



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

December 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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December 01, 2021

Daily Times

Seminar debates ways to apply Chinese models in Pakistan

Pakistan is one of the most exciting technology ecosystems globally right now, attracting more capital at a faster pace than many other emerging markets,” said Ben Harburg – managing partner of MSA Capital –

According to Gwadar Pro, he was addressing a seminar titled “China-Pakistan: The Way Forward” hosted by Center for China and Globalization (CCG), a Chinese non-governmental think tank based in Beijing. “Actually my firm is one of the very few firms of China heritage that have investments in Pakistan and as a firm, one of our key impetus is how do we apply Chinese models in technology ecosystem to the Pakistani market?”, he added.

Take IT industry as an example. As for the edge of Pakistan’s IT industry, Badar U Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, thinks the software development cost in Pakistan is quite reasonable. Pakistan’s IT exports are increasing very fast. “Our total service exports have crossed \$6 billion. And in that, IT exports have crossed \$2 billion. We have a fairly young population. 70 % of our population is younger than the age of 35. They’re good at English speaking. We have got many universities that teach IT and our IT engineers are working all over the globe. There are many, many new software houses that are coming,” Badar noted. Two years or so ago, there was about \$10 million of VC investment going into the Pakistani technology ecosystem.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/848418/seminar-debates-ways-to-apply-chinese-models-in-pakistan/>

Gwadar Port focuses on development, people’s livelihood: Wang Wenbin

The Gwadar Port, a leading project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), focuses on the development and people’s livelihood while all projects which have been completed there have played important role in creating educational opportunities, improving employment skills, and responding to Covid-19 for the benefit of local people, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark and pilot program under the Belt and Road Initiative. Since its inception in 2013, CPEC has achieved fruitful and remarkable results,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP.

He said that the Gwadar Port, a leading project of CPEC, focuses on the development and people’s livelihood.

“China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, the vocational training institute in Gwadar, and China-Pakistan Fraternity Emergency Care Center in Gwadar, which have been completed, have played important roles in and made China’s contributions to creating educational opportunities,

improving employment skills and responding to COVID-19 for the benefit of the local people,” he added.

The spokesperson said that China was ready to work with Pakistan to jointly advance high-quality development of CPEC, build and operate all CPEC projects including the Gwadar Port well, play a more positive part in improving people’s livelihood in both countries, and build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Responding to yet another question, he stressed that the CPEC had long been focusing on people’s livelihood and well-being and benefiting the local people, thus warmly welcomed by the local people.

“China is ready to work with Pakistan to advance the high-quality development of CPEC so as to deliver more benefits to the local people,” he added.

In a recent interview, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Zhang Baozhong said that Gwadar, an important component of the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would become the logistic hub in the region within five years.

He informed that in spite of the negative pandemic impact on business development, more than 100,000 metric tonnes of Afghan cargo have been handled at the port.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/848608/gwadar-port-focuses-on-development-peoples-livelihood-wang-wenbin/>

Dunya News

Govt accords high priority to operationalization of CPEC projects: PM Imran

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday emphasized that timelines specified for the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects should be adhered to.

The government was fully committed to the provisions of CPEC agreements, he said while presiding over a high level meeting held here to review the progress on CPEC projects.

The prime minister stated that China has been a time-tested friend of Pakistan and that the government accords high priority to the implementation and operationalization of CPEC projects.

He highlighted that the continuity of policies was essential for long-term projects in order to achieve maximum benefits for the country.

Earlier, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor briefed the meeting about the updated status of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Ali Haider Zaidi, Asad Umar, Advisor on Finance Shaukat Fayaz Tarin, Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood and senior officers.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/631156-Govt-accords-high-priority-operationalization-CPEC-projects-PM-Imran>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese firm ready to relocate high tech industrial units in Pakistan

Chinese firm Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment has expressed willingness to relocate their industrial units of high-tech testing equipment to Pakistan in the second phase of industrialization under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said its chairman.

Chinese Company the Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co., Ltd would set up a testing equipment plants in Pakistan and would transfer high-tech technology in this sector, said Yucheng Yang, Chairman of DHTE group.

He further said that Pakistan and China are brother countries! We plan to set up the factories in Pakistan in very near future, and comprehensively carry out the corresponding technical personnel training so that more manufacturing fields can access our products, and shorten the technological gap in Pakistan.

Yucheng, Chairman of the Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co., Ltd further said that Pakistan is a friendly country and the Pakistani government has been dedicated to providing more facilities for Chinese enterprises, which is significant for promoting more Chinese industries to Pakistan.

In his exclusive interview, he introduced his company that Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co., Ltd, established in 2013, and located in the Chang'Ping town Dongguan city, Guangdong, is a professional commitment to the world's latest technology reliability test skill research and climate environment simulation equipment's research & development, manufacturing, and sales of science and technology innovation national high-tech enterprise.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-firm-ready-to-relocate-high-tech-industrial-units-in-pakistan/>

KCCDZ: Expanding maritime component of CPEC

Naureen Fatima

IT is heartening to note that maritime cooperation is increasingly emerging as an important component of Pak-China relations in general and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in particular. Initiation of Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) is indeed a major boost in this connection which will further expand the maritime component of CPEC to boost the economy of Pakistan.

It is now a well-known fact that CPEC is moving ahead as a multidimensional flagship project of China's mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The initial MoU of this mega project was signed in July 2013. However, the fast execution of CPEC began in April 2015 after the visit of the President of China, Xi Jinping to Pakistan. CPEC is a long-run well-grounded project designed

to build stronger cooperation and connectivity not only between Pakistan and China for mutual benefits, but it lays the foundation for broad-based connectivity and cooperation amongst the regions of Central, West, and South Asia.

The maritime component of CPEC is of vital importance for both countries. The Gwadar Port being developed as part of the CPEC project will improve connectivity not only in Pakistan and China but would also serve the same purpose for all the countries located in the region. The first phase of the Gwadar port has been completed successfully under CPEC early harvest projects; the port is operational now. However, it is not operating at its optimum capacity. And now the second development phase is in progress. Yet, it would not be wrong to say that Gwadar port is still a long way from its potential.

However, the inclusion of the Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) under CPEC in the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee on 23 September 2021 comes as a much-awaited and key expansion of the maritime component under CPEC. An MoU was signed between the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) in this context. The MoU aimed to resolve infrastructure issues in Karachi city along with the development of the maritime sector in a holistic way, with a major focus on the provision of job opportunities based on technology transfer to the maritime industry of Pakistan to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG9 &11).

The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan applauded this great initiative taken by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) for the inclusion of KCCDZ under CPEC and called it a ‘Game Changer’ for Pakistan. Some animated images of a developed KCCDZ displaying a vast coastline of Pakistan (more than 1000km) dotted with compound buildings were also shared on different media channels. The whole advanced development will take place over the “reclaimed area of KPT ” covering over 640 hectares (1581.474 acres). The project is expected to complete in not more than five to six years considering the Chinese work efficiency.

According to some media sources, this ‘game changer’ project with a \$3.5 billion investment from China will include four new berths in Karachi Port Trust (KPT), a new fishery port and a grand harbour bridge connecting the Manora Island and the Sandspit Beach in Karachi.

This KCCDZ on completion will help Pakistan to capitalize on its vast potential of Blue Economy, more so for this main port city is said to be having a population of 25 million, even more. The project is considered to help in cleaning Pakistan’s maritime habitat for fishermen communities and will present new opportunities for investors, resulting in the multiplication of livelihoods. New 20,000 low-income housing units will also be developed under this project. Moreover, it also focused on the ultramodern infrastructure zone in Karachi city, turning it into among the top global cities.

Once KCCDZ will be fully developed, Blue Economy would become an even more important sector within Pakistan’s economy by enhancing sea trade, infrastructure development, growth in

the fisheries sector, amazing opportunities for investors and employment for the city's dwellers. It will further enhance development and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The ongoing challenges being faced by different ports around the world necessitate that countries like Pakistan must upgrade their port infrastructures. KCCDZ would serve the purpose when it becomes fully operational. In future years, when the upgraded Karachi port on the eastern corner of Pakistan's coast and a functional Gwadar port on the western corner of the same coast start to complement each other, the country would strengthen its position as an important maritime player in the region. Pakistan and China should both prioritize this project to be executed and completed in the shortest possible time.

<https://pakobserver.net/kccd-z-expanding-maritime-component-of-cpec-by-naureen-fatima/>

Green BRI: Reality or Mirage

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) is making difference in the regional as well as at the global level in terms of greater regional connectivity, socio-economic integration, infrastructural development, poverty eradication and new job generation in all the participating countries. It has become global "engine" of economic stability and future "sustainability".

At its eight year there are lots of speculations and propaganda going on in the US and the West about BRI strategic importance, utility, performance, productivity and participatory orientation.

Many western think tanks and media outlets dubbed the BRI as extension of so-called Chinese economic domination, political imperialism and last but not the least, debt traps etc which is not true.

Unfortunately, the forces and supporters of "capitalism having inbuilt qualities of "economic coercion", "market exploitation", "political nationalism" and last but not the least, strategic hegemonic designs/conditions have devised new book of "Das Capital" by "opposing" and "containing" China through fake and false propaganda against BRI. Now they try to create doubts about BRI green orientations and term it mirage not reality.

On the other hand, the most recently published report of the China State Council (September 2021) entitled, 'Responding to Climate Change', projects Chinese achievements on pollution controls, structural policies to discard coal energy production and consequently moving away from coal, CO2 reductions and building a 'Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative' finalized specifically to tackle climate change and slow down the warming of the planet. Hopefully, China's strong commitment and striving hard spirit to a greener and more sustainable BRI will help tackle global climate change challenges.

According to this report, China also plans to create a Belt and Road Energy Partnership (BREP). It states that China is working with relevant countries to facilitate actions on "ecological conservation" and climate change. So Green BRI is reality not mirage. Furthermore, numerous

projects of the original BRI have already been transformed into greening which will all come under the sustainability principles enshrined in the 2021 partnership for green development.

The said report upholds that in 2021, China and 28 other countries launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development which vividly reflected that climate change could be managed through concrete actions guided by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, weighted against different national circumstances.

Interestingly, the full report was published just days before the COP26 UN climate summit in Glasgow, indicates China's sincere efforts to cut emissions and gradually moving away from coal by using sustainable technology in everything from city planning to protect biodiversity.

In this context, China instruments its holistic approach to global climate governance through building a green silk road. It promotes green development and is working with relevant partners to build a green silk road. It values an active response to the challenges of climate change and urges for closer results-oriented cooperation in implementing the Paris Agreement and in other areas.

According to this report, China's balance of green loans amounted to RMB11.95 trillion (\$1.9 trillion), of which the clean energy loan balance was RMB3.2 trillion (\$500 billion) on December 31, 2020.

China has issued a total of about RMB1.2 trillion of green bonds (\$188 billion), with roughly RMB800 billion (\$125 billion) outstanding, making it the world's second-biggest green bond market which clearly illustrates its strong commitment towards green BRI in the days to come.

The new Chinese guidelines are soft law which have already sent a clear signal to all the main stakeholders, policy makers and financial institutes like China Development Bank, China Export-Import Bank and Sinosure, China's export credit insurance agency to invest in green BRI projects. This policy gives a boost to their efforts to go green and helps set their expectations that stricter measures are likely to follow.

In addition to this China's carbon intensity in 2020 was 18.8 per cent lower than that in 2015, a better result than the binding target set in the 13th Five-year Plan (2016-2020). The figure was also 48.4 per cent less than that in 2005, which means that China had more than fulfilled its commitment to the international community to achieve a 40-45 per cent reduction in carbon intensity from the 2005 level by 2020.

Non-fossil energy contributed 15.9 per cent to China's total energy consumption in 2020, a significant increase of 8.5 percentage points compared with 2005.

The total installed capacity of non-fossil energy power generation in China reached 980 million kW, accounting for 44.7 per cent of total installed capacity, according to the report.

Of that, wind represented 280 million kW, PV 250 million kW, hydro 370 million kW, biomass 29.52 million kW and nuclear power 49.89 million kW. Electricity generated by non-fossil energy represented more than one third of the power consumption of the country.

The State Council report shares that climate change is a challenge for all of humanity. The sustainable development of the Chinese nation and the future of the planet depend on tackling it successfully.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping unveiled the BRI. Some 165 countries and 32 international organisations, including 19 UN agencies, have since signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with China.

China now pursues a philosophy that development must be innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared, and accelerates the pace in creating a new development dynamic.

Most recently, the “Green Development Guidelines for Overseas Investment and Cooperation”, issued jointly by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), supports Chinese businesses to integrate green development throughout the overseas investment process. They both also suggest that companies should follow international green rules and standards.

Thus they represent a gradual moving from coal production that could pave the way for the implementation of much higher standards in infrastructure projects under the BRI.

The guidelines call for strengthening engagement with host country environmental protection organisations. They also name non-fossil energy technologies as key areas for investment. Thus green BRI is reality not mirage as dubbed by the US and the West.

The guidelines are comprehensive, covering climate, biodiversity and pollution. Specifically, they urge to foster the “green development concept” throughout the entire process of foreign direct investment and cooperation.

They encourage the practice of environmental impact assessments and due diligence in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

They are ready to apply high standards at the planning and design phase of infrastructure projects and strengthen contact with host country governments, media, local people and environmental protection organisations and last but not the least, support investment in solar, wind, nuclear and biomass energy and other forms of clean energy.

To conclude, there is an urgent need to even rectify imbalance of energy production mechanism in the CPEC too. More investment should be made in green energy projects, especially in hydropower, wind, solar and biomass.

<https://pakobserver.net/green-bri-reality-or-mirage-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

PM Imran calls for timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday emphasized that timelines specified for completion of CPEC projects should be adhered to.

He stated this while chairing a high level meeting to review progress on CPEC projects. He said that Pakistan is fully committed to provisions of CPEC agreements.

The premier stated that China has been a time-tested friend of Pakistan and that the Government accords high priority to implementation and operationalization of CPEC projects.

He highlighted that continuity of policies is essential for long-term projects in order to achieve maximum benefits for the country.

Earlier, SAPM on CPEC Affairs Mr. Khalid Mansoor briefed the meeting about updated status of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Ali Haider Zaidi, Asad Umar, Advisor Finance Shaukat Fayaz Tarin, Advisor Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood and senior officers.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-imran-calls-for-timely-completion-of-cpec-projects/>

The Express Tribune

China rejects smear campaign against CPEC

'China advancing relevant cooperation always following principle of mutual respect, consensus'

BEIJING: China on Tuesday firmly rejected certain media for creation of fake news with deliberate attempt to smear the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) building and China-Pakistan relations.

"China firmly rejects certain media's attempts to smear the CPEC building and China-Pakistan relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing.

Some media outlets reported on Monday that protests had broken out in the Gwadar region, opposing the excessive fishing rights given to Chinese trawlers, saying this was not good for local people and will have negative impact on people's livelihood.

The spokesperson said, "This is completely fake news. Certain media's hyping up of the protests against China in Gwadar region lacks factual basis."

He said that after verification, there was no Chinese trawler that went to the Gwadar Port area for fishing or docking and reiterated that Gwadar Port as a leading project of CPEC has been focusing on the development and people's livelihood.

Lijian remarked that China is advancing relevant cooperation always following the principle of mutual respect and consensus. It is worth mentioning that during the Chinese foreign ministry regular briefing held yesterday, an Indian journalist while asking a question claimed that last

week, there were protests in Gwadar regarding excessive fishing rights given to the Chinese trawlers in the coast of Gwadar port.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson had replied that he was not aware of the specific situation the Indian journalist mentioned. However, after the verification by the Chinese side, the so-called media report proved to be fake news.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2331889/china-rejects-smear-campaign-against-cpec>

Gwadar protest

It is ironic that the people are restless and protesting for basic civic amenities

In an unprecedented move, women in Gwadar rallied on Monday for their rights, and made an unequivocal point for easing trade and travel restrictions in the desolate province. There can't be two opinions over it, and the demands of the backward districts of Balochistan should take precedence. It is no coincidence that such protests had taken place over the past several weeks in Turbat, Zamran, Ormara, Pasni, Piskhan and many other areas, and the common denominator was to solicit the attention of the authorities concerned over their plight. It shouldn't be equated with politics as the issues are purely socio-economic in substance, and could neither be ignored nor denied anymore.

Balochistan is in the limelight as it is the theatre of CPEC-related projects. While Gwadar constitutes the bastion of big-ticket initiatives such as an evolving seaport and airport, it is ironic that the people are restless and protesting for basic civic amenities. This means the developmental mosaic is jaundiced and the locals are not on board! The cries from the Gwadar rally were quite clear, as they were asking for potable water, civic amenities, and employment opportunities for locals. Likewise, they pointed out hindrances in fishing in open seas at the hands of illegal trawlers, and also called for lifting restrictions on trade with Iran. These are heedful issues and must be obliged with.

In an era of geo-economics, Balochistan is indispensable for regional development and serenity. The government too has been actively pursuing developmental projects and is eager to see disparity come to an end. Thus, it is mandatory that social mobility sets in the backward areas, and the locals are aptly provided with power and privileges to recast their lives in a changing world around them. There is no point in keeping the locals out, and still expect trans-regionalism to flourish. Most of the demands pertain to trade, communication and logistical affairs, as they are linked with checkpoints, opening up of international frontiers with Afghanistan and Iran, as well as tapping the expansive seaside for economic ventures. Let the Baloch be on their own and reap the fruits of the ensuing change.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2331812/gwadar-protest>

‘SEZs tool to enhance investment’

ISLAMABAD: Propagation of high-tech industry through research and development is the need of the hour to lift the industrial base of Pakistan at par with the regional countries, said Board of Investment Chairman Azfar Ahsan.

Speaking in a meeting of National Science and Technology Park (NSTP) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) committee on Saturday, he said SEZs were blanket policy tool to promote investment in industrial infrastructure.

“On the other hand, research and development of innovative technologies remains the key building block of such infrastructure,” he said.

On the occasion, Board of Investment Secretary Fareena Mazhar stated that international investors could easily avail the opportunity to identify and select potential locations to establish their units in the SEZs.

With operationalisation of NSTP, more investors are expected to flock to this park to incubate new technologies which will help revolutionise the industry.

She reiterated that BOI would leave no stone unturned to ensure that NSTP reached its full potential.

During the meeting, the committee approved entry of two enterprises in the SEZ.

The applicants included Hato Pakistan, a joint venture owned by Hato BV Netherlands and Ather Technologies, Pakistan with a planned investment of Rs20 million in agri-tech.

The second enterprise is Rapidev, a UAE based company with planned investment of \$20 million in defence and electronic technologies.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2332527/sezs-tool-to-enhance-investment>

Express News

چینی فرم کا جدید ٹیکنالوجی سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان

چینی فرم ہوتیان نے پاکستان میں جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری میں اظہار دلچسپی کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد
چین کی معروف آلات ٹیسٹنگ کی ٹیکنالوجی فراہم کرنے والی فرم ٹونگ گوان ہوتیان ٹیسٹنگ ایکوپمنٹ کولیمیٹڈ گروپ کے چیئرمین یوچنگ یانگ نے ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں کہا
اسمبلی، سیلز اور بعد از فروخت سروس کیلئے ان کا ادارہ سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے جبکہ ملک بھر میں ووکیشنل سینٹرز بھی قائم / کہ پاکستان میں صارفین کیلئے مینوفیکچرنگ
کئے جائیں گے۔

چینی فرم نے ہنرمند افراد تیار کرنے کیلئے پاکستان میں ٹیسٹنگ آلات کے شعبے میں پیشہ ورانہ تربیتی مرکز سمیت فیکٹری قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔
یوچنگ یانگ نے کہا، ہم برادر ممالک ہیں! ہم مستقبل میں پاکستان میں فیکٹری لگانے کا ارادہ رکھتے ہیں، اور متعلقہ تکنیکی عملے کی تربیت کو جامع طریقے سے انجام دیں گے تاکہ
مینوفیکچرنگ کے شعبے ہماری مصنوعات تک رسائی حاصل کر سکیں، اور پاکستان میں تکنیکی خلا کو کم کر سکیں۔

انہوں نے کہا پاکستان ایک دوست ملک ہے اور پاکستانی حکومت چینی کاروباری اداروں کے لیے مزید سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے پرعزم ہے جو کہ پاکستان میں مزید چینی صنعتوں کو فروغ دینے کیلئے اہم ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2253467/6/>

December 02, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC projects

NAVEED BUTT

Chinese investors: Umar says Pakistan wants ‘win-win cooperation’

ISLAMABAD: “Pakistan wishes to have win-win cooperation with the Chinese investors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects”.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar expressed these views, while addressing a meeting organised by CPEC Authority with China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles and leading Chinese textile companies and investors on Wednesday.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor and some textile investors in Pakistan participated in the event.

Embassy of China in Islamabad and Pakistan’s Embassy in Beijing also joined the session. Umar said that the event had been organised to highlight to the Chinese investors, the comparative advantage of Pakistan in the textile sector.

He said that Pakistan wishes to have win-win cooperation with the Chinese investors and such meetings are aimed at giving the investors an opportunity to develop deeper understanding of the investment opportunities in the textile sector.

Mansoor briefed the participants on the measures being taken by the government to facilitate the investors.

He said that the legal framework was being further improved to make it easier for investors to start and run their operations.

He said that the industrial cooperation segment of the CPEC holds great potential and significant work was underway to make full use of it.

A detailed presentation on textile sector of Pakistan was given to the Chinese entrepreneurs and investors, wherein, various aspects of comparative advantages of Pakistan were explained in detail.

The presentation included comparative data of the region for transportation, labour, utilities, and other costs for the investors.

It also highlighted the favourable market access situation for the country's products in foreign markets.

The facilities and incentives available to investors in the CPEC SEZs were also discussed in detail.

Chairman of the Chinese Chamber, greatly appreciated the online exchange and said that it was very informative for the participants.

He said that investors' visits would be arranged as soon as the travel restrictions are phased out. Representatives of a number of large Chinese textile companies participated in the session. Other participants also spoke during the event and highlighted various aspects of textile sector of Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/02/4-page/909789-news.html>

HBL partners with DTB to launch China Coverage Department

KARACHI: HBL partners with Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) and launches the China Coverage Department to serve Chinese enterprises operating in the East African Market.

HBL, the largest Bank in Pakistan and China is HBL's second home market. It is the only Pakistani bank to have branches in China and only one of the three banks from South Asia and MENA region to offer end-to-end RMB intermediation.

Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Limited (DTB) is a leading regional bank listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) with presence in four East African countries. An affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), DTB has operated in East Africa for more than 70 years. HBL has been instrumental in supporting business flows between China and South Asian Countries. This partnership with DTB, will further the Bank's ability to extend this capability for the China Business to Africa. DTB is working with HBL to introduce a wide range of products to cater to the needs of the market including direct RMB remittances from Kenyan Shilling, RMB-based trade products including guarantees, imports and exports and financing financial products.

The announcement was made at a dinner hosted by DTB in honour of its Chinese clients in Kenya.

Speaking at the event, Sultan Ali Allana, Chairman HBL, said, "HBL is uniquely positioned with its China coverage desk with a branch presence in Urumqi and a branch presence in Beijing. HBL employs Chinese staff to better facilitate our clients across the world. DTB is our affiliate bank and through them, our clients are able to transact between East Africa and China. We look forward to playing a leading role in facilitating regional trade and creating opportunities for our valued clients throughout HBL's international network."

Linus Gitahi, Chairman - DTB Kenya, acknowledged that the move is set to boost the country's economic development by acting as a vehicle for investment, infrastructure development, and trade.

Commenting on the occasion, Linus Gitahi said, “China is one of Kenya’s biggest trading partners and we are proud to play our role in unlocking the growth opportunities between these two nations. We welcome all Chinese enterprises and nationals to visit our vast network of DTB branches across East Africa for a variety of banking solutions, including direct funds transfer to China and other International destinations.”—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/02/5-page/909791-news.html>

PM says we must adhere to timelines of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired a high-level meeting to review progress on CPEC projects on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister emphasised that timelines specified for completion of CPEC projects should be adhered to. He said that Government of Pakistan is fully committed to provisions of CPEC agreements.

The Prime Minister stated that China has been a time-tested friend of Pakistan and that the Government accords high priority to implementation and operationalization of CPEC projects.

The Prime Minister highlighted that continuity of policies is essential for long-term projects in order to achieve maximum benefits for the country.

Earlier, SAPM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor briefed the meeting about updated status of CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Ali Haider Zaidi, Asad Umar, Advisor Finance Shaukat Fayaz Tarin, Advisor Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood and senior officers.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/02/12-page/909887-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese digital solutions leader rolls out digital tour in Pakistan

H3C, a leader in digital solutions rolled out its global virtual event, the H3C Digital Tour 2021, in Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, Gary Huang, President of International Business and Senior Vice President of H3C delivered the online welcome speech at the H3C Digital Tour 2021-Pakistan event.

Themed “Digital Future We Together”, the event promoted mutual engagement between H3C, its partners and end users in Pakistan to encourage the implementation of smart digital strategies in key industries.

By accelerating the digital transformation of traditional enterprises and enabling the industrial intelligent application, we will be together to share the benefits of digitalization and create a better digital future.

Through the “Digital Pakistan” Policy launched in 2018, the Pakistani government aims to build an agile and innovative digital service ecosystem that is capable of facilitating core transformations in governance and infrastructure.

The Pakistani government has started focusing on investment in ICT fields including big data and information security in recent years, aiming to support the digital transformation of local industries, including healthcare, education, government and others shifting towards digital solutions in response to COVID-19 pandemic, consequently creating a large demand for the support of digital network construction.

Frank Zhu, Country Manager of H3C Pakistan, told CEN that with the firm global strategy, H3C will prove to be a trusted partner and is dedicated to become one of the leading players in the Pakistan ICT industry. “By leveraging its innovative technologies and global experience, H3C will continue to invest in team’s professionalism, in new opportunities in Pakistan with partners to support customers from various industries in their digital transformation, to contribute towards better Digital Pakistan.” Since entering the Pakistani market in 2019, H3C has successfully certified over 70 partners and 60 engineers, helping to upgrade digital infrastructure in government, telecoms, education, banking, and healthcare sectors.

Speaking during the H3C Digital Tour 2021 in Pakistan, Gary Huang informed the audience that the theme of H3C Digital Tour is “Digital Future o We Together”, which follows H3C’s global strategy of working together with the partners and customers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/848928/chinese-digital-solutions-leader-rolls-out-digital-tour-in-pakistan/>

Dawn News

NTDC rewards itself for project executed by Chinese

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has approved a reward honorarium, equal to two running basic pays, for its own 58 employees, for completing a mega project, which was mainly executed by the Chinese engineers under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), whereas the company (NTDC) was to monitor the project activities.

An official said it was the waste of Rs7.5 million to be distributed among 58 NTDC employees, including the MD, DMD and GMs, even though the project (Matiari-Lahore High Voltage Direct Current-HVDC transmission line) was completed by Chinese, whereas the NTDC monitored the project and provided right of way, line testing, etc.

According to another official source, though the MD had financial powers, but it did not mean to reward a huge number of people. Moreover, the MD is working on an acting charge basis under which he can monitor and perform day-to-day affairs of the company and not make decisions that involve huge money to waste.

“It (the disbursement of the reward) was okay to the extent of lower-grade officials—drivers, clerks, etc and not the MD, DMD, chief engineers and managers,” the source said.

The reward list includes those officers who have nothing to do with the project as they have been performing duties in the Islamabad-based National Power Control Centre.

“It is also wondering that the name of the MD, who was not even part of the HVDC team constituted by the ministry to get the line’s Commercial Operation Date (September 1, 2021) achieved in collaboration with the Chinese firm, was also included in the award list,” the source said.

The MD was not available for comment.

A senior member of the NTDC’s BoD said: “This matter was not brought before the BoD. But the MD is competent authority to do so,” he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1661406>

Dunya News

Pakistan offers huge opportunities to Chinese investors in textile sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Wednesday said Pakistan offered the Chinese investors huge opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the investment opportunities in the textile sector.

“Pakistan wishes to have win-win cooperation with the Chinese investors”, Asad Umar said during a meeting with China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles and leading Chinese textile companies and investors.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, and some textile investors in Pakistan participated in the event organized by the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority.

Embassy of China in Islamabad and Pakistan’s Embassy in Beijing also joined the session.

Asad Umar stated that the event had been organized to highlight to the Chinese investors, the comparative advantage of Pakistan in the textile sector.

Khalid Mansoor briefed the participants on the measures being taken by the government to facilitate the investors.

He said that the legal framework was being further improved to make it easier for investors to start and run their operations.

He said that the industrial cooperation segment of CPEC holds great potential and significant work was underway to make full use of it.

A detailed presentation on the textile sector of Pakistan was given to Chinese entrepreneurs and investors wherein various aspects of comparative advantages of Pakistan were explained in detail.

The presentation included comparative data of the region for transportation, labor, utilities and other costs for the investors. It also highlighted the favorable market access situation for the country's products in foreign markets.

The facilities and incentives available to investors in CPEC SEZs were also discussed in detail.

Chairman of the Chinese Chamber, greatly appreciated the online exchange and said that it was very informative for the participants. He said that investors' visits would be arranged as soon as the travel restrictions are phased out.

Representatives of a number of large Chinese textile companies participated in the session.

Other participants also spoke during the event and highlighted various aspects of the textile sector of Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/631213-Pakistan-offers-huge-opportunities-Chinese-investors-textile-sector>

December 03, 2021

Daily Times

China hails PM's positive remarks on Pak-China friendship

Prime Minister Imran Khan's positive remarks on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) fully demonstrated that Pakistan attached high importance to friendship between the two countries and a comprehensive cooperation, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Thursday.

"China has noted that for some time that Prime Minister Imran Khan has made positive remarks on CPEC. This fully demonstrates that the Pakistani side pays high importance over the friendship between our two sides and a comprehensive cooperation," he made these remarks during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP.

"While chairing a high level meeting to review the progress on CPEC projects, the prime minister emphasized that timelines specific for completion of CPEC projects should be adhered to." He also said that the government of Pakistan was committed to provisions of the CPEC agreement.

The spokesperson said, "China highly appreciates the remarks made by the prime minister."?

He said that the CPEC, a pilot project under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), since its inception, had made important contribution to Pakistan's economic development and people's livelihood improvements. It had won great appraisal and recognition of people across all fields.

Wang Wenbin said that China was ready to work with Pakistan to implement the consensus of the two leaders and on the current building and operation of further focus on cooperation in industry, people's livelihood, agriculture and science and make CPEC a demonstrated project in the benefit of the two people and two countries.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/849404/china-hails-pms-positive-remarks-on-pak-china-friendship/>

The News

Pak ready to connect Middle East with Afghanistan, Central Asia by CPEC: FM Qureshi

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday said that with steady progress of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and operationalization of Gwadar port, Pakistan is ready to connect the Middle East with Afghanistan and onwards with Central Asia. He said the enhanced connectivity in our regions will yield rich dividends for our people.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was addressing a grand reception hosted by Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to commemorate the 50th National Day of his country. The UAE ambassador said the eternal bilateral relations between the two countries are based on brotherhood, historic depth, neighborhood and common interests. This unique friendship withstood various tests, while the scope of our cooperation kept expanding with the passage of time and now covers various fields, he added.

Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi said he felt blessed and honored to celebrate the golden jubilee anniversary of UAE and the 50 years of Pak-UAE historic and friendly relations, in "my second home, Pakistan. He said that he was fully confident that under the visionary leadership of both the countries, this bond of brotherhood will be further enhanced in various sectors and broader horizons. The ambassador recalled proudly that over the past 50 years, the UAE has moved rapidly from a pearl industry to a fully diversified modern economy that is now leading the world in technology, science and sustainability. Being a hub for trade and logistics for centuries due to its unique position, the modern UAE has a global presence that focuses on innovation, technology and education, he added.

The ambassador said that the opening of Dubai Expo 2020 in October 2021 marked the conclusion of five decades of achievements, where 192 countries gathered in Dubai under the theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and provided an ideal opportunity for every participating country to showcase their history, heritage and technology advancement.

Addressing the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said today, we are not only celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the unification of United Arab Emirates (UAE) but also 50 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and UAE. "I bring the warmest greetings from the leadership of Pakistan for the UAE leadership," he said. The FM said that Pakistan and UAE have excellent fraternal relations underpinned by the shared heritage and multifaceted

cooperation. The tremendous progress achieved by the UAE would not have been possible without the visionary leadership of the founding father of UAE, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, he added. He said the great leader had a lot of affection for Pakistan as he took personal interest in country's many socio-economic projects and also encouraged the Pakistani workers to work in the UAE. These Pakistanis are a strong bridge between Pakistan and the UAE, he added.

Qureshi said that the successive leaders of UAE have risen to the high standards set by His Highness Sheikh Zayed and have strengthened and diversified relations with Pakistan. Referring to his meetings with his counterpart of the UAE, he said several follow up meetings to are underway on the decisions taken by our leaders. Our close consultations have resulted in better understanding of the political, regional and international issues of mutual concern, he added. He said our trade and economic ties have also been buttressed. "We have also been working closely at the international forums. We congratulate the UAE on its election to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2022-23 and for hosting COP-28," the FM Qureshi said. He said on the event of golden jubilee of UAE's foundation, we rejoice in its great achievement of successfully holding Expo 2020 as it is the first ever world Expo in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region. In the spirit of our love for UAE, Pakistan has participated enthusiastically in the Expo, he added.

The FM said that the Pakistan Pavilion won praise for being one of the most vibrant, active and colourful pavilions, adding that showcasing the 'Hidden Treasures of Pakistan' has been one of the most frequented pavilions. He recalled that economic and trade ties between Pakistan and UAE are an important part of our bilateral relationship and have been growing steadily. With bilateral trade of over \$8 billion, the UAE remains Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and North Africa Region, the FM said, adding that it is also among the largest foreign investors in Pakistan. FM Qureshi extended heartiest felicitations from the people and government of Pakistan to the people of UAE and its leadership on the Golden Jubilee of their unification. "We wish them phenomenal success in all their endeavours," he said. As many as 10 ministers and advisors had turned up for the reception, where dances and talks over the progress of the UAE were shown on a big screen.

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

K2 Daily



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

December 04, 2021

Daily Times

China supports Pakistan's efforts in timely completion of CPEC: envoy

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Friday said China was committed to work with Pakistan to promote high quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in timely manner. On his official twitter handle, the envoy said that China highly appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan for his determination and leadership in steering the development of CPEC. "China will work hard with Pakistan to promote high-quality development of the CPEC in a timely manner, for more benefits of the two peoples", he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/849987/china-supports-pakistans-efforts-in-timely-completion-of-cpec-envoy/>

The News

China promises high-quality development of CPEC

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China on Friday assured Pakistan that it would work hard to promote high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for the greater benefits of the people of both countries.

The assurance came from Chinese Ambassador for Pakistan Nong Rong, who welcomed PM Imran Khan's commitment towards the CPEC, agreements under CPEC and timelines specified for the completion of the CPEC projects.

The Chinese ambassador, in a tweet on Friday, said that China highly appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan for his determination in steering the development of CPEC.

Earlier, on Wednesday, PM Imran Khan, while reiterating his government's commitment to the provisions of CPEC agreements, stressed upon adhering to the timelines specified for the completion of CPEC projects. The PM also emphasised that the continuity of policies is essential for the long-term projects in order to achieve maximum benefits for the country.

He said that China has been a time-tested friend of Pakistan, adding that the government accords high priority to the implementation and operationalisation of CPEC projects.

The opposition, especially the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) leadership has been accusing the government of slowing down the work on the CPEC projects.

It also said the government has wound up the project, for which the agreements were inked by former prime minister and PMLN supremo Nawaz Sharif during his days in office.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=31424>

December 05, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistani skiers to compete in Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

Pakistani athletes are all set to participate in the 24th Olympics Games also known as the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. This would be Pakistan's fourth appearance in the Winter Olympics and the athletes vow to win the first medals for their country in Olympics Games.

An official from Winter Sports Federation Pakistan told Gwadar Pro "Three athletes including two male and one female from Pakistan will participate in the Winter Games", adding a male and female are participating in cross-country skiing while a skier will take part in Alpine skiing. The official, who wished anonymity, said Pakistani athletes are all talented enough to win medals at the Winter Games.

The 24th Olympics Games also known as Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will take place from February 4 to February 20, 2022, in the Chinese capital Beijing. After the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the Winter Olympics would be organised in the same city, making Beijing the first dual Olympic city in history.

Meanwhile, PTV World, a 24-hour Pakistani English language Channel, began airing the 'Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics' promotional video titled "Beijing Welcomes You".

The eight-minute-plus video gives brief details of the various games that would be played during the Winter Games, adding, "All venues are powered by green and renewable energy".

Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan said in the promotional video that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the Beijing Winter Olympics.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics are a grand event for all countries on a stage of fair competition for athletes from all over the world. China has the competence and ability to work together with the International Olympics Committee and the international community to ensure the success of the Beijing Winter Olympics," he added.

He further said, "We offer a fantastic extraordinary and excellent Olympic games to the world; so far all venues and facilities have been nearly finished and venue preparation work goes very well; we are very grateful to the Pakistani government, Pakistan Olympic Association and Pakistan friends for your strong support for the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics". The message of Ambassador Nong Rong is followed by a message by President Pakistan Olympic Association Lt. General (retired) Syed Arif Hasan.

"I think Beijing Olympics are going to be a fantastic opportunity for the athletes not only as far as the performance is concerned but also to get to know each, to work with each other, to understand each other and to contribute towards developing a more harmonious atmosphere as far as the world is concerned," said Mr Hasan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/850512/pakistani-skiers-to-compete-in-beijing-2022-winter-olympics/>

Pakistan Observer

China plastics & packaging machinery digital expo concludes successfully

The “China Plastics and Packaging Machinery (Pakistan) Digital Expo”, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China concluded successfully.

More than 40 Chinese domestic high-quality enterprises were selected to participate in the exhibition.

The exhibition gathered professional buyers from Pakistan, India and other South Asian countries online.

The exhibits covered plastic machinery, rubber machinery, packaging machinery, related auxiliary equipment, various supporting equipment and raw materials, and so on.

The exhibition was widely promoted in South Asian countries in a diversified way, and professional buyers were invited to visit and purchase in the exhibition through precise attraction.

In this way it helped enterprises to realize online exhibition and negotiation, making up for the “break point” caused by the suspension of offline exhibition due to the epidemic.

This exhibition offered a new solution for traditional business trade in a new way and further strengthened the supply and procurement docking and aggregation, helping China domestic enterprises to grasp orders, expand market and increase confidence without leaving home.

During the exhibition, the supply and procurement sides realized instant interactive communication by means of graphics, online text communication, audio and video, which greatly enhanced the exhibition display effect and matchmaking efficiency and was widely praised by enterprises.

The digital exhibition closely followed the market demand of plastics and packaging machinery in China and South Asia, effectively helped Chinese foreign trade enterprises break through the epidemic barrier, created a zero-distance, low-cost and high-efficiency digital communication platform for foreign trade enterprises.

This has further promoted the economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries to ensure steady, long-term and solid economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-plastics-packaging-machinery-digital-expo-concludes-successfully/>

IICR Online Conference Speakers agreed to enhance horizon of CPEC from economics to technology, tourism

The Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution organized an online conference titled “CPEC Intra-Regional Cooperation Beyond South Asia”.

It was arranged to highlight and broaden the concept of CPEC in a broader aspect. The panelists included Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director Pakistan-China Study Centre ISSI, Amb.

Naghmana Hashmi, Former Ambassador to China; Prof. Dr. Zhou Rong, Senior Fellow at Renmin University, Beijing and Mr. Dawood Butt, CEO K-Bot. Ms. Sabah Aslam, Executive Director, Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution – IICR, moderated the session.

While speaking to the panel, Dr. Shabbir talked about the high economic stakes involved in the CPEC of both China and Pakistan. Keeping in view the stakes, Pakistan shifted its policy from Geo-strategy to Geo-Economics, said, Dr. Shabbir.

He added further that there are two more corridors under BRI from which Pakistan can benefit; one is China’s Central and West Asia Corridor, and the other is New Eurasian Land Bridge.

The next speaker on the panel was Amb. Naghmana Hashmi. She said that it needs to be remembered that CPEC is not a standalone program. It is very much an integral part of China’s mega-project BRI.

Adding further, she said that the whole idea of CPEC was to go beyond the region, and it does that by providing the shortest route to Africa other regions. It was the selling pitch of CPEC when it was started, and it remained central to it.

Furthermore, she said that the whole idea of going beyond the region could not be fully practised unless the challenges of Afghanistan could not be solved.

Afghanistan can only be the ground of opportunities and avenues for CPEC if Pakistan has more to offer other than humanitarian assistance, said Ms. Hashmi.

Prof. Dr. Zhou Rong said that China works on the philosophy of creating a better world and shared future of Humanity, and this has been implemented through BRI and CPEC so those friendly countries can have a better way of life.

It is not hidden that the bond both countries share goes decades back; both played irreplaceable roles for each other, said Prof. Rong.

He further said that Pakistani people need to understand China more to enhance the interaction between countries. He added more that CPEC enabled Pakistan to train its people for the future. Phase-I is done, Phase-II is going on, and Phase-III will be soon operational.

Mr. Hassan Daud Butt said that Pakistan would be 100 years old in 30 years with an ever-increasing population of more than 220 million, which is alarming at every level.

Discussing further, he said that more people mean more job market which can only be filled through the strong innovative economy, and CPEC is playing its key role in it.

He added further that investments could only come if there is suitable and substantial infrastructure. Unless there is proper infrastructure, there will not be any investment.

<https://pakobserver.net/iicr-online-conference-speakers-agreed-to-enhance-horizon-of-cpec-from-economics-to-technology-tourism/>

December 06, 2021

Business Recorder

SEZs - a long way to go

A lot of the times when worsening foreign direct investment in the country is criticized, especially as flows from China under CPEC are also slowing down, all hopes are pinned to what the authorities call the second phase of CPEC: the development of SEZs. The State Bank of Pakistan describes Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as an important investment policy tool to address the problems of low investments, exports, and industrialization by addressing these issues by ensuring a business-friendly environment within a designated boundary, with institutional, legal, and infrastructural architecture.

Special Economic Zones are the test ground for reforms, policies, industrialisation and investment. Where many countries have adopted the SEZ model, Chinese progress is unmatched. Highlights of China's experience with SEZs has been about experimentation and testing as well as the ability to reform, drive national development and boost research and development. While some form of the same such as Industrial Estates (IEs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have existed in the country since the 1970s, the SEZ concept is a recent phenomenon in Pakistan. So, while China's success has been a key factor for optimism for Pakistan when SEZs were announced under CPEC, SEZs are still in the stage of infancy, and the progress has been slow and the results and hopes attached to them remain unfulfilled.

Special Economic Zones usually have a primary goal, which can vary from one zone to another. The success of SEZs too is partially dependent on their ability to achieve that goal. From what it seems, the primary objective of SEZs in Pakistan is to attract FDI, exports, foreign exchange. SBP's annual report for FY21 highlights the same with further analysis on the progress as well as the challenges and the opportunities they hold for the country.

The central bank's findings show that it can take about six and a half years from the time an SEZ is conceptualized till it becomes fully colonized with operational zone enterprises. Whereas the success or failure of an SEZ can be assessed after a decade of it becoming fully operational and sufficiently colonized, which means it is difficult to give a final ruling on the country's SEZ progress. However, key challenges to SEZ growth have ironically been the typical bureaucratic, processing, and regulatory issues that businesses and the macro-economy face otherwise. These

completely go against the true essence of setting up and colonizing an SEZ i.e., insulating SEZs from complex processes and procedures for approvals, registrations, and licenses; legal challenges. Other challenges include the lack of skilled labour; hurdles to one-stop shops; overlapping coordination between functions; a weak framework for long-term operational sustainability of the zones; technical hurdles in the financing of zone enterprises; and weak monitoring mechanisms.

The effects of such hurdles can be seen from investors pulling out of Punjab SEZs due to unnecessary documentation requirements by the authorities; or the Dhabeji Industrial Zone project that has been halted as the award of a contract is challenged in Sindh High Court.

Key recommendations include transitioning the SEZ framework from one that focuses on first-time colonization to the one that also provides operation and maintenance, financing, and monitoring. The SEZs need a stated goal and a clear policy framework. There is a need to create a separate centralized autonomous SEZ authority. The one-stop shop concept must implement in true spirit the simplification of procedures, limited human interaction, and shorter timelines for applications concerned with SEZs.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/06/13-page/910316-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Coal termed hedge against world fuel price volatility

Coal is on its way out globally as the impact of climate change becomes more obvious by the day.

But the energy companies involved in mining and coal-based power generation in Pakistan are scaling up their production capacities to ensure “reliable and affordable” electricity going forward.

“Coal provides us with a hedge against international fuel price volatility. It’s indigenous and its price is not pegged to the international market,” said Engro Energy Ltd CEO Ahsan Zafar Syed while speaking to Dawn in a recent interview.

His company owns 11.9 per cent shareholding in Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company Ltd (SECMC), which has been mining 3.8 million tonnes of coal every year since 2019.

It sells its entire output to Engro Powergen Thar Ltd (EPTL), the country’s only coal-based 660-megawatt power plant that burns indigenous fuel. Engro Energy Ltd owns 50.1pc shares in EPTL.

“Covid-19 showed us how one event could affect the international fuel supply chains. Economic progress requires indigenous fuel sources to ensure energy security and protection from supply-chain disruptions,” he said.

Engro Energy CEO says Covid showed how one event can disrupt international supply chains.

The contribution of coal to the electricity fuel mix has surged in recent years as an increasing number of power plants on both imported and indigenous coal became part of the national grid.

Its share in the total power generation in the first 10 months of 2021 was 20pc. Despite a global movement against the use of coal, Mr Syed said SECMC is poised to double its output to 7.6m tonnes per annum by June 2022.

The mine's expansion under the ongoing second phase will coincide with the commissioning of a 330MW power plant by Thar Energy Ltd, whose majority shareholding is with The Hub Power Company (Hubco).

Another Hubco-sponsored power plant of 330MW, Thal Nova Power Thar Ltd, is expected to come on line in September-October next year. Its commissioning will ensure 100pc consumption of the enhanced output of the Thar coal mine.

The third phase of the mine expansion will then take the output to 12.2m tonnes of coal per annum by June 2023, said Mr Syed. The increased output will supply fuel to the 660MW power plant that the Lucky Group is building at Port Qasim.

“You can't even think about abandoning this [mining] project. We must take it to a point where it achieves economic viability.

Only then you can pause and think about other options,” said Mr Syed. Based on the pricing structure in place for Thar coal, SECMC earns an internal rate of return or IRR of 20pc above the project cost.

The price of indigenous coal is currently \$61 per tonne, about half of the rate prevailing in the international market.

Thar coal's price will come down to \$42 per tonne upon the completion of the ongoing second phase, he said. Thanks to the economies of scale, it'll further drop to \$27 per tonne when the third phase is completed.

<https://pakobserver.net/coal-termed-hedge-against-world-fuel-price-volatility/>

China's whole-process democracy brings happiness: Shen Haixiong

A country's democratic system is deeply rooted in its history, culture and tradition, therefore, there is no “one-size-fits-all” democracy model.

Shen Haixiong, President of China Media Group (CMG), made the remarks at the International Forum on Democracy: The Shared Human Values.

Held in Beijing, the forum was attended by more than 500 senior politicians and scholars from over 120 countries and regions, and 20 international organizations.

Shen said China's whole-process people's democracy gives the Chinese people a sense of happiness and fulfillment. It has helped 1.4 billion people get rid of absolute poverty and brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control.

A country's democracy should only be judged by its people, and the real democracy should be used to improve people's well-being, Shen said.

Meanwhile, he criticized the US for imposing its democracy on other countries regardless of their cultural and historical differences.

It brought economic disruptions and humanitarian disasters to local populations, Shen said.

The US Capitol riot in early January, Washington's hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan and the country's record-high death toll during the COVID-19 pandemic have exposed that American democracy is getting seriously sick, Shen said.

Noting that CGTN coverage on Afghanistan has shown the world the real situation in the country, Shen pledged that CMG will continue to shoulder its responsibility as a major international media outlet to spread the truth and share democratic stories in China.

We believe in the power of justice, and we'll be committed to spreading objective and fair democratic awareness, Shen said.

He vowed to work actively to build a healthy global public opinion environment and enhance exchanges between different civilizations to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Xie Fuzhan, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that democracy is a concrete phenomenon that is constantly evolving.

Rooted in history and culture, it takes diverse forms and develops along the paths chosen by different peoples based on their exploration and innovation.

Yukio Hatoyama, former prime minister of Japan, said the US, instead of overemphasizing its values, should focus on common values shared by the international community and avoid a zero-sum game in international relations.

Kenneth M. Quinn, former US ambassador to Cambodia, hopes that China and the US could work together to promote democracy through collaboration and multilateral diplomacy under the UN framework.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-whole-process-democracy-brings-happiness-shen-haixiong/>

The Express Tribune

Investment in port infrastructure

It will help buy new vessels, aid exporters in sustaining earnings growth

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi has announced that Karachi Port Trust (KPT) will construct a six-lane bridge connecting the East and West wharves within 18 months. The estimated cost of the project is Rs2.3 billion.

Finally, the government seems to have realized what a vital role Karachi Port plays in foreign trade. What has prompted the government to go for the construction of the connecting bridge is that in the absence of it, the movement of import and export cargo at the port has become too difficult.

That is resulting in undue delay in the clearance of inbound and outbound foreign shipments, thus causing hardships for both importers and exporters.

Delay in clearance of export cargo means loss of business, which deprives Pakistan of the much-needed foreign exchange. And delay in clearance of import cargo means late arrival of key raw material for export-oriented industries. This, in turn, affects the growth rate of exports.

Besides, delayed arrival of finished imported goods in the market makes them pricier, at a time when excessive rupee depreciation has already made all imported stuff prohibitively dearer, due to the additional cost incurred by importers in the form of demurrages and cost of storage.

Since fuel oil prices are also on the rise, by the time an importer gets his cargo cleared from the port and makes arrangement for its transportation to the points of reception, the additional cost of transportation also adds to the total cost of imported goods.

Naturally, then those goods become more expensive in the domestic market regardless of whether they are meant for end-consumers or traders or industrialists catering to just domestic markets or both domestic and foreign markets. Hopefully, you see the point dear readers!

When China made a generous commitment to make \$3.5 billion investment in the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) at the end of September this year, Zaidi and other federal ministers rushed to issue self-congratulatory messages on social media.

But none of them bothered to explain why even a fraction of this investment was not flowing into areas that directly relate to the augmentation of port facilities or Pakistan's decaying shipping industry.

Although part of the \$3.5 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) would be used for the development of fisheries sector – and that must be praised wholeheartedly, generally speaking, KCCDZ is more about constructing mixed-use residential and commercial projects on the underutilised land of KPT.

Twin benefit

Seaports play a key role in promoting a country's exports and containing its cost of imports. A country with first-class operational, integrated seaports can expect to exploit this twin benefit for reducing its trade deficit.

According to a 2019 report of the World Economic Forum, Pakistan was ranked 70th in terms of quality of port infrastructure, far behind Egypt (38th), Turkey (48th), China (49th) and India (51st).

Only recently, Pakistan Textile Exporters Association complained through a press statement that \$500 million worth of export cargo was stuck at ports “due to unavailability of vessels or container release orders.”

It simply means that congestion and chaos at harbors due to lack of timely dredging and maintenance of water channels continues to make availability of ships uncertain. It also means that delay in cargo clearance due to congestion at ports results in delayed loading of export cargo onto ships that luckily become available.

Now, the reason why our exporters and importers have to rely almost exclusively – with very little exception – on foreign flag carriers is that Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), our own flag carrier, does not have the right number of vessels.

You will be surprised to know that PNSC by its own admission manages a fleet of just 11 ships whereas Bangladesh National Shipping Corporation boasts of a fleet of 13 vessels.

PNSC acquired its 11th vessel in 2011. Since then, it has not been able to add any vessel to its fleet simply due to paucity of funds. Here we have a case for making real large investment in the shipping industry.

Freight charges

Shipping charges have skyrocketed in the post-Covid world. The container freight rate index stood at just \$1,342 per tonne in July 2019, but at the end of November 2021 the index closed at \$9,353 a tonne, after scaling an all-time high of \$10,323 in September.

The unprecedented increase in cargo movement along with a substantial increase in merchant insurance charges have raised the cost of exports and imports, offsetting the impact of incentives offered to exporters by different governments.

Pakistani government and exporters are no exception. Both are struggling and may continue to struggle in the foreseeable future for ensuring a sustainable growth in export earnings.

Making sizable investment in port infrastructure and shipping industry, particularly in the acquisition of vessels for PNSC, may help in providing the export sector a crucial cushion it needs to sustain growth in earnings.

The development of Gwadar Port is a big success story of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). But the government would do well to invite foreign investment, both under CPEC umbrella as well as from other countries, in the development and maintenance of physical infrastructure at all other ports – Karachi Port and Port Qasim, which are the most important ones.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2332615/investment-in-port-infrastructure>

The Nation

Asia Youth Forum on “Technology innovation and smart city” held in Guangzhou, China

BEIJING - The government officials, enterprise leaders and scholars from Asian countries gathered at Asia Youth Forum held in Guangzhou, China and discussed role of smart cities in changing future life and cooperation among the Asian countries in this field.

The speakers shed light into the topic “Technology innovation and smart city” at the Forum.

A smart city utilises all of the technologies such as AI, block-chain and 5G to provide more efficient and easier services to people, said Kashif Sharif, Associate Professor of Beijing Institute of Technology.

He mentioned the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as an example, saying, “Guangdong cities, Hong Kong and Macao could be smart by using different technologies but they can be super smart if they link all these cities and their technologies together. If so, people can travel seamlessly while such things as virus tracking can also be done equally as seamlessly.” In term of the data flow between countries, he said it is possible and very beneficial for all the neighboring countries. But, it has to be first standardised and legalised either by the industries themselves or by the governments before providing people with services.

Liu Zhicheng, General Manager of Guangzhou Metro Group, said Guangzhou Metro aims to be ‘smarter’. “Firstly, it means smart manufacturing which is safer, greener and more efficient. Secondly, it means smart travel for passengers through automatic operation, smart safety checks and quick payment. Last but not least, we keep optimising production efficiency and cost control through cloud platform, IoT and big data technologies.”

Chng Ken Wei, Centre Director (China) at Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore, explained that Singapore has implemented a smart city plan, the iN2015 Master plan, in 2015. “The plan has three simple goals, that is, to bring citizens a comfortable and happy life, to help enterprises achieve their full potential and to improve efficiency of governance.”

He highlighted that the development of smart city would also bring new social problems.

“For example, the development of robotics will reduce the demand for jobs such as taxi drivers, factory workers and cleaners while deepening the shortage of high-end talents. It requires lots of training and retaining which we have offered lots of investment and subsidies,” he said.

As for talent pool development, Muhammad Ammar, Vice Secretary General of Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association, said there have been more foreigners wanting to study in China and work here after graduation instead of going to the US, Canada and Germany.

“For instance, many Pakistani students came to study mechanical engineering, automobile engineering, software engineering. They enter the AI and automobile industries after graduation.”

He said that many cities have launched platforms to improve foreigner services. He was impressed by a foreign community center in Shenzhen as it provides amazing services to foreign professionals.

He hope there could be more platforms like this, and more relaxed and favourable policies for foreigners to stay and work in China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-06/page-8/detail-5>

December 07, 2021

Business Recorder

Gwadar airport likely to become operational by 2023: Chinese CG

KARACHI: CPEC is an important part of Pak-China friendship, but the relationship between the two countries and with the business community is much deeper than that. Sad to see the situation of Pakistan's low-income class, but there is an attempt to somehow get Pakistan out of economic difficulties.

These views were expressed by Chinese Consul General Li Bijian during a visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), the Chinese Consul General further said that most of the projects of CPEC have been completed, Gwadar has become more important in the region, China has invested in various projects including airport, training centre, Gwadar port. He said, "I am happy that the power crisis of Pakistan has ended due to CPEC."

He said that the development work of Gwadar Airport is 90 percent completed and hoped that by 2023, Gwadar Airport will start its operations.

Chinese Consul General said that a hospital is also being constructed in Gwadar and it is expected that the hospital will also start functioning from next year.

He said that there are ample trade opportunities in China for Pakistani industrialists and investors. China has a population of 500 million middle class which could be a big market for Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan could export fruits and vegetables to China, while China has a large seafood market including rice and fish from which Pakistani exporters could take full advantage. In addition, cooperation between the two countries in the field of IT and electric vehicles could be further enhanced.

The Consul General said that the two countries could work out a strategy to increase Pakistan's export volume through trade.

He urged Pakistani industrialists to take advantage of the free trade agreement between the two countries.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that China is a brotherly country of Pakistan and relations between the two countries are very strong.

He said that CPEC project is important for the economy of both the countries. President KATI said they would brief Chinese Consulate on his proposals for increasing exports. Talking on the occasion, former President KATI Danish Khan said that Chinese investors should set up industries in Pakistan. He called for holding joint trade fairs with China to promote Pakistani products.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/07/7-page/910386-news.html>

Daily Times

E-commerce helps Pakistan salt rock open the Chinese market

E-commerce helps Pakistan salt rock open the Chinese market, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. “Himalayan salt rock from Pakistan is becoming known to a growing number of Chinese consumers as edible salt. In recent years, salt rock products such as Pakistan salt lamp, bath salt, and salt rock plate used for steam sauna have also become popular in China.

Through the e-commerce platform, the sales of our related products are very considerable. Especially during the recent online shopping carnivals including November 11th and December 12th, Himalayan salt rock products from Pakistan are being accepted by more and more Chinese people through e-commerce platforms,” manager of Ciaodo, the biggest Taobao shop for Pakistani rock salt, said to Gwadar Pro.

Nov 11th, a day that e-commerce companies have turned into the world’s biggest for online shopping by offering a stream of promotions and discounts.

Taking this opportunity, Alibaba’s e-commerce platforms, Taobao and Tmall, have enabled the sales of Rock salt products in Pakistan to perform well. Ciaodo has sold over 300 Himalayan salt lamp products on that occasion.

They told Gwadar Pro that: “indeed, e-commerce platforms have boosted sales and, more importantly, through these channels, the huge Chinese market is embracing Himalayan salt lamps gradually and laying a solid foundation for more Pakistani products being exported to China.”

The combination of online and offline forms has improved the sales channels of Himalayan salt lamps in China. Ciaodo believes that CIIE has significantly raised the popularity of salt lamps in China.

The manager said: “CIIE was very effective in promoting Himalayan salt lamps. After the closing of the 4th CIIE this year, many Chinese consumers who learned about Pakistan salt lamps found our Taobao shop and bought our products.

Because salt lamps are heavy, more consumers are more willing to buy them on e-commerce platforms after learning about them through offline channels.”

Chinese consumers' love for salt lamps is obvious. "There is no bad feedback for our salt lamps and we have a lot of repeat customers. Chinese consumers value it for its decorative, practical and, most importantly, health benefits.

Most of the Chinese customers who bought Himalayan salt lamps will come back and buy some more to give to others or put in more places," Ciaodo said.

Salt Lamp still faces some challenges in exporting to China, and e-commerce platforms are addressing these issues. Ciaodo said: "We started selling Himalayan edible salt in 2017 and started selling salt lamps in the last two years.

The biggest difficulty of this product is that its popularity is still deficient and the target consumer group is limited. But the situation is improving thanks to CIIE and e-commerce platforms. In addition, the salt lamp is still a crude processed product. We are also trying to design new salt rock products to maximize the good e-commerce sales environment in China and make more people like the salt lamp from Pakistan."

In addition to edible salt and salt lamps, bath salt and salt plates for sauna are also gradually becoming popular in the Chinese market. Ciaodo said that many Pakistani rock salt sellers in China are looking forward to the performance of this kind of rock salt products in the Chinese market in the future, which will become another huge business opportunity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/851209/e-commerce-helps-pakistan-salt-rock-open-the-chinese-market/>

Pakistan Observer

Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 and West Propaganda

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

GLOBAL forces against pure sports, human simplicity, soft power orientations and last but not the least, successful diplomacy have once again raised doubts about Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 urging all countries to boycott it because of so-called Chinese state policy against various minorities and regional countries.

The so-called international human right advocacy group disseminated false, fake, fabricated and fictional propaganda against China and its policies towards ethnic minorities.

Conversely sport diplomacy has become a game-changer in the power politics. Sports stand for determination, courage, friendship and hospitality whereas power politics replicates destruction, conspiracy, enmity and horrendous crimes and the US and the West have been staunch proponents of these deeds in the past.

Beijing Winter Olympics (BWOs) will be held on February 2022. China will also host the Paralympic Winter Games during 2022, making Beijing the first city in the world to host both the summer and winter Olympic Games and the second capital city to host winter Olympic

Games after Oslo-1952. It is destined to write a splendid chapter in the annals of Olympic history. It also held Olympic game in 2008.

“Together for a Shared Future” is the official motto of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. It highlights the power of the games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind.

Most recently, UN General Assembly adopted consensus resolution spotlighting unifying power of sports. While introducing the text, Chinese representative agreed that Olympic values are consistent with the United Nations mission to preserve international peace and security.

He assured that China would be committed to hosting a green, open and inclusive Winter Olympic Games in 2022 which will build resilience to the COVID 19 pandemic as it fosters tolerance and mutual understanding.

He called on Member States to reject any acts that undermine the Olympic values and remain open to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

In this direction, hopefully the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 will promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. It will translate Chinese ancient philosophy of pursuit of purity into reality and will inspire the Chinese people and help to create a harmonious world.

It will also showcase Chinese President Xi Jinping holistic policy of shared prosperity and common civilizations which are enriched by exchanges and mutual learning.

In this connection, The Beijing Winter Olympic will be conducive to advancing both China’s sports, social and economic development as well as the development of World Olympic Movement, facilitating mutual exchanges between Chinese civilization and other civilizations and once again offering Chinese people an opportunity to contribute to Olympic Movement and the dissemination of Olympic spirit.

Hopefully, Beijing Winter Olympics will promote the popularization and development of ice and snow sports to encourage in-depth international exchanges and cooperation and contribute to sustainable development and the promotion of Olympic legacies.

Moreover, it will be an ideal platform for further strengthening of mutual understanding and friendship of peoples of all countries.

In this context, China adopts a green, inclusive, open and clean approach to hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, in alignment with China’s efforts to jointly build the Belt and Road and push forward ecological protection.

It will lead to closer ties between athletes and promote friendship and understanding around the world.

Unfortunately, activists and politicians of the US and the EU have been calling for a boycott over China’s so-called approach towards Xijiang’s Uygurs, Hong Kong, Taiwan.

Some campaigners have urged Western governments to consider a diplomatic boycott, which would see competitors travel to Beijing, but diplomats, heads of state and government officials would decline invitations to attend.

Some Republican and Democratic politicians in the US, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have also voiced support for some version of a boycott. Pelosi called for a “diplomatic boycott” that would see heads of state refrain from attending while still allowing athletes to compete in the games; Sen.

Mitt Romney proposed an economic boycott and a diplomatic one, urging American spectators not to attend in person to reduce the revenue Beijing makes from their tourism.

Lawmakers in other countries have made similar calls.

Olympic boycotts have a complicated and somewhat messy history.

The last time the US tried it in earnest during the 1980 Moscow Olympics to protest the former Soviet Union’s Afghanistan invasion.

Moscow registered America’s displeasure, but the effort did little to actually sway policy, while creating controversies at home and denying many athletes their one shot at a medal.

So far, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, which represents American athletes, has strongly rejected the idea of a boycott and instead advocates using the games to showcase American values.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which runs the games, has said it must stay “neutral on all global political issues,” though that may be more wishful thinking than reality.

In Britain, campaigners leapt on a statement by Leader of the House Jacob Rees-Mogg when he said that “no tickets have been booked” for British ministers to attend the Winter Games.

US President Joe Biden has hinted that such a move might be in the offing, while Australia also said it is thinking it over.

Even incoming German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock became the highest profile European figure to float the idea.

in 2008, three years into her chancellorship, Angela Merkel became the first world leader to decide not to attend the Beijing Olympics in Beijing.

As expected the Lithuanian government said that it would not be sending ministers to Beijing, nor will President Gitanas Nausėda be attending, amid an escalating feud with China over its relationship with Taiwan. Chinese Foreign Ministry has reacted furiously to any talk of a boycott.

To conclude, I submit that sports must not be mingled with dirty power politics because boycotting the Beijing Winter Olympics for political reasons will harm the interests of athletes, violate the common ideals and pursuits of the international community and is unpopular.

Hopefully, new artificial intelligence technologies will be showcased during the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 and Paralympic Winter Games, with robots, new-energy vehicles and other high-tech products.

Despite the US and the EU criticism the government of Pakistan has expressed its strong support for Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. It believes that China will surely hold the most successful Winter Olympic Games.

It seems that under the leadership of President Xi, the Chinese government and the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are committed to the mission of hosting “green, inclusive, open and clean” Olympic Winter Games throughout the whole preparation work.

Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 will support the concept of ecological priority, resources conservation and environmental friendliness.

<https://pakobserver.net/beijing-winter-olympics-2022-and-west-propaganda-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

K2 Daily



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

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

December 08, 2021

Daily Times

Plastics and packaging machinery expo held

The China Plastics and Packaging Machinery (Pakistan) Digital Expo hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce and organized by Beijing Leading International Business & Exhibition Co., Ltd, was successfully held here last week.

According to China Economic Net on Tuesday, more than 40 China domestic high-quality enterprises participated in the exhibition. It gathered professional buyers from Pakistan and other South Asian countries online.

The exhibits covered plastic machinery, rubber machinery, packaging machinery, related auxiliary equipment, various supporting equipment, and raw materials, and so on.

The exhibition was widely promoted in South Asian countries in a diversified way, and professional buyers were invited to visit and purchase in the exhibition through precise attraction. In this way it helped enterprises to realize online exhibition and negotiation, making up for the “breakpoint” caused by the suspension of the offline exhibition due to the epidemic.

This exhibition offered a new solution for traditional business trade in a new way and further strengthened the supply and procurement docking and aggregation, helping Chinese local enterprises win orders, expand the market and increase confidence without leaving home.

During the exhibition, the supply and procurement sides realized instant interactive communication by means of graphics, online text communication, audio, and video, which greatly enhanced the exhibition display effect and matchmaking efficiency and was widely praised by enterprises. Also, the Plastics and Packaging Machinery Pakistan B2B Meeting was held during the exhibition.

The “Cloud Conferences” help alleviate the impact of the epidemic on foreign trade companies and breakthrough shrinking demand and orders, reduce multiple dilemmas and unsmooth supply chains, unblock foreign trade communication channels between China and Pakistan, reduce the pressure on foreign trade-based small, medium and micro enterprises to survive and develop, and further strengthen supply and procurement docking services and matching efforts, and boost domestic enterprises to meet the Pakistani and other foreign market demand. The digital exhibition closely followed the market demand for plastics and packaging machinery in China and South Asia, created a zero-distance, low-cost, and high-efficiency digital communication platform for foreign trade enterprises.

This has further promoted the economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan as well as other South Asian countries to ensure steady, long-term, and solid economic and trade cooperation between China and these countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/851736/plastics-and-packaging-machinery-expo-held/>

Pakistan Observer

BRI and EU global gateway strategy

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

FEUDS of international economics have now taken a new shape of engagement in which international power politics will play an important role. It seems that in the new global chessboard everybody has its own Silk Road.

Now nearly a decade after Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a “New Silk Road”, the EU followed Beijing’s lead with the launch of an ambitious infrastructure investment program. The “Global Gateway Strategy (GGS)”, a €300 billion infrastructure spending plan, aims to boost EU supply chains and trade across the world.

It is a European response to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which grants loans for transportation and digital infrastructure projects across nearly 70 countries, which also extends so-called China’s far reaching economic sphere of influence.

Brussels hopes to make a difference in the nature of funding. EU projects that in BRI structures of funding come mainly from loans, while the European program will rely on both public and private sector investment.

The EU showcases its global gateway strategy as transparent and more favourable, especially to developing countries.

Critics of the BRI say Chinese loans are a way to create an economic dependence on Beijing among recipient countries which is absolutely untrue.

EU propaganda persists with its long media campaign against China, BRI and CPEC and has been termed it anti-development and full of debt trap for the last so many years.

Unfortunately, EU constant weak economic indicators, shrinking financial resources and rise to extreme rightist political parties have transformed the whole continent into vulnerable shores which have now been further divided, polarized and economically marginalized.

Whereas, despite COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese macro-economy has recovered and entered into the zone of economic comfort, having positive, productive and prosperous future prospects.

The new variant of coronavirus Omicron has further weakened economic recovery chances of the EU and the world alike.

On the other hand, according to latest report (December 2021) 142 countries have now been signed MOUs with China to join the BRI which shows its unstoppable economic relevancy and potential of productivity to achieve greater socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, eradication of poverty and generation of new jobs in the participating countries.

Despite the economic meltdown Brussels also insists on financing that is “based on values such as transparency, respect for the law and local working conditions.

Its media, researchers and think tanks have been accusing China of containing secret clauses that always give them an advantage over the borrowing country.

But critical analysis of BRI reveals that Chinese loans are always inclusive, open, transparent, streamline and straightforward.

China believes in shared prosperity and thus shuns elements of undue secrecy while dealing with the participating countries.

The EU claims its newly announced GGS as a more modern version of the BRI, with a focus on investments in future-oriented, environmentally responsible projects in the digital, health, renewable energy and other sectors.

The EU projects it's GGS as much more 21st century than China's BRI, which has mainly constructed roads and railroads or renovated bridges and ports.

It seems that EU GGS does not have enough financial resources, economic stimulations and even political compatibilities to match with Chinese BRI which has been evolving since its inception.

Now it has become Green BRI. During its befitting economic propositions and engagements Beijing mainly invested in infrastructure in transport products.

But in recent years, the New Silk Road has adapted to Xi Jinping's new priorities in renewable energy or digital networks and new technologies. Moreover, the EU's fund allocations are not as wide as China's, with Beijing set to spend up to \$1,000 billion on its BRI. It seems that Europe is coming up with its program GGS grossly late.

Chinese President Xi launched the New Silk Road in 2013 the Chinese initiative has become an ideal platform of economic transformation and greater regional connectivity with full of financial resources. Europe has yet to demonstrate that it can do the same as rapidly.

But the EU presumes that the EU's late entry is not a serious handicap. The EU constant propaganda against the BRI has created some doubts but has not yet deteriorated its image over time due to its own unending wishful lists, unreal economic interpretations, unrealistic statistical correlations and last but not least, financial presentations mere succeeded to extend of controversies and labeling it the debt trap and other conditions attached to Chinese loans.

However, new countries' inclusion in BRI across the globe mitigates its fake and fabricated propaganda.

In this connection, 34 BRI countries now belong to Europe & Central Asia including 18 countries of the European Union (EU).

One of the most important tests of the effectiveness of the European program GGS in countering Chinese economic influence will be in Africa, which should be one of the main beneficiaries of these investments. However, the European Commission does not mention the African market as a priority objective.

It is a bitter reality that the arrival of Chinese financing in Africa has most hurt European companies, which have often lost market share.

According to most latest data (December 2021), 42 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and 17 in Middle East & North Africa have already joined BRI which shows its economic penetration, financial trust and political commitment towards the continent of Africa which has been badly looted, exploited and ignored by the so-called white supremacists of the EU.

Europe is not alone in wanting to overshadow China's BRI. The US also announced its own initiative, "Build Back Better World" (B3W), at the G7 summit in June 2021.

"With the arrival of Joe Biden in the White House, there has been a new dynamic for better transatlantic cooperation to counter China. Thus real politics has overshadowed real economics in the realms of power politics.

Despite western propaganda the BRI is a new champion of globalization by the Chinese government to reconstitute the ancient Silk Road into a contemporary mode in a vast area by improving the economic integration of China with Asia, Europe and Africa.

The purpose of the BRI is to enhance regional connectivity and expand socio-economic integration particularly in those countries involved in the BRI.

Hence, the inflow of foreign exchange through international activities will lead to a monetary expansion in the regional as well as global economy and consequently will benefit all the participant countries of the BRI.

It hopes that expansion of the BRI will increase the official reserves of central banks, thereby allowing more credit loans in the market. As a consequence, the boom in financial activities will reinforce economic growth.

To conclude announcement of EU sponsored Global Gateway Strategy (GGS) and the US initiative, "Build Back Better World" (B3W) against the Chinese BRI will further divide the world into futile financial ghost race in which economic wonders as promised by the BRI may be replaced by the EU & US political witches in the days to come.

Thus Western China's containment policy should be discarded for the larger interest of humanity, prosperity, sovereignty and last but not least, economic sustainability.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-eu-global-gateway-strategy-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

BRI development echoing across the global community

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

THE development philosophy of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) known as the signature project of President Xi Jinping has been echoing across the international community following its splendid achievements that are benefitting people in member countries.

The statistics released by World Bank (WB) in one of its reports regarding the BRI development in partner countries show that magnanimity of the development under process based on mutual and meaningful consultations with the broadened consensus.

The report focusing on 71 economies geographically located along BRI corridors, noted that the BRI projects could help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty globally.

It is also reported that by 2020, China's trade with BRI partner countries exceeded 9.2 trillion U.S. dollars, and China's aggregated direct investment in these countries reached nearly 140 billion dollars.

The figures released by the World Bank present the full confidence on the BRI that is pushing forward the agenda of fair and transparent development in various countries fulfilling the local needs of construction in various sectors.

The huge development being witnessed under the signature project of President Xi has outlined the direction and blueprint of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

This productive and result-oriented cooperation has attracted the attention of the international community to partner with China for achieving the reliable and secure investment based on a sustainable financial model.

The initiative has pushed the joint and accumulative efforts for producing the timely results and time bound construction with the unique traits of gains on a long term basis.

The main traits of BRI cooperation have been proving successful and contributing successfully for the significant economic development and modernization of infrastructure.

In the last 8 years since the start of BRI, implementation of new development concepts have been put into practice that have enabled the people in various countries to gain high quality results and durable gains as it also proved helpful in improving the economic environment and societal benefits.

The BRI has emerged as a tool that has been consistently focusing on mutual cooperation and strengthening the connectivity between various regions and countries along the route for maintaining the flow of trade with any interruption.

It has broadened multilateral cooperation and globalization amid the waves of protectionism by establishing an effective network of communication and understanding.

By securing the high quality development with these qualities, the initiative has energized the cooperation between China and various member-countries starting from the top to bottom that includes the smooth working relationship among governments, business enterprises and public exchanges.

The pursuit of common development is a long desire of humanity that has been introduced by BRI by maintaining the high quality supply chains, resilient development and comprehensive consultations.

In the early stages of its development, the initiative has gained the honour of satisfaction from partner countries by making its path smoother during the profound and unseen changes happening in the world.

Scientific and technical revolution along with industrial development in the era of artificial intelligence, the integration of various economies have digitized trade and commerce that have removed the traditional and non-traditional loopholes in flow of imports and exports.

It must be mentioned here that strategic resolve has been prioritized with the BRI in the fastest changing world by availing all the strategic opportunities and by aligning the concepts of peace, stability and security with the development that is the need of the time for safeguarding the integrity of nations.

Innovative and sustainable growth has become the highlighted indicator under this development initiative that has got the recognition of people centred philosophy with helping low-income countries in addressing their economic , development and debt issues.

It has been satisfactorily noted from the international financial institutions that the framework of development initiated from China with the consent of member countries have, genuinely, the policy system in avoiding the financial shocks by improving the efficiency and quality of investment.

By recording the financial sustainability for member countries of BRI, China has emerged as an engine for the conducive economic transformation and growth in the era of economic digitization.

The platform by strengthening the endeavours of international cooperation and by integrating development interests has popularized the joint working mechanism that produced substantial benefits to local people.

The notables of BRI in its smooth and fruitful journey includes the sharing of China's new technological revolution and industrial reforms with partner countries that is being reflected from completed and continuing projects.

Recognition of BRI as a public welfare product has stamped the opening up and reforms process of China will be continued in the coming decades without any interruption for developing the shared future of mankind.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-development-echoing-across-the-global-community-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

The Gwadar odyssey

Reema Shaukat

GWADAR is a Balochi word which means 'The Door of Wind'. Though located in the south western coast of Balochistan, the area is located on the convergence of three strategically important zones of the world where on one side is oil-rich Middle East, Central Asia with surplus natural resources and South Asia having greater economic potential.

Gwadar is situated on a natural hammer-head shape tombolo peninsula forming two almost perfect, but naturally curved, semi-circular bays on either side.

Gwadar being located at one of the most important strategic sites is full of scenic beauty where nature speaks to one through fantastic amalgamation of proud muddy hills and blue serene water.

This ecstatic piece of land has over the period of time witnessed some important events. It has been visited by Alexander the Great and Muhammad Bin Qasim during advances to complete their expeditions. Portuguese also stayed here for a brief period and in fact named the protruding earth mass as Hammerhead due to its peculiar shape.

During Kalat dynasty one of the Khans gifted this piece of land to Saiad Sultan, the defeated prince of Oman, who had fled to this area. He married Sultan's daughter and was blessed with Gwadar for their living.

It was with the understanding that the piece of land would be returned once the Prince regained his crown, which he did but the territory wasn't returned.

Historically before recognizing Gwadar as part of Pakistan, area was in possession of Oman from 1783 to 1958.

While the strategic value of this location as a deep water port was identified by the United States Geological Survey when the territory was still under Omani rule. Pakistan bought the area of Gwadar from Oman while the Oman previously was also under British rule.

British had concluded an agreement with the Sultan of Oman on March 20, 1891 in which the final pledge was, "never to cede, sell, mortgage or otherwise give in occupation any of his dominions or dependencies to the British government". However, the Pakistani Government continued to raise the issue with the British.

In 1958, after learning that the Indians are also trying to acquire Gwadar land, the Government of Pakistan intensified its efforts and succeeded in concluding an agreement with the British Government on August 1, 1958.

To fulfil the wishes of Gwadaris, Pakistan decided to purchase Gwadar back from Sultan of Oman at a cost of \$3M. Gwadar at that time was a remote locality with access only via sea or air.

On 8th of December 1958, it was decided to physically take over Gwadar from Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan Navy was tasked to do it on behalf of Government of Pakistan.

A naval platoon led by Lt Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey landed on the shores of Gwadar and hoisted Pakistani flag for the first time.

This was the first engagement between Pakistan Navy and Gwadar which lasts till date. Lt Sirohey later rose to the rank of Admiral and became Chief of the Naval Staff as well as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Hence, Gwadar Day is celebrated on 08 December every year to mark the annexation of Gwadar with Pakistan in 1958.

Realizing the potentials the area of Gwadar offers and its capacity for construction of another deep sea port after Karachi Port and Port Qasim, the work on its development is being carried out with ace.

The port under construction at Gwadar is owned by Pakistan government's Gwadar Port Authority and operated by state-run Chinese firm China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC).

Being a deep sea port, having warm waters, shortest sea route, throughout the year availability and strategic location, Gwadar is considered as a gateway and hub of all commercial and trade activities which is going to further generate business ventures.

Hence, Gwadar is always referred as future economic hub of Pakistan, where presence of Special Economic Zone, transit trade and industrial complexes will bring huge chunk for Pakistan's economy.

Generally speaking, the area of Gwadar in the past remained deprived of basic necessities of life and livelihood of a common local is dependent on fish catching, now the fisher folk also hope for better future with the advent of Gwadar port.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan Navy has done and still doing remarkable work for the better upbringing of locals.

Apart from establishing schools, hospitals, infrastructure and provision of other socio-economic uplift programmes for locals, it is trying to ensure safety of marine life and coastal environment for future generations.

Pakistan Navy not only welcomes outsiders but it is busy in creating healthy learning environment for natives through sports galas, national days, festivals and many other activities to cherish civil-military relationship and create harmony, integration and cohesiveness among many local communities.

Gwadar features heavily in CPEC, and is also envisaged to be the link between OBOR and maritime silk route. The future of better and prosperous Gwadar is not far and it becomes responsibility of all Pakistanis to realize the potential our land holds for us.

Particularly, in era of 5th generation warfare, we must not let our foes exploit our assets by giving impression of confusion and division within state.

As CPEC project is considered as a win-win model, therefore enhancement of cooperation should not be politics or system bound and continue to work towards integrated regional connectivity and countrywide evolution with congruence and progress.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-gwadar-odyssey-by-reema-shaukat>

The Express Tribune

Majority of CPEC projects completed: envoy

Chinese diplomat says CPEC playing key role in regional development

KARACHI: A majority of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects have been completed, revealed Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian.

During his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), the senior diplomat maintained that Pakistan-China ties were not limited to CPEC, although it was playing a key role in regional development.

“Majority of CPEC projects have been completed, with Gwadar becoming the most important in the region. CPEC is an important part of Pakistan-China friendship, but the relationship between the two countries and with the business community is much deeper than that,” he contended.

Bijian expressed concern over the situation of Pakistan’s low-income class and remarked that efforts were underway to get Pakistan out of the economic difficulties.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that China is a brotherly country of Pakistan and relations between the two countries are very strong. “CPEC projects are important for the economy of both countries,” he added.

The Chinese diplomat apprised KATI officials that China had invested in various projects, including an airport, a training centre and Gwadar Port. He expressed pleasure that power crisis of Pakistan has been alleviated due to CPEC.

“Development work on Gwadar Airport is 90% completed and by 2023, the airport will start its operations,” he announced.

Bijian underlined that a hospital was also being constructed in Gwadar and it was expected to start functioning next year.

He highlighted that there were ample trade opportunities in China for Pakistani industrialists and investors.

“China has a population of 500 million middle class, which could be a big market for Pakistan. Pakistan can export fruits and vegetables to China, while China has a large seafood market, including rice and fish, from which Pakistani exporters could take full advantage,” he noted.

In addition, cooperation between the two countries in the field of information technology (IT) and electric vehicles could be enhanced further, he said.

Bijian suggested that the two countries could work out a strategy to increase Pakistan’s export volume through trade, urging Pakistani industrialists to take advantage of the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

The KATI president said they would brief the Chinese Consulate on his proposals for increasing exports.

KATI's former president Danish Khan stated that Chinese investors should set up industries in Pakistan and called for holding joint trade fairs to promote Pakistani products.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2332918/majority-of-cpec-projects-completed-envoy>

Wasan, Chinese team discuss cooperation in agri sector

Issues of mutual interest and further strengthening of relations were discussed on the occasion

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister's Adviser on Agriculture Manzoor Wassan asserted that the future is all about the friendship between Pakistan and China.

Chinese Consul General Li Bijian, Deputy Consul Deng Haixiao and Deputy General China Machinery Engineering Corporation Manager Dai Bao met Sindh Chief Minister's Adviser on Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wassan at Wassan House Karachi.

Issues of mutual interest and further strengthening of relations were discussed on the occasion.

"The friendship between China and Pakistan is higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea. China has made unprecedented progress in all walks of life," Wassan said. He added that the foundation of the Pak-China friendship was laid by PPP founder Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

"We want to get China's experience in the agricultural sector to strengthen our own economy." He added that Pakistan wanted to improve its agricultural economy through the exchange of machinery, equipment, the latest agricultural research. He said Chinese assistance in modernizing Sindh's agriculture will be welcomed.

Wassan continued that Sindh was adopting modern methods of value addition in agricultural produce.

He said the province wanted to improve cold storage and transportation of agricultural produce as serving farmers was part of PPP's manifesto.

Wassan said that the adopting modern methods for efficient irrigation system was a priority of the Sindh government.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2332953/wasan-chinese-team-discuss-cooperation-in-agri-sector>

The Nation

CPPM expo to help promote Pak-China trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD - The China Plastics and Packaging Machinery (Pakistan) Digital Expo has set a strong base for promoting trade cooperation between China and Pakistan along with other regional countries.

The expo recently concluded was hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce and organized by Beijing Leading International Business & Exhibition Co., Ltd, in Beijing last week.

This regional exhibition has further promoted the economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan as well as other South Asian countries to ensure steady, long-term, and solid economic and trade cooperation between China and these countries, China Economic Net reported on Tuesday.

More than 40 China domestic high-quality enterprises participated in the exhibition while it gathered professional buyers from Pakistan and other South Asian countries online.

The exhibits covered plastic machinery, rubber machinery, packaging machinery, related auxiliary equipment, various supporting equipment, and raw materials, and so on.

The exhibition was widely promoted in South Asian countries in a diversified way, and professional buyers were invited to visit and purchase in the exhibition through precise attraction.

In this way it helped enterprises to realize online exhibition and negotiation, making up for the “breakpoint” caused by the suspension of the offline exhibition due to the epidemic.

This exhibition offered a new solution for traditional business trade in a new way and further strengthened the supply and procurement docking and aggregation, helping Chinese local enterprises win orders, expand the market and increase confidence without leaving home.

Also, the Plastics and Packaging Machinery Pakistan B2B Meeting was held during the exhibition.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-08/page-10/detail-8>

The News

Kyrgyzstan wants to join CPEC: Envoy

Islamabad: Kyrgyzstan is interested in joining the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project and benefit from the tremendous trade opportunities offered by Gwadar Port.

This was stated by Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev during a seminar on ‘Business, Education and Tourism Opportunities in Kyrgyzstan,’ organised by the Diplomatic Insight, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, here on Tuesday.

The ambassador highlighted the strong Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations saying they are traditionally characterised as fraternal and friendly. He said the relations between the two countries have been marked by active mutual contacts and bilateral events. He further added that Pakistan was among the first to recognize the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic.

"Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, our countries enjoy excellent political relations and regularly exchange visits on the highest levels. During the last 30 years, our countries exchanged presidential visits twice, Kyrgyz prime ministers visited Pakistan twice, Pakistani

prime ministers came to Kyrgyzstan four times and speakers of the Kyrgyz parliament visited Pakistan twice," he said.

The envoy said Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Ruslan Kazakbaev will arrive in Islamabad on December 15 to participate in the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on December 16-17.

He said Kyrgyzstan is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its independence this year.

"During the last 30 years, Kyrgyzstan has steadily and peacefully developed on the way to democracy and freedom. Currently, Kyrgyzstan is passing through an important period of political changes. Presidential elections held in January, this year, resulted in the victory of former Prime Minister Sadyr Zhaparov, who became a new head of state."

The ambassador said the geo-strategic position of Kyrgyzstan at the crossroads between Central Asia and China and further through the Karakoram Pass to Pakistan opened up excellent opportunities for regional trade and economic cooperation, as well as establishing ties in all areas of mutual interest.

He said bilateral trade and economic cooperation were currently low and do not correspond to the potential of the two countries.

"Our country is a dynamically developing diversified economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan. Investing in the Kyrgyz Republic is profitable and easy as the main factors are the liberal trade regime, full protection of investments, and unlimited repatriation of profits, as well as currency exchange freedom, low business costs, an educated workforce, and direct access to state authorities."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=32730>

December 09, 2021

Business Recorder

Fast-track basis

China, Pakistan agree to promote investment, industrial cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday agreed to promote investment, industrial cooperation on a fast-track basis.

Talking to Business Recorder, a senior official of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) said that the 15th session of Pakistan-China Joint Economic Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (JEC) was held after a gap of 11 years.

The virtual meeting of JEC was co-chaired by Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China and Mian Asad Hayaud Din, secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Pakistan.

Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs attended the session with opening remarks.

The official said that both sides agreed to increase focus on sectors, which were sidelined or even neglected in the recent past due to more focus on areas coming under the ambit of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It was one of the reasons for holding the 15th session after such a long time that more focus was given on CPEC, but now both sides agreed to focus on the CEPC as well as other areas of mutual interest and cooperation, sources added.

Both sides also discussed the matters relating to development projects in energy, infrastructure, and social sectors. They also agreed to promote investment and industrial cooperation on fast track basis.

The official handout issued by the division stated that the Minister for Economic Affairs commended the Government of China for hosting the 15th session of JEC after a long gap of 11 years.

The Minister for Economic Affairs highlighted that Pakistan and China are entering into the next phase of the CPEC, where Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established. The SEZs would be helpful in attracting foreign direct investment, establishing industrial units, creating employment opportunities and boosting economic activities in the country. Operationalisation of Gwadar Port will also create momentum in the external trade. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years since 2015. At present, China is Pakistan's main source of imports and second-largest export destination.

The Minister for Economic Affairs further highlighted that Pakistan has immense investment opportunities in various sectors. Pakistan provides conducive and liberal investment environment to foreign investors and entrepreneurs. All foreign investments are fully protected under Foreign Private Investment Promotion and Protection Act, 1976 and Protection of Economic Reforms Act, 1992.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are also being established to meet the global challenges of competitiveness with the state of the art infrastructure and connectivity.

The SEZ incentive package includes exemption from income tax for ten-years and one-time exemption from all custom-duties and taxes on import of capital goods.

Textile, leather, pharmaceutical and surgical industries of Pakistan are considered as best in the world and our products are exported around the globe.

Accordingly, Chinese investors can benefit from the huge potential of Pakistan's industrial sector. In this regard, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and the Board of Investment of Pakistan can collaborate with Chinese counterparts for enhancing cooperation in industrial sector.

Furthermore, agriculture is another very important sector of the economy, especially for food security and rural development.

He emphasized that we are looking forward to mutual cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, enhanced productivity, value addition and food processing through establishment of joint ventures and business to business contacts.

The Minister for Economic Affairs expressed his satisfaction on completion of seventy-years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship between Pakistan and China.

To highlight the significance of the event, the minister referred to the Bilateral Agreement for establishment of Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Cooperation (JEC), signed in 1982, and called it the basis of bilateral cooperation.

The Minister for Economic Affairs expressed that Pakistan and China have always supported each other at every front. Pakistan was among the first country to show its solidarity with China at the time of outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and Pakistan's president paid a visit to Beijing amid this pandemic.

The Government of China has also been supporting Pakistan in pandemic mitigation measures from the very beginning of the pandemic.

In order to support the Government of Pakistan's drive for mass vaccination, Chinese companies supplied Covid-19 vaccine on priority.

The Government of China also provided over four million doses of vaccine to Pakistan free of cost.

Mian Asad Hayaud Din, secretary, EAD also shared views regarding promotion of bilateral trade cooperation, exchange of experience in the context of poverty alleviation, establishment of joint working groups. The secretary EAD also appreciated the measures taken by the Chinese government to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, strengthening of cooperation under multilateral framework was also discussed.

Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China commented that the fruitful discussions on bilateral economic relations between delegates of the two countries will meet the objectives of deepening bilateral relationship between the two countries.

He also hoped that the next session of Pak-China JEC will be held soon in Pakistan. He reiterated that Pak-China relationship is everlasting and bound to continue on good terms in the future.—TAHIR AMIN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/09/1-page/910597-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar protest not against China-led development, CPEC

The leader of protest sit-in being staged in Gwadar has said that they are demonstrating for their basic rights enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan, brushing aside any notion that the protest targets China-led development in Gwadar or China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“China is our friend and we are not at all against China, China-led development in Gwadar or China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Gwadar protest and sit-in is not aversive to Gwadar Port being operated by the China Overseas Port Holding Company, rather it aims at seeking our right to live a peaceful life that every Pakistani deserves,” said Maulana Hadayat ur Rehman, leader of Gwadar sit-in protest, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Sharing his views, he rejected the propaganda being made by the West by painting the 23-day-long sit-in as being hostile towards China. “Let me tell you categorically that we are demonstrating only to reclaim our basic rights enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan,” he added.

Another leader of the protest movement said that during the sit-in, the protestors never blocked the Eastbay Expressway being constructed by the Gwadar Port Authority under CPEC, which shows that “we never want to disrupt ongoing development work in Gwadar being carried out by our Chinese brethren.” He shrugged off all conspiracy theories in this regard and said once demands put forth by the protestors are met by the government of Pakistan, the sit-in will disperse peacefully.

The China Overseas Port Holding Company officials said that the sit-in leadership had made it clear right in the beginning that the protest would never pose any problem for the Chinese workers in Gwadar. “They consider China and the COPHC as friends,” the officials said, adding that the port is functioning as per routine and without any disruption.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/852320/gwadar-protest-not-against-china-led-development-cpec/>

China taking practical steps to tackle climate change: Amin

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Wednesday welcomed China’s participation in the flagship Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (TBTTP) project and hailed the gift of 7,000 trees plantation to commemorate 70 years of Pak-China friendly ties.

The SAPM and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong kicked off the plantation by planting a pine tree sapling at the Embassy of China and exchanged views on the green vision of both sides aimed at sustainable growth and environmental conservation.

Speaking on the occasion, the SAPM thanked the Chinese envoy and said COP-26 was an interesting global moot on climate change that could not live up to all expectations. Amin said the announcement of Chinese President Xi Jinping at COP-26 was great, as China had pledged not to invest in any coal power project abroad.

“China should have had an aggressive presence at the COP to project its inspiring story of transition from Coal to renewable eco-friendly solutions. CPEC Green Corridor is also part of Pakistan’s vision along with China,” he underlined. The SAPM highlighted that the US-China pledge on mitigating methane at the end of COP-26 was also well received globally.

“The coal power projects in Pakistan have been demanded by the previous Pakistani government and not the Chinese government rather our government is interested in hydropower projects,” he added.

Amin said he had specifically mentioned the aforesaid fact in his country statement at the COP-26 held last month in Glasgow, Scotland to clarify that China did not export its coal power plants to Pakistan rather it requested to get that technology.

“The world even at the COP-26 has been making mere statements where China is the only country that is taking practical steps which should be projected at the international level,” Amin mentioned.

Ambassador Nong Rong congratulated the SAPM for his successful participation at COP-26 and informed that China had positive intentions to enhance green partnership for ecological conservation.

He said the Chinese embassy formally joined Prime Minister Imran Khan’s flagship TBTP on this occasion.

He mentioned that recently the Chinese leadership visited Pakistan and planted trees at the Shakarparian National Park to express their endorsement for TBTP.

“China also has nuclear, solar, hydro, and wind power plants apart from coal power plants and can contribute to the renewable energy transition,” he added.

Highlighting the importance of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, he said China had diverted one third of its electricity to CPEC related projects at cheaper rates.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/852360/china-taking-practical-steps-to-tackle-climate-change-amin/>

Understanding China

Muhammad Asif Noor

President Xi addressed the International Understanding China Conference and argued that understanding the composition and vision of Communist Party China (CPC) was necessary to understand China. President Xi delivered a video keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Understanding China Conference 2021. This is an important year as the CPC is celebrating its 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC.

Understanding China is an international conference where Chinese leadership takes the world into confidence about its development and foreign policy and tries to address global apprehensions regarding China. The Understanding China Conference in question is the fifth in a series providing a platform. This conference is not only for the Chinese leadership but the foreign states to forge their friendship and develop more bilateral understanding for close cooperation with China. In this way, global leaders can bring forward their common ideas to find common ground for cooperation driven by mutual trust, respect and equality.

This year's theme was "Whence and Whither-Unprecedented Changes in the World and China and the CPC," which acknowledged the global transition through the worst phase of pandemic towards post-pandemic. This theme also acknowledges the special place of CPC in the national ethos of the Chinese lives and letters. The CPC has provided the required vision and direction in its 100-years-history to make the country reach the glorious times. It is important to grasp the essence of prevalent global challenges and draw lessons from history to correctly foresee future challenges.

China has learned from the historic challenges of war, strategic confrontation, unilateralism and non-cooperation. Under the outstanding leadership of President Xi, China embarked on the journey of national rejuvenation and shared the future of mankind through multilateralism, immense cooperation, mutual development, equality and respect.

President Xi termed diplomacy a supreme cause and a noble struggle with transparency and fair practices.

President Xi termed diplomacy a supreme cause and a noble struggle with transparency and fair practices. Under the able CPC Central Committee, China's art of diplomacy made a great leap forward in the face of sociopolitical, economic and security challenges. Since the 2012 Party Congress, Secretary-General Xi Jinping has always been mindful of national and international developments and provided comprehensive direction to Chinese strategic communications and foreign policy goals.

President Xi noted that China has never forgone its traditional art of diplomacy and let global trends alter Chinese goals rather China developed a unique style with Chinese characteristics of conveying its message to the world. China has created a spirit of reciprocity, a flexible style of negotiation, and opened new horizons in the realm of contemporary diplomacy with Chinese features.

President Xi acknowledges that the world is passing through unprecedented political and technological changes coupled with the COVID-19 epidemic which has pushed the world into a constant phase of change. Given the accelerated pace of events, President Xi says, it is pertinent for global leaders to exchange ideas for close coordination and cooperation. The states can collectively respond to the emerging challenges and mutually harness the benefits of emerging prospects but if the tendency of separatism and exclusion continue to exist, the world might lose pace with changing times.

Noting that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC and the 50th anniversary of the resumption of the UN seat, President Xi has also shed light on the role of CPC that has made Chinese people united. CPC has led the Chinese people in coordination to make endless efforts for national rejuvenation and fulfilling China Dream which left impregnable marks on 20th-century politics. China has been able to bring 100 million people out of poverty and surpassed economic growth anywhere in the world. It could not be a possibility without the central role of CPC in the Chinese socio-political landscape

President Xi stated that the 19th CPC Central Committee, in its sixth plenary session, adopted a resolution on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party which draws an analysis of historic experiences to mend the shortcomings into complete success in the future. He further stated that CPC will not only draw lessons from history but also forge a strong plan of action by sticking to its socialist ideals with Chinese characteristics to unite and lead the Chinese people on a new journey to build a modern socialist welfare state.

Over the years, CPC has prioritized people, committed to its core mission of serving them wholeheartedly and adhering to the philosophy of human-centred development, for the promotion of universal prosperity. CPC will consistently pursue the path of peaceful and open development in the world, work for a society with a shared future of mankind while upholding fundamental human liberties, core values of peace, development, impartiality, justice, democracy, and freedom.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/852207/understanding-china/>

Dunya News

SEZs to help in attracting FDI: Omar

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan has said Special Economic Zones will help in attracting foreign direct investment, generating employment opportunities and boosting economic activities in the country.

Speaking on 15th Session of Pakistan-China Joint Economic Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation virtually, he said Pakistan and China are entering into the next phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He commended the Chinese government for hosting the 15th Session of JEC after a long gap of eleven years.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/632229-SEZs-to-help-in-attracting-FDI-Omar>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China friendship will be further strengthened

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif has said that Pak-China friendship has always been everlasting and this friendship between the two countries will be further strengthened in the days to come.

He was talking to media during his on visit to the Chinese Cultural and Information Centre China Window.

The Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Information visited various galleries, signed on the Friendship Wall and recorded his impressions in the guest book.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that China stood by Pakistan in every difficult time and the people of Pakistan never disappointed the Chinese people.

He said that there is no doubt that the friendship between the two countries is deeper than the sea, higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey.

An example of this friendship is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on which work is in progress CPEC will be an important milestone in Pakistan's economic development.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan had directed to expedite the work on CPEC projects and he was confident that CPEC projects would also accelerate economic activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan have trusted him and he will use all his abilities to perform his duties.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said he was from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and was proud to be serving his province.

He described China window as one of the best information and tourism hubs in Peshawar. Muhammad Ali Saif also became the center of attention of the students of Warsak Model School during his visit to China Window.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-friendship-will-be-further-strengthened/>

Pak-China-Russia trilateral strategic gamut

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

THE strong relationship between China and Pakistan, as illustrated most recently by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, has long played a key role in Asia's geopolitics thereby paving the way towards trilateral strategic bonds between China-Pakistan and Russia.

However, broader regional developments over the last few months also mark the possibility of a new coalition involving Pakistan, China, and Russia.

This article focuses on the evolving relationship between the three countries; considers how real and potentially effective this trilateral partnership-perhaps fuelling the US policymakers to weave a strategy, thereby counterbalancing the US interests in the region and beyond.

This piece also endeavours to analyze the factors propelling such development and seek to discern the possible implications it may have on global geopolitics.

Needless to say, Russia's robust engagement with China coupled with the recalibration of its ties with Pakistan, coming at the backdrop of Russia's increasing estrangement with the West, Pakistan's dissatisfaction with the USA over the suspension of security assistance, and India's closeness toward the latter are leading scholars and political analysts to remark that Russia, China and Pakistan are gradually inching toward the formalization of an 'axis' or a strategic 'counter alliance' against the US-India, and the US-NATO-Quad trajectory.

And yet, there are emerging signs that this trilateral symmetry is going to be a reality without any iota of doubt.

The undeniable significance is the emergence of converging interests among these three states that is gradually leading to deeper engagements among them.

The ongoing trilateral partnership between the three states is certainly dominated by the energy cooperation accompanied by opening new corridors of economic cooperation among them.

This development is a logical corollary to China's expanding economic footprint and influence in South and Central Asia, Pakistan and Russia will likely desire to lessen their economic dependency on China.

Certainly, it is in their best interests to revitalise bilateral economic cooperation. Russia, with its abundance of natural and human resources, possesses huge potential to grow economically.

Arguably, beyond South and Central Asia, Moscow has taken its eastward pivot actively by pursuing FTAs with Southeast Asia such as Vietnam (2016) and Singapore (2019).

As Moscow's economic footprint in Asia is still relatively low, Islamabad can dynamically capitalise on this opportunity to expand cooperation and attract Russian investment.

And most importantly, entailed by the strategic expediencies or concerns regarding China's growing economic prowess and the deepening of United States (US)-India relations, Russia has developed a new interest in engaging with Pakistan.

Following the conclusion of the Russia-Pakistan Technical Committee meeting in 2020, both countries revived discussions on the North-South Gas Pipeline Project.

The project was initially inked in 2015, but it was put on hold due to Western sanctions imposed on Rostec, a Russian state-controlled company that was a stakeholder.

The PSGP is one of the largest Russian investments in Pakistan since the (former) Soviet Union assisted in developing the Oil and Gas Development Company and Pakistan Steel Mills in the 1960s and 1970s.

Russia is eager to welcome Pakistan as a new energy client as it plans to triple its LNG production capacity and increase LNG exports by 2035. Besides the PSGP, Russian companies have filed proposals to supply more LNG to Pakistan.

Lavrov, the Russian FM highlighted in his visit to Islamabad in April 2021 that Rosatom and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission are exploring cooperation in using nuclear energy for medicine and industry purpose.

The Pak-Russian officials meeting in the last week of November In Moscow is evidence to this development.

Moscow is likewise concerned with Beijing's increasing assertiveness in foreign policy and improved economic and military capabilities.

In 2017, Russia initiated the expansion of the SCO membership to India to dilute the Chinese dominance in the organisation; China responded that this would be possible on the condition that Pakistan too joined as a member.

Recently, Pakistan and Russia signed the “Security Training Agreement” to train Pakistani military officers in Russian military institutions for the first time.

While Pakistan and Russia are not publicizing the nature of their cooperation as openly as Islamabad would do in Pakistan’s agreements with China, the trajectory is quite clear.

Pakistan is keeping its options with Moscow and Beijing open after the Trump Administration stopped military support and training for Pakistan military.

For the NSG bid, Pakistan logically expects from both China and Russia to support Pakistan to qualify for the eligibility criteria.

Pakistan envisages NSG membership to be a crucial element of Pakistan becoming part of the mainstream in the nuclear world order, which it believes would confer some sort of legitimacy to its nuclear weapons program, as has been the case with India.

Afghanistan is another core area where Islamabad, Beijing, and Moscow share their joint interests.

The increasingly close bilateral relationship between China and Russia is one of the most interesting, consequential, and surprising geopolitical developments since the end of the Cold War.

Beijing and Moscow, once bitter adversaries, now cooperate on military issues, cyber security, high technology and in outer space, among other areas. While it falls short of an alliance, the deepening Sino-Russian partnership confounds the US policymakers in Washington.

Some have proposed driving a wedge between the two countries, but this stratagem seems unlikely for the foreseeable future.

In the immediate aftermath of the Taliban takeover, China and Russia seemed to have pursued shared interests and avoided undercutting each other.

The two countries have engaged in some parallel actions of late by holding military exercises with Central Asian partners — both bilaterally and within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Russia has been expanding its economic cooperation and diplomatic outreach with Pakistan, while China perseveres in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a key artery of the Belt and Road Initiative.

It appears that Washington is also developing its geostrategic clout in global affairs, as has been richly evident to the fact that the US, UK and Australia have forged a new AUKUS.

The fact remains that a tug of geopolitical supremacy runs between the US, China, and Russia.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-russia-trilateral-strategic-gamut-by-syed-qamar-afzal-rizvi/>

The Nation

Special Economic Zones being established under new phase of CPEC: Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD - Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, on Wednesday highlighted that Pakistan and China are entering into the next phase of CPEC, where Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established.

The SEZs would be helpful in attracting foreign direct investment, establishing industrial units, creating employment opportunities and boosting economic activities in the country. Similarly, operationalization of Gwadar Port will also create momentum in the external trade. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years since 2015. At present, China is Pakistan's main source of imports and second-largest export destination.

Federal Minister graced the 15th Session of Pakistan-China Joint Economic Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Cooperation with his opening remarks.

The Minister for Economic Affairs commended the government of China for hosting the 15th Session of JEC after a long gap of eleven years. The virtual meeting of JEC was co-chaired by Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China and Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Pakistan.

Minister for Economic Affairs expressed his satisfaction on completion of seventy-years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship between Pakistan and China. To highlight the significance of the event, the minister referred to the bilateral agreement for establishment of Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Cooperation (JEC), signed in 1982, and called it the basis of bilateral cooperation.

The Minister for Economic Affairs expressed that Pakistan and China have always supported each other at every front. Pakistan was among the first country to show its solidarity with China at the time of outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and Pakistan's President paid a visit to Beijing amid this pandemic. Similarly, the Government of China has also been supporting Pakistan in pandemic mitigation measures from the very beginning of the pandemic. In order to support the Government of Pakistan's drive for mass vaccination, Chinese companies supplied COVID-19 vaccine on priority. The Government of China also provided over 4 million doses of vaccine to Pakistan free of cost.

The Minister for Economic Affairs further highlighted that Pakistan has immense investment opportunities in various sectors. Pakistan provides conducive and liberal investment environment to foreign investors and entrepreneurs. All foreign investments are fully protected under Foreign Private Investment Promotion & Protection Act, 1976 and Protection of Economic Reforms Act, 1992. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are also being established to meet the global challenges of competitiveness with the state-of-the-art infrastructure and connectivity. The SEZ incentive

package includes exemption from income tax for ten years and one-time exemption from all custom-duties and taxes on import of capital goods. Textile, leather, pharmaceutical and surgical industries of Pakistan are considered as best in the world and our products are exported around the globe. Accordingly, Chinese investors can benefit from the huge potential of Pakistan's industrial sector. In this regard, Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and Board of Investment of Pakistan can collaborate with Chinese counterparts for enhancing cooperation in industrial sector. Furthermore, agriculture is another very important sector of the economy, especially for food security and rural development. He emphasized that we are looking forward for mutual cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, enhanced productivity, value addition and food processing through establishment of joint ventures and business-to-business contacts.

Both sides also discussed the matters relating to development projects in energy, infrastructure and social sectors. They also agreed to promote investment and industrial cooperation on fast track basis. Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, EAD also shared views regarding promotion of bilateral trade cooperation, exchange of experience in the context of poverty alleviation, establishment of joint working groups. The Secretary, EAD also appreciated the measures taken by the Chinese government to tackle COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, strengthening of cooperation under multilateral framework was also discussed.

In his concluding remarks, Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China, commented that the fruitful discussions on bilateral economic relations between delegates of the two countries will meet the objectives of deepening bilateral relationship between the two countries. He also hoped that the next session of Pak-China JEC will be held soon in Pakistan. He reiterated that Pak-China relationship is everlasting and bound to continue on good terms in the future.

15th Session of Pak-China JEC on Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Coop held

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-09/page-8/detail-0>

Chinese industrialists visit FIEDMC

LAHORE - Various delegations of Chinese industrialists visited the FIEDMC and met Chairman FIEDMC Zafar Iqbal Sarwar and Board Director FIEDMC Asif Ali Tipu.

Briefing the delegations on the FIEDMC, chairman FIEDMC said, "Promotion of foreign investment in Pakistan is the first priority". He further said that the concerns of all foreign companies in Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Value Added City and M3 Industrial City will be addressed fully.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FIEDMC Zafar Iqbal Sarwar apprised about the progress made in the fast growing development and construction activities in Allama Iqbal Industrial City and M3 City and Value Added City and informed that the federal & punjab governments are taking serious steps to provide electricity, gas and other basic amenities in the said industrial city which will yield positive results.

Speaking on the occasion, Board Director Asif Ali Tipu said, “All complaints and concerns of Chinese companies investing in Allama Iqbal Industrial City will be addressed and all efforts will be made to provide other facilities including security in this regard”.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-09/page-9/detail-7>

University of Sargodha, others host roundtable discussion

SARGODHA - The office of Research & Commercialization at the University of Sargodha in collaboration with the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared future (ICSF), Communication University of China, hosted Roundtable Discussion on ‘Chinese Premier Xi Jinping’s vision: Community with Shared Future in the Contemporary Era’ at Noon Auditorium. The discussion commenced with the opening remarks of Vice-Chancellor University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, while Director PICS Dr. Fazal ur Rahman was also present on the occasion.

SARGODHA UNIVERSITY SIGNS MoU WITH CGSS

The University of Sargodha and the Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) have agreed to collaborate on projects of mutual interest. In yesterday’s meeting, Vice Chancellor Sargodha University Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar & Khalid Taimur Akram Executive Director of CGSS have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work jointly for a period of three years. It is worth mentioning here that a meeting was also held recently between both parties to map out areas of common interest for joint academic and research ventures.

After identifying areas of cooperation, an agreement has been successfully signed for collaboration in various areas, including research and educational areas, co-organization of seminars, conferences, and roundtables sessions, exploring various opportunities to involve the academia in the multilateral fields, student and teachers exchange programs at various other countries to bridge the gap globally, teachers training programs, promotion of both institution at national & international forums, and harnessing skills among students through internship programs.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-09/page-9/detail-5>

Chinese govt gifts 7,000 saplings

MANSOOR ALI

ISLAMABAD -The Chinese government on Wednesday gifted 7,000 saplings of different species to support Imran Khan’s globally-acclaimed Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme and his Clean Green Pakistan vision.

The saplings were gifted in a high-level ceremony held at the Chinese Embassy, which was attended by officials of the Chinese government, Ministry of Climate Change and National Highway Authority. The SAPM and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong kicked off the plantation

by planting a pine tree sapling at the Embassy of China and exchanged views on the green vision of both sides aimed at sustainable growth and environmental conservation.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-09/page-13/detail-3>

The News

Pakistan, China renew Joint Economic Committee after 11 years

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday resumed the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) meeting after an 11 year pause to strengthen bilateral ties under the broader framework.

The forum of JEC was put on the backburner as everything was finalized through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for the last eight years. Now both sides have agreed to resume talks under the JEC forum as well after a pause of 11 years.

According to an official announcement, Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, opened the 15th Session of Pakistan-China Joint Economic Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Cooperation with his remarks. He commended the government of China for hosting the 15th Session of JEC after 11 years. The virtual meeting of JEC was co-chaired by Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China, and Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Pakistan.

Minister Omar Ayub expressed satisfaction on completion of 70 years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship between Pakistan and China. To highlight the significance of the event, Omar referred to the Bilateral Agreement for establishment of Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific & Technical Cooperation signed in 1982, and called it the basis of bilateral cooperation. Pakistan and China, he said, have always supported each other at every front. Pakistan was among the first countries to express solidarity with China at the time of outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and its president visited Beijing during the pandemic. Similarly, the government of China supported Pakistan in pandemic mitigation. To support Pakistan's mass vaccination, Chinese companies supplied Covid-19 vaccine on priority and provided over 4 million doses of vaccine free of cost.

The Minister for Economic Affairs highlighted that Pakistan and China are entering into the next phase of CPEC, where Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established. The SEZs would attract foreign direct investment, establish industrial units, create employment opportunities and boost economic activities. Similarly, operationalisation of Gwadar Port will also create momentum in the external trade. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner for the last six consecutive years since 2015. At present, China is Pakistan's main source of imports and second-largest export destination, Omar said.

Highlighting Pakistan's immense investment opportunities in various sectors, the Minister for Economic Affairs said Pakistan provides conducive and liberal investment environment to

foreign investors and entrepreneurs. All foreign investments are fully protected under Foreign Private Investment Promotion and Protection Act, 1976 and Protection of Economic Reforms Act, 1992. Special Economic Zones are also being established to meet the global competitiveness with the state of the art infrastructure and connectivity. The SEZ incentive package includes 10-years income tax exemption and one-time exemption from all custom-duties and taxes on import of capital goods.

Textile, leather, pharmaceutical and surgical industries of Pakistan are considered to be best in the world and are exported around the globe. Accordingly, Chinese investors can benefit from the huge potential of Pakistan's industrial sector. Omar said the Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority and Board of Investment of Pakistan can collaborate with Chinese counterparts for enhancing cooperation in industrial sector. Furthermore, he highlighted the need for mutual cooperation in agricultural research, enhanced productivity, value addition and food processing through joint ventures and business to business contacts, the minister said.

Both sides also discussed issues relating to development projects in energy, infrastructure and social sectors. They also agreed to promote investment and industrial cooperation on fast track basis. Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, EAD, also spoke about promotion of bilateral trade cooperation, exchange of experience in poverty alleviation and establishment of joint working groups, strengthening of cooperation under multilateral framework. The secretary, EAD also appreciated measures taken by the Chinese Government to tackle Covid-19 pandemic.

In his concluding remarks, Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of China, commented that the fruitful discussions on bilateral economic relations between the two countries will meet the objectives of deepening bilateral relationship. He also hoped the next session of Pak-China JEC will be held in Pakistan soon. He reiterated that Pak-China relationship is everlasting and bound to continue on good terms in the future.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=33086>

Express News

گوا اور میں چین کے فوجی نہیں اکتانک بیسز ہیں، معید یوسف

مشیر قومی سلامتی ڈاکٹر معید یوسف نے کہا کہ پاکستان ایک بار پھر خبردار کر رہا ہے کہ اگر مغرب نے افغانستان کے حوالے سے اپنا رویہ نہ بدلا تو وہ ایک اور تباہی کی طرف جا رہا ہے۔

ڈاکٹر معید یوسف نے ہارڈ ٹاک بی بی سی کو انٹرویو کے کہا کہ پاکستان ہمیشہ کہتا رہا کہ افغانستان کا کوئی فوجی حل نہیں۔ افغانستان کو بدترین انسانی بحران کا سامنا ہے جہاں 22.8 ملین افراد کو خوراک کی شدید قلت کا سامنا ہے پیسہ ہے لیکن افغانستان میں بینکنگ چینلز کو چلنے نہیں دیا جا رہا۔ پاکستان امریکا کے ساتھ اچھے تعلقات کا حامی ہے۔ امریکی انتظامیہ پاکستان کے ساتھ رابطے میں ہے۔

انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ پاکستان اور امریکہ کے تعلقات میں اتار چڑھاؤ آتا رہا ہے اور بد قسمتی سے جب امریکہ کا مفاد پورا ہو جاتا ہے تو پاکستان کو ایک طرف کر دیا جاتا ہے مگر پاکستان امریکہ کے ساتھ اچھے تعلقات چاہتا ہے۔ پاکستان نے جیوسٹریٹجک سے جیو اکنامکس کی طرف مثالی تبدیلی کی ہے۔ پاکستان کی اکنامک پیمز پوری دنیا کیلئے کھلی ہیں۔ کشمیر میں بھارتی مظالم کو اجاگر کرنا پاکستان کا حق ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2256654/1/>

December 10, 2021

Business Recorder

No military bases offered to China in Gwadar: NSA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has not offered any military bases to China in Gwadar, Balochistan, clarified National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf in an interview with Stephen Sackur for Hard Talk.

However, he said there are economic bases of China in Pakistan, where any country in the world can invest, adding that “the same were also offered to the United States, Russia and the Middle East.”

“We are open to all countries,” he added.

Yusuf delved into Pakistan’s ties with China, saying that Beijing is a close friend of Islamabad. He once again reiterated that any country in the world can invest in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project since “we are not closed to anybody.”

Sackur asked Yusuf whether Pakistan had developed close ties with China at the cost of raising its voice for Muslims around the world, particularly those in Xinjiang.

“You raise your voice for Kashmiri Muslims but refuse to condemn the violation of human rights in a Chinese province,” he asked Yusuf. The NSA responded by telling the interviewer that Pakistan does not agree with the Western version about the alleged atrocities being committed against Muslims in Xinjiang.

“We have relations of trust with China and our ambassador and other delegations from here also visited the Xinjiang province,” he observed, adding that if Western countries have a problem with China, they should talk to Beijing about it.

When the topic of discussion turned towards Kashmir, Yusuf said Pakistan will raise its voice for the oppressed since they were a part of Pakistan and not another foreign country. He spoke about the plight of the people of Afghanistan, adding that the country was heading towards a new disaster. Yusuf appealed to the world for humanitarian aid for the people of Afghanistan.

“If there is a government of people who fought against America and other western countries, there are also 35 to 40 million people who have nothing to do with it,” he said, adding that millions in Afghanistan needed to be fed.

“There is huge pledged money which cannot get into Afghanistan. There are 19 channels, including the United Nations, which cannot function. How can people there be fed then?” he asked.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/10/1-page/910734-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Revival of Pak-China JEC

IN a sign of their deep commitment to broaden and deepen their bilateral relations, Pakistan and China have revived the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), which held its meeting after 11 years on Wednesday.

The forum has remained dormant since 2010 and the two countries pursued bilateral economic cooperation mainly under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Since the establishment of the China-Pakistan Joint Committee in Economy, Trade, Science and Technology, bilateral trade and economic relations developed markedly as it proved a beneficial forum to expand trade and two-way investment and encourage companies of the two countries to develop mutually beneficial cooperation.

At the last meeting, which was held in Islamabad in 2010, the two countries had arrived at an understanding to have in-depth exchanges on further expanding and deepening cooperation.

It was because of this that the Chinese companies expanded their investment from traditional fields like resource development, household appliances and motorbikes to telecommunication and finance.

Earlier, in the 13th session in 2007, the two sides signed a Projects Implementation Regulation for the 5-year Development Program on economic cooperation, which was another major step to promote wider, deeper and higher level China-Pakistan trade and economic cooperation with a view to achieving the goal of mutual benefits, win-win and common development.

Though the CPEC has become an all-encompassing initiative as the two countries are continuously expanding its scope, revival of the JEC would open up new vistas for cooperation provided relevant ministries and departments do their homework and result-oriented meetings of the forum are held frequently.

People of Pakistan are grateful to China for its deep commitment to the cause of cooperation and friendship with Pakistan.

In fact, there are no limits to bilateral cooperation and as has been pointed out by the Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Li Bijian, the 500 million strong middle class of China could be a big market for Pakistan. It is for the relevant ministries and the private sector to exploit opportunities for enhancing Pakistani exports to China.

As has been desired by him, the two countries should enter into meaningful cooperation in the fields of information technology and electric vehicles.

<https://pakobserver.net/revival-of-pak-china-jec/>

The Nation

Pakistan will not be part of any bloc amid US-China cold war, says PM

Mateen Haider

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday urged the international community to help avert a looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which was facing severe economic problems, owing to its frozen assets.

Pakistan would do every effort to help address the sufferings of the 40 million Afghan people, he said, while addressing the inaugural session of the Islamabad Conclave on “Peace and Prosperity in South Asia” here at the Institute of Strategic Studies.

Pakistan is to host an extraordinary meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Minister in Islamabad on December 19, to deliberate on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and to find a way out to address the sufferings of the Afghan people.

The prime minister said Pakistan through the OIC would play its part to reach out to the Afghan people who were in dire need of food, shelter and medicines. He mentioned the freezing of Afghanistan foreign exchange reserves by the United States as one of the major factors behind the economic and humanitarian crisis for Afghans, who were facing problems for the last 40 years. He said that due to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, Iran was also facing the problem of refugees.

The prime minister said that peace in Afghanistan was not only vital for the future of Pakistan but also for the Central Asian States which were much interested in regional trade and connectivity.

Imran Khan in his address spoke on various issues of regional and international interests including Pakistan-India relations, Jammu and Kashmir dispute, climate change, etc. The prime minister while highlighting the importance of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for peace and prosperity of region said that the Kashmir dispute had made the whole of South Asia hostage.

Imran Khan recalled that soon after coming into power he contacted the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and made efforts for the resumption of dialogue to resolve the outstanding disputes in a peaceful manner, but they took it as Pakistan’s weakness.

The prime minister said he had a considered opinion that the disputes like Jammu and Kashmir could only be resolved through dialogue and not through “bomb and guns,”

“If the issues could be resolved through the bomb and guns, then the United States, which was a big military power, should have won in Afghanistan, he remarked. The prime minister said it was unfortunate not only for the Kashmiris alone but also for the 500 million minorities living in India that Modi-led regime with an ideology of RSS-Hindutva and supremacy of upper class Hindus was in power.

He maintained that India could not achieve peace and development by marginalizing the 500 million minorities.

The prime minister said that Pakistan wished and prayed for a government in India with which it could talk with logic and argument for the just resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute through dialogue.

Talking about the challenges of climate change faced by the whole world including South Asia, the prime minister said that the fast melting Himalyan and Karakorum glaciers in the region were posing serious climatic problems for Pakistan, India and other regional countries.

He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation including between India and Pakistan to tackle the challenges of climate change by saying that since the two countries share borders, measures taken by one country alone cannot address the problem effectively.

The prime minister further said that with Pakistan getting water from Karakorum and Suleman ranges, Himalaya was the big source of water for India, which should take steps to protect the natural source for future generations. Mentioning the business interests of India, which was using coal as a major fuel to generate power, he however, stressed that other sources of power-generation should be utilized to protect the region from climate change affects.

The prime minister said despite the fact that Pakistan was among the low-emission countries, it was taking several measures on climate change, which were being recognized and appreciated worldwide.

About international politics vis a vis South Asia, Imran Khan referred to the emerging blocs and the cold-war and maintained that Pakistan would not become part of any bloc and cold-war and would rather play a role to bring the countries closer.

The premier in that regard also mentioned Pakistan’s positive role for bringing closer the United States and China in the past and then also mediating between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The prime minister praised the role of Institute of Strategic Studies in hosting and organising important events and said Pakistan really needed such think-tanks to develop national narratives on various important issues through discussion and input from the scholars from across the world.

He regretted that some think-tanks in the US and West, without having the knowledge of and on-ground realities about important issues like religion and extremism, build opinions and gave their views about Pakistan. The prime minister mentioned his decision about the establishment of Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority and said it was aimed at gathering religious scholars from across the world at one platform and build a true narrative and image of Islam for the world.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in his remarks on the occasion presented Pakistan's position on various issues of regional and international interest including the situation in Afghanistan.

He also mentioned the emerging humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and called for international efforts including through the platform of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to help and assist the Afghan people in this hour of need.

About the situation in South Asia, the foreign minister said that Jammu and Kashmir was one of the oldest disputes on the United Nations agenda that still awaited resolution according to the wishes of the brave people of Kashmir.

The dispute can conflagrate into a nuclear flashpoint to the detriment of regional and global security, he warned. The foreign minister said that the region had also been witnessing border stand-off between China and India, border dispute between Nepal and India, and water dispute between Bangladesh and India.

"Sri Lanka has endured 25 years of the bloodiest insurgency in its history. Afghanistan has lived through four decades of conflict," he mentioned.

The foreign minister said there was a need to put human security at the center of national security strategies: a departure from security-centric policies to move the region towards development and prosperity. "This is the real challenge that South Asia faces today," he remarked.

The foreign minister said that Pakistan had shifted its focus to geo-economics, adding, connectivity was the new buzz word, which could provide them enormous opportunities for national and regional development.

Describing regional cooperation as a must for South Asia to prosper, he said that the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) needed to be revitalized by freeing it from narrow political agendas.

"Unfortunately, intra-regional trade remains low and concrete progress is required to overcome trade barriers, infrastructural deficits, and connectivity constraints," he added.

The foreign minister said that Pakistan had decided not to be a part of any global or regional conflict, and had chosen to be a partner only in peace and development. "Pakistan is calling for inclusive and cooperative approaches based on enhanced economic partnerships," he added.

He said that Pakistan would remain committed to peaceful co-existence, cooperative multilateralism, and consensus-driven outcomes. "We will always support an inclusive global order, for advancing the shared objectives of peace, progress and prosperity in the region and beyond," he added.

The foreign minister said as they were living in an age of narratives, forming and disseminating narratives of Pakistan was a national responsibility.

“To bridge the gap between policy-makers and academics and present consensus-driven narratives, forums such as Islamabad Conclave can play an important role,” he maintained.

Using force not a solution to eliminate extremism: PM

Also, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday emphasised that using force was not a solution to eliminate extremism, rather instilling moral and ethical values in the young generation would create a moderate, tolerant and progressive society.

“The main objective of establishing Rehmatul Lil Alameen Authority is to raise the moral standards of our society,” he added.

The prime minister was answering a question about extremism and rising number of crimes against women and children, during an interactive session with officers participating in the 115th National Management Course (NMC).

Discussing the need for a Single National Curriculum, he stated that parallel education systems had created class distinctions.

The government intended to have a core curriculum adopted throughout the country so that children get a strong base, the prime minister said, adding, thereafter, it was the choice of students to specialize in whatever field they wanted.

He said the Authority would conduct research and provide guidance based on the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

The prime minister said that children had access to every kind of material through mobile phones and to an immature mind such content gave way to misconceptions and extremism.

The government would provide an alternative to our youth i.e. the teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) including respect, dignity, family values, ethics and morality, he added.

While addressing the officer of 115th National Management Course officers, the prime minister said that civil servants bore a huge responsibility of serving the public and striving for welfare of the masses.

He emphasized that as decision makers, there would always be two choices for them. “One is the easy way of earning money and corruption that leads to destruction and the other is to earn respect and growth which is slow and full of challenges,” he remarked.

Deliberating on the economic challenges, the prime minister stated that the present government inherited huge fiscal debt due to corruption and malpractices of the previous regimes.

He added that despite COVID pandemic which adversely impacted the world economy, Pakistan managed its economy with success which had been acknowledged by international organizations.

The prime minister stated that due to the government’s “ease-of-doing-business” policy, all economic indicators were moving in positive direction particularly large scale manufacturing, exports and construction sectors.

Lamenting on the lack of long-term planning by previous governments, he stated that the present government had initiated work for the construction of 10 dams in order to meet the country's energy and water requirements.

The prime minister said that achieving economic growth and prosperity was a gradual process, but the government was committed to implement long-term reforms in all sectors that would lead to Pakistan becoming regional leader as it was in the decade of 70s.

Support to missing journalist's family

PM assures probe, support to missing journalist's family

The parents of missing journalist Mudassir Naro and his minor son on Thursday met Prime Minister Imran Khan, who assured them of an investigation and his all-out support.

The prime minister instructed the law enforcement agencies to carry out further investigation and convey a satisfactory response to Mudassir Naro's parents, PM office informed.

The parents of the missing journalist expressed satisfaction over the assurance by the prime minister.

Hailing from Lahore, Mudassar Naro had gone missing after he went to the northern areas on a tour in August 2018 along with his wife and a minor son.

Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, Attorney General Khalid Javed Khan and Interior Secretary Yousuf Nadeem Khokhar also attended the meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-10/page-1/detail-2>

Pak-China friendship forum vows to promote cooperation

ISLAMABAD - Forum on Cooperation between China and Pakistan Friendship Provinces and Cities was held here virtually in order to promote exchange of views on issues of common bilateral interests.

Under the theme of "Win-win cooperation for common development", Pakistan and China exchanged views on issues of common interest and also issued a joint declaration to ensure strengthened cooperation in various sectors, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

At the forum, 2 pairs of sister provinces, 6 pairs of sister cities, 2 pairs of sister parks and 1 pair of sister lakes were officially established.

The newly signed agreements include sister province Chongqing-Balochistan, Qinghai-Khyber, sister cities Chongqing-Karachi, Xining-Peshawar, Shenyang-Karachi, Zhengzhou-Quetta, Pingdingshan-Multan, Dongying-Gujrawala, sister park Zhengzhou Botanical Park-Ayub National Park, The Three-Rivers Source National Park (Qinghai)- Lal Sohanra National Park, and sister lake Qinghai Lake-Keenjhar Lake.

The forum is co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Embassy of Pakistan in China. Lin Yi, Vice President of CPAFFC, chaired the meeting and addressed the opening greeting.

Four local government officials from both Pakistan and China deeply discussed on the theme of the forum. The chief ministers of Khyber, Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab attended the conversation.

The Chinese side was involved with leaders from Xinjiang, Henan, Hubei and Jiangsu provinces. Both sides have expressed willingness to strengthen mutual cooperation and common development in the future.

Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China, in his remarks on the occasion said that China and Pakistan signed an unprecedented 23 new friendship and cooperation agreements in 2021.

This has laid a good foundation for developing and strengthening bilateral friendly relations, bilateral economic and trade relations, cultural and tourism exchanges.

Lin Songtian, President of CPAFFC, introduced that up to now, China has established sister city relations with 139 countries, including 17 pairs of sister city relations with Pakistan, which serve as an important platform for friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between local governments, especially between China and Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-10/page-10/detail-3>

Amin lauds Korean, Chinese govt's interest in PM Imran Khan's green initiatives

ISLAMABAD - Hailing the participation of China and Korea in the country's historically largest afforestation programme of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Special Assistant to PM on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Thursday said the government was committed to work with global community to tackle adverse fallouts of the global warming on lives and livelihoods of the people.

Addressing a launching ceremony of Pakistan-Korea Friendship Forest Initiative (Phase-II) held here at the Korean Embassy, PM's aide Malik Amin and the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo pledged to work closely for boosting PM Imran Khan's green initiatives, particularly the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) for boosting the country's climate resilience.

The Korean ambassador told the participants of the event that under the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Forest Initiative (Phase-II), 10,000 saplings of different fruit and non-fruit species would be planted in different parts of the country to improve the environment and strengthen livelihoods of the local communities. He recalled that the Korean government had already planted 6,000 saplings of different varieties in support to PM Imran Khan's TBTP, which has gained a global recognition and appreciation.

“The Korean government looks at the largest afforestation programme of the Pakistani government as an opportunity to help improve the country’s overall environmental conditions and enhance resilience against unfolding deleterious impacts of climate change on various socio-economic sectors,” the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo told SAPM Malik Amin Aslam during a meeting on the sidelines of the event.

He also assured the SAPM the Korean government’s all-out support to help build up capacity of the country’s various sectors to cope with negative impacts of the climate change through transfer of technical know-how, technology related to, among others, water, energy, agriculture and forestry sectors. The PM’s aide thanked the Korean ambassador for gifting 10,000 saplings, reflecting Korean government’s recognition of the PM Imran Khan’s Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme and support to his vision for clean green Pakistan.

Later, the SAPM and Korean Ambassador kicked off the plantation by planting a pine tree sapling at the Embassy of Korea and exchanged views on the green vision of both governments, which aims at sustainable socio-economic growth, climate resilience, environmental conservation and protection. Earlier on Wednesday, Chinese government also gifted 7,000 saplings for plantation along different national highways to help fight surging vehicular and non-vehicular air pollution and environmental degradation. Chinese ambassador Nong Rong gifted the saplings to Pakistan at a ceremony held here at the Chinese embassy to mark 70 years of Pak-China friendship.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-10/page-14/detail-7>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک ختلے کو جوڑنے کا راستہ، تنازعہ کشمیر عالمی سلامتی کیلئے تباہ کن ہو گا: شاہ محمود

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) وزیر خارجہ محمود شاہ محمود قریشی نے پرامن اور خوش حال جنوبی ایشیا کے عنوان سے ’اسلام آباد کانٹیکو-2021‘ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بڑی طاقتوں کے درمیان مقابلہ اور کشمکش بڑھتی جا رہی ہے جو تصادم کی طرف کھینچ رہی ہے۔ اس کے نتیجے میں نئی مخالفتیں اور رقبہ جہنم لے سکتی ہیں اور دنیا کو پھر سے ’دھڑوں‘ کی سیاست کی نذر کر رہی ہیں جس سے ایک نئی سرد جنگ کا ظہور ہوتا محسوس ہوتا ہے، سری لنکا نے اپنی تاریخ کے 25 سال میں خونریز بغاوت کا سامنا کیا ہے جبکہ افغانستان چار دہائیوں سے تنازعے سے گزر رہا ہے، پاکستان نے کسی عالمی یا علاقائی تنازعے کا حصہ نہ بننے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے اور صرف امن و ترقی میں شریک کار رہنے کی راہ منتخب کی ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ ’انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز‘ کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتا ہوں کہ انہوں نے اس مجلس کا اہتمام کیا ہے یہ لائق تحسین اقدام ہے۔ ’انسٹی ٹیوٹ‘ نے ’وژن 2023‘ پر عمل درآمد کے ضمن میں نمایاں پیش رفت کی ہے۔ ’اسلام آباد کانٹیکو‘ ان کئی اقدامات میں سے ایک ہے جو ’انسٹی ٹیوٹ‘ نے تحقیق اور مکالمے کے ذریعے پاکستان کے نکتہ نظر کو فروغ دینے کے لئے اٹھائے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا اقوام متحدہ کے ایجنڈے پر تنازعہ جموں و کشمیر ایک دیرینہ اور قدیم ترین مسئلے کے طور پر موجود ہے جو تاحال کشمیر کے بہادر عوام کی امنگوں کے مطابق حل کا منتظر ہے۔ اس قضیہ کی آگ جوہری ’فلٹش پوائنٹ‘ میں بدلنے کا احتمال رکھتی ہے جو علاقائی اور عالمی سلامتی کے لئے تباہ کن ہو گا۔ یہ خطہ چین اور بھارت کے درمیان جنگی محاذ آرائی، نیپال اور بھارت کے درمیان سرحدی تنازعے اور بنگلہ دیش اور بھارت کے درمیان آبی تنازعہ کا مشاہدہ بھی کر چکا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کی سدا بہار سٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو شراکت داری کا طرہ امتیاز چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) رابطوں کی

استواری کا ایک بہترین اور مثالی منصوبہ ہے۔ پاکستان کی معاشی تبدیلی کے ساتھ ساتھ ’سی پیک‘ خطے کو جوڑنے کیلئے بھی ایک اہم راستہ ہے۔ جنوبی ایشیا کی خوش حالی کے لئے خطے میں علاقائی تعاون لازم ہے۔ سارک کو تنگ نظر سیاسی ایجنڈوں سے آزاد کر کے زندہ و فعال کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ تجارت و سرمایہ کاری، انفراسٹرکچر کی ترقی، انرجی سکیورٹی، زراعت، سیاحت میں تعاون اور عوامی رابطوں میں اضافہ ہماری ترجیحات ہیں۔ ہم بیانیوں کے دور میں جی رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے بیانیوں کی تشکیل اور ان کا فروغ ہم سب کے لئے ایک قومی ذمہ داری ہے۔ فیصلہ سازوں اور محققین کے درمیان خلیج کو پائنا ہو گا اور اتفاق رائے کے حامل بیانیوں کو پیش کرنا ہو گا، ’اسلام آباد کانکلیو‘ جیسے فورمز اس ضمن میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-10/page-3/detail-0>

December 11, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistani students amazed by China’s poverty relief achievement

Chinese government is indeed amazing (in poverty reduction),” said a Pakistani student when visiting a once poor village at Heyang County, Shaanxi province, China.

China Economic Net reported on Friday that a total of 20 international students from Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWFU) and Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine paid a visit to the once poverty-stricken county, saw the new image of rural villages and experienced Chinese culture.

At Bailing village, these students were greatly impressed by the clean lanes, beautiful and livable environment.

When knowing Bailing village is just one of the epitome of beautiful villages under the rural vitalization strategy, Naseer Muhammad Asad from NWFU praised the Chinese government’s achievement. At a Qiachuan’s gourd planting and processing cooperative, these students showed keen interests in the delicate gourd sculpture.

On knowing gourd sculptures were made by the disabled, students gave a thumbs-up sign for not only these peoples’ exquisite craftsmanship but also local government’s pragmatic measures to help people get rid of poverty.

Among the 20 students, a Pakistani student from NWFU, Mansoor Ahmed Koondhar was extremely popular with the pupils at Nangou primary school. Koondhar isn’t a stranger to the pupils as he has been their volunteer English teacher since October 2021.

When seeing the teacher, pupils excitedly gathered around Koondhar and strived to be the first to talk with him.

“Mr Koondhar, will you stay for a longer time?” “I have learnt another English song ...” Koondhar was also very excited to meet his students again.

At a square of Nangou village, international students, pupils and local residents gathered together and performed traditional songs and dance.

The last one was a traditional Pakistani dance. The audience also joined to dance together.

Zhang Huahai from NWAUFU said the international cultural activity is meant to enhance mutual understanding and close people-to-people ties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/853376/pakistani-students-amazed-by-chinas-poverty-relief-achievement/>

Pakistan Observer

China and summit for democracy

THE US-schemed and sponsored Summit for democracy has now been virtually commenced. It has once again divided the world into two distinctive poles.

The US government did not invite China and Russia to participate in the Summit for democracy. Even Pakistan did not participate.

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi called Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and expounded on China's position on the so-called "Summit for Democracy held by the United States.

He labelled the US Summit for Democracy as hegemonic show to defend its dominant position in the world in the name of democracy. The Summit for Democracy commenced on 09 December.

On its day the Biden-Harris Administration has made clear that renewing democracy in the United States and around the world is essential to meeting the unprecedented challenges of our time. But actions should speak louder than words.

President Biden stated on the International Day of Democracy, "No democracy is perfect, and no democracy is ever final. Every gain made, every barrier broken, is result of determined, unceasing work."

On 04 December 2021 even before the US-sponsored Summit for Democracy China held an international forum on democracy and issued a white paper called "China: Democracy That Works" which upheld Chinese model of democracy.

However, unfortunately, US has once again used the Cold War mindset to maintain its hegemony. On its part, Chinese Foreign Ministry criticized the American style of democracy.

Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said that the US is "monopolizing the definition of democracy to the advantage of certain countries.

Le termed democracy a common value of the entire humanity and on the contrary the US is instigating ideological confrontation along the line of 'democracy versus authoritarianism. It seems that the US is using its dominant position on the international right of speech to set the international agenda to pressure China and Russia while forming "small circles" with its allies.

Moreover, the US always uses democracy to label countries that do not follow a US recognized democratic system as imagined enemies so as to intimidate its allies to offer their political interests in exchange for protection from the US.

Thus it has been politically centered instead of people orientation. The world is diversified and dynamic and has different forms of democracy.

Even the EU has different form of democracies. Therefore, no country is able to judge another country's democratic system. Ironically, in recent times, the US is not functioning as a democracy it is functioning as an autocracy. According to basic definition of democracy, it is a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Conversely, autocracy is a government of the one%, by the one%, for the one%. The American democracy nowadays serves the minority composed by the elite and a few wealthy people with capital.

The US government is under money politics where money controls debates and decision-making. Thus it is an autocracy instead of democracy.

The US history has been full of shameful deeds which it committed on the name of democracy and tradition of invasion and intervention in the name of democracy in other countries was reminiscent of the times of colonialism when empires in Europe imposed their will, religions and customs in whichever territory they could seize in name of civilizing the uncivilized.

As the self-appointed architect and keeper of international system, the US believes it has the right to act unilaterally whenever and wherever it wants.

So, successful governance is not about transporting an abstract set of rules and perceivers from one country and applying it to an entirely different environment and sort of circumstances somewhere else.

Democracy means respecting the culture and traditions of a country, allowing governance to grow and flower in its own indigenous conditions.

Chinese's State Council Information Office white paper termed democracy as a common value of humanity and an ideal that has always been cherished by the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people.

In this connection, the Party has led the people in realizing people's democracy in China in the last one hundred years.

The Chinese people now truly hold in their hands their own future and that of society and the country. So, the people's status as masters of the country is the essence of people's democracy, it said.

By narrating the different shades and aspects of Chinese democracy the white paper highlighted that the Chinese whole-process people's democracy integrates process-oriented democracy with

results-oriented democracy, procedural democracy with substantive democracy, direct democracy with indirect democracy, and people's democracy with the will of the state.

The white paper termed the Chinese democracy as a model of socialist democracy that covers all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society.

It labelled it a true democracy that works and rooted in history, culture and tradition, it takes diverse forms and develops along the paths chosen by different peoples based on their exploration and innovation.

Furthermore, while highlighting the salient features of Chinese democratic model the white paper noted that democracy is not a decorative ornament, but an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people. Democracy is the right of the people in every country, rather than the prerogative of a few nations.

Even Chinese President Xi Jinping has showcased Chinese model of democracy and labelled it people's centric.

The Chinese democratic model involves complete institutional procedures which is well-coordinated and comprehensive institutional procedures serve to put into place diverse, open and well-organized democratic channels to ensure that the Party's policies and the State will be integrated with the people's aspirations and that the people are masters of the count.

China did not duplicate Western models of democracy, but nurtured its own. Chinese democratic model has fuelled the development of the country and driven the revitalization of the nation.

Chinese democracy depends on the free will of the people having a combination of electoral democracy and consultative democracy and is applied through a combination of elections, consultations, decision-making, management and oversight.

It covers the economic, political, cultural, social, eco-environmental and other fields. The Chinese people widely exercise their right to vote in elections and undertake extensive deliberations before major decisions are made. Democratic consultation is a special feature of democracy in China.

Democracy stands for consensus and holistic approach but US show of hegemony goes on. Democracy is neither the international brand of Coca Cola which must have same ingredients nor the queen of happiness having which all sorrows diminish.

It has always been the system of governance which makes the difference. The robust socio-economic transformation of China reaffirms that it has better governance system.

The US governance has been based on fault lines which tends to divide instead of developing the society.

The US sugar coating of so-called democratic persuasions is a politically motivated scheme of arrangement which always prefers its own vested interest on pure humanity.

The US COVID-19 handling is the prime example of its arrogance which badly divided the world inter-developed and under-developed bracket due to which even its own people have suffered.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-and-summit-for-democracy-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Pakistan advised to learn from China's experience in Africa, leadership diplomacy stressed

Pakistan can learn a lot from China's successful foreign policy on Africa, which has remained consistent over the years and was aimed at human and infrastructure development in the neglected continent. The approach has earned China many economic and diplomatic dividends.

Pakistan should also capitalize on its already existing goodwill in Africa owing to its historic role in the decolonization of several African nations and its significant contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions in the conflict zones of the continent.

These view was expressed at a seminar titled 'Understanding East Africa' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) under its 'Understanding Africa Program' here on Friday. Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, a senior research associate at IPS, was the session's keynote speaker, which was chaired by the IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain.

Regarding China's economic development model in Africa, the keynote speaker was of the view that the Africa policy of China has remained consistent till date and Xi Jinping after assuming the presidency of China in 2013 has further augmented it by increasing Chinese investment manifolds, which now stands at \$200 billion.

Moreover, China has invested in building 24 seaports in 20 African countries apart from apportioning preferential loans for them, and pumping money in various sectors including infrastructure, communication, transportation, mining and extraction.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-advised-to-learn-from-chinas-experience-in-africa-leadership-diplomacy-stressed/>

The News

China's technological prowess fueling West's new Cold War

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Defense Committee and Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain has welcomed Pakistan's decision not to participate in the 'Democracy Summit' hosted by the US being an agenda driven by ideological geopolitics, a throwback to the Cold War era. "Weaponization of democracy is counterproductive in today's era of globalization when challenges like coronavirus pandemic and climate change require collective efforts through wider cooperation," he said while addressing a Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) Webinar on "6th Plenum of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC); What does it

mean for China and the World?" under its flagship event series, "Friends of Silk Road (FOSR)". The webinar was attended by over 70 participants online, and featured five speeches, including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee & Pakistan-China Institute, Ms Pang Chunxue, Deputy Head of the Embassy of China, Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party in the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Fakhar Imam, Minister for Food Security & Research.

The panelists discussed the 'Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session on November 11, 2021 and its implications for China and the world in a rapidly changing regional and international political scenario'.

Mushahid welcomed Pakistan's decision not to participate in the US 'Democracy Summit' as its agenda was driven by ideological geopolitics, a throwback to the Cold War era. "Weaponization of democracy is counterproductive in globalization when challenges like coronavirus pandemic and climate change require collective efforts through wider cooperation," he said. Rather than Democracy Summit, the important message is from Harvard University on 'The Great Tech Rivalry: China vs US'. Quoting from the report, Mushahid said, 'China has displaced the US as world's top hi tech manufacturer producing 250 million computers, 25 million automobiles and 1.5 billion smartphones in 2020'. This technological prowess and progress of China is the real reason driving the West's new Cold War as they're falling behind China. The Harvard report further says: 'China possesses the might, talent and ambition to surpass the US as the world's leader in AI in the next decade'. The Harvard report also starkly concludes that China is leading in foundational technologies of the 21st Century: Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Biotech, Semi Conductors and Green Energy.

Given this context, and given our national interests, Senator Mushahid said Pakistan is standing on the right side of history and Pakistan-China relations are neither tactical nor transactional nor directed against any other country, rather they are the drivers of a new regional connectivity based on economy, energy and ecology, ports and pipelines, roads and railways, with both protecting each other's core interests.

Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary leader of Pakistan People's Party in the Senate and Chairperson Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, felicitated the Communist Party of China on passing the historic resolution which reaffirms the commitment of party leadership to achieve the outlined goals. She said the world was looking towards China for its pivotal global role and said, 'Friendship with China unites Pakistani political parties, especially ties with CPC'. She said Chairman Mao inspired the PPP at its formation in 1967, and Prime Minister Bhutto was the architect of Pak-China friendship. Rehman termed CPEC as 'transformational, an existential opportunity and a hope for the future'. Moreover, she welcomed China's leadership on Climate Change.

Ms Pang Chunxue, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China, termed the conclusion of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee, a milestone for the CPC. She said the

"Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPC on the Party's Major Achievements and Historical Experience in a Century of Struggle" passed during the session will further unify the whole party's thinking, will and action. "Under the leadership of the CPC, China has gone through historical changes, now achieving stability, preserving its sovereignty and promoting prosperity," she said. She termed the Pakistan-China relationship time tested, unique, all weather and resilient. Pakistan, she said, will always find China standing shoulder-to-shoulder during its development endeavors. Lastly, she echoed the stance of President Xi Jinping who during the phone call with Prime Minister Imran Khan this October called for strengthening strategic mutual trust, so as to promote the high-quality development of CPEC, and broaden all-round cooperation in every field.

Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, called on the political parties to deepen strategic communication with China to learn from CPC's experience of governance. Commenting on CPEC, he said that it has successfully completed its first phase and has now given a new dimension and rejuvenated the deep-rooted bilateral partnership in economy, society, culture, ecology, and governance.

Syed Fakhar Imam, Minister for Food Security & Research, said this critical juncture will propel China to achieve new heights and help it in realizing the dream of creating a community with shared destiny for mankind.

Welcoming the 6th Plenum of the 19th Central Committee's historical resolution, moderator of the seminar Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute, said the Friends of Silk Road Initiative have emerged as a key platform for bringing political parties, civil society, and key opinion leaders together. Today's conference, he maintained, demonstrates that Pakistan's different parties and leaders maintain the consensus to strongly support China and CPEC.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=33785>

Main artery of CPEC Western Corridor to be opened on 16th

Hanif Khalid

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to inaugurate the Western Corridor of CPEC in the coming week. The four-lane motorway will connect the Hakla Interchange on M-1 Motorway to D I Khan.

The National High Authority has requested the prime minister to attend the inauguration ceremony on December 16th. The Western Corridor comprises 292.5-km-long four-lane motorway with 11 interchanges, 36 bridges, 119 underpasses, 33 flyovers and 398 culverts. Along with the motorway, 100 meters right of way has been developed on 62,900 kanals.

The project commenced in September, 2016 during the PMLN government. Its PC-1 cost was Rs110,208 million approved by ECNEC on 7th November, 2016.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=33770>

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=33769>

December 12, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese arrives at Karachi's Kati Pahari 'tourist spot'

KARACHI: A Chinese national landed at Karachi's Kati Pahari on Saturday mistaking the cliff that used to be infamous for ethno-political violence and drug trafficking for a tourist spot. Karachi police taking swift action saved a Chinese national from facing any unpleasant situation in one of the most dangerous areas of the mega city.

The Pirabad station house officer (SHO) received information about a Chinese national roaming around the area with luggage, he said. Swinging into action, a police team reached Kati Pahari and tracked him down before any criminal gets hold of him, he added. The Chinese man who was in Pakistan on a business visa later told the police he thought Kati Pahari was a tourist place.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/12/9-page/911053-news.html>

Daily Times

Shanghai Electric to teach Chinese language to children in Thar

Children of local villagers in Thar Block-1 will be taught the Chinese language by qualified teachers under a long-term programme initiated by Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited, a local subsidiary of Shanghai Electric.

The project which SSRL is carrying out in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, University of Karachi was inaugurated in Thar Block 1 on Wednesday.

"We have initiated this project to help local kids learn the Chinese language. This skill will be an added tool for them once they enter professional life," commented Li Jigen, CEO of SSRL.

"Dedicated Chinese teachers from Confucius Institute have been employed to impart Chinese language to local kids. These classes will help the local residents of Thar in overcoming the language barrier and working abreast of Chinese investors in the area," he said.

A total of 30 boys and 30 girls from local schools of Thar will be attending these classes. The classes will be held in three different schools. On weekends the teachers will be teaching the Chinese language to local employees of SSRL.

The Chinese classes project got underway after due permission from concerned authorities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/853756/shanghai-electric-to-teach-chinese-language-to-children-in-thar/>

China, Pakistan gear up vocational education cooperation

China, Pakistan will gear up vocational education cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. The report says that to this effect an online launching ceremony of CCTE (Chinese+ Commercial culture + Technology + Employment) model modern Sino-Pak dual diploma joint Technical Education Demonstration Project was held simultaneously in China and Pakistan.

The Chinese side consist three Chinese vocational institutes, namely, Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology (SZIIT), Guangdong Construction Polytechnic and Bailie Vocational College of Gansu Province.

They will cooperate with their Pakistani counterparts, including University of Faisalabad in geotechnical, information technology and modern agriculture to train talents for Pakistan, via the CCTE model. At the launching ceremony, participants also held a dialogue on China-Pakistan cooperation on vocational education. Wang Hui, president of SZIIT said, “The implement of cooperation program is of great significance to boost the Sino-Pak education cooperation to a wider, deeper and higher-level.”

Ali Salman Siddique, chairman of Technical Education and Vocational Authority (TEVTA) of Punjab Pakistan, said that the Sino-Pak deep cooperation would definitely bring opportunities for Pakistan’s vocational training and education development and be helpful to the development and supply of technical manpower for CPEC. He hoped to have more communications and exchanges with Chinese professionals in vocational and technical education. He also planned to lead Pakistani education institutes to visit China’s vocational institutes in the future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/853743/china-pakistan-gear-up-vocational-education-cooperation/>

China’s inclusion in WTO helped developing countries: Ambassador Haque

China’s inclusion in the World Trade Organization (WTO) has not only helped China to open up and promote free and inclusive trade liberalization, but also the other countries, especially the developing world. Many developing nations had benefited since China’s inclusion in the WTO, he told CGTN on the 20th anniversary of China’s entry into WTO.

Ambassador Haque said Pakistan was a close ally of China and China was its top trading partner and hit back at claims that China has undermined WTO rules. “China today is a major economic player, the second-largest economy in the world. It is the largest trading partner of over 120 countries, the largest trading partner of the United States, the largest trading partner of European Union (EU), the largest trading partner of Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN),” he added.

He said now with joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), China had become a very important player in the world’s largest trading block, and for Pakistan also,

China was our largest trading partner. “So China is contributing to international trade, to free trade, trade liberalization,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said China’s inclusion in WTO had helped that, not only helped China to open up and promoted free trade inclusive trade liberalization, but also it helped the other countries also, especially the developing world.

“So to say that China is doing something else, I think that will be a wrong description. And China as I mentioned, a very responsible player, would like to work this philosophy, very important thing, the philosophy in China is win-win cooperation.” China became a member of the WTO on December 11, 2001, after the agreement of the Ministerial Conference on Nov 10, 2001.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/853878/chinas-inclusion-in-wto-helped-developing-countries-ambassador-haque/>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pak gear up vocational education coop

China, Pakistan will gear up vocational education cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday.

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<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-gear-up-vocational-education-coop/>

7 industrial units opened in Mohmand Economic Zone

Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM for Industry and Investment Abdul Karim has inaugurated seven new industrial units in Mohmand Economic Zone.

Addressing on the occasion, Abdul Karim said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government’s friendly policies added much to the development of industrial and trade activities in the province, said a statement.

He said the development of industrial and trade activities in Mohmand district opened a new era of economic growth and prosperity in the province, especially in the newly merged districts.

He said that with the opening of this industrial units, Rs900 million investment is expected and thousands of direct and indirect job will be created. He thanked the investors and assured that the provincial government will provide all kinds of facilities to investors in the province.

He said that investors are taking special interest in investing in different sectors of the province. He said that keeping in view the geographical importance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, exportable industrial unit should be set up to export products to the Central Asian markets.

The industrialists participated in the event appreciated the positive and investor friendly policies of the provincial government and said that a significant improvement is seen in industrial development in the province due to the personal efforts and interest of the special assistant for industry.

<https://pakobserver.net/7-industrial-units-opened-in-mohmand-economic-zone/>

The Express Tribune

Kyrgyzstan keen on joining CPEC

Envoy says Central Asian country wants to benefit from Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: Kyrgyzstan is interested to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and benefit from the tremendous trade opportunities from Gwadar port. These were the remarks of Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev during a seminar titled “Business, Education and Tourism Opportunities in Kyrgyzstan” organised by The Diplomatic Insight, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University.

The ambassador stressed that Pakistan offered tremendous opportunities to Kyrgyzstan with the development of CPEC. CPEC has been thriving lately with its second phase focusing on agriculture and industrial cooperation. “Rapidly growing Gwadar port presents a good opportunity to Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan, to benefit from the region and the reach global markets. According to the ambassador, regional cooperation and trade connection between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan through CPEC and Gwadar would help boost peace and prosperity in the region.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC also provide abundant incentives. Kyrgyz investors can avail the opportunities of business and tourism in Pakistan through CPEC projects and other important landscapes of the country. The ambassador highlighted that both countries were a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), where both states are cooperating to build regional understanding on trade, investment, security cooperation and people-to-people ties.

The envoy also highlighted that the geostrategic position of Kyrgyzstan provided excellent opportunities for regional trade and economic cooperation, as well as establishing ties in all areas of mutual interest. He detailed that the country was situated at the crossroads between Central

Asia and China and further through the Karakoram Pass to Pakistan. The ambassador highlighted the strong friendly relations between the two countries and noted that Pakistan was the first country to recognise the independence of Kyrgyz Republic.

In this context, it is also important to note that on December 15, Foreign Minister Ruslan Kazakbaev will arrive in Islamabad to participate in the extraordinary session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers on December 16-17. Diplomatic Insight Group Founder Chairperson Farhat Asif and Riphah Institute of Public Policy Director Rashid Aftab also spoke on the occasion. A large number of students, faculty members, and media representatives were present.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333526/kyrgyzstan-keen-on-joining-cpec>

The Nation

Pakistan likely to import 0.1 million metric tonnes of urea from China

Imran Ali Kundi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is likely to import 0.1 million metric tonnes of urea from China to meet the shortfall in the country.

Officials in ministry of industries and production informed that government has recently decided to import 0.1 million metric tons of urea from China. The government in October had decided to import 0.1 million MT of urea. Later, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had granted exemption of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules for importing urea. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) had issued tender on October 22, 2021, which was opened on November 22, 2021 but no bid was received. However, now the federal government has decided to import 100,000 MT of urea from China.

“The government is finalizing import of urea which will reach Karachi by mid-December for maintaining buffer stocks of urea,” said another official of the ministry of industries and production. He further said that there is an ample amount of urea available for Rabi season as the government has arranged for additional production of 2,25,000 tons over last year by extending the operations of Northern plants and FFBL till February. In addition to these measures, the government is importing urea for maintaining buffer stocks of urea.

Despite sufficient stock, urea is selling at high prices in different parts of country as compared to official prices

On the other hand, despite sufficient stock, urea is selling at high prices in different parts of the country as compared to the official prices. Urea is selling at Rs2,100 to Rs2500 per bag in the market whereas the factory rate is approximately Rs1,750. Meanwhile, DAP fertiliser is available above Rs9,000 to Rs9500 per bag while the factory rate is around Rs8,250. However, the ministry of industries and production had in last week had claimed that the urea prices had

been restored to controlled rates ie Rs1768/bag by taking punitive measures in Punjab. The pricing structure is being maintained in other provinces.

According to the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, the demand of urea would be met through domestic production. He said that the government ensured the uninterrupted gas supplies to the plants for boosting domestic production for Rabi season.

The fertilizer industry had already launched a massive awareness campaign among the farmers about the prescribed prices of the urea fertilizer and asked them not pay higher prices, besides report the profiteers and hoarders of urea to the government authorities. An official of the Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council (FMPAC) recently stated that the industry supports steps taken by the government to manage hoarding and resultant profiteering on Urea. The industry has extended its full support to the government to identify any hoarding and overcharging activities. Dispatch information is being provided to the government authorities on a daily basis who are now supervising sales.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-12/page-1/detail-9>

Chinese enterprises can expand investment in date-palm tree planting, processing in Pakistan

BEIJING - The Chinese enterprises can expand their investment in date-palm tree planting and processing in Pakistan and cooperate with local enterprises, so as to jointly tap the international market.

China can help Pakistan develop modern logistics industry and establish modern cold storage systems and deep-processing production lines.

These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and former Defense Attache in South Asian countries, in an article published by China Economic Net (CEN) here on Wednesday. Pakistan's palm dates are renowned for their rich nutrition and high sugar content. They can not only be savored as sweets, but also be used for sugar production and wine making. As one of the major date producers, Pakistan is known for treating their guests with date sweets. However, in recent years, although Pakistan has had a bumper harvest of dates year after year, people who are engaged in date business cannot earn as much. The profits of dates continue to decrease with the decline of prices. This is caused not by the pandemic, but mainly by the imported dates from the Middle East. The dates produced in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries almost dominate the global market, mainly because these countries have advanced cold storage systems and modern logistics industry, while in Pakistan, the underdevelopment of the two factors has been restraining the value addition of the domestic dates.

He said that the traditional sales season of dates is Ramazan. But provided a sound cold storage system, they can be sold all year round. If there are advanced deep-processing technology and equipment, the dates can be dried or made into other date products to meet people's demand

throughout the year, which will in turn mobilize the enthusiasm of farmers to plant date-palm trees on a large scale, thus forming a benign cycle.

In terms of deep processing, some European countries import dates from the Middle East, then remove the cores and process the meat into value-added products, which are handsomely packaged and sold all over the world at prices several times higher than dates.

In China, jujube is bringing much income to the people of Xinjiang, who have mastered the techniques to produce concentrated jujube juice, jujube vinegar and jujube jelly, as well as jujube oral liquid with health care functions. All of them are well received by the market.

Last year, the global date market reached US \$12.4 billion and is expected to rise to US \$17.6 billion in 2026. The expansion of the market is visible. If Pakistan cannot seize this wave of dividends, the local date market will be even further undermined. Chinese people who pay much attention to health care also like processed palm date products. In China, people are developing the habit of less sugar. But meanwhile, the demand for sweet taste is driving them to spot alternatives. Dates, in this regard, can be made into sweeteners, which are healthier than ordinary sucrose. By providing coreless dates, chocolate dates and other products, Pakistani dates can win the hearts of Chinese consumers.

As China and Pakistan are now closely carrying out agricultural technical cooperation, he put forward some comments for the progress of Pakistani date industry. In Phase II of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), agriculture is of paramount importance. Breeding know-how, machinery and other agricultural technologies continue to be introduced to Pakistan. As a result, hopefully, Pakistan's date industry will usher in new chapter with enhanced competence in China's vast market.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-12/page-9/detail-0>

The News

Pakistan advised to learn from China's experience in Africa

Islamabad: Pakistan can learn a lot from China's successful foreign policy on Africa, which has remained consistent over the years and was aimed at human and infrastructure development in the neglected continent. The approach has earned China many economic and diplomatic dividends. Pakistan should also capitalize on its already existing goodwill in Africa owing to its historic role in the decolonization of several African nations and its significant contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions in the conflict zones of the continent.

This view was presented at a seminar titled 'Understanding East Africa' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) under its 'Understanding Africa Program'. Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, a senior research associate at IPS, was the session's keynote speaker, which was chaired by the IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain.

Underlining the potential of the East African region in his presentation, Altaf said that it is the most populous region in Africa comprising 19 countries which are rich in natural resources, minerals, oil and gas, diamonds, gold, and iron ore. However, terrorism, abject poverty, poor governance, conflicts, and uneven models of development are biggest challenges in the region, he pointed.

Regarding China's economic development model in Africa, the keynote speaker was of the view that the Africa policy of China has remained consistent till date and Xi Jinping after assuming the presidency of China in 2013 has further augmented it by increasing Chinese investment manifolds, which now stands at \$200 billion. Moreover, China has invested in building 24 seaports in 20 African countries apart from apportioning preferential loans for them, and pumping money in various sectors including infrastructure, communication, transportation, mining and extraction.

Commenting on the Engage Africa Policy initiative of the incumbent government, Tajammul Altaf rued that the government reneged on its decision of opening five new embassies/high commissions in Africa as the only high commission that has been opened in Africa in the last three years is operating in Rwanda. Besides, there are only nine functional embassies/high commissions in east Africa despite the fact that the region offers Pakistan tremendous economic and development opportunities.

He also deplored the fact that no Pakistani prime minister or high-level government official has visited Africa in the past several years reflecting the importance of Africa in the eyes of the policymakers, whereas first three foreign visits out of four of Xi Jinping, after assuming the presidency of China in 2013, were to Africa.

The former ambassador also urged the Pakistani leadership to formally visit East African countries and invite their defence ministers and senior officials to the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS). He also stressed the need to open new missions in countries where Pakistan had deployed its troops under UN peacekeeping missions to tap on the existing goodwill.

To strengthen people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and east Africa, the speaker pressed for allocating more seats for East African students in Pakistani universities and offering capacity-building courses to state officials. Moreover, he advised the government of Pakistan to join hands with friendly countries like China, the UAE, and Turkey that have invested heavily in the region to build longstanding bilateral and multilateral relations with African countries.

Concluding the session, Syed Abrar Hussain lauded Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf on giving the elaborate presentation and underscored the need for Pakistan to rid of a myopic view of Africa which has kept Pakistan away from reaping the benefits of its existing goodwill in the region.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=33951>

Nawaiwaqt News

!!!! پاکستان چین کا حقیقی بھائی اور امریکہ کا رویہ

امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن کی طرف سے جمہوریت پر بلائی جانے والی کانفرنس میں پاکستان کی عدم شرکت کو چین نے سراہا ہے۔ اس ورچوئل سمٹ میں ایک سو دس ممالک کو دعوت دی گئی تھی جبکہ ترکی، ہنگری اور چین کو مدعو نہیں کیا گیا تھا۔ پاکستان نے بھی اس ورچوئل سمٹ میں شرکت نہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا تھا۔ یقیناً پاکستان نے اس سمٹ میں شریک نہ ہونے کا فیصلہ علاقائی دوستوں سے مشاورت کے بعد ہی کیا ہو گا کیونکہ افغانستان میں طالبان کی حکومت قائم ہونے کے بعد خطے کے حالات میں خاصی تبدیلی آئی ہے۔ پاکستان نے امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن کی جانب سے ڈیو کرہی سمٹ کے لیے مدعو کیے جانے پر شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس موضوع پر مستقبل میں 'مناسب وقت' پر بات کرے گا۔ بہر حال پاکستان کی طرف سے یہ فیصلہ علاقائی دوستوں کی کھلی حمایت قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ چین نے سرکاری سطح پر پاکستان کی عدم شرکت کے فیصلے کی تعریف کی۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے محکمہ اطلاعات کے ترجمان ژاؤ لیبیان نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے جمہوریت سربراہی اجلاس میں شرکت سے انکار کر کے چین کا حقیقی بھائی ہونے کا ثبوت دیا ہے۔ اب پاکستان حقیقی بھائی تو ہے اس میں کچھ شک نہیں ہے کہ پاکستان نے خطے میں پیدا ہونے والی تبدیلیوں کے بعد اپنا موقف بہت واضح کیا ہے اور پاکستان نے امریکہ کی ہاں میں ہاں ملانے کے بجائے اپنے مفادات کی حفاظت کے لیے فیصلے کیے ہیں۔ یہ فیصلہ بھی اسی سلسلے کی کڑی ہے۔ چین کی طرف سے اس سمٹ کو خاصا تنقید کا نشانہ بنایا گیا ہے۔ امریکہ اب ایک نئے ایجنڈے پر ہے اور وہ یہ

فیصلہ کرنا چاہتا ہے کہ کون سا ملک جمہوری ہے اور کون سا ملک جمہوری نہیں ہے جب کہ ساری دنیا کے جمہوری ملک مل کر بھی افغانستان کا مسئلہ حل نہیں کر سکے۔ برسوں تک افغانستان میں آگ اور خون کا کھیل کھیلنے کے بعد سب اپنے اپنے گھروں کو روانہ ہو چکے ہیں اور افغانستان میں ایک مرتبہ پھر طالبان کی حکومت ہے۔ امریکہ ایسی کانفرنسوں کے ذریعے درحقیقت اپنے مقاصد حاصل کرنا چاہتا ہے وہ اپنے مخالف ممالک کے خلاف راہ ہموار کر رہا ہے تاکہ وقت آنے پر کسی بھی ناپسندیدہ ملک کے خلاف کارروائی کی جاسکے۔ ویسے بھی یہ اتنا آسان نہیں ہے کیونکہ امریکہ یا اس کے اتحادی، ساتھی یا ہم خیال جن ممالک کو نشانہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں ان کا شمار کمزور ممالک میں ہرگز نہیں ہوتا۔ امریکہ صرف اپنی طاقت کا استعمال کر کے لوگوں کا ذہن بدلنے کی کوشش کر رہا ہے۔ چین نے بہر حال اس ورچوئل سمٹ کی ہر جگہ، ہر سطح پر مخالفت کر کے یہ پیغام ضرور دیا ہے کہ جمہوریت صرف وہ نہیں جو امریکہ اور اس کے اتحادی کہتے ہیں۔

ویزویلا میں چین کے سفیر بارونگ لکھتے ہیں کہ ایسا لگتا ہے کہ جمہوریت کو فروغ دینے کی بجائے یہ منقسم سربراہی اجلاس بین الاقوامی تعلقات کو خراب کرنے کے لیے ترتیب دیا گیا ہے۔ ایسے اقدامات دشمنی اور تضاد کو ہوا دیتے ہیں۔ ایسی سوچ نئی تقسیم کا باعث ہے۔ سمٹ فار ڈیو کرہی کا یہ اجتماع بذات خود جمہوریت مخالف عمل ہے۔

دوسری طرف امریکہ کے اہم لوگ پاکستان کے دورے پر ہی ہیں۔ آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے امریکی سینیٹ کی آرڈسروسز اینڈ انٹیلی جنس کمیٹی کے وفد نے ملاقات کی ہے۔ آئی ایس پی اے کے مطابق ملاقات میں امریکی وفد کی قیادت سینیئر انٹلنگس کنگ نے کی جبکہ امریکی ناظم الامور بھی وفد کے ساتھ تھیں۔ ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، افغانستان کی سکیورٹی صورت حال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا جبکہ پاکستان اور امریکا کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون پر بھی گفتگو ہوئی۔ آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کہتے ہیں کہ پاکستان علاقائی ممالک کے ساتھ مثبت دو طرفہ رابطے برقرار رکھنے، پرامن اور پائیدار تعلقات کا خواہاں ہے۔ انسانی بحران سے بچنے کیلئے افغانستان پر عالمی توجہ کی فوری اور افغان عوام کی معاشی ترقی کیلئے مربوط کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق امریکی سینیٹرز نے افغان صورتحال اور بارڈر مینیجمنٹ کی خصوصی کوششوں پر پاکستان کے کردار کو سراہا۔

امریکہ افغانستان سے تو نکل گیا ہے لیکن پاکستان میں اس کی دلچسپی ابھی تک برقرار ہے۔ باوجود اس کے کہ امریکہ اس وقت ہر حوالے سے بھارت کی حمایت کر رہا ہوں۔ بھارت امریکی حمایت کی وجہ سے کشمیر میں مسلمانوں پر ظلم و ستم کے پہاڑ توڑ رہا ہے۔ کشمیر میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیاں عروج پر ہیں۔ وہاں بچوں کے حقوق کی حفاظت کرنے والا کوئی نہیں، بچوں، خواتین اور بزرگوں سمیت کوئی بھی محفوظ نہیں ہے لیکن امریکہ کو بھارت کی اس جمہوریت کے نیچے ہونے والا یہ ظلم نظر نہیں آتا۔ امریکہ پاکستان کے ساتھ بھی طویل المدتی تعلقات کا خواہشمند ہے لیکن امریکہ یہ بھی بتائے کہ پاکستان کب تک اس کی جنگ لڑتا رہے اور اپنے مفادات کو نظر انداز کرتا رہے۔ آخر کبھی تو یہ راستہ روکنا تھا۔ امریکہ دنیا کی جمہوریت کی فکر چھوڑے اور اپنے لاڈلوں کی جمہوریت سے ہونے والی تباہی کو روکنے کے لیے اقدامات اٹھائے۔ پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف عالمی جنگ میں اپنا کم نقصان نہیں کیا۔ ہم حالت جنگ میں رہے اور بعد میں ہمیں دہشت گرد بھی سمجھا گیا یہ تحفہ امریکہ نے ہی دیے تھے۔ کیا پاکستان دوبارہ کسی ایسی مشق کا متحمل ہو سکتا ہے یقیناً نہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-12/page-3/detail-19>

December 13, 2021

Daily Times

China seeks Pakistan's cooperation in monitoring meteorological disasters

China sought coop with Pakistan and other Asian countries in monitoring, warning meteorological disasters, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Yu Yong, Deputy Administrator of China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said that global community should join hands to enhance disaster monitoring and early warning capabilities, and promote the sharing of disaster risk and early warning information for Pakistan and other 'Belt and Road' countries." He was addressing here the 2021 Workshop on Regional Disaster Warning Capacity Enhancement in Asia.

Hosted by CMA Public Meteorological Service Centre (PMSC, National Early Warning Center), the workshop was attended by officials, experts and representatives in the fields of early warning and disaster reduction management from European, North American and Asian countries.

According to The State of the Climate in Asia 2020, a multi-agency report released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on October 26, climate-related hazards, especially floods, storms and droughts, affect people and their livelihood in many parts of Asia.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic complicated disaster management efforts and countries faced the dual challenge of tackling the pandemic and climate-related hazards.

For some countries the impact was significant when translated into percentage of GDP, which was the case for India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh and Pakistan, where damages exceed 0.5% of GDP, said the report. Therefore, "in a region as vast and diverse as this, cooperation and collaboration are crucial not only in disaster risk reduction, but also in many other priority areas," Ben Churchill – Head of Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO – pinpointed, adding that information sharing allows people to leverage available

resources and promptly identify gaps in capabilities, ensuring that people work efficiently and effectively.

On top of that, as online communication takes the lead amid the pandemic era, it is suggested to build an online sharing platform for members of WMO Regional Association for Asia (RAII) to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Cao Zhiyu, senior engineer of National Early Warning Center, China, mentioned that for BRI countries, the meteorological support is committed in particular at regional level to a warning-based co-preparedness, in which warning related systems, techniques, products and ideas will be shared with China's surrounding developing countries while contributing to Global Meteorological Alerting System (GMAS) at the same time. The workshop was aimed to further strengthen the exchange of national meteorological early warning information between China and BRI countries, and summarize the effective experiences of different countries in response to various emergencies in recent years, and discuss the capabilities that countries need to improve urgently from innovation, in order to promote further cooperation between countries in disaster early warning through Global Multi-Hazard Alert System in Asia (GMAS-A).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/854019/china-seeks-pakistans-cooperation-in-monitoring-meteorological-disasters/>

Pakistan Observer

4 industrial units become operational, work on 3 more in progress

Out of the seven newly installed industrial units at Mohmand Economic Zone (MEZ), four have become operational while construction work on the remaining three has begun.

The economic zone is situated in district Mohmand of the newly merged districts.

The new industrial units were inaugurated by the Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries and Focal Person for Investment, Abdul Karim Khan.

Besides, the Special Secretary Industries & Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and the Director General (DG) PCSIR Laboratories also accompanied the special assistant.

Talking to APP, CEO KP-EDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak said that these units included Markhor Ghee & Oil that will be installed with the investment of Rs.

100 million and generate 100 employment. Construction work on the unit has begun. The second unit is Metcore Copper & Aluminum for re-melting and copper and aluminum fabrication.

The unit will be installed with investment of Rs.100 million and generate 100 employment opportunities.

The third unit, the Calcium Carbonate Grinding Mill with the name of Pak Grinding Mills has been installed with the investment of Rs.50 million.

The mill has started production and generated employment for 40 people. The production capacity of the mills is 50 ton /hour.

The fourth inaugurated unit is of Mineral Line Company and the business of Calcium Carbonate Grinding and Marble cutting unit with total investment of Rs,50 million has started production.

<https://pakobserver.net/4-industrial-units-become-operational-work-on-3-more-in-progress/>

China-Pakistan issue joint declaration on Win-win Cooperation

China-Pakistan joint declaration on Win-win Cooperation has been issued, according to Gwadar Pro.

The Joint Declaration was officially determined at the 2021 Forum on Cooperation between China and Pakistan Friendship Provinces and Cities held online.

The joint declaration includes 7 key issues of concern to the international community. The Chinese and Pakistani ambassadors, representatives of the foreign ministries and the central and local governments have formally reached agreement on these issues.

The consensus reached in the joint declaration stated that both sides recognize the historical achievements made by CPC in the past 100 years; CPEC has achieved fruitful and all-weather development, the strategic partnership of cooperation has been deepened, and China-Pakistan relations have become equal and mutually beneficial; the 21st century is an Asian century, win-win and common development is the right path for mankind and the only right choice for all.

It further said, Pakistan have set a good example of solidarity and cooperation for the international community by working together to tackle the pandemic challenge; China and Pakistan will establish more sister city relations to deepen mutually cooperation in politics, economy and trade, scientific and technological innovation, education and culture, public health and people-to-people exchanges;

The two countries agreed to hold the Forum on Cooperation between China and Pakistan Friendship Provinces and Cities again in 2023; the two countries look forward to the successful hosting of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games and firmly oppose any attempt, words and deeds to undermine the Olympic spirit or politicize the Olympic Games.

In addition to the aspects mentioned by the joint declaration, poverty reduction was considered as another crucial agenda

. Both sides reached consensus on the joint declaration and believed that local cooperation between sister provinces and cities under CPEC will boost the process of poverty reduction and local economic development.

Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, said at the forum that CPEC has entered into its second phase. One of the focal points of bilateral cooperation under CPEC is poverty alleviation and high-quality development.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan also agreed: "Our pragmatic and deep cooperation covers all important areas including development and poverty alleviation. High-quality development and poverty reduction are our common goals of two countries.

China's poverty alleviation model serves as a benchmark for developing countries like Pakistan to follow.

Our meaningful exchanges and pragmatic cooperation will definitely result in the development of a shared community for a new Era," According to the joint declaration, he also proposed several suggestions on poverty reduction and local development.

His suggestions include setting up joint working groups for promoting exchanges and institutionalizing all-round cooperation under the framework of sister provinces and cities relationships, encouraging business enterprises to promote exchanges and trades, setting up model villages for poverty alleviation in Balochistan, sharing China's best practices for poverty alleviation, identifying new areas for joint development projects among enterprises, and promoting people-to-people exchanges.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-issue-joint-declaration-on-win-win-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

Has Pakistan finally joined China camp?

Both countries claimed the summit was not meant for democracy but to advance the geostrategic interests of the US

Prime Minister Imran Khan at a recent event in Islamabad made it clear that Pakistan would not join any bloc. The statement was given against the backdrop of a potential Cold War between the US and China. The renewed debate on Pakistan not taking sides stemmed from the recent Democracy Summit convened by US President Joe Biden. Over 100 countries, including Pakistan, were invited to the summit. Pakistan was among the only 4 countries from South Asia to have been invited. Others include India, Maldives and Nepal. Russia and China were excluded from the guest list while Taiwan was invited, something that drew strong reaction from Beijing.

Initially it was thought Pakistan would attend the summit as PM Imran, while congratulating President Biden on his election victory, welcomed his initiative of the summit on democracy. But China and Russia criticised the US and said President Biden's move would divide the world. Both countries claimed the summit was not meant for democracy but to advance the geostrategic interests of the US. This put Pakistan in a tight situation. A straightforward decision became much more complicated. It took days of consultations for Pakistani policymakers to make the final call, and that too just hours before the summit was to kick off. In a carefully crafted

statement, Pakistan politely turned down the US invitation. No specific reason was cited and the Foreign Office remained tightlipped despite the spokesperson's emphasis on the importance of ties with the US.

Before taking the decision Pakistan consulted China and it is said Beijing was keen in making sure Islamabad stayed away from the US initiative. For China, Taiwan is a redline that it would never allow anyone to cross. Therefore, it was abundantly clear what China wanted from Pakistan and its other allies. If there was any doubt on what might have played a role in Pakistan's final decision the statement of the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson cleared it. Using his official Twitter handle, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson in a way appreciated Pakistan's decision. "Pakistan declined to attend the democracy summit. A real iron brother!" Lijian Zhao writes while attaching the Foreign Office statement in which Pakistan announced its decision not to attend the summit on democracy. But the Foreign Office spokesperson at the weekly briefing described as "unfounded" the impression that Pakistan had taken the decision because of China. Asim Iftikhar insisted that Pakistan values its relationship with the US and looks to expand it. But either he had no answer or he did not want to divulge more details when asked if that was the case then what led Pakistan to stay away from the summit.

Officials familiar with the development said Pakistan endorsed Chinese and Russian view that the summit on democracy by the US was more of advancing the geo-strategic interests of Washington. Also there were some concerns over the format of the summit. Except a select few leaders who were to join Biden, others including Pakistan's PM were simply asked to send a pre-recorded statement. These issues compelled Pakistan not to attend the summit, as per officials. But the ground situation indicates that Pakistan, though did not want to make such choices, had to side with China. This may have repercussions as the US may not take Pakistan's move to virtually snub its invitation lightly. This was also perhaps a Kuala Lumpur summit moment for Pakistan. At that time Pakistan first committed to attend the summit but had to withdraw at the last moment because of Saudi Arabia. This time it was China that played a role in the final decision of Pakistan on Democracy Summit. Pakistan still wants to maintain a balance between China and the US, but for countries heavily dependent on others for economic assistance seldom have choices!

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333618/has-pakistan-finally-joined-china-camp>

The Nation

China, Pakistan to further deepen cultural exchanges

BEIJING - The English version of two Chinese books entitled 'A Modern Day Wonder: Stories of Poverty Alleviation in China' and 'When Phoenix Flowers Blossom' will be introduced into Pakistan.

This is a cooperation program between Veritas and Mercurius Publishing, China and Beyond the Horizon PVT Media Co., Ltd, Pakistan to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two iron brother nations, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

At the two publishing houses' signing ceremony, Wang Ronghua, a co-author of A 'Modern Day Wonder, Stories of Poverty Alleviation in China', said, "We hope that this book could introduce China's poverty alleviation stories to our Pakistani brothers and sisters."

The book's other co-author Dr Ross Colquhoun, an Australian scholar, hoped this book could largely correct some misconceptions about China in the West.

Ahmad Jawad, CEO of Beyond the Horizon, expressed via video link that, the poverty reduction with Chinese characteristics recorded in this book provides a Chinese solution to deal with governance problems for the modern nations. Pakistan could learn from China's governance model, method and strategy.

He added that 'When Phoenix Flowers Blossom', full of strong Chinese flavor, would show Pakistanis lively China stories, which is written by Aikebaier Migiti, a Chinese writer from Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China.

China and Pakistan have agreed to translate and publish 50 classic works in the next five years in a bid to further enhance people's understanding and appreciation of each other's fine cultures and promote people-to-people ties.

So far, a complete collection of Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poems - translated into Chinese by Zhang Shixuan, a Chinese eminent professor and translator of the Urdu language - has been published in China. These events were meant to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-13/page-1/detail-10>

China seeks Pak coop in monitoring meteorological disasters

ISLAMABAD - China sought cooperation from Pakistan and other Asian countries in monitoring, warning meteorological disasters as it will help a lot in minimizing grave effects, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Yu Yong, Deputy Administrator of China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said that global community should join hands to enhance disaster monitoring and early warning capabilities, and promote the sharing of disaster risk and early warning information for Pakistan and other 'Belt and Road' countries."

He was addressing the 2021 Workshop on Regional Disaster Warning Capacity Enhancement in Asia.

Hosted by CMA Public Meteorological Service Centre (PMSC, National Early Warning Centre), the workshop was attended by officials, experts and representatives in the fields of early warning and disaster reduction management from European, North American and Asian countries.

According to The State of the Climate in Asia 2020, a multiagency report released by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on October 26, climate related hazards, especially floods, storms and droughts, affect people and their livelihood in many parts of Asia.

Therefore, “in a region as vast and diverse as this, cooperation and collaboration are crucial not only in disaster risk reduction, but also in many other priority areas,” Ben Churchill - Head of Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO - pinpointed, adding that information sharing allows people to leverage available resources and promptly identify gaps in capabilities, ensuring that people work efficiently and effectively.

Cao Zhiyu, senior engineer of National Early Warning Centre, China, mentioned that for BRI countries, the meteorological support is committed in particular at regional level to a warning based co-preparedness, in which warning related systems, techniques, products and ideas will be shared with China’s surrounding developing countries while contributing to Global Meteorological Alerting System (GMAS) at the same time.

The workshop was aimed to further strengthen the exchange of national meteorological early warning information between China and BRI countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-13/page-10/detail-11>

7 newly-installed industrial units become operational at MEZ

PESHAWAR - Seven newly installed industrial units at Mohmand Economic Zone (MEZ) have become operational while construction work on 54 more has begun.

The economic zone is situated in district Mohmand of the newly merged districts (NMD).

The new industrial units were inaugurated by the Special Assis-tant to KP CM on Industries and Focal Person for Investment, Ab-dul Karim Khan. Besides, Special Secretary Industries & Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Econom-ic Zones Development and Man-agement (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and the Director General (DG) PCSIR Laboratories also ac-companied the special assistant.

According to CEO KP-EDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak these units were included Markhor Ghee & Oil that will be installed with the investment of Rs100 million and generate 100 employment.

The second unit is Metcore Copper & Aluminium for re-melting and copper and aluminium fabrication. The unit will be installed with investment of Rs.100 million and generate 100 employments.

The third unit is Calcium Carbonate Grinding Mill with the name of Pak Grinding Mills has been installed with the investment of Rs50 million. The mill has started productions and gen-erated employment for 40 people. The production capacity of the mills is 50 tons/hour.

The fourth inaugurated unit is of Mineral Line Company and the business of Calcium Carbonate Grinding and Marble cutting unit with total investment of Rs50 million has started production.

Similarly, construction work on Abbas Mohmand Flour & General Mills has begun. The owners will invest Rs.250 million. The sixth unit is Royal Marble Solution, marble cutting at the investment of Rs.25 million and employment generation capacity of 20 persons. The unit has started production.

The seventh unit is also of marble sector with the name of Madina Marble with the investment of Rs.25 million has already started production and employed 30 workers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Special Assistant to KP CM said that the beginning of the industrial and trade activities in Mohmand District will open a new era of economic growth and prosperity in the province especially in the newly merged districts.

He said that with the opening of these industrial units will bring an investment of Rs900 million and generate at thousand direct and indirect employment opportunities for the locals.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-13/page-10/detail-16>

The News

Afghanistan-China-Pakistan Youth Forum launched

ISLAMABAD: Inclusion or exclusion of youth will determine the future, success or failure of the regional connectivity and governance, as youth is the custodian of the future, said Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman AIERD.

He was talking at the launch of Afghanistan-China-Pakistan Youth Forum (ACFYF) organized by Asian Institute of Eco-civilization in collaboration with China Study Center, University of Peshawar, Nangarhar University Afghanistan and Fudan University, China and with the support of embassy of People's Republic of China in Pakistan. Regional connectivity supported by appropriate governance will help to introduce rapid economic growth and development, he added.

Wang Shengjie Director of Political Section Embassy of People's Republic of China said that youth must focus on future and play a constructive role. He offered to create a new group of youth for close interaction and to deliberate on future course of action. Prof Mohammad Dost Safi on behalf of Vice Chancellor of Nangarhar University appreciated the efforts of all organizers, especially the China embassy. He was of the view that Afghan youth has immense potential and they needs such opportunities to express their talent. He also urged all to help Afghan youth for attaining higher education and skills.

Dr. Zahid Anwer, University of Peshawar said, we always look forward for meaningful collaboration and appropriate opportunities to help young generation to pursue their dreams. We have joined hand with AIERD, Fudan University and Nangarhar University to guide and assist the youth for playing a positive role in the regional connectivity and development.

Zhang Ji, Assistant Dean of School of International Relations and Public Affairs & Director of Center for International People-to-People Exchange, Fudan University highlighted China's

commitment for people-people exchange and shared that it has become third pillar of engagement in addition to political and economic cooperation. China is also committed for the youth development, not only in China but also in other parts of the world.

Later seven students from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan shared their point of view on the topics of, Chinese perspective on China-Pakistan-Afghanistan People-to People Exchange, CPEC, Regional connectivity, governance, green development China-Europe Railway Express and its connection to Af-Pak Region and China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Medical cooperation under BRI. It was heartening to note that youth showed great enthusiasm to play a constructive role for regional connectivity and governance.

Zhang Jiegen, Executive Director, Pakistan Study Centre, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University, Dr. Azam Khan, Director, CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Center, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and Hijratullah Kareemi, Professor, Teachers Training College Jalalabad, Afghanistan delivered concluding remarks. They emphasized on youth to play a constructive role in national development and regional connectivity. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO, AIERD closed the webinar by saying, lets trust youth to deliver a peaceful and prosper future and I am sure youth will not disappoint the region and world.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=34536>

China hails Pakistan for being against politicisation of sports

ISLAMABAD: China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Sunday said that his country appreciates Pakistan for being against the politicisation of sports.

Taking to Twitter, the envoy wrote: "Pakistan's position to oppose any form of politicization of sports is highly appreciated. The Beijing Winter Olympic Games is not a stage for the posturing and grandstanding of politicians."

The ambassador also said that China is ready to deliver a streamlined, safe, and splendid Olympics to the world.

Nong Rong's comment came in response to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, in which Pakistan had said that it stands against the politicisation of sports in all its forms.

According to Xinhua News Agency, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, while addressing a weekly media briefing, had expressed Pakistan's confidence in the neighbouring country's plan to host the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Per the report, Ahmad had said that the event would offer "a spectacular and colourful gala to sports enthusiasts around the world, including in Pakistan," despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19.

"The Olympic games symbolise sportsmanship, team spirit, unity, effort, struggle, and maintaining grace in competition whatever the results are," the spokesperson had said.

He went on to say that the Olympic spirit espouses fair participation in the events, and like in all previous Olympic events, Pakistan would like to see the Olympic spirit upheld in true sporting fashion.

“Pakistan hopes that all nations will come together in Beijing and afford their athletes an opportunity against the best and showcase their skills,” he had said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=34496>

K2 Daily

قائم نام سوری نے کہا کہ یہ ایک ایسے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے، یہی بیک کے تحت دو طرفہ تعاون کے مرکزی لگاتار میں سے ایک فرسٹ کا خاتمہ اور اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی ہے۔ گوارا پروڈ کے مطابق گلشن پاکستان فریڈ شپ سٹیٹس اور شہروں کے درمیان تعاون پر نومبر 2021 کا مہینے کے ساتھ آئن مشرف ہوا۔ گلشن اور پاکستان کے درمیان باہمی تعاون اور ترقی کا مشورہ اعلامیہ ہوا۔ اعلیٰ معیار پر جاری کیا گیا۔ مشورہ اعلامیہ میں عالمی برادری سے متعلق 17 اہم مسائل شامل ہیں۔ گلشن اور پاکستانی سفیروں، وزارت خارجہ کے نمائندوں اور مرکزی اور مقامی حکومتوں نے ان معاملات پر باہمی طور پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ گوارا پروڈ کے مطابق مشورہ بیان میں اس بات پر اتفاق کیا گیا کہ دونوں فریق گزشتہ 100 سالوں میں ہی کی تاریخ میں کامیابیوں کو تسلیم کرتے ہیں۔ یہی بیک نے نتیجہ خیز اور سہا بہار ترقی کی ہے، تعاون کی سڑک شراکت داری کو گوارا کیا گیا ہے، اور گلشن پاکستان تعلقات یکساں اور باہمی طور پر سازگار ہو گئے ہیں۔ 21 ویں صدی ایک انسانی صدی ہے، باہمی تعاون اور مشورہ ترقی دینی نوع انسان کے لیے سچ راستہ اور نامہ لکھ کے لیے، اصلاحی انقلاب ہے۔ گلشن اور پاکستان نے وہاں پیچھے سے ٹھٹھنے کے لیے مل کر کام کر کے عالمی برادری کے لیے نئی اور تعاون کی ایک اچھی مثال قائم کی ہے۔ گلشن اور پاکستان سیاست، معیشت اور تجارت، سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی، اخراجات، تعلیم، ثقافت، صحت، ماحول اور ماحول سے تمام کے ہاتھوں میں باہمی تعاون کو گوارا کرنے

چین کا انسداد فرسٹ، ماڈل پاکستان کیلئے مثال، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان اعلیٰ معیار کی اور فرسٹ میں کی چین اور پاکستان کے مشورہ مقاصد ہیں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات یکساں اور باہمی طور پر سازگار ہو گئے ہیں، سوری اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کے لیے ایک مثال کے طور پر کام کرتا ہے، ہمارے لئے کہا کہ اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی اور فرسٹ میں کی چین باہمی چولے اور اعلیٰ تعاون یعنی طور پر ایک سے دور اور پاکستان کے مشورہ مقاصد ہیں، گلشن کا فرسٹ کے لیے مشورہ کیونکہ کی ترقی کا باعث بنے گا جبکہ کے نائنے کا ماڈل پاکستان جیسے ترقی پزیر ممالک۔ ڈی پی پی، بنگلہ دیش، قوی آسٹریلیا (پاکی 6 ستمبر 33)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-12-13

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-12-13

December 14, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC to help create new job opportunities, Alvi tells Baloch students

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the students to focus on their studies and play their role for the development of the country.

He said that the students of Balochistan had great potential to change destiny of the country by equipping themselves with latest knowledge and IT skills.

The president expressed these views during an interactive session with the students and faculty members of Balochistan Residential College, Khuzdar, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.

Talking to the students, the president said that the government was focusing on the socio-economic development of the province which had, unfortunately, been neglected in the past. He underscored that priority was being given to the development of education sector as it played instrumental role in the socio-economic uplift of the country.

The president remarked that the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the development of Gwadar port would help to create employment opportunities as well as bring prosperity to the province of Balochistan.

The president also appreciated the Government of Balochistan over its initiative of establishing residential colleges in areas such as Khuzdar and Loralai, and expressed the hope that these institutions would play a major role in the educational development of the province.

Later, while chairing a meeting of the senate of National Skills University (NSU), Islamabad, President Dr Arif Alvi underlined the need to focus on the skill-development of youth and produce manpower in line with the requirements of the market. He urged the universities to increase the number of skilled graduates in order to fulfill the rising demand of the market. Vice-Chancellor NSU Professor Dr Muhammad Mukhtar updated the meeting about the role of the university in providing skills in various fields. He also apprised the meeting about the implementation status of the decisions taken in the 2nd Senate meeting of NSU. The meeting was informed that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan had granted No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to NSU to start classes in Electrical Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering Technology, Information Engineering Technology, Medical Lab Technology and Mathematics.

The meeting also approved the minutes of the 2nd meeting of Senate of NSU held on 20th October 2021.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/14/4-page/911300-news.html>

Body on Sino-Pak ties to deliberate on Chinese firms' grievances

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Relations Steering Committee is to meet on Wednesday(tomorrow) with Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar in the chair to deliberate on grievances of Chinese companies ranging from non-cooperation from different organizations/ departments and lack of progress on actions assigned to different stakeholders, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The top most agenda of the meeting will be connectivity of Gwadar with National Grid and supply of additional electricity to Gwadar from Iran; and the second item is

relocation/construction of Model Custom Collectorate at Gwadar and exemption from Federal Excise Duty (FED) on imports for investors of Gwadar Free Zone.

Finance Act 2020 granted exemption of FED for Gwadar Free Zone. However, exemption from FED is not covered in the revised rules, which requires a resolution.

Third item is imports for construction of Gwadar Airport held up due to anti-dumping duties. The Chinese contractor for Gwadar Airport has noted that certain steel materials imported for the airport project are held up at the port and Custom authorities have informed that anti-dumping duties have been imposed on their products. As per the Letter of Expression (LoE) and Implementation Agreement (IA), imports for the project are exempt from all taxes and duties as it is a grant project. The matter has already been forwarded to National Tariff Commission (NTC) as well as FBR. Ministry of Commerce, NTC and FBR will brief the Committee on this issue.

Provision of clean drinking water is also on the agenda in Gwadar as thousands are protesting against this issue.

Chinese companies have further maintained that the process of work visa is not smooth and the workers have to apply for a business visa, which later results in penalties and bans. They have requested for easing the process of work visa. Ministry of interior will brief the Committee on the issue of visas.

The sources said different stakeholders will update on decisions at third meeting of the Committee, most of them are related to Power Division, NHA and FBR.

According to sources, CPPA-G and PPIB will brief the Committee about Commercial Operation Date (CoD)/FME of the following projects due to Covid-19 and strikes at project sites: (i) 884 MW Suki Kinari HPP;(ii) 720 MW Karot HPP;(iii) 310 MW TEL, Thar Block- II;(iv) 330 MW Thal Nova, Thar Block-II; and (v) 1320 MW Thar Block-I.

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) will brief about review petition for 660KV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line as the company wants earlier decision be reviewed for construction stage and return on equity (RoE) adjustment in pre-COD tariff.

Ministry of Interior and Chief Secretaries of KP and SAPM on CPEC Affairs will give a briefing on registration of security trust for 884 MW Suki Kinari pending since April 2021. The sponsor has requested for reversal of Sales Tax increase on construction services (from 2 per cent to 1 %) by GoKP as it was raised from 1 per cent to 2 per cent through GoKP Finance Bill 2019; and requested that the same rate be applicable to them as given to 720 MW Karot HPP by GoPb/GoAJK – which was reduced from 16 per cent to 1 per cent.

The Government of Punjab (GoPb) will update on 700MW Azad Pattan HPP. The project sponsor requested for reduction of sales tax on construction services (from 16% to 1%) by GoPb (same as given by GoAJK) as the same had been given to 720MW Karot HPP by GoPb/GoAJK. The government of Punjab's decision is pending.

Power Division will share latest position about reversal of WHT on shareholders' dividends (25 per cent to 7.5 per cent). Sponsors of power projects installed under Power Policy 2002 agitate the point that the tax on dividends has been increased from 7.5 per cent to 25 per cent. As this is not a pass-through item, their profitability has been adversely affected by 19 percent. They have demanded that the tax rate should be revised back to the original level.

The issues of 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal Power Project including royalty settlement with PQA for coal handing, freight settlement and capacity indexation with PRFTC and approval of coal handing tariff for jetty operator (Fyuan) will also be discussed. Both PPIB and SAPM on CPEC Affairs will share an update on it.

Regarding 600MW Zonergy (Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Plant), the sponsor has requested to execute the project on cost plus tariff regime as its phase-1 (300MW) was executed on cost plus tariff regime. The sponsor also highlighted that 'cost plus tariff regime' also permitted in G2G projects under Alternate Renewable Energy Policy-2019, is already in "CPEC energy projects List" which was signed on September 5, 2020 between Power Division and NEA, China. Power Division has been asked to update the Committee on the company's request.

1124MW Kohala HPP: Nepra and Chief Secretary, AJK will brief on the proposal of cost adjustment under review with Nepra hearing on October 12, 2021 for "water bodies structure and sewage treatment plant in tariff as pass through component was approved by ECC on October 2, 2020;" and "adoption of 1 per cent fixed and final WHT on offshore procurement contract" by GoAJK as approved by ECC on May 5, 2021 and which was signed and witnessed by CS GoAJK and PM AJK on June 25, 2020 at PM House Islamabad in Tripartite Agreement (TPA) between the Company, GoP and G/o AJK.

Realignment KKH (Thakot-Raikot Section): During meeting held in MoPD&SI on July 9, 2021, it was decided by the chair that NHA has to move a summary to undertake the project on G to G level. However, no update is available on it.

Zhob-Quetta Road: The case of Zhob-Quetta Road (three sections out of five) is sub-judice/under arbitration in Islamabad High Court (IHC) for more than 6 months. The matter needs to be resolved for timely completion of Western corridor.

Orange Line Metro Train: Defects/deficiencies in civil work component pointed out by E&M contractor need to be rectified by Punjab Mass Transit Authority. Pending payments of Orange Line Metro Train O&M contractor is about Rs 850 million.

Multan-Sukkur Motorway: China State Construction Engineering Corporation has demanded payment of 50 per cent remaining retention money. The matter was also highlighted during 10th JCC meeting. The company has informally proposed amicable settlement of disputes pending in Dispute Adjudicator Board (DAB). Ministry of Communication/ NHA will update the committee.

KKH Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot Sector): According to Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives payment claims are pending due to disputes between NHA and China Road and Bridge Construction Company (contractor). The matter was also highlighted during 8th JWC on Transport Infrastructure. Chinese Embassy has proposed amicable settlement of matter pending in DAB.

Selection of Developer for Dhabeji SEZ: Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of developer for Dhabeji SEZ was launched on November 4, 2019 but developer could not be finalized. RFP was re-launched on December 7, 2020; however, selection of developer is still pending.

Hiring of CEO for FIEDMC: Chief Secretary Punjab and Punjab Board of Information Technology will give a briefing about completion of Board and hiring of a fulltime CEO for the FIEDMC. (This point was raised with Govt of Punjab during meeting held under the Chair of CM Punjab on June 22, 2021).

Some of the companies are facing issues at SEZS which were pledged to Foreign Director Investors (FDI) of an estimated \$ 905 million and include: Easy Prefabricated Homes (Pvt) Ltd (Prefabricated Houses) paid gas connection fee on Dec 2020, but there has been no further progress till now. The company also paid 700kw electricity connection fee in May 2021, but no further progress till now. Visa issuance also takes more than 5 months.

La He Trading International (Pvt.) Electric Vehicles-(i) -electrical bicycle and tricycle on road policy has not been announced yet. Factory was built in 2019, products have been produced, but they can only stay in warehouses. Visa application is too complicated and takes too long. The enterprise cannot apply for bank facilitation/ financing, without land ownership as they cannot use land as pledge to borrow money. But land purchase is on instalments and a guarantee letter from M3 Industrial Zone is required.

Oiang Sheng Pakistan Ceramic (Pvt) Ltd (Tiles) applied for allotment of land in Allama Iqbal Industrial City (land allotted). However, land has not been allotted to Snow White Lavation (Pvt.) Ltd despite the lapse of four months.

Zhenbang Agriculture Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd Pesticide: Gas connection and electricity connection in Allama Iqbal SEZ is not being provided. Challenge Fashion (Pvt) Ltd (Textile) approval for 3km access road from Ferozepur Road.

Yisheng Industrial Products Company (Steal Belt): Delay in electricity connection 1250kw by FECSO despite full payment in early 2021.

Deli-JW Glassware Ltd requires stable supply of 10MW electricity, water, and gas.

Ledzone (Private) Limited (LED lights) has asked the government to reduce import duty on raw material to encourage investment on forward processing industry instead of encouraging assembly industry.

Exert Tech Ltd (OPPO Cell Phone) which intends to purchase 30 acres in Special Technology Zone, Islamabad to install manufacturing plant has sought best tax incentive to support the development of high-tech industries.

China-Road & Bridge Construction Company (CRBC) argues that additional incentives including transport subsidy owing to long distance from port, exemption of Custom Duty for raw material or semi-finished goods and Bulk Power on cheap tariff for Rashakai SEZ would make it more attractive for investors.

Century Steel, a Chinese company intends to establish a factory at Rashakai SEZ, and is awaiting NOC from Environment Department of KPK for a long time.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/14/11-page/911366-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Response to Gwadar protests

THE month-long protests of people of Gwadar finally attracted the attention of Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday as he vowed to take care of the main demand of the fishermen for action against the illegal trawler mafia.

In a statement, he pledged to take strong action against illegal fishing by trawlers, adding the issue would be taken up with Balochistan Chief Minister.

Gwadar is no longer an obscure place as it has a pivotal role in the economic development of Pakistan and because of its strategic location.

In this backdrop, it is really surprising that the Government should take notice of a strong protest campaign during which a massive rally, attended by tens of thousands of people of the region, was also held.

The protestors, including women and children, were pressing for 19 demands and most of them should have immediately been accepted as they were legitimate and genuine.

As for their main demand for a ban on fishing trawler mafia, the concerns of the people of Gwadar are quite understandable as fishing had been and is still the major source of livelihood for a majority of the residents.

No doubt, in the changed socio-economic scenario and fast moving developmental activities in Gwadar, the Government, in collaboration with China, has embarked upon a skill development programme for people of the area but it is understood that it will take some time to materialize and benefit fully to the residents.

Therefore, it is essential that there should be no threat to the economic interests of the ordinary fishermen, who find them helpless before modern but unregulated local and foreign fishing trawlers.

Apart from action against illegal fishing trawlers, a comprehensive programme should also be initiated to help local people adapt to modern fishing technology.

It is also confusing that besides keeping their eyes closed towards illegal fishing, the authorities also imposed uncalled for curbs and restrictions on movement of fishermen which badly affected their access to sea.

These have now been eased but their imposition highlights lack of foresight on the part of the policy planners who did not think about interests and difficulties of the local people.

Other issues agitated by the protesting people were also quite relevant and genuine including establishment of a university in Gwadar on a fast-track basis, priority to locals in jobs for development projects, recruitment against vacant seats in education department, implementation of quote for disabled, action against sale of fake and spurious medicines, provision of clean drinking water and compensation to people affected by the Expressway.

There were, of course, some unreasonable demands like free for all cross-border trade on Pak-Iran border, which amounted to give a clean chit for rampant smuggling that has already damaged Pakistan's economic interests, waiver and subsidy on utility bills and removal of senior officials.

However, things could have been settled through serious negotiations but the authorities concerned did not show the required level of interest or concern over brewing trouble in a coastal city that is going to become a hub of domestic and regional trade and commercial activities.

<https://pakobserver.net/response-to-gwadar-protests/>

Political parties acclaim role of Communist Party of China

Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) organised a first of its kind Webinar on “6th Plenum of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC); What does it mean for China and the World?” under its flagship event series, “Friends of Silk Road (FOSR)”.

The Webinar was attended by over 70 participants online, and featured five speeches, including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee & Pakistan-China Institute, Ms Pang Chunxue, Deputy Head of the Embassy of China, Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee & Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party in the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Fakhar Imam, Minister for Food Security & Research.

The dialogue was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute.

Commenting on the Friends of Silk Road Initiative (FOSR), he said that it has emerged as a key platform for bringing political parties, civil society, and key opinion leaders together. Today's conference, he maintained, demonstrates that Pakistan's different parties and leaders maintain the consensus to strongly support China and CPEC.

Moreover, he said that we welcome the 6th Plenum of the 19th Central Committee's historical resolution which is the 3rd most important resolution passed by the CPC in its history, the first two of which were under Chairman Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

The panelists discussed the 'Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century' which was adopted at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on November 11, 2021 and its implications for China and the World in a rapidly changing regional and international political scenario.

Senator Mushahid Hussain welcomed the historic 6th Plenum of 19th Central Committee of the CPC, saying it's results would be far reaching in terms of policy continuity and stability.

He welcomed Pakistan's decision not to participate in the 'Democracy Summit' hosted by the US Administration as it's agenda was driven by ideological geopolitics, a throwback to the Cold War era.

Ms Pang Chunxue, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China termed the conclusion of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee a milestone for the CPC.

She said that the "Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPC on the Party's Major Achievements and Historical Experience in a Century of Struggle" passed during the session will further unify the whole party's thinking, will and action.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China has gone through historical changes, now achieving stability, preserving its sovereignty and promoting prosperity. She termed Pakistan-China relationship time tested, unique, all weather and resilient.

<https://pakobserver.net/political-parties-acclaim-role-of-communist-party-of-china/>

December 15, 2021

Pakistan Observer

Chinese GBM to invest \$50m in Pakistan

Chinese internet-based B2B platform, Global Building Material (GBM) Tuesday announced its plans to invest \$50 million in Pakistan.

GBM General Manager in Pakistan David Wei, and his team made this announcement during a press briefing here at Lahore Press Club on Tuesday.

The GBM would open its first branch in Lahore during the current month to introduce its new one-stop shopping experience for Pakistani building material retailers, and for the purpose it would launch an app for businessmen dealing in building material.

Additionally, the GBM was going to make comprehensive digital port zone in Karachi which includes a warehouse, digital centre, data center plus logistics center.

David said that “Lahore is the most suitable city for the development of GBM and it completely fits GBM’s positioning”, adding “We hope to take Lahore as a good start for Pakistan, and empower building materials retail stores in Pakistan, so as to make their business bigger and more profitable with the wings of the Internet”.

He said that retailers can check the supply of goods and place orders at home through the GBM app, adding that if there is any problem, retailers can also directly consult online and have special before and after sales service being offered by GBM.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-gbm-to-invest-50m-in-pakistan/>

Chinese BRI & New Global Green Investment Simulations

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Immense regional as well global popularity of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has now rattled the policy makers sitting in the Washington DC and Brussels to start their own impromptu so-called global mega projects of development namely the Build Back Better World (B3W) with the commitment to invest up to \$40 trillion and EU sponsored the Global Gateway Strategy (GGS) with 300 billion Euros.

Both global financial players termed their versions of BRI as inclusive, transparent, open and last but not the least, development oriented with no secret conditions. Both claimed to announce their mega projects to plug the infrastructure gaps in low and middle income countries exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis. Thus intentionally started a new game of “snake and ladder” to distract countries to leave Chinese BRI.

Contrary to this, due to rapidly changing socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic propositions and partnerships President Xi Jinping announced the Chinese BRI for international development, greater connectivity, trade & commerce activities and sustainable cooperation eight years ago.

Since then, a total of 172 countries and international organizations have signed over 200 cooperation agreements with China on the joint construction of the project. In this connection, the latest data (December 2021) shows that cumulative trade between China and its BRI partners has exceeded \$9.2 trillion and its private direct investment in member countries along the route exceeded \$130 billion. It vividly reflects the Chinese BRI’s universal reach, potential of economic simulation and persuasion of green energy in the member countries.

Since it was first proposed in 2013, China’s BRI has gradually transformed. Initially, it was meant to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks. Its primary goals are regional integration and stimulating trade and economic growth.

Now China’s green action initiatives encourage green infrastructure, energy, transportation and finance under the BRI framework. It will contribute to the global fight against climate change. It is really important that the world powers have already changed their national policies, but their

international commitment towards green investments and finances are still not serious. However, Chinese BRI has been on the forefront since its inception

Chinese BRI green energy, investments and finances are the “paradigm shift” which aims at building a series of infrastructure projects from Asia to Europe. The eco-friendly policies and projects of Green BRI have attracted more than 100 other countries that are getting new infrastructure from the Asian economic powerhouse in exchange for expanding trade.

Now the Chinese government is preparing a new road-map for Green BRI that will focus on greener projects, instead of pollution-generating coal-fired plants. Ultimately, the BRI 2.0 was announced in China on October 18, coinciding with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland.

China’s policy shift towards a greener BRI reflects China’s own commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2060 and its efforts to implement a green transition within China’s domestic economy. Furthermore, China’s policy shift also reflects the increasing policy priority being given towards renewable energy and sustainable development policies by most of China’s BRI partner countries.

Resultantly, Green BRI also unnerves China’s superpower rival, the United States, which has no comparable program but mere announcement of future programs like B3W.

It seems that Chinese Green BRI is not limited to any singular aspect of trade, logistics, and infrastructure but encompasses digital connectivity, healthcare systems and green goals through technology, capacity building investment and sharing information. It is composite, comprehensive and holistic.

Hopefully, it will facilitate both Chinese companies and BRI participants to innovate, sell, install and operate telecom infrastructure; invest in healthcare programs, medical assistance and medical supply chains as well as promote and develop resource efficiency and renewable technologies within logistics infrastructure.

Greening of the BRI projects will contribute to the UN Environment Program’s (UNEP) Medium-Term Strategy that looks at resource efficiency, climate change, healthy and productive ecosystems, environmental governance, etc. These ultimately tie into several of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, which acts as a road-map to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Previously, at the COP15 Summit in October, President Xi Jinping, showcased the concept of “ecological civilization” which highlights the mainstreaming of biodiversity across all decision-making and increasing financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries, among others. In this connection, prior to the COP26 summit, China released a comprehensive action plan for reaching peak carbon emissions by 2030 and the country’s plans to control carbon growth in vast areas of its economy.

The Green BRI objectively pledges investment opportunities in shipping, healthcare, clean energy, water and waste management, sustainable city infrastructure as well electrified railway connectivity.

To conclude, the Chinese government has rightly decided not to invest or build any more coal-fired power stations overseas and thus started a new innovative and integrative concept of Green BRI. It would be beneficial to reduce looming threats of climate change in all the member countries of the BRI in the days to come. It is in line with Glasgow COP26 and the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26). To further strengthen the concept of Green BRI 57% of China's investment in BRI partner countries went to renewable energy projects during 2020-2021 up from 38% in 2019.

Many international reports have appreciated Chinese sincere efforts to develop green technology in its own country and rest of the BRI member countries alike. According to official statistics (2020) China has become the world's largest market for renewable energy with renewable power accounting for 29.5% of overall electricity consumption.

Additionally, it is also the world's biggest manufacturer of renewable energy equipment, ranking first in installed capacity of hydroelectric, wind and solar power generation and has the largest nuclear power generating projects under construction, thus strategic importance of the BRI is obvious.

Surprisingly, the developed countries, mainly the US and EU, have failed to deliver their promise of US\$100 billion a year to help lower income nations by 2020, among other pledges, to tackle climate change. But China has been playing a leading role in this regard and its newly announced version of Green BRI will further consolidate its global status in the days to come.

Chinese BRI has been fighting non-traditional security threats in terms of climate change, deterioration of bio-diversity and deforestation through integrative mechanisms of various green energy projects in all the member countries since 2013. Whereas, US B3W has not yet been implemented in real sense and EU GGS are still in its premature birth web and resultantly both are not in a position to compete with Chinese BRI. However, false, fake and fictional dissemination of propaganda has been making headlines in the Western media but actually miserably failed to distract the countries from joining the Chinese BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-bri-new-global-green-investment-simulations-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC and Gilgit-Baltistan

Zulkafil Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is rapidly developing the infrastructure of Pakistan and is strengthening even the domestic economy of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). It is the window of CPEC which may be economically further benefitted and socially connected because of numerous ongoing projects.

The GB has a very important geo-strategic location as it shares borders with three neighboring countries: India, China and Afghanistan. Consequently, CPEC will connect the entire region with Gwadar seaport which will eventually make Gilgit an international trade hub which would support as well as the local industries. Thus future socio-economic transformation of the GB is directly correlated with the development and expansion of CPEC.

According to Asian Development Bank (ADB) the GB produces tons of organic apples, cherries and apricots, if these are exported to China, which is a huge international market, the profits of the local agro-industry will double and thus the economy of Pakistan will further improve.

Similarly, according to reports (2021) of the GB government the research conducted by national and international organizations have clearly indicated that the land of Gilgit is enriched with various minerals which involve metallic and non-metallic minerals as well as energy minerals, such as gold, gypsum, uranium, marble and feldspar, etc. These minerals too can be exported to China which would further boost the economic growth of the area.

The revival of Diamer Bhasha Dam, located on Indus River in GB which is part of CPEC phase-II is set to produce 4500 MW of energy as well as act as a huge reservoir of water. The ADB (2020-2021) has also stated that Gilgit has the potential to produce about 50,000 MW of energy due to its infinite water resources. Just the Bunji Dam located on the Indus River in Bunji, Gilgit in which ADB has already invested is producing 7100 MW of energy. Investing in these hydropower projects in Gilgit would not only solve Pakistan's energy crisis but also could be sold to neighboring countries. Thus the role of CPEC is imperative for the overall energy production of the country in which the GB would play a very important role in the days to come.

Fortunately, successive federal governments have been diligently working for the provision of internet services or "digital roads" in the GB area. In this connection, earlier this year, the Pakistan government decided to launch high speed internet 4G broadband services in GB. This would not only generate revenue for the government but would also be essential in promoting tourism of the area.

In this context, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the provision of internet services and connectivity in Gilgit-Baltistan is crucial for capping the true potential of the youth. Thus numerous projects of the CPEC in GB would be game and fate changers for the youth and instrumental for creating new jobs. It will help the youth in getting education online, as education has been halted by the pandemic Covid-19. Not only this but 3G and 4G high speed internet services will also trigger a wave of digital entrepreneurship in Gilgit which would reduce the large scale unemployment in the region. Ultimately it will further enhance the chances of e-commerce in the GB.

In addition to this the government has already increased the budgetary allocations more than 25% for the GB which shows its strong commitment for achieving the greater socio-economic integration and regional connectivity in the GB which comprises 73,000 square Kilometer which is a mountaineer's paradise and is home to world's second highest peak K2 and the Nanga Parbat

has a huge tourism potential but due to lack of basic infrastructure and underdeveloped service facilities in the GB are hurting the capitalization of true tourism potential of this region. The government of Pakistan along with the government of GB is working together in order to overcome these issues. Hopefully with the ideal collaboration of public and private sector facilities will be developed and streamlined because of various ongoing projects of CPEC.

The GB government has contacted private investors to make five-star hotels in the area and construction of three five-star hotels has already been announced. This would create employment opportunities for the local people and the amount of local and international tourists visiting the area will also increase. This would benefit the local industries as well as improve the local economy.

Time and again, Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks highly of the tourism potential of the region and is also hopeful that complete exploitation of the potential could pull Pakistan out of the financial crisis.

To conclude, it is suggested that more projects of CPEC should be included in terms of micro-dams, SMEs, special economic zones, agro-industry, health and last but not the least, infrastructure development from the GB which would change the landscape of this region. GB is located in the north-eastern part of Pakistan and is renowned for its famous snow-capped mountainous ranges, splendid valleys, bio-diverse wildlife, high altitude forest, rivers and its exotic culture which should be further explored and tapped under the flagship project of CPEC phase-II. In this connection, more projects of road, highways and super highways should also be included in the CPEC phase-II which will ultimately further strengthen its tourism potential, agro-industry, SMEs, regional connectivity, handicrafts & cottage industries, non-traditional exports of precious stones and marbles to China and beyond.

Unfortunately, poor infrastructure and lack of connectivity of the GB is now posing serious socio-economic alienation which should be rectified through the help of CPEC projects in the region. In this connection, the federal government along with the government of Gilgit-Baltistan are rigorously taking meaningful initiatives to provide it with financial autonomy and with freedom to work on the infrastructural interventions as per requirements of the province which would not only stimulate the economy of Pakistan but also improve the standard of living of the locals in which CPEC would play an important role in the days to come.

The CPEC is transforming Gilgit-Baltistan. The region hosts several beautiful valleys including Nagar, Hunza, Gilgit, Attaabad, Khaplu, Shiger, Gupis, Astore and Skardu Valley thus attracts the local and foreign tourists in the summer season which should be developed and tapped under the umbrella of CPEC.

CPEC is also making investment in road and railway networks of the GB that will connect the region with the rest of the country. Under CPEC, the Karakoram Highway will be improved and a few new roads will be built. Construction of some new tunnels and bridges has already been completed.

A railway track is also expected to be constructed connecting the Kashgar city of China to Havelian of Pakistan. Similarly, work on Gilgit-Baltistan Expressway, Havelian-Thakot Motorway, Shonter-Astore Road, Gilgit-Shandur Road, and Chitral-Chakdara Road is near to completion. The improved connectivity through this transportation infrastructure will contribute to the social and economic well-being of the local people.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-gilgit-baltistan-by-zulkafil-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Rs230b payments to Chinese power plants still pending

Govt also yet to open a revolving fund that will have deposits equal to 21% of power generation cost

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has again failed to make a decision on making around payments to the tune of Rs230 billion to Chinese power plants operating under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and opening a bank account to save their investors from the vicious cycle of circular debt in the future.

Officials from the finance and energy ministries and CPEC Authority held a meeting on Monday, chaired by Finance Adviser Shaukat Tarin, but did not make a decision on the timing of clearing the outstanding dues and opening a revolving account, at least three participants told The Express Tribune.

Under the 2015 energy framework agreement, Pakistan is contractually bound to make timely payments to the Chinese power plants that were set up under the CPEC framework.

However, the Pakistani government has been violating this agreement since 2018 when the Chinese power plants started producing electricity.

“Until the problems faced by the existing [Chinese] investors are solved, no new Chinese investment is expected in Pakistan,” a senior government official said on the condition of anonymity.

So far, 10 energy projects worth \$10 billion have been completed and four schemes costing \$4.7 billion are under implementation.

Three months ago, Pakistan had again assured China to disburse \$1.4 billion or Rs230 billion dues to the Chinese power plants. It had also committed to open a revolving fund that would have deposits equal to 21% of the power generation cost.

The latest assurance had been given from the platform of the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee of the CPEC that met in September.

China has hoped that the Pakistani side would get the article related to the revolving account on the ground soon.

On an average, about Rs5 billion to Rs6 billion every month is paid less to Chinese power producers against the billed amount, said a finance ministry official.

Khalid Mansoor, the special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC Affairs, while commenting on the outcome of the meeting, said the issue had been discussed with all stakeholders and it was moving in the right direction.

Mansoor has been looking after the CPEC affairs after the ouster of former chairman of the CPEC Authority, Lt Gen (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa.

Since then, there has been no new chairman of the authority.

On November 30, the government advertised to hire a new chairperson on a management pay scale-I for a period of four years.

In September this year, Planning Minister Asad Umar had said that about \$1.4 billion or Rs230 billion were payable to the Chinese power plants, hoping to find a solution “soon”.

The sources said that the latest meeting had been held on the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had asked the authorities to fulfill the contractual obligations by opening a revolving fund.

During the meeting no one opposed opening the account but there was an issue about the ceiling of the sovereign guarantees to be issued by the finance ministry. The guarantees will be required to be issued against the money that will be borrowed to open the account and retain a balance sufficient to meet the contractual obligations.

There was also a problem about replenishing the revolving fund amid scarcity of the resources. The finance ministry has already allocated roughly Rs140 billion less in budget subsidies against the demand made by the energy ministry at the time of the budget.

The electricity recoveries remain around 20% less than the total power generation cost due to technical losses, theft and less recovery of electricity bills. At the time of the CPEC negotiations, China had secured commitments to cover these losses through opening a revolving account.

The circular debt -- the unpaid amount to the power producers -- has jumped from Rs1.15 trillion in June 2018 to Rs2.4 trillion in September 2021.

The sources said that the government wanted to clear some of the outstanding dues but it has not yet been able to find a pocket to repay the Chinese dues.

It would need around Rs100 billion to make the first payment, if the government follows the principle of clearing 40% of the outstanding dues agreed with non-CPEC power plants.

However, unlike the other IPPs who renegotiated their tariffs, the Chinese IPPs have refused to give up their due benefits.

The PTI government in the past had announced plans to renegotiate the power tariffs and return on equity given to Chinese investors of the energy projects.

It also wanted to seek a rollover of the \$3 billion maturing Chinese repayments.

However, the minutes of the 10th JCC showed that Pakistan gave a commitment to maintain the tax and tariff policies stable.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333974/rs230b-payments-to-chinese-power-plants-still-pending>

Floodgates of jobs to open in Gwadar

Coastal city projected to generate 1.2m jobs for skilled workers, professionals

BEIJING: The youth of Gwadar which accounts for 50% of the city's population is going to be a beneficiary of high-paid jobs in Pakistan and global market as Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute is all set to function by recruiting the first batch of Gwadar students in February next year.

The development will boost employment for Gwadar's youth at the city's port, export-oriented industries, Gwadar Free Zone and enterprises to be set up under Gwadar's master plan. According to the master plan, the coastal city will create 1.2 million jobs for skilled workers and professionals with an economic output exceeding \$30 billion.

Given that around 80% of the city's population works in fish-catching and fisheries related occupations, the institute will impart the youth with the professional knowledge of modern fishing practices and pre-post handling of fish in the boat and harbor.

Moreover, it will teach the population advanced fish net knitting, fish preservation, ship making, food preservation, business techniques and awareness of Pakistani and Chinese law for business.

The first batch of about 400 students belonging to poor-strata of Gwadar will secure its admission free of cost in Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute.

The institute was built in October 2021 under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through Chinese aid at a cost of 83 million yuan and with special efforts of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Ahmed Kashani and China Overseas Port Holding Company Chairman Zhang Baozhong.

The youth of Gwadar (male and female) would prove to be an agent of change for transformation of a small fishing town into a modern smart city, said Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute Project Director Sohail Asghar in an interview.

He added that the technical and professional education, hostel and other allied facilities would be offered free of cost.

He revealed that during a three-year course, students would spend one year in Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute and one and a half years in Shandong Institute of Commercial Technology in China.

Later, the candidates will learn practical experience as internees in course related industries in China, he added.

With high-tech professional education and skills development, the demand for Gwadar's youth will soar in the native city and foreign companies in China and around the globe.

He added that Gwadar would soon become an economic and logistics hub.

“Shandong Institute of Commercial Technology has also agreed to design the curriculum in line with requirements of the industries,” he said. “It also consented to bear operational cost of the institute for three years for boarding and lodging expenses of Chinese faculty members.”

The contract agreement with the Shandong institute has been submitted to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs for approval, he added.

Besides construction work, the allied work at Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute is also in progress at a cost of Rs168.53 million. Out of this, Rs60 million has been consumed while the remaining Rs107 million is pending for approval, he mentioned.

GPA chairman Naseer Ahmed Kashani said that Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute is the first development work in Balochistan under CPEC and it has been completed three months ahead of schedule. Completed during the pandemic, the institute will produce skilled human resources for port cities, he added.

China Overseas Port Holding Company Chairman Zhang Boazhong said that “young people of Gwadar are the main and fundamental stakeholders of the port city.”

He added that their participation in operation and management of the deep-sea port, industrial and commercial businesses and in urbanisation processes would play a vital role in long-term developmental initiatives.

The Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute aimed at shaping and enhancing the skills of active population of Gwadar in a bid to enable them to participate in the growth of the port city.

Groundbreaking of Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute was held on December 16, 2019. During construction, it generated more than 1,000 jobs for locals.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333890/floodgates-of-jobs-to-open-in-gwadar>

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The sources said that the latest meeting had been held on the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had asked the authorities to fulfill the contractual obligations by opening a revolving fund.

During the meeting no one opposed opening the account but there was an issue about the ceiling of the sovereign guarantees to be issued by the finance ministry. The guarantees will be required to be issued against the money that will be borrowed to open the account and retain a balance sufficient to meet the contractual obligations.

There was also a problem about replenishing the revolving fund amid scarcity of the resources. The finance ministry has already allocated roughly Rs140 billion less in budget subsidies against the demand made by the energy ministry at the time of the budget.

The electricity recoveries remain around 20% less than the total power generation cost due to technical losses, theft and less recovery of electricity bills. At the time of the CPEC negotiations, China had secured commitments to cover these losses through opening a revolving account.

The circular debt -- the unpaid amount to the power producers -- has jumped from Rs1.15 trillion in June 2018 to Rs2.4 trillion in September 2021.

The sources said that the government wanted to clear some of the outstanding dues but it has not yet been able to find a pocket to repay the Chinese dues.

It would need around Rs100 billion to make the first payment, if the government follows the principle of clearing 40% of the outstanding dues agreed with non-CPEC power plants.

However, unlike the other IPPs who renegotiated their tariffs, the Chinese IPPs have refused to give up their due benefits.

The PTI government in the past had announced plans to renegotiate the power tariffs and return on equity given to Chinese investors of the energy projects.

It also wanted to seek a rollover of the \$3 billion maturing Chinese repayments.

However, the minutes of the 10th JCC showed that Pakistan gave a commitment to maintain the tax and tariff policies stable.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333974/rs230b-payments-to-chinese-power-plants-still-pending>

Chinese B2B firm to invest \$50 million in Pakistan

Company to facilitate building material retailers via physical, digital presence

LAHORE: Following betterment in ease of doing business in Pakistan, many international companies have expressed their intention to invest in the country and a handful of them are gearing up to pour initial investment.

A Chinese internet-based business-to-business (B2B) platform has announced plans to inject \$50 million into Pakistan to facilitate local retailers of building material.

Under the investment plan, Global Building Material (GBM) would open its first branch in Lahore in December and also launch a mobile app to facilitate the business community, announced GBM Pakistan General Manager David Wei at a press briefing on Tuesday.

“Additionally, the company will establish a comprehensive digital port zone in Karachi, which will include a warehouse, digital centre, data centre and logistics department,” he said.

“Lahore is the most suitable city for the development of the firm as it fits the company’s positioning.”

According to the general manager, the enterprise aims to empower retail stores of building material in a bid to enable them to expand their business and enhance profit through the use of internet.

He recalled holding meetings in the Ministry of Housing and Works, Ministry of Commerce, Board of Investment and other agencies to discuss the company’s investment plans.

Giving details of the mobile application, he said that retailers could check the supply of goods and place orders from home. “If there is any problem, the retailers can directly consult online.”

He added that the company offered high-quality Chinese hardware and building material at low prices.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333913/chinese-b2b-firm-to-invest-50-million-in-pakistan>

The Nation

Pakistan-China: The real lessons to learn

Dr Kamal Monnoo

While some of us are envious of the smaller countries with smaller populations, in many ways, Pakistan is quite blessed to have a large percentage of young population, which if put to productive use can be a game changer for the fortunes of this nation. Smaller populations often get rattled when head winds come their way, whereas bigger countries have much more resilience and room to manoeuvre due to the shared collective numbers to face difficult challenges.

For example, Chile is comparatively a more-developed developing country, but in a major earthquake in 2010, GDP fell by a large chunk, and the entire economy could not function for almost two years. In contrast, Pakistan got back to normal activity fairly soon after the major earthquakes of 2005 and 2013.

So, what really ails us? Thomas Friedman, the famous writer, wrote an article titled, “The Seven years of China and the United States”, where he shocked his own government by stating: “When I sat in the seat of a Chinese stadium and enjoyed the magical performances of thousands of Chinese dancers, drummers, singers, and acrobats on stilts, I could not but recall the past seven years. Different years in the United States where the focus instead was on geo-politics rather than national development.”

When we look at South Asia in the context of Pakistan, the observations tend to be no different. Pakistan was ahead of the game in the region right till the early 90s’ when suddenly our focus

shifted, in-turn giving rise to religious right-wing extremism, intolerance, the Taliban, and Al-Qaeda; on and on in this direction, while on the other hand during the same period our regional competitors were busy in building industry, corporates, exports, software houses, strengthening internal law and order and security, taming extremism and entering into lucrative global economic linkages. No surprises then that today Bangladesh and India have economically moved far ahead of us!

No one has been better at this game than China. China, since its entry into WTO, has been busy with mega infrastructure projects in the race to have the world's best stadiums, subways, airports, roads and parks. Today in 2021, a traveller arriving in New York from Shanghai would in comparison suddenly get the feeling of arriving in a third-world country, just because the difference in the sheer quality, magnitude and the modernity of the infrastructure of the two cities is so stark.

And this is where we need to learn from the Chinese. As per Confucius's teaching, if we take China as our true friend, we should actually be asking them to teach us how to fish; meaning how to develop and progress by keeping everything else secondary. That is, to teach us modern-day value systems that allow people to advance while not compromising on their roots and core beliefs. For anyone closely studying China, it is quite apparent that as a modern country, China has accepted the main concepts of modern national sovereignty and human rights.

However, the various qualities of ancient Chinese civilisation make this even more unique. One of the characteristics of China's development model is that the scale effect of learning plus innovation plus a huge population affects China and the world very strongly. Many foreign companies investing in China have a slogan: Become number one in China and you automatically become number one in the world.

Now with the rise of China, going forward, the very perception of Chinese entrepreneurs is beginning to expand into more and more softer areas of business, such as in tourism, aviation, film and television, sports, education, new energy, modernisation models, and high-speed rail and transport. More importantly, in this quest for excellence, despite a very active international interaction over the last thirty years, such exposure has not caused a majority of the Chinese people to lose their cultural confidence in any way. Even today, they proudly embrace Confucius's heat, Lao Tzu's heat, reciting hot, calligraphy and painting fever, tea company heat, old house heat, cultural relics, Chinese medicine fever, and the heat of health—all reflecting a unshaking belief of the Chinese people in maintaining their own traditional culture and values.

On a more current note, one feels that the Pakistani government did well by excusing itself from the recent democratic summit organised by the US. An exercise perhaps more to embarrass China and Russia than taking any objective cognizance of the real issues facing the world today, so why get involved unnecessarily. In fact, the term 'democracy' itself these days is quite frequently exploited by global powers to impose their hegemony or enforce their own agendas (FATF being one example in such pre-empted huddles).

On the other hand, China's traditional economy may not be a 'market economy' in the stricter sense, but taking into account the miracle of poverty-eradication by China (the largest scale ever witnessed in the history of the world), it certainly is a 'humanistic economy'. Many political analysts who argue in simply linking legitimacy of a regime to a multi-party system, may just be victims of a very narrow and shallow vision.

In the long history of China since ancient times, a government that fails to improve its people's livelihoods, loses its 'destiny' and ultimately its rule. This is why the most important feature of China's historical legitimacy is the "political tradition of selecting the most able and capable people and primarily governing the country with the support of the people." In the political culture of China, the concepts of: "one game at a time", "hardships on one side, support from all sides", and "culture cannot be produced", tend to be the main pillars.

Dr Deming from Yale, who put Japan on the course of quality and leadership, often talked about how he envied the Chinese underlying governance structure. According to him, on the face of it China is centralised, but every reform in China actually has strong local characteristics. They compete and complement each other making the system very dynamic. To get results in the stipulated time, he argued, the world has to learn from the Chinese who have their own unique political and cultural combination that makes it easier for them to overcome populism, short-sightedness, and legalism that has plagued Western democracies, often leaving them ineffective in many development initiatives, since they fail to take-off on time.

Frankly, if China indeed values its friendship with Pakistan as the cliched, 'higher than the mountains and deeper than the oceans', then it needs to come forward and work with our leadership to instill the values and the management framework that has today made it the leading economy of the world.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-15/page-7/detail-0>

China's Global Building Material to invest \$50m in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Chinese internet based B2B platform, Global Building Material (GBM) has announced its plans to invest US\$50 million in Pakistan. Under the investment plan, GBM will open its first branch in Lahore (Pakistan) during the current month to introduce its new one-stop shopping experience for Pakistani building material retailers, and for the purpose it will launch an app for businessmen dealing in building material. Additionally, GBM is going to make comprehensive digital port zone in Karachi which includes a warehouse, digital centre, data center plus logistics center.

David Wei, the General Manager of GBM Pakistan, and his team made this announcement while talking to a group of journalists on Tuesday. "Lahore is the most suitable city for the development of GBM and it completely fits GBM's positioning. We hope to take Lahore as a good start for Pakistan, and empower building materials retail stores in Pakistan, so as to make their business bigger and more profitable with the wings of the Internet," David told the reporters.

David Wei informed the media that he arrived in Pakistan in early October and visited the Ministry of Housing and Works, Ministry of Commerce, Board of Investment and other government agencies to discuss GBM's investment plans. After a one-month market investigation, GBM finally choose to set up the branch in Lahore, he added.

“Retailers can check the supply of goods and place orders at home through the GBM app. If there is any problem, retailers can also directly consult online and have special before and after sales service being offered by GBM. Sourcing low prices and high quality Chinese hardware and building materials with ease is the unique feature of GBM,” the general manager of GBM Pakistan informed.

GBM (www.gbm001.com) is a leading cross border one stop door to door building materials platform, which is aiming to link global building material manufacturers, trading companies and terminal customers together. Improving the degree of trade demand satisfaction of both sides by database, internet and global door to door logistic service, and then apply digital trading, block chain, big data, AI service to help increase the efficiency and reduce the cost in procurement.

GBM has gathered nearly 10,000 excellent suppliers of building materials in China, and has achieved a good reputation by serving nearly a thousand of construction and engineering companies in China with ultra-low prices and perfect after-sales services. Its parent company Hangxiao Steel Structure Co., Ltd, which is the first Chinese steel structure company, has 35 years experience in the construction industry and the company's total assets are over Rs20 billion.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-15/page-8/detail-4>

Pakistan gives importance to ties with US, China: FM Qureshi

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said yesterday that there can be no stability in South Asia without the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Speaking at the Margalla Dialogue Forum 2021 – Foreign Policy Challenges of Future in Changing Geopolitical Landscape, organised here by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Qureshi said India has closed all doors on any kind of talks.

“What's more, it took the most drastic militaristic steps to invade and lay siege to the disputed territory of the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, disenfranchise its 14 million people and brutalize them,” he added. The foreign minister said that New Delhi's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have created a conundrum for Indian apologists in Kashmir and even for India's foreign friends.

“The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project, will leverage economic geography and connectivity of the three contiguous continents – Asia, Europe and Africa – ushering in prosperity for all global citizens,” he added.

The foreign minister said that Pakistan valued its longstanding relations with the United States. He, however, added that looking towards the future, Pakistan did not want a transactional relationship with US. “We want multifaceted ties that are not susceptible to the vagaries of regional and international policies,” he added. The foreign minister said the Afghan government has assured all its neighbours that their soil will not be allowed to be used for terrorism, adding, the same message has been given by Kabul to extra-regional powers.

“There is a dire humanitarian crisis looming which has consequences not only for the people of Afghanistan but indeed for us as neighbours, the region and beyond,” the foreign minister said. He said that Pakistan will host an extraordinary session of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to mobilise support for providing adequate food, medicine and housing to millions of Afghans in dire distress.

The foreign minister said as the developed and developing countries were all vulnerable to the devastations of the global pandemic, Pakistan has done well in beating the coronavirus by using a mix of smart lockdowns and aggressive vaccination campaigns.

Qureshi said that Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision and roadmap for the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Clean Green Pakistan will go a long way in making Pakistan a model country to combat climate change and its impact.

Speaking on the occasion, former US ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter lashed out at US foreign policies and admitted that the US attack on Iraq was the biggest mistake of the US administration. “In last fifty years the biggest mistake of the US was to attack Iraq,” Munter told Margalla dialogue organised by Islamabad policy Institute in Islamabad. Munter has also served as US diplomat in Iraq during its reconstruction period. Commenting on Pakistan’s relations with China and the US, he said it was imperative for Islamabad to maintain ties with both countries on an equal basis which would be in the interest of Pakistan.

“Pakistan should not distance itself from both countries,” Munter said. On Afghanistan, he lauded Pakistan’s role for organizing the OIC foreign minister conference and hoped it would fulfil the core objectives.

Addressing the dialogue, former US deputy secretary of state Robin Rafeel said Afghanistan is facing humanitarian crisis which needs the attention of not only the US but all global powers. She said cooperation by Afghan Taliban in countering terrorism in Afghanistan would be considered a good sign of the Kabul government.

She expressed her concern over rising Hindu extremism in India and said the Indian government has to control this extremism.

Addressing the seminar, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian tuner said Pakistan is facing the rising population issue which needs to be addressed. He also said climate change is affecting Pakistan for which timely steps are required.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-15/page-13/detail-2>

The News

Chinese GBM to launch in Lahore

LAHORE: Chinese internet-based B2B platform, Global Building Material (GBM) has announced its plans to invest \$50 million in Pakistan, for which it would open its first branch in Lahore during December.

For the purpose it would also launch an app for businessmen dealing in building material. Additionally, GBM would make comprehensive digital port zone in Karachi, which would include a warehouse, and digital, data and logistics centres.

GBM Pakistan General Manager David Wei and his team made this announcement during a press briefing at the Lahore Press Club on Tuesday.

“Lahore is the most suitable city for the development of GBM and it completely fits GBM’s positioning. We hope to take Lahore as a good start for Pakistan, and empower building materials retail stores in Pakistan, so as to make their business bigger and more profitable with the wings of the internet,” Wei said.

GBM is a cross border one stop door to door building materials platform, which is aiming to link global building material manufacturers, trading companies and terminal customers together.

Wei informed the media that he arrived in Pakistan in early October and visited the Ministry of Housing and Works, Ministry of Commerce, Board of Investment and other government agencies to discuss GBM’s investment plans.

“Retailers can check the supply of goods and place orders at home through the GBM app. If there is any problem, retailers can also directly consult online and have special before and after sales service being offered by GBM.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=35059>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی انٹرنیٹ پلیٹ فارم، گلوبل بلڈنگ میٹریل پاکستان میں 50 ملین ڈالر سرمایہ کاری کرینگے

نے پاکستان میں 50 ملین امریکی ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ گروپ (GBM) انٹرنیٹ پلیٹ فارم، گلوبل بلڈنگ میٹریل B B لاہور (کامرس رپورٹ) چینی 2 رواں ماہ کے دوران لاہور (پاکستان) میں اپنی پہلی براؤزنگ پورٹ بھی بنائے گا۔ جس میں ایک سنٹور، ڈیٹا سنٹر اور دوسری سہولیات موجود ہوں گی۔ بلڈنگ میٹریل سنٹور کے مالکان کو درپیش مسائل جیسے پاکستان کراچی میں ایک ڈیجیٹل پورٹ بھی بنائے گا۔ جس میں ایک سنٹور، ڈیٹا سنٹر اور دوسری سہولیات موجود ہوں گی۔ بلڈنگ میٹریل سنٹور کے مالکان کو درپیش مسائل جیسے کہ سٹاک کو بھرنے کی زیادہ قیمت، ناقص کوالٹی کے سامان کو واپس کرنے میں پیش آنے والی مشکلات کے حل کے لئے جی بی ایم ایک موبائل ایپ کو متعارف کروائے گا۔ خوردہ ایپ کے ذریعے سامان کی سپلائی چیک کر سکتے ہیں اور گھر بیٹھے آرڈر دے سکتے ہیں۔ اگر کوئی مسئلہ ہے تو، خوردہ فروش براہ راست آن لائن مشورہ بھی کر سکتے ہیں GBM فروش کی منفرد GBM اور فروخت سے پہلے اور بعد میں خصوصی خدمات حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔ کم قیمتوں اور اعلیٰ معیار کے چینی ہارڈ ویئر اور تعمیراتی مواد کو آسانی سے فراہم کرنا

نے چین میں تعمیراتی مواد کے تقریباً 10,000 GBM خصوصیت ہے۔ جس کا مقصد عالمی تعمیراتی مواد بنانے والی کمپنی، تجارتی کمپنی اور ٹریڈ میٹل کسٹمر کو آپس میں جوڑنا ہے۔ بہترین سپلائرز کو اکٹھا کیا ہے اور چین میں تقریباً ایک ہزار تعمیراتی اور انجینئرنگ کمپنیوں کو انتہائی کم قیمتوں اور فروخت کے بعد کامل خدمات کے ساتھ خدمت کر کے اچھی جو پہلی چینی سٹیل سٹرکچر کمپنی ہے جسے تعمیراتی صنعت میں 35 سال کا تجربہ ہے۔ Hangxiao Steel Structure Co., Ltd. شہرت حاصل کی ہے۔ اس کی بنیادی کمپنی سے زیادہ ہیں۔ جی بی ایم پاکستان کے جنرل منیجر ڈیوڈی اور ان کا وفد اکتوبر کے اوائل میں پاکستان آیا اور وزارت ہاؤسنگ اینڈ ورکس، PKR اور کمپنی کے کل اثاثے 20 بلین وزارت تجارت، بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ اور دیگر سرکاری اداروں کا دورہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ "جی بی ایم کی ترقی کے لیے لاہور سب سے موزوں شہر ہے اور یہ جی بی ایم کی پوزیشننگ پر پوری طرح فٹ بیٹھتا ہے۔ ہمیں امید ہے کہ لاہور کو پاکستان کے لیے ایک اچھی شروعات کے طور پر لے جائیں گے۔"

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-15/page-8/detail-1>