular, as well as China's two-stage development plan for the middle of the 21st century.

Meanwhile, CPEC, he said, had transformed Pakistan's socio-economic landscape by overhauling infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis. He termed Pakistan-China relations as 'rock-solid'.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of Senate Committee on Defence and Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the core message emanating from President Xi Jinping's leadership was people-centric development and human security.

He said that the Global Development Initiative (GDI), introduced by President Xi Jinping on Sept 21, 2021, promoted inclusive and open collaboration and was a crucial platform for international cooperation and the public good that China offered.

Similarly, he recalled, President Xi, this year, announced the Global Security Initiative (GSI) for ‘upholding the principle of indivisible security, building a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture, and opposing the building of national security based on insecurity in other countries’.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1707473/pakistan-close-to-china-in-strategic-ties-says-khar>

The Express Tribune

Exercise Pitch Black — a message to China

The current exercise is hosting up to 2,500 personnel and 100 aircraft from around the globe

As reported by Australian Airforce website, “Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multi-national large force employment exercise conducted primarily from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal. RAAF Base Amberley, located near Ipswich, will also be included in the exercise this year. Exercise Pitch Black 2022 is the Royal Australian Air Force’s most significant International Engagement activity with forces participating from a wide range of partner and allied nations developing and enhancing military relationships at all levels.”

The history of the exercise, as posted by Royal Australian Airforce, suggests that first Pitch Black exercises took place on 15–16 June 1981 between different RAAF units. It took an international colour with participation of Singapore Airforce and expanded in 90s to include France’s Armée de l’Air; the Royal Malaysian Air Force, the Republic of Singapore Air Force; the Royal Thai Air Force; the Royal New Zealand Air Force; the United States Air Force; and Britain’s Royal Air Force.

The 2018 exercise ran from 27 July to 17 August. Participating countries included Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Thailand and the United States. The Indian Air Force took part in the exercise for the first time. As many as 131 aircraft were involved and almost 4,000 personnel.

The current exercise is hosting up to 2,500 personnel and 100 aircraft from around the globe including Australia, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, UK, the Philippines, Thailand, the UAE, Canada, the Netherlands, Malaysia, New Zealand and the US. Significantly, Germany, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) will be participating fully for the first time.

Is Pitch Black a prelude to an expanding Quad? Or it’s building up of a formidable coalition in the Indo Pacific, where the US-led western block is playing on the fear psychosis of the littoral state of the region? The inclusion of Germany, Japan and ROK for the first time indicates that

Exercise Pitch Black has become a global platform including North America, Europe, South East Asia, East Asia and even Middle East.

What could be strategic objectives of this military maneuver?

We have tried to analyse political messaging thrown up in the media and diplomatic language used through the platform of Pitch Black to decipher its strategic objectives. These are summarised below:

One; it assures the Western block and its allies in the Indo Pacific that expansion of Quad is a reality and it would welcome members from the Indo Pacific region to become part of a collective security apparatus for common good.

Two; it conveys a strong message to the People's Republic of China and President Xi that US military power in the Indo Pacific will be expanded to contain Chinese influence and ultimately isolate it.

Three; due to recent developments across the Taiwan Strait and growing tensions, the US would not only use conventional diplomacy but also gun-boat diplomacy to enhance her strategic interests and suffocate China.

Four; the US and her allies are ready to meet the challenges of another international conflict after the Ukraine-Russia war and will be ready to open another theater of military operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is interesting to read the projections of this exercise in Indian media. Indian military under the guardianship of Modi suffered humiliation at the hands of PLA in Ladakh in 2020 and lost an area of 1450 sq kms. Exercise Pitch Black has helped India build a fake narrative of bravado and its traditional anti-China rhetoric.

Indian military analysts and diplomats are projecting IAF participation to be a significant message to China that India will join the Western-led coalition in the Indo Pacific to thwart Chinese designs against India and the littoral states of the Indo Pacific. In a recent programme on Exercise Pitch Black, Vineet Malhotra of Indian News X TV described Chinese actions against Taiwan as ghunda-gardi i.e. gangsterism. In the same programme Ambassador Mukherjee accused China of browbeating India on what policy to adopt on the question of Taiwan and went ahead to state that India will not only confront China along the LAC but also in the Indo Pacific. Ambassador Mukherjee also highlighted that many of the littoral states of the Indo Pacific, including Vietnam and Thailand, were worried about Chinese aggressive behaviour and the international community needed to come together to stem the tide of Chinese aggressive posturing.

Another self-styled defence analyst, Wing Commander Bakhshi was of the view that China has only few allies, mainly Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia and it will stand isolated if a conflict breaks out across the Taiwan Strait. The panel discussion also focused on Chinese growing maritime ingress in ports like Sri Lanka's Hambantota, Pakistani Gwadar, and Djibouti.

While the international media debates and dissects the aims and objectives of Exercise Pitch Black, it has gained significance and traction as it comes at the heels of recent tensions across the Taiwan Strait. China has to remain alert to an expanding Quad, which is somewhat visible in the skies of Australia.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2373784/exercise-pitch-black-a-message-to-china>

The Nation

Speakers Laud President Xi For Transforming China

SHAFQAT ALI

PCI organises special event on upcoming 20th National Congress of Communist Party of China.

ISLAMABAD – A seminar on Monday lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping for transforming China.

Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) organised a special event on the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China under its flagship ‘Friends of Silk Road’ initiative.

The dialogue featured speeches by the Chief Guest, Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Committee on Defence and Pakistan-China Institute, Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Senator Farhatullah Babar, Secretary General Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Senator Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Parliamentary Leader of Balochistan Awami Party, and Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur,

A special documentary titled ‘China’s governance under President Xi Jinping in the New Era (2012-2022)’ was also screened, depicting China’s achievements under President Xi Jinping.

The content of the documentary reflected the on ground realities in China and aspirations of Chinese people who regard President Xi Jinping as the ‘core leader’ of the Communist Party of China, who, through his people centred approach to governance and development has proven to be the worthy successor to Chairman Mao and Deng Xiaoping.

The panellists discussed the prospects of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which will be held later in 2022. This congress is held every five years, where China watchers look for clues to the country’s future. President Xi Jinping is expected to be reelected for his third term as Secretary General of CPC and President of China.

Moreover, the Party Congress will set key priorities for the next five years, in particular, as well as China’s two stage development plan for the middle of the twenty-first century.

In her remarks, Hina Rabbani Khar said that China is the country that unites Pakistan, ‘that brings all of Pakistan together’.

No government has ever tried to change China’s position as the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy, she said.

She said China was a pillar of peace and stability in the region and a preserver, promoter and protector of principles of peaceful coexistence in the region.

“The initiatives launched by President Xi Jinping, whether it is Global Development Initiative or Global Security Initiative, are a testament to the fact that China prioritizes human security and stability over confrontation,” she said.

In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked China for donating 25000 tents and cash for flood victims. He said that the core message emanating from President Xi Jinping’s leadership is people centric development and human security. He said that the Global Development Initiative (GDI), introduced by President Xi Jinping on September 21 2021, promotes inclusive and open collaboration & is a crucial platform for international cooperation and the public good that China offers.

Commenting on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, he termed it the most important developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century, terming China as a leader in Climate Change and Globalization.

Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, expressed China’s sympathies to Pakistan in lieu of ongoing flooding in the country and said China wouldn’t leave Pakistan in such testing times. Pakistan, he said, has always supported China in such situations.

He recalled how Pakistan donated all the available stock of tents to China in the 2008 earthquake. Commenting on NPC, he said it is the most important political agenda of this year-end. CPEC, he said, has transformed Pakistan’s socio-economic landscape by overhauling infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis. Ambassador Nong Rong termed Pakistan-China relations as ‘rock-solid.’

Senator Farhatullah Babar said that the 20th party Congress would be a game changer for China and the region since it will decide the future course of policy for China.

It is also expected to provide an opportunity for President Xi Jinping to secure a third term as president of China. Moreover, he hoped to learn from China’s experience fighting terrorism and alleviating poverty.

Senator Anwaarul Haq Kakar said that the whole process of people’s democracy goes far beyond the rhetoric by political parties in the model of western democracy for getting votes and subsequently leaving their voters in a lurch in facing unresolved problems.

Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur talked about the dividends brought by the CPEC for Pakistan. She said that twenty seven (27) CPEC projects totalling about \$19 billion in investment had been finished as of June 2022, and another twenty seven (27) CPEC projects totalling about \$7.7 billion in investment are now in the construction phase.

The event was attended by nearly 200 guests from the media, think tanks, academia, civil society and Parliament.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/30/speakers-laud-president-xi-for-transforming-china/>

Promoting RMB-PKR Direct Conversion To Enhance Pakistan-China Trade

BEIJING – It is the best time to promote direct conversion between RMB and PKR to enhance bilateral Pak-China economic and trade cooperation. Such a direct exchange will reduce the cost and exchange rate risk and make funds more secure, which will facilitate a more stable and widespread use of the Pakistani Rupee internationally, said Sun Hui, Head of Wholesale Banking & Treasury Dept, Bank of China (BoC) Pakistan Operations.

Against the background of the recent balance of payments crisis in Pakistan, the Pakistani government, enterprises and financial institutions have repeatedly called for expanding scale of direct settlement between RMB and PKR in the economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan. Sun Hui told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview that BoC Pakistan Operations has proposed two policy suggestions to the Pakistani government, that is, RMB facilitation Policy and direct exchange between RMB and PKR, which are being investigated by the Pakistani government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement. SBP has put in place a regulatory framework and loan mechanism to ensure RMB to be freely used in the imports and exports and financing transactions, including the opening of L/Cs.

As financial market risk is increasing, RMB is becoming a more competitive hedging instrument. Wind Data shows that China's cross-border RMB settlement is growing rapidly, with cross-border trade settlement business rising 33.84% year-on-year to RMB 806 billion in May. There are approximately 240 countries and regions engaging with RMB cross-border settlements and about 2,300 financial institutions using RMB for international settlements. More than 60 central banks and monetary authorities across the world have maintained RMB as part of their foreign exchange reserves. The use of RMB for cross-border settlement effectively avoids the risk of exchange rate fluctuations and increases the predictability of financial costs. East and Southeast Asian countries account for about 40% of Pakistan's total imports and exports. In these regions, RMB is highly acceptable and widely used.

Pakistan is one of leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement

Sun Hui said, when dealing with cross-border transactions with Asian countries in the region, denomination and settlement in RMB provide Pakistani enterprises with more options in various market environments. Besides, China has become Pakistan's largest foreign direct investor. RMB settlement will help Pakistan attract more Chinese investment. Sun Hui added, however, that a considerable number of enterprises have little experience in using RMB for business transactions and investment. Pakistan has few financial assets and liabilities denominated in RMB. This calls on all stakeholders to further explore the aspects of policies and measures and to make more efforts to promote the use of RMB in practice.

Sun believes that the growth in use of RMB can be achieved by providing more RMB denominated financial products and solutions, stimulating and expanding the scope of RMB's

use by settling convenient bilateral trade and investment transactions and promoting cooperation and coordination among Chinese investors and local enterprises. In 2018, BoC Pakistan Operations launched local CNY settlement and clearing setup in Pakistan to provide RMB account opening for FIs, RMB clearing, RMB settlement, RMB liquidity support, RMB financing and other financial services. “We are ready to contribute more talent and strength to the direct settlement of RMB and PKR to strengthen economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan”, Sun Hui concluded.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/30/promoting-rmb-pkr-direct-conversion-to-enhance-pakistan-china-trade/>

The News

China provides more emergency humanitarian supplies

M saleh zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China has decided to provide yet another additional batch of emergency humanitarian supplies to Pakistan for flood victims.

It includes 25,000 tents and other needed supplies. The Chinese Red Cross Society will provide US\$300,000 in emergency cash assistance to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society while the All Pakistani-Chinese Enterprises Association has donated Rs15 million to the Prime Minister’s flood relief fund.

This was announced by Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for the Chinese government, on Monday in Beijing.

He said under the Social and Livelihood Cooperation Framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has provided 4,000 tents 50,000 blankets and 50,000 pieces of tarpaulins to Pakistan. They have been delivered to the frontline of disaster relief. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting Pakistan as the country takes stock of floods which have reportedly killed more than 1,000 people and displaced some 33 million, the UN agency said on Monday, says a press release.

Through its National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which has declared a national emergency, is leading the response in coordinating assessments and directing humanitarian relief to affected people.

WFP has been asked to assist in the emergency response, and staff are working with the authorities and partners to expand food assistance. The aim is to reach nearly half a million people in the badly hit provinces of Balochistan, where the agency already supports nearly 42,000 people, and Sindh. However, distributions are currently on hold as floodwaters create access constraints across the country.

Waters have also disrupted lives and livelihoods in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. More than 100 bridges and some 3,000km of roads have been damaged or destroyed, nearly 800,000 farm animals have perished, and two million acres of crops and orchards have been hit.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities contacted the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and pledged flood relief equipment for Pakistan's flood-affected people.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the UAE authorities had contacted the COAS for flood relief assistance. UAE has pledged 20 aircraft sorties flood relief equipment to assist the flood victims across Pakistan, the ISPR added.

Meanwhile, international aid was reaching Pakistan, as the military and volunteers desperately tried to evacuate many thousands stranded by widespread flooding driven by monster monsoons that have claimed more than 1,000 lives this summer.

Cargo planes from Turkey and the United Arab Emirates began the international rush to assist the impoverished nation, landing on Sunday in Islamabad carrying tents, food and other daily necessities. Trucks carrying tents, food, and water arranged by Pakistan were also being dispatched to various parts of the country by the National Disaster Management Authority for tens of thousands of flood victims.

Meanwhile, the Punjab cabinet announced donating one-month salary to flood affected people. The second meeting of the provincial cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi at his office.

Addressing the meeting, the CM announced reserving his helicopter for flood victims and said that it should be used to provide relief to the distressed population. It was also decided to meet the needs of other flood-affected provinces and the CM announced the dispatch of medicines and medical staff to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan. The Punjab government stands with the affected people of other provinces in the hour of need, he said. The meeting endorsed the decision to declare flood-affected areas of Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali as calamity-stricken and prayers were offered for the departed souls. It also extended sympathies to the bereaved heirs.

The CM directed speeding up relief activities in a systematic manner and said that tents, food hampers and other equipment would be provided in the affected areas as needed. The government would also compensate for damages to houses, crops and livestock and every rightful person would be given their right, he said and directed that no one's right should be usurped.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=122743>

Nawaiwaqt News

سیلاب سے منٹنے، تعمیر نو کیلئے پاکستان کو مزید امداد دیں گے: چینی صدر

بیجنگ (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کا کہنا ہے کہ عالمی موسمیاتی ردعمل میں پاکستان سے تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، امید ہے کہ پاکستانی اس آفت پر قابو پالیں گے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان ژاؤ لی جیان نے ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کو سیلاب سے متعلق امداد اور تعمیر نو میں مزید مدد دے گا۔ ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان موسمیاتی تزویراتی تعاون میں شراکت دار ہیں اور ایک دوسرے کے خوشی غم میں شریک ہیں، مشکل وقت میں دل کی گہرائیوں کے ساتھ پاکستان کے ساتھ ہیں۔ پاکستان کو ہنگامی انسانی امداد کی اضافی کھپ دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، چینی ریڈ کراس پاکستان ریڈ کریسنٹ کو 3 لاکھ امریکی ڈالر نقد دے گی۔ پاکستان میں تباہ کن سیلاب کی معلومات دل دہلا

دینے والی ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان موسمی سٹریٹجک تعاون میں شراکت دار ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کے خوشی غم میں شریک ہیں۔ چینی ریڈ کراس پاکستان ریڈ کریسنٹ کو تین لاکھ امریکی ڈالر نقد دے گی۔ آل پاکستانی چائینز انٹرنیشنل پرائز ایسوسی ایشن نے سیلاب ریلیف فنڈ میں ڈیڑھ کروڑ روپے عطیہ دیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانہ اور چین میں پاکستانی سفارتخانہ فنڈ ریزنگ کیلئے رابطے میں ہیں۔ دریں اثناء چینی صدر نے پاکستانی ہم منصب ڈاکٹر عارف علوی کے نام خیر سگالی کا پیغام دیا ہے۔ چینی صدر نے سیلاب متاثرین کے ساتھ بیچتی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ سیلاب سے نمٹنے کیلئے چین پاکستان کو مدد فراہم کرتا رہے گا۔ یقین ہے پاکستان حکومت اور عوام مشترکہ کاوشوں سے سیلاب کی تباہ کاریوں پر قابو پالیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-30/page-1/detail-26>

سی پیک منصوبوں سے کاربن اخراج میں سالانہ 35 لاکھ ٹن کمی ہوگی: عدنان خان

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان میں سی پیک منصوبوں سے کاربن اخراج میں سالانہ 35 لاکھ ٹن کمی ہوگی۔ کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ گرین انرجی وژن کا عکاس، سی پیک روٹ پر شجر کاری جاری۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جدید زراعت میں تحقیق و ترقی میں تعاون بڑھانے کا معاہدہ۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چینی حکومت پاکستان کو صاف اور ماحول دوست توانائی کی منتقلی میں مکمل تعاون فراہم کر رہی ہے اور چین نے حالیہ برسوں میں پاکستان کے قابل تجدید توانائی کے شعبے میں زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی کے نمائندے عدنان خان نے بتایا کہ چین نے پاکستان بھر میں ہائیڈرو، ونڈ اور سولر پاور کے متعدد منصوبے شروع کیے ہیں جو کہ کم کاربن اخراج کی جانب ایک اہم قدم ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری سے سالانہ کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ کے اخراج میں تقریباً 3.5 ملین ٹن کمی متوقع ہے اور یہ صاف توانائی کی پیداوار کے کس کو بھی فروغ دے گا اور توانائی کی کھپت کے ڈھانچے کو بہتر بنائے گا۔ عدنان خان نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں مکمل ہونے والا کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ گرین انرجی وژن کی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ ہم مستقبل میں مزید ماحولیاتی طور پر پائیدار سی پیک منصوبوں کی امید رکھتے ہیں۔ ماحولیات کے تحفظ کیلئے سی پیک کے راستوں پر درخت لگانے کا کام بھی کیا جا رہا ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان کے مجموعی توانائی کے مرکب میں قابل تجدید توانائی کے تناسب میں نمایاں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-30/page-10/detail-11>

August 31, 2022

Daily Times

China to support Pakistan's post-flood reconstruction

China on Tuesday promised to support Pakistan's post-disaster reconstruction besides promoting bilateral cooperation in both disaster prevention and mitigation.

Addressing the handover ceremony of \$300,000 emergency cash assistance for the flood-affected people of Pakistan to Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said Pakistan is facing severe flood disaster which has caused much casualties and heavy economic loss. "We share the agony of those people who are caught in difficulties and troubles. The Chinese people always remember when the Wenchuan earthquake hit China in 2008, Pakistan donated all the tents in storage to stricken areas."

"When Pakistan is hit by the flood, the Chinese government expressed concern and sympathy in the first time. This afternoon, I attended the first batch of 3000 tents hand-over ceremony under

the China Emergency Humanitarian Assistance. It is a part of our donation package worthy of 100 Million RMB, including 25,000 tents and other relief materials,” he said. “Besides this, All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association (APCEA) has donated 15 Million Rupee to the PM Flood Relief Fund. Some of the Chinese enterprises in Pakistan are still working on providing more relief materials and cash donation to the local community, and the Chinese Government also promises to support Pakistan’s post-disaster reconstruction, and to promote bilateral cooperation in both disaster prevention and mitigation,” he added.

“President Xi Jinping sent his message of sympathy over the flood disaster to President Arif Alvi, expressing that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners with a long tradition of mutual assistance, and China will continue to help and assist Pakistan’s relief work,” the ambassador said. “Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also gave his message of sympathy to Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef on the same day. I am sure through our joint efforts, we will overcome the difficulties,” he added.

“Disasters have no emotion, but people do. Our actions of support and assistance, highlights our ironclad brotherhood that sharing weal and woe,” Ambassador Nong Rong said. “Quoting President Xi Jinping as saying, “When brothers come together, there is nothing they cannot achieve”, I strongly believe that with the joint efforts of Pakistani Government and people, Pakistan is surely to overcome the flood disaster at an early date,” he concluded. Earlier in the day, Ambassador Nong Rong flied to Karachi to receive the first batch of 3,000 tents donated by Chinese government. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have expressed their complete solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan over the human and financial losses in the recent floods that devastated huge parts of Pakistan.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong conveyed these special messages to President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif from the Chinese leadership. The Chinese leadership expressed their grief over the losses. China has announced an assistance grant of RMB100 million (Yuan), besides the dispatch of 25,000 tents and other assistance items. The first batch of the relief aid containing 300 tents has already arrived in Karachi.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/990025/china-to-support-pakistans-post-flood-reconstruction/>

Dawn News

Chinese consul briefed about facilities at SEZs

TOBA TEK SINGH: Consul General of Peoples Republic of China Zaho Shiren during a visit to Faisalabad was briefed about the facilities and security measures provided to Chinese investors in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the arrangement of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC).

In the briefing session held at Time Ceramics, Chairman Board of Investment and Trade Fazeel Asif, Secretary Industries Punjab Ahmed Javed Qazi, DC Imran Hamid Sheikh, AC Chak Jhamra Khawar Bashir were also present.

The secretary industries said M3 Industrial City, Value Addition City and Allama Iqbal Industrial City organised by FIEDMC are the major special economic zones of Pakistan where Chinese companies have been provided with best facilities.

He said the journey of industrial development is at its peak and local and foreign investors are being provided with best possible opportunities.

The DC said Value Addition City has 225 acre, M3 Industrial City 4,356 acre and Allama Iqbal Industrial City 3,217 acre land where pharmaceutical, textile, paint, steel, furniture, chemicals, processing, mobile and other industries have been established.

He said special packages are given on the purchase of plots in SEZs.

He said in addition to roads, sewerage, water supply, shopping malls and other facilities, rapid progress is also being made for 100 per cent electricity and gas connections in the zones. He said steps are also being taken to solve the problems faced by Chinese investors.

The consul general thanked the administration and police officers and said the Chinese government is sending 10 trucks of equipment for the flood-hit people of Pakistan. He said there will be full cooperation in the future to ensure investment of more Chinese companies in economic zones.

He said a delegation of representatives of Chinese companies would visit economic zones to implement the investment agreements.

The consul general visited M3 Industrial City and took a briefing about investment. Chinese consul briefed about facilities at SEZs.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1707598/chinese-consul-briefed-about-facilities-at-sezs>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Chinese Conception of Humanism and Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Under the flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Chinese government, embassy, private sector and people are jointly striving hard to lessen the “collateral damage” of calamity and climatic disasters in the shape of severe floods in Pakistan.

In this regard, their “substantial” “sufficient” “speedy” and “timely” humanitarian assistance vividly reflect true spirit of the dominant Chinese conception of “humanism” in the Confucian theory of “REN” wherein, the REN stands for benevolence, goodness, virtue, humanity, humanness and last but not the least, humanitarian aid/gesture.

It has indeed been an extension of the Chinese ancient philosophy of “ethical relationalism” which always prefers “personal” engagements over mere “capitalistic profits”.

It is true that image-building through humanitarian assistance has been an integral part of China's foreign policy.

In international relations, humanitarian diplomacy is the "new queen" of modern globalized multiculturalism and China is the ultimate champion of globalization.

It has been winning hearts and souls of millions of people living around the globe through its altruistic nature of humanitarian actions. China's humanitarian diplomacy has allocated substantial funds for humanitarian spending in the world.

Most recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to Pakistani President Arif Alvi over the ongoing calamity of floods in Pakistan. According to official data of the National Disaster Management Authority more than 1100 people have so far died in the ongoing flooding in the country.

The Chinese President Xi noted that the severe floods in Pakistan have caused significant losses of life and property. In this connection, Xi expressed deep condolences for those deceased and sincere sympathies to their families, the injured and the people in the affected areas.

By terming bilateral relations between China and Pakistan as strategic partners and iron-clad friends, both sides have long supported each other through thick and thin, and worked shoulder by shoulder to cope with natural disasters and other major challenges.

China has responded immediately after the floods, and will continue to provide much-needed assistance to the Pakistani side and support it in its relief efforts, he added.

"I believe that with the joint efforts of the Pakistani government and people, the people in the affected areas can overcome the floods and rebuild their homes as soon as possible," said the Chinese President. Furthermore, the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also sent a message of condolence to Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

According to Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, China has provided Pakistan with 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets and 50,000 pieces of waterproof canvas under the social and livelihood cooperation framework of the CPEC.

He pledged that considering the current situation and based on the needs of Pakistan, China has decided to provide another batch of emergency humanitarian supplies, including 25,000 tents and other supplies in dire need.

On his part, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque has highly appreciated China's assistance to flood control and disaster relief efforts being carried out by the Pakistani government in flood-hit areas in Pakistan.

He described Chinese humanitarian assistance timely, important and valuable which has actually consolidated the country's response to severe floods in the country.

He further shared that the Chinese government, numerous Chinese institutions and other private organizations are pledging their generous humanitarian assistance to Pakistan's people.

It seems that the Chinese humanitarian assistance diplomacy has now become an essential ‘survival kit’ for the struggling people and marginalized and isolated communities alike in these mud-slugged slump areas in all the four provinces.

Chinese constant generous humanitarian assistance has succeeded to win the sympathies of millions of people, trapped in the floods in the country.

Moreover, its humanitarian assistance’s massive drive has become “living semiotic” and “economic miracle” symbolism/realism consisting of genuine charity and compassion for the flood affected people and communities alike.

Due to increasing global warming, Pakistan is now fighting out with deadly floods in the country. The ongoing flooding saga produced widespread “destruction”, “devastation” and “debris” in all the provinces of the country.

Unfortunately, most parts of the rural Balochistan, far-flung areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, coastal/interior Sindh and South Punjab have now been “entangled” with “untamed’ floodwaters. Means of “human survival” and infrastructural development capacity building mechanism along with human “endurance” have “diminished” in these areas.

Moreover, “livelihood” and “livestock”, “breads” and “beds”, “soybeans” and “shelters” and last but not the least, “humans” and “hordes” have been ruined and caused huge socio-economic loss and dependency syndrome among the flood affected people in these areas.

According to the NDAM, more than 33 million people have been badly affected. More than 500,000 homes have been completely washed out. Moreover, more than 2.5 million have become homeless.

Unfortunately, uncontrolled flooding has caused a loss of US\$ 4 billion and has already produced huge financial strain on the national economy. However, the Chinese government has decided to reach out to these affected people and start “converting their worries into smiles”, “cries into spells of compassion” and killing incidents into kindness.

It stood first among the international community by dispatching valuable humanitarian assistance in the form of tents, cloths, dry food stuff, medicines, vaccines and financial assistance in the country.

To conclude, the Chinese President Xi Jinping’s philosophy seems to be the “driving force” behind the Chinese modern humanitarian assistance diplomacy.

Xi’s global development initiative, global security initiative, shared prosperity and last but not the least, community development is the real “guarantor” and trustworthy “custodian” of a prosperous world and productive gesture and signaling.

In this connection, the Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) has become the “biggest” infrastructural development project in the world in which so far more than 140 countries have been submerged.

Its Silk Road Health Forum and Green BRI Forum have become a beacon of hope for the immense socio-economic development in the member countries.

Moreover, its flagship project of CPEC has become a symbol of positivity and productivity. It has become one of the biggest sources of FDI in the country. It has become one of the biggest instruments of new jobs in the country.

It has also become an effective tool for economic stimulation, eradication of poverty, social cohesion and innovation. It has been termed as a lifeline to Pakistan's economy, society, industry and even climate and biodiversity.

It is now need of the hour to further strengthen mutual cooperation in new fields of human survival, industrial productivity and alternative sources of renewables/energy, patronization and protection of food security, mitigation of increasing incidents of climate change, water conservation and climate-friendly agriculture and last but not the least, artificial intelligence under the flagship projects of the CPEC.

The policy makers of both sides must think beyond the ordinary spheres and try to chalk out comprehensive and holistic policies to tamp unbridled consequences of climate change in the country.

Climate human engineering, green revolution, drones cultivation, institutional cooperation in mountain glacier disciplines/technologies, bush fire-fighting and calamity disaster management should be included in the CPEC Phase-II as soon as possible.

Persistent viciousness of the wild nature and embodied but dangerous climate change non-state threat demands immediate introduction of climate friendly fuels in the shape of "Blue" and "Green" hydrogen energy sources and immense production of hydro generation of energy in the country.

Last but not the least, institutional cooperation in disaster management control, community development, especially during natural calamities and study of micro, small, medium and mega dams should be initiated as soon as possible.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-chinese-conception-of-humanism-and-way-forward-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC: A ray of hope for Balochistan development

Saima Afzal

Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan, is a junction point of South Asia, Central Asia and a gateway to the Middle East.

The abundance of natural resources enhances its importance as a centre of gravity for regional powers including Afghanistan, China and Iran. It is the largest province of Pakistan, composes 42% of the total land area, but the population density is very low due to the mountainous terrain and scarcity of water.

The economy of the province is largely based upon the production of natural gas, coal and minerals. The province's natural resources significantly help meet the energy needs of Pakistan as a whole.

Over the years, the deprivation of the people of Balochistan has caused several uprisings against the federal government due to its natural resources. It is still the least developed region of the country.

Efforts have been made by different governments to address the grievances of the Baloch people through various development projects.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative launched in 2015.

Various analysts viewed it as a game-changer because of its connectivity plan and regional markets from China to South Asia, West Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

CPEC aims at promoting economic development and inter-regional connectivity which are partially achieved with both infrastructural, industrial and socio-economic development projects, especially in Balochistan.

Its strategic location increases its importance not only in Pakistan but also across the globe. Therefore, the CPEC project has the potential to open new avenues of socio-economic development and employment opportunities for the masses of Balochistan.

It has been assessed that the project will contribute to the development of the whole province and address various economic and social problems of Baluchistan.

Gwadar would also soon be transformed into an economic hub after the completion of several projects under the CPEC.

Balochistan in general and Gwadar in particular, is the linchpin of CPEC. It is being successfully implemented in Balochistan. The Gwadar port and Balochistan are at the nerve centre of this corridor.

Some States assume that in Gwadar port China's strategic design is to strengthen its maritime power in the Indian Ocean, both in terms of commercial and naval, thus adding to Beijing's "string of pearls" including in Sri Lanka, Djibouti and Seychelles; under BRI, this string of ports will extend across the South China Sea, Indian Ocean, Africa and the Mediterranean.

In the same vein, the completion of projects under the CPEC is going to change the socio-economic landscape of Balochistan and it will be at par with other developed areas in Pakistan.

However, various nefarious elements have always opposed development in Baluchistan. They are also opposing and targeting CPEC with false propaganda and creating a sense of negativity in the minds of the people of Balochistan about the CPEC.

These vested interests and selfish elements want to continue deciding the fate of the Baloch people by keeping them under-developed, uneducated and economically dependent.

However, in the changing geopolitical environment of the region, Pakistan is desirous to strengthen itself domestically and bring a change to the much-needed province of Balochistan.

The restive province has been remained much neglected due to various factors including political, administrative, security, and lack of funds. Some Baloch assume China as a colonial power that wanted to occupy Gwadar their resources and land due to the lack of Chinese communication and interaction with the local people thus adding to their fear of being colonized.

However, large numbers of Baloch people are hopeful that CPEC would bring jobs, employment, and economic activity to them. This would make it difficult for the spoilers to exploit youth against the state.

In a nutshell, for the further enhancement of the economic situation of the province, a comprehensive provincial development strategy for Balochistan is required which outlines the key areas of investment for inclusive growth and provides the roadmap for integrated development in the province.

It is a need of the hour that people of Balochistan should be involved more and more in development projects like CPEC and their grievances should be addressed by providing them job opportunities in public sector, giving special waivers and increasing the education quota in universities.

If these issues related to Baloch grievances would be addressed, it will further widen the gap between the state and the Baloch community.

https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-ray-of-hope-for-balochistan-development-by-saima-afzal/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=cpec-a-ray-of-hope-for-balochistan-development-by-saima-afzal

Pak envoy appreciates China's timely help for food relief in Pakistan

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has highly appreciated China's timely assistance to flood control and disaster relief efforts being carried out by the Pakistani government in flood-hit areas in Pakistan.

In an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) Moin ul Haque said Pakistan is facing unprecedented floods in all the provinces and regions of Pakistan. Over 1000 deaths have been reported so far and a number of villages have been washed away while standing crops have been destroyed.

"China has always been standing with Pakistan in these difficult times. The support which has been provided by China and its organisations is very timely and very valuable. This time also China is stepping forward and this is just a first step" he added.

The ambassador hoped in addition to the announcement made by China more Chinese assistance will be coming in the future.

He informed that thousands of livestock have been killed by the floods caused by heavy monsoon rains. The situation is quite serious in the country and as per the estimates of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) more than 30 million people have been affected in Pakistan. “We are very grateful to the government of China and the very timely announcement of assistance to Pakistan in the shape of tents and shelters will be certainly dispatched to Pakistan shortly” the ambassador mentioned.

He further said that the Chinese government Chinese institutions and other organisations are approaching the embassy for not only the expression of solidarity but also offering their help in terms of donations and any other assistance that they can provide like dry food and medicines.—
INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-envoy-appreciates-chinas-timely-help-for-food-relief-in-pakistan/>

The Nation

US, China, Australia Announce Millions Of Dollars Aid

ISLAMABAD – In continuation of humanitarian air bridge established between Pakistan and UAE, second of the two relief flights scheduled for Tuesday were received at Nur Khan Air Base. In past two days, five relief flights from UAE have landed in Pakistan carrying food, medical supplies and tents. The relief assistance from UAE is welcomed with warmth and gratitude. These flights from brotherly countries form a humanitarian bond to help alleviate suffering caused by unprecedented monsoon rains and floods in Pakistan.

The first flight from the United Arab Emirates carrying flood relief assistance arrived at Noor Khan Air Base Rawalpindi on Tuesday. The relief items include food, medical supplies and tents for the flood affectees.

In a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed thanked the government and people of UAE for this continued assistance. He said this is continuation of humanitarian air bridge between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates established to alleviate the sufferings of flood affectees.

US announces \$30m life-saving humanitarian aid for flood-hit Pakistan

The United States has announced an additional 30 million dollars humanitarian assistance to support the flood affected people of Pakistan.

According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, in addition to the 30 million dollars urgently needed humanitarian assistance announced on Tuesday, the United States also provided over 1.1 million dollars in grants and project support earlier this month to help mitigate and prevent the effects of future floods.

The embassy statement said that in response to the Pakistani government’s request for assistance, the United States will prioritize urgently needed food support, safe water, sanitation and hygiene

improvements, financial help, and shelter assistance. It said this support will save lives and reduce suffering among the most vulnerable affected communities.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Ambassador in Washington Masood Khan has thanked the United States for its announcement of 30 million dollars in humanitarian assistance for flood relief in Pakistan.

In a statement, he said we deeply appreciate that the US has stood with the people Pakistani during this calamity.

The Chinese government has decided to provide 100 million yuan (around \$14.5 million) of emergency humanitarian assistance, including 25,000 tents and other disaster relief materials urgently needed by flood-hit Pakistan, said Zheng Yuandong, an official with the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

In a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Chinese government had announced a relief assistance package worth RMB 100 million for flood affectees in Pakistan.

“Indeed a generous and timely support from our ‘Iron brother’ in this hour of need. Thank you!”

In another tweet, the ambassador said, “China has responded immediately, and will continue to provide urgently needed assistance to Pakistan and support the country in its disaster relief work. President Xi message of condolence to President Alvi for the flood victims.”

Australian Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong on Tuesday said that Australia would provide \$2 million in urgent humanitarian assistance in response to devastating floods in Pakistan.

“I extend Australia’s deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities that have lost loved ones, and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected,” she said in a press statement.

The foreign minister further said that Australia’s support would be delivered through the World Food Programme to assist the Pakistan Government and its people to respond to immediate humanitarian needs, particularly those disproportionately affected by the floods, including women, children and the vulnerable.

Pakistan had declared a national emergency, with more than 33 million people affected by the disaster.

Tragically, more than 1,000 lives have been lost. A further 200,000 people have been displaced and at least 50,000 homes destroyed.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/31/us-china-australia-announce-millions-of-dollars-aid/>

Express News

سیلاب زدگان کی مدد کے لیے چین سے 2 طیارے امدادی سامان لے کر کراچی پہنچ گئے

سیلاب زدگان کی مدد کے لیے دوست ملک چین سے 2 طیارے 3 ہزار خیموں، ادویات اور کھانے پینے کی اشیاء پر مشتمل امدادی سامان لے کر کراچی پہنچ گئے ہیں۔: کراچی

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق منگل کو دوست ملک چین کی فضائیہ کے طیاروں نے امدادی سامان کے ہمراہ جناح ٹرمینل پر لینڈ کیا، دونوں پروازوں میں 3 ہزار ٹنوں کے علاوہ مختلف ادویات اور راشن شامل تھا۔

اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر خرم دستگیر خان، صوبائی وزیر سعید غنی، سابق سینیٹر نہال ہاشمی کے علاوہ عسکری و سول حکام موجود تھے، پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ٹونگ روٹنگ نے کراچی میں امدادی سامان پاکستانی حکام کے حوالے کیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2366400/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے توصل جزل مسٹر چاؤ شی آن فیصل آباد کا دورہ

فیصل آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین کے توصل جزل مسٹر چاؤ شی آن فیصل آباد کا دورہ کیا اور فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل سٹیٹ ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ مینجمنٹ کمپنی (فیڈمک) کے زیر اہتمام سیشنل اکنامک زونز میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو فراہم کی جانے والی سہولیات اور سکیورٹی کے اقدامات پر بریفنگ لیتے ہوئے اپنے اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ چائیز کمپنی ٹائم سرائیکس میں منعقدہ بریفنگ سیشن میں چیئر مین بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ فیضیل آصف، سیکرٹری انڈسٹریز پنجاب احمد جاوید قاضی اور ڈپٹی کمشنر / سی ای او فیڈمک عمران حامد شیخ نے چائیز توصل جزل کو خوش آمدید کہا۔ اسٹنٹ کمشنر چک جھمرہ خاور بشیر، سیشنل پروٹیکشن یونٹ اور فیڈمک کے افسران بھی موجود تھے۔ سیکرٹری انڈسٹریز پنجاب نے بتایا کہ فیڈمک کے زیر اہتمام ایم تھری انڈسٹریل سٹی، ویلیو ایڈیشن سٹی اور علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی پاکستان کی بڑی سیشنل اکنامک زونز ہیں جہاں چائیز کمپنیز کو خوشگوار ماحول کے ساتھ بہترین سہولیات کی فراہمی اور سکیورٹی کے جامع اقدامات کئے گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے پاک چین کی لازوال دوستی کا بھی ذکر کیا اور کہا کہ چائیز توصل جزل کے دورہ فیصل آباد کا مقصد سیشنل اکنامک زونز میں سہولیات کا جائزہ لینا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صنعتی ترقی کا سفر عروج پر ہے اور ملکی و غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو وسیع مواقع فراہم کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ چیئر مین پنجاب انویسٹمنٹ بورڈ نے چائیز توصل جزل کی آمد کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کے لئے اقدامات جاری رکھے جائیں گے۔

ڈپٹی کمشنر / سی ای او نے بتایا کہ ویلیو ایڈیشن سٹی 1225 ایکٹر، ایم تھری انڈسٹریل سٹی 4356 ایکٹر اور علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی 3217 ایکٹر قہر پر محیط جہاں فارماسیوٹیکل، ٹیکسٹائل، پینٹ، سٹیل، فرنیچر، کیمیکلز، پروسیسنگ، موبائل و دیگر انڈسٹریز قائم ہیں۔ اس موقع پر ڈپٹی کمشنر اور توصل جزل چین کی طرف سے یادگاری شیلڈ کا تبادلہ بھی کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-31/page-12/detail-24>