



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

December 16-31, 2020

A pilot project of PICS

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December 16, 2020

Daily Times

Gwadar terminals witness significant developments despite Covid-19

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 and many other challenges, the Gwadar International Terminals have made significant developments during 2020, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

The management of the terminals (GITL) mentioned their remarkable achievements during this year. This includes; the first International transshipment of Bulk and containerized cargo, Afghan transit trade of containerized and Bulk cargo, LPG imports etc, said Chairman China Overseas Ports Holding Company Zhang Baozhong.

The GITL has worked together with Pakistan Customs (transit trade directorate), Customs bonded carriers' association, Customs clearing agents and relevant security agencies to enable the port to excel and transform Gwadar into a preferred port of call to support the high trade volumes in the region said Capt Dai Xiaolong, CEO of GITL. He further elaborated that Pakistan's other ports are facing huge congestion due to high traffic of vessels carrying bulk cargoes, which result in delaying the operation and transportation of shipments; thus disturbing the entire supply chain mechanism.

The port due to its unique geographical position makes it a fast-economical link between land-locked central Asian states and to the rest of the country. GITL's economic and efficient facilities provides enormous opportunities to logistic companies, customs clearing agents and port related businesses.

In the wake of covid-19 port officials have been working closely with industry stakeholders and other Government agencies in taking all necessary precautionary measures to safe guard's health and safety of personnel involve in port operations and to make sure our stakeholders businesses continue to run efficiently and smoothly. Now Gwadar port is all set to become the hub of international transshipment which will help the country in earning much needed foreign exchange in near future which also is in line with the vision of Prime Minster of Pakistan to launch first-ever transshipment policy to promote regional economic integration.

The port is expected to add new cargo movements (import of more bulk commodities like coal, wheat, sugar & steal, import of LNG and transported through virtual pipeline, export of clinkers etc.) to increase its cargo handling capacity in millions of tons by 2025. This will help in earning foreign exchange and will generate many local jobs through various business related activities and will also substantially earn a much needed foreign exchange which country direly need at present.

On December 8, 2020, DAP fertilizer imported from Australia arrived on bulk vessel Strategic Endeavour at Gwadar port to discharge 22,000 tons. This represents culmination efforts of Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and

Pakistan Customs (in-particular) to continue Afghan Transit Trade in this very important port. The transit goods for Afghanistan has been gradually normalized at time of world wide Covid-19 pandemic and supply chain challenges which have emerged out of it. This was the highest discharge rate ever achieved for DAP fertilizers in just over 4 days. The vessel completed discharge of 22,000 tons and sailed from Gwadar port in minimal time due to immediate on-arrival berthing, zero waiting time at Anchorage and efficient handling facilities with highly capacitive terminal structure and logistic services. This development also reflects the keen interest of our stakeholders to support economic development in Pakistan and in the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/702190/gwadar-terminals-witness-significant-developments-despite-covid-19/>

China appreciates Pakistan's efforts to elevate MoU on IC under CPEC

China appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Pakistani side to elevate the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation into a framework for an increased cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and agreed to continue consultation for its signing at the earliest. The Chinese side also appreciated the idea of joint industrial diagnostic studies followed by an action plan, said a press release issued by Board of Investment (BoI) here on Tuesday. The 5th meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation (IC) under CPEC was held via video conference here.

The meeting was co-chaired by BoI Additional Secretary Khashih-ur-Rehman, and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) director general, China Ying Xiong, officials from line ministries, provincial governments, and embassies attended the meeting. Concluding the meeting, the BoI additional secretary said it is the right time to resume the activities with mutual consensus in due course for which the Pakistani side will ensure all out support.

He also requested the Chinese side to arrange industrial visits of Pakistani delegations to provide them with firsthand experience of successful industrial models in China.

The meeting also discussed progress made on Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Bostan Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC, the revival project of Pakistan Steel Mills, China Pakistan Young Workers Exchange and Cooperation, and Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone. BoI Additional Secretary/EDG Khashih-ur-Rehman expressed that elevation of the MoU on IC between Pakistan and China, into a comprehensive framework would create new avenues for strengthening industrial cooperation under CPEC which is also open to third party participation.

BoI Project Management Unit (PMUC-CPEC-ICDP) on IC Project Director Asim Ayub appreciated the Chinese side for accepting the draft framework agreement shared by the Pakistani side in early November 2020.

He commented that early signing of the framework agreement on IC would help to achieve maximum objectives of CPEC in line with its long-term plan. Immense efforts have been

ensured by the Pakistani side to devise the draft framework, taking all the provinces and other stakeholders on board and final approval of the Honorable Prime Minister was also obtained accordingly. He stressed that a framework agreement is needed for the hour for a measurable impact with regards to IC, SEZs, Business to Business and People to People collaboration. The project director further accentuated that Pakistan highly regards the idea of industrial diagnosis by the Chinese side and extended its highest support to the group of experts from CIECC for the Textile Industrial Diagnosis last year.

However, he was of the view that the industrial diagnosis needs to be carried out in a joint manner involving experts from both sides who may submit the diagnosis report to the JWG along with an action plan that would be imperative for the respective industrial sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/702197/china-appreciates-pakistans-efforts-to-elevate-mou-on-ic-under-cpec/>

Dawn News

China's approval of draft industrial pact awaited

ISLAMABAD: Early signing of the proposed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) industrial cooperation framework agreement would help achieve maximum objectives envisioned under the trade route in line with the long-term plans, Project Director of the Project Management Unit on Industrial Cooperation at the Board of Investment (BoI) Asim Ayub said on Tuesday.

He was speaking at the fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC. The BoI had submitted the draft framework agreement to the Chinese government last month.

The meeting, held via video link, was co-chaired by BoI Executive DG Khashih-ur-Rehman and Chinese National Development and Reform Commission DG Ying Xiong, and was attended by officials from line ministries, provincial governments and embassies.

Ayub said that immense efforts were made by the Pakistani side to devise the draft framework, taking all stakeholders on board and final approval of Prime Minister Imran Khan was also obtained accordingly. The framework agreement is need of the hour for a measurable impact with regards to Industrial Cooperation, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), business-to-business and people-to-people collaboration.

The project director further accentuated that Pakistan highly regards the idea of industrial diagnosis by the Chinese side.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1596035/chinas-approval-of-draft-industrial-pact-awaited>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: A transformational project

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

SINCE his arrival in Pakistan, the Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Nong Rong, to Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now been energized. Chinese Ambassador Rong met with high government dignitaries, policy-makers, prominent politicians, head of regulatory bodies, businessmen and industrialists to get its Phase-II started as soon as possible. During these high official meetings both sides agreed to complete the ongoing projects and start of its Phase-II in the very near future. Both sides showed complete national consensus on CPEC's indispensability for national development efforts. It hopes that the Phase-II will bring multiplier dividends to the macro-economy of the country.

The Government of Pakistan has already termed it a transformational project, changing productive channels and ways and means of human survival in the country. The CPEC has become a transformational mega project in the country which has further enhanced strategic bilateral relations between the two countries. It has already generated new jobs, new avenues of foreign direct investment, befitting propositions of joint ventures, social development, massive industrialization and, above all, surplus energy supplies in the country. The CPEC is a real transformational project which has now further enhanced regional as well as inter-provincial connectivity by initiating world class infrastructural development projects in the country. It has increased the pace of digitalization in the country by installing the most advanced fibre system. It succeeded to eliminate energy deficits and poverty ratios in the country.

The CPEC projects are transformational because its diversified energy and infrastructure projects have created thousands of jobs and boosted industrial growth and productivity. It really strengthens Pakistan's economic landscape. Being a prominent regional expert on BRI & CPEC, I predict that CPEC Phase-II would be power-house for massive industrialization, immense agro development, social development, health, cheap and affordable housing, tourism and last but not the least, science and technology in the days to come. It will create vast jobs and growth opportunities for common people. The CPEC Phase-II will facilitate formation of various SEZs in the country. Nine SEZs have been finalized to be built during its Phase-II. In this regard, three out of the nine SEZs, namely Rashakai, Dhabeji and Allama Iqbal have been prioritised and Pakistan would welcome foreign direct investment in those projects.

The CPEC Phase-II will also revolutionize the agricultural sector of the country by introducing latest means of harvesting, hybrid seeds to yield more and more per unit production, converting deserts into cultivating lands and assisting government and the farmers in case of any calamity. In this context, a plan of action, detailing the contours of this collaboration, is already being discussed between the two governments. The CPEC Authority Chairman, Lt Gen (R) A.S. Bajwa showed the Authority's sincere commitment to ensuring that projects will be completed in time, hoping that the 10th JCC will be held soon and create more economic opportunities and

contribute to further expansion of CPEC projects. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would welcome the relocation of industry from China and in that regard will institute a regime that could encourage the inflow of Chinese investment to Pakistan.

It was reaffirmed that post-COVID-19, through collective efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC would become the hub for regional trade and connectivity and will deepen people-to-people contacts at a wider level. While meeting with the Chairman Board of Investment (BoI), Atif R. Bokhari, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong agreed to invite foreign and local investors apart from Chinese investors to invest in industrial zones under the industrial cooperation, in the second phase of CPEC. During the meeting, BoI Chairman and Ambassador Nong Rong discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly those relating to industrial cooperation under the CPEC. The BoI Chairman highlighted the benefits of working jointly to make the CPEC Phase-II fruitful by attracting quality Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). He apprised the Chinese Ambassador of the Draft Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation (IC) under the CPEC.

On his part, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said he gave utmost importance to the draft framework agreement and would push it forward to the relevant departments in China. The BoI Chairman stated that Pakistan and China had a shared future and there was immense potential for people-to-people linkages. He suggested that there should be an effective business-to-business collaboration after achieving effective government-to-government cooperation. Furthermore, both sides dismissed the common misperception that the CPEC SEZs in Pakistan were limited to Chinese companies only. Both sides upheld that the SEZs and other industrial cooperation ventures under the CPEC are open to third party participation.

Undoubtedly, the CPEC is a transformational project due to which regional countries especially India has been targeting its very existence and economic propositions terming it Pak-China military extension in the region which has already been strongly rejected by the Government and Foreign Office of Pakistan. Most recently, Foreign Office briefed the local and international media about its dossier entitled "Indian efforts to destabilize Pakistan". According to the said dossier, Indian PM Narendra Modi is himself supervising a special cell set up in the headquarters of RAW in 2015 to target the CPEC project. It was created to undertake all steps including terrorists' actions to sabotage, undermine and delay the projects under the aegis of CPEC projects and to create a hostile negative environment around the whole concept of CPEC and BRI of which CPEC is an integral part.

Islamabad and Beijing have been advocating peaceful orientation of the CPEC to help the Pakistani economy. But right from the beginning Indian policy makers posed serious doubts. The Foreign Office dossier added that the cell is involved in activities against CPEC through the use of proxy warriors and information attacks. Initially, the cell was allocated a sum of \$500 million to fund terror against CPEC. It also consists of information regarding formation of Indian force of 700 field operatives dedicated to targeting CPEC and other projects in Balochistan. Funds of US \$ 60 million have been spent in organizing this force that is supervised by a 24-member

Commission that has 10 senior RAW officers. It looks highly likely that this 700-member force is being directed by the CPEC Cell.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-transformational-project/>

The News

India wants to sabotage CPEC, says president

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Tuesday said India was playing the role of a spoiler for game-changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, and making all-out attempts to sabotage it.

In an exclusive interview with the South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), a renowned think tank and telecast by PTV, the president said Pakistan had emerged as new hub of economy linked with the Central Asian states, and China providing the shortest route.

“So, Pakistan is becoming an economic hub. Part of that economic hub is the CPEC route. And India, of course, is playing its own role as a spoiler.

“India is acting as a spoiler in Afghanistan, acting as a spoiler in Pakistan Chinese relationship,” the president added.

He said India was a spoiler as it wanted the US and China to drift apart, because India stood to gain economically to fill up the markets from where China was isolated.

“So that strategy is being pursued by India at the cost of international peace, at the cost of international trade,” he added.

CPEC was a vital part of that economic hub with huge international investments, the president said, adding that no country should have concerns over this mega trade project.

The president noted that Pakistan was pursuing a balanced foreign policy which was not tilted in any way.

Pakistan, in accordance with the prime minister’s vision, he said could play a leading role like removing the misgivings between the US and Iran and the US and China.

President Alvi said Indian society was actually falling apart due to the extremist ideology, propagated by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founders and frantically pursued by the Bharatiya Janata Party through its Hindutva policies.

He said what was happening in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was a continuous momentum built up for long by whipping up anti-Muslims and anti-minorities policies including forced conversion of Christians by the RSS zealots inside India.

All was done with objectives to rewrite history of India by isolating Muslims and excluding the Muslim era and their contributions by labelling them as something bad for Hindus or India, he added.

“What we do when we talk about Kashmir, it is not Kashmir alone, it is the momentum of whatever has been happening in India, which has been anti Muslim, which has been anti-minorities, not only Muslims, but all minorities,” he added.

Dr Arif Alvi expressed his confidence that the incoming US president would play his role in the resolution of Kashmir dispute. “The hope is that the incoming president of the United States, Joe Biden has talked about that we are watching and we are seeing, including the Vice President, she has made a statement that we are watching what is happening in Kashmir,” he added.

The president expressed confidence that Pakistan would overcome the second Covid-19 wave in the manner it had faced the first wave.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/759464-india-wants-to-sabotage-cpec-says-president>

Express News

چینی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ویزا سہولت آسان بنانے کی ہدایت

چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے ویزا کی سہولت آسان بنانے کی ہدایت کر دی گئی۔

گواڈر پرو کے مطابق وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید احمد نے اجلاس میں سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے امن وامان میں بہتری کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ مینجمنٹ کمپنی کے چیئرمین کاشف اشفاق نے کہا کہ گذشتہ ہفتے 25 سے زائد چینی کمپنیوں نے علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی فیصل آباد میں سرمایہ کاری کے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے۔

متعدد غیر ملکی کمپنیاں سرمایہ کاری کے لیے رابطے میں ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر برائے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی فواد چوہدری نے کہا کہ پاکستان سی پیک کی بدولت چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے پرکشش منڈی بن گیا۔ اس سے خطے کی تقدیر بدل جائے گی، چینی دوستوں کے تعاون سے سی سی کنڈکٹر صنعت کو ترقی دینے اور ملکی مصنوعات کی قدر میں اضافے کا منصوبہ بنایا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2117910/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر برق رفتاری سے کام جاری، عاصم باجوہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چیئرمین سی پیک اتھارٹی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل ریٹائرڈ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر برق رفتاری سے کام جاری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ ایک خطہ ایک سڑک کا منصوبہ علاقائی رابطوں میں بہتری اور غربت میں کمی کا سبب بنے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے منگل کو بینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ کورونا وائرس کی وبا کی وجہ سے ہزاروں افراد مزید غربت کا شکار ہوئے ہیں، وبا کی بدولت پوری دنیا کی معاشی گتھیاں الجھ کے رہ گئیں۔ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ وبا کے دوران چین واحد ملک ہے جس کی معاشی کارکردگی بہتر ہے۔ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل ریٹائرڈ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ چین کورونا وائرس کی وبا سے پہلے سے ہی دنیا کے ساتھ خوشحالی بانٹنے کی سوچ لے کر چل رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک پر برق رفتاری سے کام جاری ہے، ایک خطہ ایک سڑک کا منصوبہ علاقائی رابطوں میں بہتری اور غربت میں کمی کا سبب بنے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-16/page-1/detail-19>

December 17, 2020

Business Recorder

CPEC cooperation

BEIJING: President Dr Arif Alvi has made a positive assessment on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation which has advanced despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the Chinese side fully agrees with him.

"The Chinese side fully agrees with the positive assessment made by President Dr Arif Alvi on the CPEC cooperation," Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday during his regular briefing in response to a question about the President's recent interview to the Chinese media.

He said CPEC had been developing with a positive momentum since its inception in 2013, as a pioneer project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"As we have talked about it before, China and Pakistan have been working together to fight the pandemic and despite the challenges posed by pandemic, all the CPEC projects have been effectively moved ahead," he said.

He remarked that cooperation between the two countries had provided an important support to the Pakistan's efforts to fight the pandemic and stabilize its economy.

The spokesperson said, functioning of power transmission line from Mitiari to Lahore help enhance power supply network in Pakistan. About Lahore Metro Orange Line, he said with the launch of this mega transport project, Pakistan has entered in the era of subway. While commenting on Gwadar port, an important component of the CPEC, he said the port processed 26,000 tons of fertilizer for Afghanistan in two batches this month only in four days while 22,000 tons fertilizer was unloaded setting a record.

Wang Wenbin said the Chinese side would continue to work with Pakistan to implement the consensus reached by the two leaders and continue to advance CPEC.

"We will ensure steady implementation of the current projects and focus on industrial and agricultural fields," he added.

He said the Chinese side would ensure that high quality Belt and Road cooperation would deliver greater benefits to the two countries and people in the region.

During the interview with CCTV, the President said Pakistan's ties with China had been strengthened as the two countries worked together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic as well as deepen cooperation on CPEC.

Dr Alvi also hailed China's assistance in tackling the pandemic in Pakistan.

China had shared its experience of regular epidemic prevention and sent seven batches of medical supplies as well as two medical teams to help Pakistan, he said.

Earlier this year, the Gwadar port, one of the key projects under CPEC, officially started taking cargo under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement.

It was proved as a huge potential of the Gwadar port, Alvi said adding that a number of developmental projects were currently in full swing to further boost trade between Pakistan and Central Asian states.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/17/16-page/862013-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar fencing project kick-starts to make port city safe and secure

In order to take security of the port city to new highs, Gwadar Fencing Project has finally kicked off under Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2017-2050, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

In collaboration with the army, Makran Administration, Gwadar Development Authority, Gwadar Port Authority and Balochistan government, installation of iron fences will complete in phases. Initially, security fences are to be laid down around 15000-acre land of Gwadar city. Three or four entry and exit points will be established to help regulate inflow and outflow in a befitting manner.

In an exclusive interview, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani said that Gwadar Fencing Project will change the security dynamics in Gwadar Port as well as Gwadar city, globally-famous as crown jewel of CPEC. “It was a long proposed desire that has come true now,” he added. He termed fencing around specific area of Gwadar a transformation of Gwadar to become safer and more secure on modern age’s demand. “Presently, Gwadar area is brimming with a number of security check posts. Escorting conveys with high-level surveillance are definitely good for safety. But the ambience makes formal and informal movement uneasy,” he elaborated.

According to Kashani, one of the finest advantages of fencing Gwadar would be to help instill the sense of free movement. “Check post free area inside the fence lines would allow people walking and driving as per their own time and pace like as bird flying in sky,” he opined. He said that truly speaking, investors and traders always demanded security as they were to run their businesses with adequate market dynamism. “The ongoing action plan is augur well for local as well foreign investors,” he added.

Meanwhile GDA senior official said that since Chinese people came here and exerted their energies to many assignments did not venture out to enjoy routine life in the streets and markets of Gwadar due to security issues. “Recent terror attack at private hotel in Gwadar had further limited their foot movement,” he added. “They deserve a normal life free from all sorts of threats. After rigorous work, they need to go for outing and cherishing marvelous walk at boisterous beaches of Gwadar. They must have an environment in which they dine outside enjoying and feasting their eyes on traditional Gwadar cuisines. They seek leisure time besides shopping spree with their families,” he added.

He held the belief that Chinese officials and workers were going to have good taste of life soon as Gwadar Fencing Project is up and running now.

CPEC Parliamentary Committee Chairman Sher Ali Arbab said that he was going to hold a meeting on the issue as early as possible. With fencing of Gwadar, manpower busy at various ongoing development works including Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, New Gwadar International Airport, construction of breakwater, development of Free Zone, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute of Gwadar heaved the sigh of deep satisfaction.

Jahangir Sabir, a local travel agent at Gwadar said that Gwadar fencing was at the hour of need keeping in view Gwadar economic output which was expected to exceed \$ 30 billion. He sang praise for fencing project saying Gwadar Smart Port City master plan visualized Gwadar as a trade and tourism hub of South Asia. “The fencing project was an insurance policy of upcoming hotel industry, recreational sites and big shopping plazas,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/702622/gwadar-fencing-project-kick-starts-to-make-port-city-safe-and-secure/>

UNDERSTANDING THE CHINESE MODEL

China is altering the course of history. The year 2020 has drawn stark differences between the Western developed nations and the Chinese model of progress. Dominance is on the wind for the people of China. Scholars and researchers have focused only on the communist policies of China and the size of its population but the perspectives on China’s past and its philosophy for the world have been largely ignored. The old ideas of a far and distant land, divided by warring states and political upheavals are a matter of the past. China has emerged as a nation that offers an alternate narrative to the Western Liberal Democracy model and there are not many disadvantages in sight. It is imperative for the world to comprehend and cooperate with China as it is meant to be understood, if there is to be any chance, of a win-win global equation for nations. China is set to become the leading nation of humanity and it is doing so while raising considerable opportunities for everyone.

The Chinese civilization is over 4000 years old. Initially, called the civilization of the Yangtse and Yellow river, history of China is rich with development and progress. Many ground-breaking inventions that have immensely benefitted mankind are originally from China. Paper, silk and gun powder are one of the major inventions of Chinese origin that have changed the face of human history. Other than just scientific contributions, China has always been an advanced civilization that has fell in and out of power. Its history is marked by five periods. Majority of this era is divided into the time of the five famous dynasties. The Qing dynasty was by far the most prominent. Currently, China is under the sixth era of development, one that is void of a dynasty not a dominant political party run by technocrats. As it is evident from financial and economic reports, China is going to surpass the United States in real GDP, development and trade. The World Bank has declared the Chinese currency to be dominant currency for World Trade by 2025. From 1979, China has set an example for raising millions of its citizens out of

absolute poverty. With the largest population of the world, it is the fourth largest country by size. It borders fourteen nations. The language of the Chinese is one of the oldest languages of human history that is still in use. But these are only a few of the peculiarities that set China apart from any other nation. While looking at these differences, mistakenly and out of distraction it is forgotten how China came to be this way and its philosophy is misunderstood. The answer lies not only in the numbers of being the largest population or the massive army or the Trade volume but the mindset behind it. Those principles that govern the Chinese model are worthy of due consideration.

The Western world, USA in particular have failed to come to terms with the thought process behind Chinese progress. White house under Donald Trump took policies towards China comparing it to something with the likes of the Soviet Union. On the contrary, China is nothing like the Soviet Union. The communist Russia was instigated men like Stalin and Marx alone, who propagated violent political movements against the capitalists of the world. China, on the flip side of the coin, is inspired by philosophers like Confucius, who was deeply moved by the pain and agony of the masses. The central idea of Confucian doctrine revolves around Collectivism, humility and reform. He taught discipline and merit as the sole determinants of power. A civil servant himself for a long period of his life. He finally took up teaching after his due role in the reformation of the Royal Court of Tang and Song dynasties. The object of virtue in the teachings of Confucius was the collective goodwill, a center piece of the Chinese model.

Comparing the model of the Confucian thought is a contrast from the Western philosophers that were inspired by individualism. The idea of electoral process does not consider merit as it considers the will of the majority; voting. The Western idea of human rights and freedom of the individual holds States accountable for transgressing limits. Participation is based on the popular will. The Chinese mindset puts forth the “good” of the majority instead of the will of the majority. Merit holds more weight than votes. This is the very idea that is the foundation of the Chinese thought. In Confucian concept, the legitimacy of power rests with the one person who can act like a father for the people. In a capitalist democracy, a person who is supported by the masses through legal vote is the sovereign (even if the popular will is contrary to the good of the people). Holding office is not subject to the wrong or right number of votes being casted but skill, integrity and commitment in action. The current premier of the Chinese Government, Xi Jinping has been ruling since 2012, not for the reason that he holds power through an army or votes, but because he is capable and holds merit to be where he is. The Western nations will have to follow this insight, that their model of growth, progress and well-being is not the only available strategy of success.

China has become a hallmark of operational excellence. It was the Chinese who came up with the idea of strict examination and evaluation for selection of civil and military officers. A model which was copied by the British. While focusing on numbers and volumes, it must be kept in view that China possesses a remarkable system of merit. Each and every official, from the lowest to the highest is selected on the basis of clearly defined merits. This merit is the key ingredient

that is making China great. This ability to pick and choose the right person for the right job has transformed the Chinese nation and the world as a whole. This system of merit is proving to be a success story compared to the Western system of selection based on popular will.

Finally, contrary to the Western apprehension that China is an expansionist nation. China has been contained in the present condition/boundaries for over a thousand years. It does not believe in expansionist policies, rather, it believes in the achievement of excellent and innovation. From 1979 to the present, China has managed to transform, regulate and improve the lives of over 1 Billion people through sheer innovation, commitment and discipline. Another vivid illustration of this Chinese mindset is the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. The United States, Europe and the UK have failed to devise a strategy to tackle the spread of coronavirus, for China, thanks to their elaborate public management systems, they were able to effectively deal with it in a matter of months. Only Germany falls somewhere close. China as a superpower is being engine by its meritocratic system and its ability to adapt.

Believing in the collective growth model, China is connecting the world. CPEC, OBOR and BRICS are hallmarks of progress and interconnectivity, not of violent take overs and military interventions. The world, especially the Western nations must make the effort to understand the thought process that exists behind the Chinese psyche. It is one of the oldest Nations of the world which has always been at the helm of affairs. A compassionate, non-judgmental and compromising acceptance of ideals has a lot to offer for the world of tomorrow and future generations on all corners of the globe.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/702583/understanding-the-chinese-model/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan enjoys great potential to develop renewable energy: Cheng

Beijing: Pakistan enjoys great potential to develop renewable energy, says Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong, according to Gwadar Pro.

He suggested that Pakistan should focus on development of renewable energy. To him Increasing the proportion of clean energy can not only reduce greenhouse gas emission, but also save a lot of foreign exchange, reduce electricity prices, attract more foreign investment and bring huge economic benefits.

Prof. Cheng Xizhong who is visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law observed that Pakistan is rich in coal resources, but thermal power will produce a lot of pollution. Now Pakistan has decided not to have any more power based on coal burning.

He viewed that Pakistan has already scrapped two coal power projects, which are supposed to produce 2,600 megawatts of energy. Pakistan has decided to produce energy either by coal to liquid or coal to gas. This is a very wise decision of Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration. He added, at present, hydropower accounts for 32% of the gross power generation in Pakistan. On the issue of hydropower, here are two problems.

First, the power load in Pakistan is mainly concentrated in the central and southern regions, where many large and medium-sized cities are distributed, but water resources are mainly distributed in the eastern part of the country, and hydropower needs to be transmitted to the central and southern regions in a long distance.

Apart from hydropower and nuclear power, Pakistan's renewable energy generation accounts for less than 1% of the total power generation. Nuclear power, hydropower and new renewable energy are all conducive to environmental protection.

Pakistan's economic development has just begun. At this initial stage, the Pakistani government and people attach great importance to the development of renewable energy and environmental protection, which is worthy of high appraisal by the international community.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-enjoys-great-potential-to-develop-renewable-energy-cheng/>

K2 News

چین کا پاکستان میں کام کرنے والے
شہریوں کو روکا جا رہا ہے۔ چائے کیلئے اہم فیصلہ
کراچی (آئی این پی) چین نے پاکستان
میں کام کرنے والی چینی شہریوں کو روکا جا رہا ہے۔
چائے کیلئے اہم فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اراک کے مطابق
چائے زرنگیاں (دقی 54) 8 ستمبر 54

54
ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹرز نے وفاقی حکومت کو مطلع کیا
ہے، اور چینی شہریوں نے اسپتالوں اور زرعی کرپٹ
ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی اجازت مانگی ہے۔ سروسٹ میں کہا گیا
ہے کہ چین نے پاکستان میں چینی زرعی کرپٹ
ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، اور حکومت پاکستان چینی
زرعی کرپٹ اور زرعی کرپٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی اجازت دے،
سی ڈیک، کوئی سی سی کے چینی زرعی کارکن
کراچی میں موجود ہیں۔ سروسٹ کے مطابق زرعی
کوئی ساڈو ساڈو کیسے ہی کہیں کئی ماہگی،
پاکستان چین سے چین کی دس ڈیڑھ ماہ تک
اجازت دے۔ سروسٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چینی زرعی کرپٹ
کی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے تمام اہلکاروں کو چین بھیجیں گے،
دوسرا سروسٹ، وزارت صحت، زرنگ زرنگ لیری
انٹرنی سے اسے طلب کرنا ہے۔

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/index.php?pid=8&eid=1&nid=1&tnid=11673&date>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک تیزی سے آگے بڑھ رہا، وباء کے چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے دونوں ملک متحد: چین

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ سی پیک کے بارے میں پاکستانی صدر کے حالیہ بیان اور مثبت تجزیے سے پوری طرح اتفاق کرتے ہوئے اس بیان کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کی پریس کانفرنس میں پاکستانی صدر ڈاکٹر عارف علوی کی جانب سے ”چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری“ (سی پیک) کی تعمیر کے بارے میں مثبت تبصرے پر سوال کا جواب دیتے ہوئے وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان وانگ وین بین نے کہا کہ ہم پاکستانی صدر عارف علوی کے ”چین پاکستان

اقتصادی راہداری“ کے مثبت جائزے سے پوری طرح اتفاق کرتے ہیں۔ سی پیک ”دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ“ کا ایک اہم پائیلٹ پروجیکٹ ہے۔ 2013ء میں اپنے آغاز کے بعد سے اس نے مثبت ترقی کی رفتار برقرار رکھی ہے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ کرونا وبا کے بعد سے چین اور پاکستان اس وبا کے چیلنجوں پر قابو پانے اور راہداری کی تعمیر کو فروغ دینے کیلئے متحد ہو کر بھرپور کوششیں کر رہے ہیں۔ جبکہ متعلقہ منصوبوں کی تعمیر رکنے کے بجائے بخوبی آگے بڑھ رہی ہے اور اس سلسلے میں نمایاں پیش رفت ہوئی ہے، جس سے پاکستان کو وبا سے لڑنے اور معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے میں بھرپور تعاون اور مدد میسر ہوئے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-12-17/page-1/detail-18>

پاکستان ایک چائنا موٹو فہر قائم، سٹریٹجک شراکت داری خوش آئند ہے: سنجرانی

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگار خصوصی) چیئر مین سینٹ محمد صادق سنجرانی اور چینی عوام کی سیاسی مشاورتی کانفرنس کے چیئر مین وانگ یانگ کے درمیان ورجوئل لنک کے ذریعے ملاقات ہوئی۔ چیئر مین سینٹ کے ساتھ سینیٹرز کے وفد جن میں سینیٹرز سجاد حسین طوری، دلاور خان، مرزا محمد آفریدی، محمد علی خان سیف، مشاہد حسین سید اور منظور کا کڑ نے بھی اس آن لائن میٹنگ میں شرکت کی اور سیکرٹری سینٹ محمد قاسم صد خان بھی شریک ہوئے۔ ملاقات میں دو طرفہ تعلقات، کرونا وبا کے بعد پارلیمنٹوں کے ابھرتے ہوئے نئے کردار، سی پیک اور بی آر آئی کی سطح پر تعاون اور پارلیمانی اداروں میں تعاون اور وفد کے تبادلوں میں تیزی لانے پر تبادلہ خیال۔ چیئر مین سینٹ محمد صادق سنجرانی نے کہا کہ چین ہمارا قریبی دوست، شراکت دار اور بھائی ہے اور پاکستان اور چین وسیع البینا، طویل مدتی دوستی رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حالیہ چند سالوں میں یہ دوستی سٹریٹجک شراکت داری میں تبدیل ہو گئی ہے۔ کرونا وبا سے متعلق چیئر مین سینٹ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نے ہر مشکل دور میں ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا ہے اور چین نے وبا پر قابو پانے کیلئے مثالی اقدامات اٹھائے اور عوام کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے کیلئے جامع حکمت عملی اختیار کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے وبا کے پھیلاؤ پر قابو پانے کیلئے پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا جس پر پاکستانی قوم، حکومت، پارلیمنٹ اور عوام شکر گزار ہیں۔ چین کے رہنمائے چیئر مین سینٹ محمد صادق سنجرانی کی قائدانہ صلاحیتوں کی تعریف کی اور کہا کہ چیئر مین سینٹ نے پاک چین دوستی کو مزید مستحکم کرنے کیلئے اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-12-17/page-6/detail-39>

سی پیک منصوبے پر برق رفتاری سے کام جاری ہے: ڈاکٹر عظیم لکھوی

الہ آباد / ٹھینگ موڑ (نمائندہ نوائے وقت) کرونا کی دوسری لہر سے معاشی اشاریے متاثر نہیں۔ سی پیک منصوبے پر برق رفتاری سے کام جاری ہے جس کے مکمل ہونے پر غربت میں کمی ہوگی ان خیالات کا اظہار تحریک انصاف کے ضلعی صدر ڈاکٹر عظیم لکھوی نے شوکت خاں نمبر دار آف لنڈیا لاکھوی کی جانب سے دیئے گئے عشائیہ پر نمائندہ نوائے وقت سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا سردار آصف منیر سیال، حاجی اسماعیل، اسماعیل بھولا ابراہیم خاں، میاں شفیق انور ڈاکٹر محمد شوکت ودیگر بھی نکلے، ہمراہ تھے ڈاکٹر عظیم نے مزید کہا کہ حلقہ میں پی سی سی منصوبے شروع ہو چکے ہیں دیگر ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر کام جاری ہے جس سے علاقہ کی پسماندگی کا خاتمہ ہو گا اور عوام کو بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی گھر کی دہلیز پر میسر ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-12-17/page-9/detail-21>

December 18, 2020

Daily Times

Bright prospects of Pak-China cooperation on electric vehicles

Pak-China cooperation in Electric Vehicles (EVs) is quite promising as it is beneficial for both the countries, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Pakistan's Daewoo Express and China's Skywell Automobile have signed a Strategic Alliance Agreement, under which Skywell Automobile will provide its state-of-the-art electric buses for the Pakistani market in Phase-1, and in Phase 2, shall set up a manufacturing plant to produce EVs in Pakistan. The report says, given the high cost of importing EVs, it's necessary and mutually beneficial to establish local manufacturing plants in Pakistan.

Pakistan needs the same kind of manufacturing lines in Pakistan. It will be cheaper to manufacture in Pakistan as the labor cost is lower in Pakistan. And we can have an abundance of the workforce to work in these factories. Aside from the indicated above, joint marking and government policy are also of great significance at the starting phase of EVs development.

In retrospect, at the starting point of China's EVs, around 10 years ago, the Chinese government provided a lot of financial support policies. "If a customer buys one EV, the government will provide subsidy from around RMB10,000 to 50,000, that means a lot," Wang mentioned.

It is worth mentioning that in April this year, the Chinese government also extended monetary incentives that were about to expire and prolonged the purchase-tax exemptions of new energy vehicles (NEVs) through 2022. At last, to tap the potential for cooperation, the differences in weather conditions and driving habits between the two countries also need to be taken into consideration. But despite the differences, "I think the future is bright," said Wang Shida, Associate Research Professor at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Since the first electric vehicle charging station was set up and made functional in Islamabad in July this year, the shortage of charging piles remains a major problem in advancing the usage of EVs.

Wang Shida further saidt, the charging pile, in fact, is an issue not only in Pakistan but even in China, which has been developing electric vehicles for several years, given insufficient installation of private charging piles as well as poor user experience for public ones. "Chinese charging companies are already using big data technology to resolve this issue. Because big data technology and analysis can provide very specific data. Using this we can know where to install charging piles and how many. So for doing that maybe big data technology is a way out," said Wang.

Besides, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Industries and Production in November expressed concerns over the higher prices of vehicles in the country. Under some circumstances, the EVs do cost more than the traditional ones, especially when they are imported instead of being locally produced. However, in terms of manufacturing and maintenance cost, some experts

hold optimism. “If you look at the manufacturing, then I don’t think EV’s price is higher than that of the gasoline cars as more parts are used in gasoline engine than electric engine. Besides, after-sales services or maintenance for EVs is also lower in cost,” said Sameer Siadique, Incident Manager (APAC) at ABB Global.

Pakistan has informed the international community that it’s working on a plan to ensure that by 2030 at least 30 percent of the vehicles used in the country are electronic, at a meeting of the 32-member UN Group of Friends on Sustainable Energy for All earlier this month.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/703038/bright-prospects-of-pak-china-cooperation-on-electric-vehicles/>

Gwadar port provides huge trade opportunity to CARs, Afghanistan

The Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood Thursday said Gwadar port would provide huge opportunities to the energy rich Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan for regional trade connectivity.

The government is prioritizing the economic integration to promote regional trade and connect the regional important trade players with the deep sea port Gwadar, the adviser Abdul Razak Dawood told this in his exclusive interview to the APP here.

Replying to question, he said that Central Asian Republic (CARs) are demanding to providing them trade facilitation in Gwadar and Bin Qasim sea port for international and regional trade and providing them the facility of the warehouse.

The Adviser said Deep Sea Port of Gwadar has its own Geo-Strategic and economic importance which is located at the centre of regional connectivity and a possible railway link from Gwadar to Kandhar and other parts of Afghanistan.

He said Central Asia via Afghanistan can become a key trade and transportation route for the entire region.

Razak Dawood said that Pakistan is actively participating in regional forums of Central Asia Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) so that maximum benefits could be taken when the Gwadar Port operates at full capacity in near future.

The Government of Afghanistan has requested Pakistan to provide Cross-Stuffing Facility at Gwadar Port, he said.

He informed that when modalities are finalized by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), ample employment opportunities will be generated for the local people.

He said development of Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) will provide more opportunities to Pakistan in order to establish new industries as huge investment has been pouring in under CPEC and it will also provide the shortest possible route to the goods in transit.

He said that with the improvement in Trans-shipment facilities at Gwadar, the whole dynamics of the regional connectivity would be changed. The Adviser said that Gwadar is at strategic location giving China and Central Asia an access to the Gulf Region and the Middle East.

He said that in future, it would be a main Sea-gate for the Central Asia.

It would also become easy to send products from Xinxiang and Central Asian countries to other regions, he said.

Replying to another question, he said that this port is likely to reduce transport time for goods from Gwadar to Western China and the Central Asian Republics by 60% to 70%.

Razak Dawood said that all possible steps are being taken by the Ministry of Commerce, in coordination with other stakeholders, to provide modern facilities at Gwadar Port so that goods clearance time may be reduced as per the set international standards.

Moreover, in the forthcoming Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF 2020-25) special focus has been accorded to Trade facilitation, Economic Infrastructure Development, Transshipment and Development of Economic Corridors (CPEC and CAREC) so that overall policy environment could be improved in general and regional connectivity should be increased in particular, he informed.

Responding to a question on Pak- Afghanistan, Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), he said that in 2015, Pakistan side shared a draft Pak-Afghan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Afghanistan.

Subsequently, Afghanistan has shared its comments on draft PTA and its request list and offer lists in November, 2019 and June 2020, he added. Razak Dawood said the work on Afghanistan's Request List has been undertaken by Ministry of Commerce, in consultation with Government sector stakeholders including Ministry of Industries, Ministry of National Food Security and Research and FBR, as well as private sector.

He said that during his recent visit to Kabul from November 16-18, 2020, the two sides decided to form a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) to start negotiations on PTA. The ministry of Commerce has notified its TNC and requested the Afghan side to follow suit, so that first meeting of TNC may be held.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/702990/gwadar-port-provides-huge-trade-opportunity-to-cars-afghanistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Pace of work accelerated on CPEC projects on PM Khan's directions

On the directions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the pace of work on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects has been accelerated. Ministry of Communications has released a video of the CPEC projects. As per details shared by the ministry, the construction of two important motorways has been completed.

Hakla DI Khan motorway would be opened for traffic in June next year, while 40 per cent of construction work of the Khuzdar-Bisma project has been completed. Construction work on the Khushab Awaran motorway will commence from next month, while the tender for the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway has been issued.

Work on the second phase of the Swat motorway will commence from next month, according to the details shared by the communication ministry. New projects including, Sukkur-Hyderabad, Mangla-Mirpur, Gigt Shandoor Chitral motorway and others will be sent to the JCC after approval from the JWG. Federal Minister for Communication Murad Saeed said that CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and the region and shows the friendship depth between Pakistan and China.

He added that people are getting better travel facilities while foreign investment is increasing in Pakistan through CPEC. Murad thanked workers of Pakistan and China, experts and specially security forces for ensuring foolproof security of the mega projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/pace-of-work-accelerated-on-cpec-projects-on-pm-khans-directions/>

The Nation

Chinese Consul General visits Nawa-i-Waqt Group offices

LAHORE - A delegation of Chinese Consulate in Lahore, led by Consul General Mr Long Dingbin, visited Nawa-i-Waqt Group Offices here on Thursday and met with Managing Director (MD) Rameeza Majid Nizami.

The delegation had a detailed discussion with Rameeza Majid Nizami on ways to further strengthen Pak-China relations. Director (Administration) Nawa-i-Waqt Group Lt Colonel (retired) Syed Ahmed Nadeem Qadri, Director Marketing Bilal Mahmood, journalist Khawar Abbas Sindhu, and Chinese Consul Wang Chyan were also present on the occasion.

Nawa-i-Waqt Group MD Rameeza Majid Nizami shed light on time-tested friendship between the two countries, and their cooperation in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, and the role the Nawa-i-Waqt Group played for the promotion of these relations. She said that Chinese mode of treatment was not only conventional but also effective, and similar to that practiced by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Madam Rameeza suggested visitors to work on bringing the Chinese way of treatment closer to that of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) since it was practiced across the Muslim world, including Pakistan, with lot of reverence, and also had numerous medical benefits.

She urged China to promote its traditional way of treatment in Pakistan as well since it was needed here the most. Rameeza Majid Nizami also suggested Chinese delegation to produce dramas like Turkey's Ertugrul Ghazi so that these could acquaint Pakistanis with the Chinese history and culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Consul General Mr Long Dingbin appreciated the exemplary role played by Nawa-i-Waqt Group for highlighting close ties between Pakistan and China through the publication of its special editions on CPEC and other ventures.

He stressed the need for further promoting these relations so that people of both the countries could understand each others' cultures. He said he was pleased with the suggestions given by Madam Rameeza, and said these were wonderful, and that he would convey these to the concerned authorities back in China.

Mr Long Dingbin said he was extremely happy that during his stay, Punjab's mega project, Lahore Orange Line, was completed. He said this was a gift for the people of Lahore.

The Chinese Consul General said that work on the CPEC projects was underway at a brisk pace, and most of projects had been completed by now. He also praised the PTI government for accelerating work on these projects.

On this occasion, Lt Colonel (r) Syed Ahmed Nadeem Qadri briefed the visitors about Nawa-i-Waqt's special edition on Belt and Road Initiative. He also presented to the Chinese Consul General Mr Long Dingbin copies of 20 episodes of the special edition.

Towards the end, exchange of gifts took place, and Madam Rameeza Majid Nizami presented a bouquet and shields bearing Nawa-i-Waqt Group logos to members of the Chinese delegation.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-18/page-1/detail-8>

Rehman Malik discusses bilateral ties with Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong yesterday held a meeting with former interior minister Rehman Malik and discussed Pak-China ties.

Senator Rehman Malik welcomed the envoy at his residence and extended his best wishes on assuming the charge as ambassador of China to Pakistan. He said that bond of friendship between China and Pakistan was very strong and will continue to become stronger by every day.

He said that Pak-China relationships will grow fast and solidify further under the leadership of new young, energetic and experienced diplomat Nong Rong. He thanked the top leadership of China for their continuous help and support to Pakistan in difficult times and termed China 'all weathers friend of Pakistan'.

He said that China stood with Pakistan during pandemic Coronavirus and extended full support to the people of Pakistan for which he and the nation is thankful to China.

Both discussed general international affairs particularly the growing tension in the region. Senator Rehman Malik elaborated the criminal acts by Indian government against China and Pakistan recently exposed by DisinfoLab EU.

He briefed him about the Indian model of conspiracy against both countries through fake news, dubious Non-Governmental Organisations, Think Tanks and social media. He elaborated the Indian model of negative and defamatory propaganda.

Both leaders discussed in detail the bilateral relations, and resolved that the progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects will prove time changer for the whole region and will bring positive changes and good impact on the economy of both countries.

They expressed that CPEC is playing an exemplary role in expanding the people-to-people contact and enhancing the Sino-Pak multi-sector cooperation. They reiterated that the anti-lobby of CPEC will never succeed in their ill motives.

Ambassador Nong Rong thanked Senator A. Rehman Malik for the warm welcome and hospitality and said that “You in person has been a great friend of China and your cooperation helped China in curbing terrorism in China”.

He added that leadership, people of China and he himself are thankful to him. He praised Pakistan CPEC and reinforced that Pakistan and China will continue the greater cooperation for peace and stability of the region. The Chinese ambassador also praised the leadership of PPP for cementing the Sino-Pak warm friendship. He stated that China and Pakistan are true friends through thick and thin and have always stood beside each other in difficult times. He thanked Senator Rehman Malik presented a set of his five books to Chinese ambassador. He appreciated Senator Rehman Malik’s great intellectual work. Both the leaders also exchanged presents and shields. The meeting lasted for more than two and a half hours.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-18/page-2/detail-2>

The News

China says industrial transfer to uplift Pakistan in global value chain

KARACHI: China’s Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian talked about the country’s industrial transfer goal and an expected increase of Pakistan’s share in global value chain in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and trade benefits for Pakistan under the upgraded free trade agreement.

Q: Can you elaborate the existing and planned projects under the CPEC framework?

A: There are 33 CPEC projects in total, among which 16 projects under construction and 17 projects are already in commercial operation. CPEC projects in the first phase are basically in infrastructure like power stations and transportation. The projects predominantly improve overall infrastructure quality, making it more convenient for people’s life and creating employment opportunities. The second phase of CPEC will turn to focus more on industrial cooperation, agriculture, medical services, education and poverty alleviation. That means much more projects will be in progress in coming years. We are all looking forward to further deepening the bilateral relationship taking CPEC as a platform.

Gwadar port and free zone have been developed since 2013. After more than seven years’ construction, the port has already been put into full use. The dock is now able to load and unload all kinds of miscellaneous cargo, bulk cargo, roll on-roll off cargo and containers. The free zone includes the south area and north area. The construction of the south area has been completed

and 14 companies have settled in bringing investment of about \$70 million. More efforts shall be made to develop the north area; especially some favorable policies will be put in place to encourage the investors.

Q: How can bilateral trade balance go in favour of Pakistan's economy? How will an upgraded FTA prove fruitful for it?

A: China is Pakistan's biggest trading partner and source of imports as well as the third largest export market, while Pakistan is China's second largest trading partner in South Asia. From January to October, 2020, Pakistan's export to China was \$1.6 billion, with a year-on-year increase of 11.2 percent; bilateral trade deficit stood at \$10.41 billion for Pakistan, marking a decrease of 8.5 percent compared with the same period last year. The above figures demonstrate Pakistan's export to China began to gain its upward momentum. The products of both countries are strongly complementary and I think there are many things we would do to fully achieve the potential in bilateral trade. First of all, we should make use of our free trade agreement (FTA) as a promoter. The protocol to amend the FTA between China and Pakistan came into force in December 2019 and the implementation of the relative tariff elimination arrangement began in January 2020. Bilateral trade has been facilitated and liberated ever since.

And now a few hundred goods produced in Pakistan can enter into the mega Chinese market free of tariff. According to the estimation, the upgraded FTA will increase Pakistan's export to China annually with a total amount of \$6 billion. We should make more publicity and road shows of FTA making sure it's known to more trade companies and provide them with detailed instructions on how to enjoy those beneficiary treatments therein. Second, we should focus on the second phase of CPEC because industrial cooperation is the key area in this phase. Through accepting industrial transfer, Pakistan could take its advantage in human resources, raw material and preferential policies and establish a more integrated industrial structure domestically, uplifting its position in the global value chain. I think it is a fundamental trajectory for almost every country to boost its export. It proves very useful and practical for China when faced with similar situations in the last few decades of the 20th century.

Q: Does China have plans to expand investments in Pakistan beyond the economic corridor?

A: China continues as the top foreign investor in Pakistan for six consecutive years. Especially after the launch of CPEC, China's investment in Pakistan has surged by a hefty 50 percent. China's investment in Pakistan is not limited under the CPEC. Actually we already have plenty of investment projects, namely in infrastructure, sanitation, manufacturing etc., that go far beyond the CPEC. Those together with CPEC projects are an important composite of bilateral economic cooperation. According to the statistics, the accumulated investment amount to Pakistan till October this year reached \$10.27 billion.

I believe since CPEC enters into the second phase and Pakistan's investment environment becomes much better, more high-quality investment projects will be attracted here injecting strong development impetus to Pakistan's economy.

Q: Can you share Chinese experience of returning to the pre-coronavirus growth trajectory?

A: Because of the rapid and good containment of the pandemic and the strong and effective stimulus response, China is now having a strong economic recovery. China will be the world's only developed economy with positive growth during the outgoing year, according to international reports. The numbers show China's economy is robust. Compared to the negative 6.8 percent gross domestic demand shrink in the first quarter on a year-on-year basis, the growth rate was 3.2 percent and 4.9 percent in the second and third quarter respectively.

From agriculture, industry and service output values to international trade value all witness a robust growth in the third quarter (July-September). The growth rates stand at 3.9 percent, 5.8 percent, 4.3 percent and 7.5 percent.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/760292-china-says-industrial-transfer-to-uplift-pakistan-in-global-value-chain>

Express News

سولر پینل ٹیکنالوجی کیلئے چین کیساتھ مل کر کام کرنے اعلان

وفاقی وزیر سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی نے سولر پینل ٹیکنالوجی چین کیساتھ مل کر کام کرنے اعلان کر دیا۔

وفاقی وزیر فواد چوہدری نے کہا کہ حکومت بی ٹو بی کے فارمولے پر کام کرنا چاہتی ہے، پاکستان میں سولر ٹیکنالوجی کے فروغ سے جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال میں اضافہ ہو گا۔

وفاقی وزیر سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی کا 23 ویں پائیدار ترقی کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ اگلے تین ماہ میں سولر پینل ٹیکنالوجی کے حوالے سے کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ خاص طور پر حکومت بی ٹو بی کے فارمولے پر کام کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ بجائے اس کے کہ کسی ملک کی حکومت کے ساتھ تعاون کیا جائے۔

فواد چوہدری نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سولر ٹیکنالوجی کے فروغ سے جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال میں اضافہ ہو گا اور پیداواری کمپنیاں بھی منافع کمائیں گی، چائینہ کی طرح سائنس ایڈ ٹیکنالوجی، توانائی اور سولر انرجی کے منصوبوں پر کام کرنا حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں بھی وزارت سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی، ایس ڈی پی آئی کے ساتھ تعاون جاری رکھے گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2118850/6/>

آرمی چیف پاک چین فوجی مشقوں سے فضائیہ کی جنگی صلاحیتوں میں اضافہ ہو گا

آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین مشترکہ فوجی مشقوں سے دونوں ممالک کی فضائیہ کی جنگی صلاحیتوں میں مزید اضافہ ہو گا، پاک فضائیہ کے شاہینوں کا بلند عزم اور پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتیں انہیں دوسروں سے منفرد کرتی ہیں۔

ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر میجر جنرل بابر افتخار کے مطابق آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے پاک فضائیہ کے ایک آپریشنل ٹیس کا دورہ کیا، آرمی چیف نے پاک چین مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں شاہین 9 کا مشاہدہ کیا۔ شاہین سیریز کی پاک چین مشترکہ مشقیں 2011ء میں شروع ہوئیں۔

ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کے ایئر بیس پہنچنے پر سربراہ پاک فضائیہ ایئر چیف مارشل مجاہد انور خان نے استقبال کیا۔

اس موقع پر وہاں موجود شرکا اور اہل کاروں سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا کہ مشترکہ مشقوں سے دونوں فضائیہ کی جنگی صلاحیتوں میں مزید نکھار آئے گا، ان مشقوں سے باہمی اشتراک اور آپریشنل ہم آہنگی میں بہتری آئے گی۔

آرمی چیف نے بیس کے اہل کاروں کی پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتوں اور عزم کو سراہا اور کہا کہ انٹرسروسز ہم آہنگی سے آپریشنل کامیابی کو تقویت ملتی ہے، پاک فضائیہ کے شاہینوں کا بلند عزم اور پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتیں انہیں دوسروں سے منفرد کرتی ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2119310/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

50 فیصد پاکستانی کرونا ویکسین لگوانے کیلئے تیار ہیں: سروے

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) ہر دس میں سے 5 پاکستانی کرونا ویکسین لگوانے کیلئے تیار ہیں۔ انسٹی ٹیوٹ فار پبلک اہیٹنیشن ریسرچ کے سروے کے مطابق 50 فیصد پاکستانی کرونا ویکسین لگوانے پر راضی ہیں۔ جبکہ دس میں سے تین افراد نے کرونا ویکسین لگوانے سے انکار کر دیا۔ انکار کرنے والوں نے سازشی نظریات کا ذکر کیا۔ 35 فیصد افراد نے چین سے درآمد کردہ کرونا ویکسین کو ترجیح دی۔ 14 فیصد نے ملکی ساختہ ویکسین اور 15 فیصد نے منظور شدہ ویکسین لگوانے کا کہا۔ سروے 15 سو افراد سے رواں ماہ کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-12-18/page-3/detail-13>

December 19, 2020

Business Recorder

We are not taking advantage of Chinese market: Ishrat

KARACHI: The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, has said that Pakistan, instead of staying confined to exporting textiles only, needs to diversify its exports and move towards the sunrise industries for which the global demand is expanding in double digits otherwise we will remain stuck to US\$25 to US\$30 billion exports.

Speaking at the second session of a webinar organized by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) to develop national consensus on the economic agenda, Ishrat Hussain said, “If we can capture just 1 percent of the Chinese market by providing components, raw materials, intermediate goods to Chinese supply chain, we can get \$23 billion exports to China which is very favorably inclined towards Pakistan, and they have allowed a lot of room through the FTA.

“We are not taking advantage of the Chinese market which is so close to us, and we are only focused on chasing the European Union and United States where rates of growth are either negative or 1 to 2 percent while China and Asia are growing by 5 to 6 percent, and China has become the largest single exporter in the world,” he added.

The advisor said, “We have to create incentive structure not only for five export-oriented sectors but also for any new sectors which are coming to start a business and start new ventures, and if they want to go for exports, we should try to provide them with the financing. We should provide

them with tax rebates and we should give them the same treatment being given to five export-oriented sectors.

“We have to diversify our incentive structure in order to encourage the new comers, new industries, new businesses and startups particularly in the IT sector which has a huge potential,” he added.

He further pointed out that Pakistan has a very low investment and very low saving rates as 15 percent of investment can only result in 3 to 4 percent of growth rate, but if the investment rate went up to 20 percent, the growth rate would improve to 5 percent.

“We are a consumption-led economy, and no consumption-led economy would ever be able to grow. Hence, we have to focus on savings and investments,” he said while quoting the example of China where the saving rate is 50 percent and investment rate 45 percent, and they are actually exporting capital to the rest of the world including the United States.

He said that the Pakistani industries must focus on improving their productivity level which was very low as compared to other countries.

Dr. Ishrat Hussain said that the prime minister was very keen to listen to and resolve the problems being faced by the business and industrial community, and he had practically been meeting the business community almost every month.

BMG chairman Zubair Motiwala, in his remarks, requested the government and the political parties to segregate politics and business.

“Stop politicizing businesses as whenever the businesses are politicized, they don’t bring fruits anywhere. The economies that have made remarkable progress have actually done this by completely segregating politics and businesses,” he said.

He noted that Pakistan was going through a very critical time as the second wave of COVID-19 had intensified the sufferings of the people while the businesses were also not doing well. However, remittances had been improving, and textile exports had also picked up, but the upsurge in textile exports might not last long so it was really essential to devise a proper plan in order to deal with the post-COVID-19 situation when the demand was likely to go down by 35 to 40 percent.

He appreciated several measures taken by the government to minimize the impact of crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Consistency in policies and government’s support along with provision of an enabling and conducive atmosphere for the investors are very necessary while the attitude of the bureaucracy also needs to be changed,” he said, adding that although good policies were introduced yet implementation was not there because of the hurdles being created by the bureaucracy. In this regard, he said that when it was decided that electricity to five zero-rated sectors would be given at 7.5 cents while gas at \$6.5 per mmbtu, yet the decision had not been implemented in Karachi until now.

Zubair Motiwala stressed that it was very necessary to bring down the cost of doing business. He said that though the government got 68 percent revenue from Karachi and 54 percent of exports took place from this city yet it was not getting anything in return.

He noted that the exports from Sialkot stood at 4.5 percent, Faisalabad 18 percent while Lahore's share stood at 22 percent and all these cities were receiving attention but Karachi, having the biggest share of 54 percent in the exports, was being ignored.

“We are thankful to the prime minister for allocating Rs1 trillion for infrastructure development of Karachi but what happened to that Rs1 trillion, where it will be utilized, who are the partners, how the funds would be utilized and what would be the modus operandi,” he asked, adding that they really didn't know as they had not been taken on board regardless of the fact that it was the KCCI which sat on the pulse of Karachi's economy.

KCCI president Shariq Vohra said, “KCCI wants all chambers of commerce to come onboard so that we could collectively impress upon the parliamentarians and the policy makers to decide a broader level of charter of economy inside the parliament so that industrialists and businesses can have uninterrupted policies which would lead to industrial development domestically and attract foreign investment in Pakistan.”

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/19/11-page/862259-news.html>

Daily Times

Smart SEZs on cards as part of cooperation under CPEC

Smart Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are likely to be established in pursuance of industrial cooperation under the pragmatic framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Smart SEZs aims to make new ground in developing pharma, health and artificial intelligence industries. According to the report, serious deliberations are going on to define their theoretical and practical modalities. As per fresh brainstorming sessions, joint ventures between Pakistan and China will be the key features for all smart SEZs.

In this regard, Project Director PMU-CPEC-ICDP of the Board of Investment (BOI) on Industrial Cooperation (IC) under CPEC, Asim Ayub witnessed the MoU Signing Ceremony between Neusoft Medical Systems Co., Ltd China and Dynamic Engineering Automation (DEA) Pakistan for establishing Sino-Pakistan Advanced Imaging Technologies, AI, Health Mgt, Academic, and Training & Education programs.

Considering the vital need of improving health infrastructure in Pakistan, the PD PMU stressed the need for the development of Smart SEZs & that BOI lays special emphasis on promoting joint ventures between local and foreign firms. He informed that during the 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on IC under CPEC, it was accentuated to expedite the development on SEZs & the idea of Smart SEZ is under consideration to accommodate pharma, health, AI industries, etc.

The MOU signing ceremony was held via an online platform in Pakistan and physically in China. The ceremony was witnessed by the Embassy of China in Pakistan, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Government of China and other Chinese authorities.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's apex forum Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) has assigned the Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan, the task to facilitate, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate the industrial cooperation under CPEC from Pakistan's side. An MoU on Industrial Cooperation was signed between Pakistan and China on 20th December 2018. In this context, a Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established in the Board of Investment (BOI) to take forward the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, i.e. Industrial Cooperation (IC).

In the 6th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), held in December 2016, nine sites across Pakistan were identified for the development of SEZs. The government of Pakistan has given top priority to establishing three prioritized CPEC SEZs in Pakistan, which have been developed to an advanced stage including Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh, and M-3 Allama Iqbal SEZ in Punjab, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/703412/smart-sezs-on-cards-as-part-of-cooperation-under-cpec/>

Pakistan, India, China tensions spike in 2020

Indian-Pakistan-China The relations between three Asian nuclear neighbors – Pakistan, India, and China – plummeted to new depths in 2020, with experts foreseeing no “detente” next year either.

The tumultuous year saw the first deadly clash between Indian and Chinese armies in the last 45 years in the mountainous Ladakh region in June. The ties between Pakistan and India also remained at odds amid frequent clashes along with the disputed Jammu and Kashmir border.

The military standoff followed New Delhi's unilateral decision to separate Ladakh from disputed Jammu and Kashmir and revoke the Himalayan region's semi-autonomous status in August last year, a move vehemently opposed by Beijing and Islamabad. Ladakh region which borders China and Pakistan serves as the world's only “nuclear trijunction.” In another rare development in November, Pakistan released a dossier accusing India of “actively planning, promoting, aiding, abetting, financing and execution of terrorist activities” on its soil.

India, however, denied the charges and accused Islamabad of “patronizing” terrorism.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan's former foreign secretary said tensions between China and India owed origin to New Delhi's August 2019 move of carving out a separate centrally administered Ladakh region. “The year 2020 witnessed continued tensions between Pakistan and India as the latter remained in a disengagement mood, and did not agree to hold a dialogue on the outstanding issues,” he said. The year also saw nearly daily clashes between the two militaries along the Line of Control (LoC) — a de facto border that divides the picturesque Jammu and Kashmir between the two nuclear neighbors.

Dozens of soldiers and civilians from both sides were killed, while scores of others were injured in the clashes, which have taken a toll on the inhabitants of bordering areas.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/703513/pakistan-india-china-tensions-spike-in-2020/>

Pakistan Observer

PM seeks reports on CPEC to expedite work on related projects

Prime Minister Imran Khan has sought reports from all the concerned ministries and ordered to expedite work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Federal Minister for Copmmunication Murad Saeed told Gwadar Pro that the PM was himself supervising the CPEC-related developments and had asked the ministries to regularly report to him.

The PM has also asked the bureaucracy to remove hurdles in the way of the smooth sailing of the CPEC projects,” he said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Communications released a video of the CPEC projects. It said the construction of two important motorways had been completed. Hakla DI Khan motorway would be opened for traffic in June next year, while 40 percent of construction work of the Khuzdar-Bisma project has been completed.

Construction on the Khushab Awaran motorway will commence from next month, while the tender for the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway has been issued. Work on the second phase of the Swat motorway will commence from next month, according to the communication ministry.

New projects including, Sukkur-Hyderabad, Mangla-Mirpur, Gigt Shandoor Chitral motorway and others will be sent to the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) after receiving approval from the Joint Working Group.

Murad Saeed said that CPEC was a game-changer for Pakistan and the region and shows the friendship depth between Pakistan and China.

He added that people were getting better travel facilities while foreign investment is increasing in Pakistan through CPEC.

He thanked workers of Pakistan and China, experts and especially security forces for ensuring foolproof security of the mega projects.

The \$60 billion CPEC kick-started five years back concentrating mainly on the construction of roads and motorways and power plants to ensure energy security in the wake of massive power shortfall.

Within the last couple of years, a series of power projects transformed the country into an energy-surplus destination from the power-deficient one.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are the next phase of development after early harvest projects under CPEC. The government is expecting \$1.3 billion worth of export revenue from industrial chemicals through establishing SEZs dedicated to biotechnology.

However, the second phase of industrial and agriculture cooperation has yet to be made practical with the debt burden on Pakistan's economy frequently being questioned.

In the first phase, a total of 1,544 km of roads have been constructed and 1,456 km are under construction. In the energy sector, 5,320 MW of electricity has been added to the national grid, while work on 7 projects with 4,170 MW power projects is nearing completion. Additional projects of 2,844MW are planned. Also, the cross-border optical fiber project which stretches over 820 km linking Khunjrab to Rawalpindi has already been completed.

Meanwhile, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said Gwadar port would provide huge opportunities to the energy-rich Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan for regional trade connectivity.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-seeks-reports-on-cpec-to-expedite-work-on-related-projects/>

The Nation

Pak-China joint ventures vital to face emerging geo-strategic challenges:

COAS

ISLAMABAD - Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday lauded the professionalism and dedication of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and reiterated the importance of inter-services harmony and synergy for operational success.

The COAS visited an operational base of Pakistan Air Force to witness Pak-China Joint Air Exercise "Shaheen-IX". Shaheen-IX is 9th in the series of joint exercises between PAF and PLAAF started in 2011 and are held in Pakistan and China on alternate basis.

According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate, the COAS was received by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

Addressing the participants of the exercise, the Army Chief said, "The Joint Exercise will improve combat capacity of both the Air Forces substantially and also enhance interoperability between them with greater strength and harmony."

He said that such joint training ventures are vital to increase combat readiness of both the countries to face emerging geo-strategic challenges.

While interacting with the base personnel, the Army Chief lauded the professionalism and dedication of PAF and reiterated the importance of inter-services harmony and synergy for operational success.

"PAF's cutting edge aside, what makes it second-to-none is the high morale and thorough professionalism of its personnel," the COAS was quoted as saying by the ISPR.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-19/page-1/detail-5>

The News

‘Pakistan can fetch \$23bln from exports to China’

KARACHI: Pakistan’s exports to China can increase to \$23 billion only if the country gets one percent share in its supply chain through exporting raw materials and intermediate goods, a Prime Minister adviser said on Friday.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Ishrat Husain said the country needs to diversify exports and move towards new industries.

“Otherwise we will remain stuck to \$25 to \$30 billion exports,” Husain said addressing a webinar hosted by Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “If we can capture just 1 percent of Chinese market by providing components, raw materials, intermediate goods to Chinese supply chain, we can get \$23 billion exports to China which is very favourably inclined towards Pakistan and they have allowed a lot of room through the FTA [free trade agreement].”

Husain said Pakistan is currently not taking advantage of the Chinese market and “we are only focused on chasing the European Union and United States where rates of growth are either negative or 1 to 2 percent while China and Asia are growing 5 to 6 percent and China has become the largest single exporter in the world.”

“We have to create incentive structure not only for five export-oriented sectors but also for any new sectors,” he said. “We have to diversify our incentive structure in order to encourage the new comers, new industries, new businesses and startups particularly in the IT sector which has huge potential.”

PM adviser said Pakistan has a very low investment and very low saving rates as 15 percent of investment can only result in 3 to 4 percent of growth rate but if the investment rate goes to 20 percent, the growth rate will improve to 5 percent.

Husain said industries must focus on improving productivity level which is very low compared to other countries around the world and that is also a reason for high cost of doing business.

Zubair Motiwala, chairman of Businessmen Group urged the government and political parties to segregate politics and businesses that is the need of the hour.

“Stop politicising businesses as whenever the businesses are politicised, they don’t bring fruits to anywhere. The economies that have made remarkable progress have actually done this by completely segregating politics and businesses,” said Motiwala.

Motiwala said frequent changes in policies kill the economy. Taxation, industrial, trade policies must be kept intact at least for five years.

“Consistency in policies and government’s support along with provision of an enabling and conducive atmosphere to investors are very necessary while the attitude of the bureaucracy also needs to be changed.”

Motiwala lamented over the non-implementation of energy tariff concessions to the industrial sector in Karachi.

“The decision has not been implemented in Karachi to date despite assurances given by lawmakers from time to time,” he said.

“The government gets 68 percent revenue from Karachi and 54 percent of exports take place from this city. There are no roads, no sewerage lines, no storm water drainage system, no cleanliness, poor law and order situation and many other problems and yet no attention is paid to resolve the most serious issues.”

Motiwala said exports from Sialkot stand at 4.5 percent, Faisalabad exports 18 percent and Lahore’s share stands at 22 percent and all these cities are receiving attention “but Karachi is ignored”.

“What happened to that Rs1 trillion {allocated for Karachi development}, where it will be utilised, who are the partners, how the funds would be utilised and what would be the modus operandi,” he said. “We really don’t know.”

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/760802-pakistan-can-fetch-23bln-from-exports-to-china>

December 20, 2020

Business Recorder

CPEC poses no threat to British interests: HC

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not a threat to British interests, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner said in an interview with a select group of journalists. “I am always very clear about CPEC. I don’t regard it as a threat to British interests. If CPEC investments are done in the right way, it will benefit Pakistan as the country needs some restructuring investment. I think important infrastructure is good for business environment as long as investment is done in a way that benefits Pakistan,” he stated. There must be good labour and environmental standards and there should be transfer of knowledge and skills and projects should not add to debt, he contended.

The High Commissioner maintained that deals are beneficial as they benefit Pakistan, China and even those partners like the UK who are interested to take part in some projects in Special Economic Zones (SEZ), adding that he was sure that UK’s companies will participate. In reply to a question regarding his recent meeting with Pakistan Army Chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, he said some conversations did touch on economic issues as they pertain to Afghanistan including opening of trade links across the border.

About the possibility of opening up the border with India, he said it is difficult to respond in a regional context but cited a World Bank study which suggests that trade across the border with India could unleash 30 per cent growth in Pakistan's GDP adding that a basic observation is that long-term prosperity and exclusive growth for Pakistan needs partnerships through regional

connectivity.

The UK government supported Pakistan's approach towards regional connectivity and Afghan peace negotiation process that is ultimately to deliver jobs for 220 million Pakistanis, he said adding that Pakistan may create 3 million jobs in the region in a year.

"We need more exports in the region to create jobs. This only comes with peace and new opportunity that comes through regional connectivity," he said adding, "we are certainly looking towards the West - to Afghanistan and central Asian countries."

He said: "We should absolutely support regional economic connectivity that would drive job creation. Regional economic connectivity links back into peace and security".

He also talked about issues of child labour, human rights, freedom of speech in Pakistan. "Look into the broad context. These issues are important to my government, we have talk of freedom of religious belief, we believe in freedom of media, these are issues which my Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary regularly talk about and of course I have been instructed to raise them in an appropriate way with Pakistan government and work with Pakistani leaders of the government who are working very hard in support of these issues," the High Commissioner said.

"As these relate to trade relationship, of course, GSP Plus mechanism is one to talk about. But companies themselves will be self-judging. So if you are looking to have a partnership with a British firm in Pakistan that was susceptible to child labour, then that would be incredibly damaging. As Pakistan looks to drive more exports, irrespective of what my government says on these issues, the companies should be looking to give assurances that these issues are according to international standards," he emphasized.

The High Commissioner said that he has confirmed that when Britain will leave the EU, which it plans to after December 31, GSP plus with EU will be simply rolled over and GSP will continue after the UK leaves Brexit as the scheme was approved when it was an EU member. Responding to another question, he said "fundamentally, if you look at what Brexit will do, it will empower Britain to do some bilateral trade deals. We are confident that we can build on current level of 3 billion pound exports with Pakistan to take it to the next level. Overall business here, it is already safe, we have natural ties due to people to people contact. Broadly speaking, it would not have any negative impact on bilateral trade between Pakistan and UK. I think it creates more opportunity for relations between the two countries."

Talking about relationships between Pakistan and the UK, he said that these are built on people-to-people contacts. The UK and Pakistan had a long partnership mainly due to people-to-people contacts. So, Pakistan and the UK are a big market. "Therefore, air links matter much to us," he added.

He stated: With the Virgin Atlantic arrival, which started operations in a difficult time during the pandemic, now there are 20 direct flights every week between the UK and Pakistan whereas 18 months ago there was no British airline operating in Pakistan. "So, there is a real confidence in Pakistan and British air links have created opportunities for trade, jobs to build Pakistan's

economy. Textile industry is really booming in the aftermath of the pandemic and Virgin Atlantic would tap trade cargo potential. So, all this is about the partnership."

He further said that he had the task to change perception of Pakistan. "You have seen a lot of what I do is to change perception. I am trying to tell the people what is happening in Pakistan is something different," he added.

"I talked about changing travel advisory after I arrived in Pakistan. I am also talking about tourism potential. I would also love to talk about cricket as there is return of England cricket team to Pakistan. This is all about changing perception... With this, we have a big opportunity to work together," the High Commissioner added.

He said that there is a shift in British relationship with Pakistan from the previous focus on security. "Now I and my team help Pakistan build economic growth, build exports. For example, Britain extended support to Pakistan to export protective kits to the UK and import UK-made Covid tests kits," he said, adding that the UK's firms provided expertise to help Pakistani schools deliver online lessons. "We also provided support to NDMA to help Pakistan tackle locusts," he added.

He said that the UK government had 1.5 billion pounds export credit facility that was a huge opportunity for Pakistani and British companies to work together to expand trade potential in the aftermath of Covid-19.

"The trade in 2020 was just 3 billion pounds in service and goods exports plus imports and we have potential to double it given enhanced partnership, change of perception and Brexit - these relations are going to deepen," he added.

About regulatory environment in Pakistan for foreign investors, he said that businessmen could better respond to this query but added that investors need "good" business environment. "I particularly point to Pakistan government's efforts to improve the ease of doing business ranking that is just one way of measuring environment. We support that effort," he said, adding that "there was a big improvement in ranking last year. The improvement continues as the investors see their investment is secure and have long-term certainty of returns."

Answering another question about litigation between foreign investors and Pakistani government in international court, he said that most of the investors who invest want a level playing field. They want to know if there is disagreement which almost always happens, they will get a fair hearing and where there are disputes, results should be fair and transparent.

He said UK's firms have a natural advantage because of similar system and similar principle, "so we must explore the possibility of working together," he added.

"There are some more sectors, other than textiles, where we can work together. UK is interested to work in agriculture sector that has a strong base in Pakistan. We can help bring efficiency with some technology for better crops," he said, adding that the UK could assist in value-addition; for

example, in preserving fruits and then exporting at higher values. Pharma is another area where the UK has expertise that can help farmers add value.

He said that Pakistan had set an ambitious target of increasing share of renewable energy by 2020 and maintained that investment in wind and solar energy is cheaper than coal.

He said that Pakistan had a good story to tell the world about its economic environment. “There is a very difficult environment globally due to pandemic. The leadership of the economy in Pakistan has a difficult task navigating Pakistan through these stormy waters,” he said, appreciating the government for undertaking fundamental reforms needed in the power sector and tax reforms.

Christian Turner, however, refused to comment on the issue of the return of PML-N supremo Mian Nawaz Sharif from the UK and current political situation in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/20/1-page/862277-news.html>

The Nation

Pakistan lauds China’s role in world’s fight against Covid-19

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a webinar said yesterday that Pakistan fully recognizes China’s irreplaceable efforts and contributions to the world’s fight against the epidemic.

According to Gwadar Pro, the speakers also lauded the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for playing an active role against the pandemic while speaking at the International Forum on New Inclusive Asia 2020 on the theme of “BRI Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Changing Reality and the Way Forward”.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (R), President of Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), stressed that BRI started by President Xi Jinping in 2013 has helped to overcome such challenges and offered numerous opportunities for sustainable development across the countries participating in this initiative.

“Destruction of global supply chain, restriction of border policy, travel limitations, financial & business systems which slow down due to the pandemic have influenced the projects under the BRI framework.

Nevertheless, China has become the first country in the world to quickly get recovered from the adverse impact of Covid-19, which reflects the region is optimistic to find global solutions to the global problems,” he said.

Hassan Daud Butt, CEO of KP Board of Investment & Trade, argued that BRI is a strong pillar of hope at this challenging time, especially for Asia as it promises a bright future for Asia and the world as well.

He proposed the establishment of a health fund to support less developed countries such as Pakistan and the development of pharmaceutical and financial sector mechanisms to respond to any epidemic or crisis facing the BRI countries.

Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director of Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar stated that while the epidemic brings multiple challenges, it also brings opportunities.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-20/page-4/detail-4>

Jang News

چین اور کینیڈا کے اشتراک سے کورونا ویکسین کا تیسرا ٹرائل پاکستان میں جاری ہے، ڈاکٹر اقبال

چین اور کینیڈا کی مشترکہ کاوش سے کورونا ویکسین کا تیسرا ٹرائل پاکستان میں جاری ہے۔ پاکستان میں 10 ہزار شہریوں کو کورونا ویکسین کے ٹرائل کا حصہ بنایا جا رہا ہے۔
 وائس چانسلر شفاء انٹرنیشنل یونیورسٹی ڈاکٹر اقبال نے اس حوالے سے بتایا کہ اب تک ڈھائی ہزار افراد نے اسلام آباد میں ٹرائل میں حصہ لیا ہے۔ ویکسین کے ٹرائل میں کوئی نمایاں نقصانات سامنے نہیں آئے۔ ویکسین دنیا کے 7 ممالک میں 40 ہزار افراد پر ٹرائل کیا جا رہا ہے۔
 ڈاکٹر اقبال نے کہا کہ کراچی میں 1400 اور لاہور میں 800 افراد ٹرائل میں حصہ لے چکے ہیں۔ ٹرائل کو 6 ہفتوں سے زائد کا وقت گزر چکا ہے۔ 56 دن مکمل ہونے پر اینٹی باڈی ٹیسٹ ہو گا۔

انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ 56 دن بعد دیکھا جائے گا کہ جسم میں اینٹی باڈیز بنی ہیں یا نہیں۔ جبکہ یہ بھی دیکھا جائے گا کہ اس عرصے میں جسم میں کورونا وائرس داخل ہوا تھا یا نہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/847315>

December 21, 2020

Daily Times

Gwadar Port goes digital with installation of fiber optic cable

Gwadar Port has gone digital as the state of fiber optic cable network is finally operationalized in true letter and spirit, ushering in era of modern E-Custom at the Port for easier and simpler transshipment and containerized trade on commercialized modules.

According to a Gwadar Pro, with laying down fiber optic cable, paperless custom procedures has become fully functional, transforming Gwadar into a bustling hub of regional and international trade to Afghanistan, Central Asia and China.

“Installation of fiber optic cable has equipped Gwadar Port with high-tech web-based one customs (WeBOC) system of goods declaration and clearance,” GDA senior official said. He also added that Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) completed the project of laying down the new fiber optic cable.

He said that the fresh development would play a tremendous role in facilitating traders, custom officers, and agents. “It would make processes simpler, GD clearance system faster and container tracking easier,” he opined.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani said that WeBOC was an indigenously developed, web-based computerized clearance system, providing end to end automated customs clearance of import and export goods.

“The system was developed jointly by the Pakistan Customs and PRAL, and was first implemented on trial basis at Port Muhammad Bin Qasim. Subsequently, WeBOC was further rolled out at other terminals and customs stations,” he added.

Presently WeBOC has over 45,000 registered users i.e. businesses, government departments including Anti-Narcotic Force, Engineering Development Board, State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change, Railways, Income Tax Department, Provincial Motor Registering Authorities, Commercial Banks, etc.

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Executive Vice President Abdul Zahir Achakzai termed the development of fiber optic cable a breakthrough for Gwadar, the future city of Pakistan.

CPEC’s commercial route runs from Gwadar to western China. The corridor, now worth over \$ 60 billion, needs faster internet connectivity to run its large-scale operations smoothly. Fiber optic cable is a gigantic step to fulfil this commercial need. Achakzai added that the company had taken several initiatives to improve internet connectivity in industrial areas as it acknowledged the importance of communication infrastructure.

E-Custom powered up by WeBOC include Goods Declaration, Warehousing and module to handle Break-bulk, modules to handle Commercial Transit cargo for Afghanistan, Manufacturing Bonds, Reverse Transit and Clearances from Border Customs Stations.

Basic features of WeBOC include paperless system such as online manifest filing and online payments, 24/7 GD filing (web-based), Risk Management System (Green, Yellow, Red channels), communication with the custodians of goods/port authorities through EDI, online communication with traders and clearing agents.

This also includes assessment-based online examination reports and images, First-in, First-out (FIFO) based assessment scheme, online adjudication process, online decision support tools for customs and trade, stricter controls and checks (complete log of all activities), the report added.

Earlier last week, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood had said Gwadar port would provide huge opportunities to the energy rich Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan for regional trade connectivity. He had said that government was prioritizing the economic integration to promote regional trade and connect the regional important trade players with the deep sea port Gwadar. He had said that Central Asian Republic (CARs) are demanding to providing them trade facilitation in Gwadar and Bin Qasim sea port

for international and regional trade and providing them the facility of the warehouse. “Deep Sea Port of Gwadar has its own Geo-Strategic and economic importance which was located at the centre of regional connectivity and a possible railway link from Gwadar to Kandhar and other parts of Afghanistan. Central Asia via Afghanistan can become a key trade and transportation route for the entire region,” he had said.

Razak Dawood had said that Pakistan was actively participating in regional forums of Central Asia Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) so that maximum benefits could be taken when the Gwadar Port operates at full capacity in near future. Government of Afghanistan had requested Pakistan to provide Cross-Stuffing Facility at Gwadar Port, he said and also informed that when modalities were finalized by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), ample employment opportunities will be generated for the locals. He had said that development of Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) would provide more opportunities to establish new industries as huge investment had been pouring in under CPEC and it would also provide the shortest possible route to the goods in <https://dailytimes.com.pk/704237/gwadar-port-goes-digital-with-installation-of-fiber-optic-cable/transit>.

The Nation

CPEC to instigate industrial revolution in Pakistan

LAHORE - The super mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to herald an industrial revolution and usher in an era of prosperity, development, progress, besides uplifting the socio-economic condition of the poor strata in Pakistan. The United Business Group (UBG) Chairman Iftikhar Ali Malik and the Group’s candidates for the upcoming election of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) expressed these views while talking to APP here on Sunday. They added the CPEC was the game changer and several projects under the economic corridor were being completed. These projects, they observed, were putting a very positive impact on the economic conditions of the people thus improving their living standard substantially.

Malik said that prudent economic decisions taken by Prime Minister Imran Khan were yielding positive results in stimulating the industrial growth in Faisalabad. He said that the government’s effective measures were also giving a boost to the construction industry across the country while electricity relief package was also contributing a lot in accelerating economic activities in all sectors.

Responding to a question, Malik said that COVID-19 had crippled even the advanced economies of the world, countries including Pakistan were trying to manoeuvre through the coronavirus; monetary and fiscal policies were extensively being used to deal with negative economic impact due to the pandemic. He mentioned the decision of allowing industrial operations during the second wave of coronavirus pandemic had a salutary impact on the national economy.

Malik said the PTI government this time again during the second wave of corona pandemic had made its best and the economy was now recovering gradually because of appropriate policy recourse to address the macroeconomic imbalances. The stabilization efforts paid off with a sustained adjustment in current account deficit and continued fiscal prudence, he added. The UBG Presidential candidate in the upcoming (FPCCI) election Khalid Tawab told APP that all chambers and affiliated trade associations of entire provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan had reposed unflinching confidence in the UBG policies which was evident from the fact that they elected the UBG vice-presidential candidates in Sindh and Balochistan unopposed. Khalid Tawab was of the view that COVID-19, in a way, further highlighted the fundamental weaknesses of Pakistan's economy such as low tax to GDP ratio, reduced savings rate and minimal export growth with negligible value addition etc. while the industrial sector regressed. However, the present government responded promptly to such issues by reforming policy measures; introducing smart lockdowns instead of bringing all the economic activities to a standstill. "Since the business community is the backbone of the economy and we acknowledge the government's efforts to facilitate the businesses and industry. We support Imran Khan's vision of much-needed revitalization of the economy and industry," he assured. He, however, added that though the PTI government was committed to increase the exports and improve trade activities in the country, stakeholders of many sectors of the economy were being ignored by the policymakers. He urged the authorities concerned to ensure representation of all stakeholders while framing future economic policies and trade-related decisions to make them viable. On this occasion, Pervaiz Lala VP candidate from Punjab demanded of the government to extend the construction package for one year so that huge investment injected in this industry could bear fruits. He assured that all problems being confronted by the business community would be addressed on top priority by the UBG at the Federation's platform. Malik and the UBG candidates expressed the resolve that if the UBG panel voted to power, it would continue to safeguard interests of the trade and industry at all levels.

They assured the voters that a special cell would be established to monitor the industry's losses in the ongoing COVID-19 so that another additional package could be obtained from the government to help sustain and stabilize the industry on top priority. They also appealed to the businessmen and industrialists to strictly adhere to SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) issued by the government time to time with the resurgence of the deadly virus so that they could save themselves and others from this pandemic.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-21/page-9/detail-2>

'Separate SEZ for Chinese to be set up'

Lahore - The government has decided to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Chinese investors in Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC).

The FIEDMC (Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company) Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq disclosed this to the media here Sunday. He added that the project would be completed within two years.

All development work of this Special Economic Zone would be carried out by Chinese companies, he said, adding that these companies would also market the SEZ and bring Chinese investors here.

Mian Kashif said that Allama Iqbal Industrial City had now become the most preferred destination for Chinese in terms of investment.

He said that only Chinese investors would be allowed to relocate their industries to that SEZ. Industry relocating in AIIC includes automobile, ceramics, steel and light engineering, he said and asserted that 30 companies had already invested more than Rs one billion in the M3 industrial city, another project by FIEDMC.

“Several Chinese companies are in touch with us to invest in the AIIC. Creation of a separate SEZ for Chinese will bring more investments and promote industrialisation in Pakistan,” he mentioned.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-21/page-10/detail-2>

The News

CPEC achieves excellent results during pandemic

ISLAMABAD: The flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has advanced and achieved excellent results during the Covid-19 pandemic, said President Arif Alvi in a recent exclusive interview with the China Media Group. Speaking highly of China’s handling of coronavirus outbreak, the president said it [the pandemic] was largely brought under control within one to two months and the world history would recognize it.

“At the invitation of President Xi, I went to China in March. It was a gesture from Pakistan to recognize that Chinese people have managed to control the coronavirus.”

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 in Pakistan, China has altogether sent seven batches of medical supplies as well as two teams of medical experts to Pakistan to help with the control effort.

“There has been good cooperation between Pakistan and China,” the president said.

According to President Alvi the countries willing to learn from China’s experience tend to perform better in terms of fighting the virus.

“Pakistan, for example, was much better off. Our peak exposure to cases went up to 6,800 in June and July, but it went down. It has resurged in the last 10 to 15 days, which is between 3,000 to 3500. We believe that it will not go high, and that is because of what we learned from China, and that is also because PM Imran Khan insisted on the smart lockdown measures.”

As part of the ongoing joint endeavor to combat the disease, vaccine sees another potential area of cooperation between the two countries, according to the president.

“I hope we could find a good vaccine which we will share with the people of the world, not for the commercial venture but as a gesture of goodwill for humanity. I think that approach will come from the leadership of China and Pakistan and the rest of the world,” the president struck an optimistic tone.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many achievements have been made under the CPEC. Among them, Matiari to Lahore ±660kV HVDC Transmission Line Project was completed, several green and clean energy projects initiated, and the second phase of the Karakoram Highway Upgrading project opened to traffic.

President Alvi said while the first phase of CPEC has seen improvement in Pakistan’s energy sector, the next phase would focus more on the industrial and the social sector.

An agreement on Rashakai Economic Zone under the CPEC has also been signed in September this year. “Look at the special economic zone and developing history of China, the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are becoming the backbone of Chinese economic power now,” said the president, adding that Pakistan will also improve its special economic zones through spurring the growth of SMEs.

“Pakistan has made a great effort in its social sector for its people. During COVID-19, when people were not going to work, the government started Ehsaas Emergency Cash Project through which funds are distributed up to more than 50% of the population of Pakistan,” the President said, stressing that the social sector was also the vision of the CPEC.

“Behind the CPEC, it’s not only the infrastructure at all, but it’s the politics of understanding that you lift your people out of poverty,” he added.

Earlier this year, the Gwadar Port officially started taking transit trade of Afghan goods under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement.

“It shows the huge potential of Gwadar port with Chinese help and cooperation,” said the president, who also mentioned the Diamer Bhasha Dam. “It is not related to CPEC, but is also a good cooperation between Pakistan and China, which with a total installed capacity of 4,500 MW will offer more than 16,000 jobs to Pakistan.”

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/762062-cpec-achieves-excellent-results-during-pandemic>

Govt-Opp standoff: Parliamentary approval of CPEC, islands bills on back burner

ISLAMABAD: Two critical bills, one relating to the development of the Bundal and Buddo islands and the other to the establishment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, await approval of parliament.

The Pakistan Islands Development Authority (PIDA) bill, which had been promulgated on August 30, expires in 10 days when it will exceed its initial four-month constitutional life. The

CPEC authority bill was extended by the National Assembly on October 30 and will remain valid for a period of just over another two months.

Under the Constitution, the president cannot extend any bill beyond its prescribed timeframe. Since the parliament building was sealed on November 4 until November 23 after a large number of secretariat staff tested positive for Covid-19, there are no signs that either House will be summoned any time soon to take up this key legislative business. Even after the reopening of the parliamentary complex, all the employees would not be allowed to resume work. Instead, a select few will be permitted to turn up for duty. This is the second time that the building has been sealed because of the spread of the coronavirus.

Originally, the CPEC authority ordinance was promulgated on October 8, 2019, the day Prime Minister Imran Khan embarked on his first official China visit. Since then, it had not been approved by parliament due to the ongoing government-opposition tussle. An extension of 120 days for a somewhat changed CPEC bill was granted by the National Assembly, which is now in operation. But that too only has a 20 days of its life remaining.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and a Dutch company have signed an agreement to produce energy from the solid waste of Bundal Island and to make sea water potable.

The Sindh government has made clear its opposition to the PIDA authority. After the eruption of the row over the federal claim on the island, the prime minister had deputed the Sindh governor to resolve the issue in consultation with the provincial chief minister. However, no meeting has taken place to date for the purpose. The Sindh Assembly on October 22 passed a resolution rejecting the presidential ordinance. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah had termed the ordinance unconstitutional and against the integrity of Sindh, and said the president can issue an ordinance but cannot do so unconstitutionally.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/762069-govt-opp-standoff-parliamentary-approval-of-cpec-islands-bills-on-back-burner>

Express News

کراچی کے لیے 50 آگ بجھانے والی گاڑیاں چین سے روانہ

کراچی کے لیے 50 فائر ٹینڈرز گاڑیاں کراچی پہنچ کے تحت چین سے روانہ کر دی گئی ہیں۔

وفاقی وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے مطابق آگ بجھانے والی 50 گاڑیوں خولانے والی شپمنٹ کو چین سے پاکستان پہنچنے میں ایک ماہ لگے گا۔ فائر ٹینڈرز پر کل لاگت 1.4 ارب روپے

ہے۔

وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے مطابق 8 ماہ پہلے چین سے ان فائر ٹینڈرز کا کنٹریکٹ ہوا تھا۔ پی ایس ڈی پی کے تحت ان فائر ٹینڈرز کی فنڈنگ ہو رہی ہے۔ آگ بجھانے والی ان گاڑیوں

کی فراہم کراچی پہنچ کا حصہ ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ اتوار کو وفاقی وزیر برائے بحری امور سید علی زیدی نے اپنے ایک ٹوئٹ میں بتایا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم کی جانب سے جدید ترین فائر ٹینڈرز کا تحفہ دیا جا رہا ہے اور یہ آگ بجھانے والی گاڑیاں بحری راستے سے جلد پاکستان پہنچ جائیں گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2120368/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کی امریکی مخالفت بے جا ہے، شیریں مزاری

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ نوائے وقت) وفاقی وزیر برائے انسانی حقوق شیریں مزاری نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ امریکا کی جانب سے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی مخالفت کی جا رہی ہے، لاپتہ افراد کا معاملہ حل کرنے میں وقت لگے گا، نواز شریف میں ہمت ہے تو قانون کے سامنے پیش ہوں۔ ایک انٹرویو میں شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ سی پیک کو نشانہ بنایا جا رہا ہے اور امریکا وغیرہ کی جانب سے اس کی مخالفت کی جا رہی ہے تاہم کوئی بھی مخالفت کرے سی پیک آگے بڑھے گا۔ وفاقی وزیر شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ دلچسپ بات ہے کہ امریکا پہلے سوویت یونین کو اپنا دشمن سمجھتا تھا اور اب چین کو سمجھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کو ان ممالک کی جانب سے نشانہ بنایا جا رہا ہے جن کے مفادات کو اس منصوبے سے خدشات درپیش ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکا اور چین کے درمیان سب سے زیادہ تجارت ہے جبکہ ایران اور چین کے آپس میں تعلقات بھی بڑھتے جا رہے ہیں۔ شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ امریکا، چین کو اپنا مخالف بھی سمجھتا ہے اور ملٹری اتحاد کے ذریعے اسے روک بھی رہا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ ایک فائو آئیٹز انٹیلی جنس گید رنگ گروپ بنا ہے جس میں یورپی یونین، بھارت، امریکا، جاپان، آسٹریلیا گروپ میں شامل ہیں۔ شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ اس گروپ پر پاکستان کو خدشات ہیں اور ہمیں اس کا جواب دینا پڑے گا۔ انسانی حقوق سے متعلق عوام کی توقعات پر پورا اترنے سے متعلق شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف (پی ٹی آئی) عوام کی توقعات پر پورا اتر رہی ہے اور کئی شعبوں میں انہیں پورا کر چکی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ انسانی حقوق کی بات کریں تو پچھلی حکومتوں نے انسانی حقوق کے بارے میں کچھ بھی نہیں کیا تھا، چاہے بچوں کے خلاف تشدد ہو، جبری گمشدگیوں پر تو بات ہی نہیں ہوتی تھی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پچھلی حکومتوں نے یہ مسئلہ اٹھایا ہی نہیں تھا، وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اس حوالے سے کمیٹی بنائی اور وزارت انسانی حقوق نے اس پر ایک بل بھی تیار کیا ہوا ہے۔ شیریں مزاری نے کہا کہ لاپتہ افراد کا معاملہ حل کرنے میں وقت لگے گا تاہم اس حوالے سے ہمارا اہل تیار ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-21/page-10/detail-27>

December 22, 2020

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy, COAS talk on CPEC issues

RAWALPINDI: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday to discuss various important issues.

According to a statement released by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two discussed issues of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation as well as the regional security situation.

Issues pertaining to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were also discussed during the meeting.

Referring to the Chinese Defense Minister's visit to Pakistan earlier this month, Army Chief General Bajwa said the agreement signed would further strengthen relations between the two countries. According to ISPR, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong appreciated Pakistan's role for peace and stability in the region.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/22/3-page/862468-news.html>

Daily Times

Orange Line brings uncertainty for displaced residents

LAHORE: When bulldozers began roaring in front of Shakeel Ahmed's home in Lahore's historic Anarkali district, he and his neighbors huddled together at a nearby shrine — despairing about the loss of their property and land.

Like other families in the area, Ahmed, 40, said he was forced to sell his home to the Punjab government for far less than market value to make way for a new Chinese-financed metro in Pakistan's second-largest city.

The \$1.8-billion Orange Line, which started operating in October, promises to cut traffic and air pollution in one of South Asia's most-polluted urban hubs, but it has left hundreds of people facing an uncertain future.

“I didn't want to go anywhere else. This is the only place I've known in my life,” Ahmed told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Today, he rents a room behind the revered Mauj Darya shrine, but fears being priced out of the rapidly gentrifying area — which now has its own metro station — in the years to come.

The Orange Line, operated by China Railway, NORINCO International and Pakistan partners, is one of about two dozen new mass transit projects Beijing is launching globally as part of its trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It carries up to 250,000 passengers a day, and proponents of the metro trumpet its cheap cost — Rs40 a ride — and the dawn of a sleek, hi-tech mode of transportation.

Standing in front of Anarkali gleaming metro station, city resident Kafeel Chaudhary, 54, said the train would benefit the economy, which like those of its regional neighbors has reeled under the effects of the corona virus pandemic.

“We have very few examples of this type of modern infrastructure in Pakistan. These trains are usually only found in Europe. But now Pakistan has one too, thanks to China,” Chaudhary said.

‘WE DIDN'T GET ENOUGH’:

But residents displaced by the Orange Line fear the city's rapid infrastructure development may leave them on the economic margins — especially in historic areas along the metro's route.

“For Rs1 million, we’re never going to find a place in this area ever again,” said Ahmed, standing outside the government-owned Maharaja Building, a crumbling housing block of one-bedroom apartments occupied by entire families.

Part of the building was demolished for the metro project, affecting about 200 residents, including Ahmed, who now rents a room in the section of the block that is still standing.

Today, most of the building’s former occupants fear they have sacrificed property in one of Lahore’s most iconic — and valuable — commercial areas. They expect property prices to rise in the coming years — but know they will not reap the rewards.

More than 50 households in the building were compensated a lump sum of Rs1 million per room after being displaced by the Orange Line, according to the Lahore Development Authority (LDA), but many residents are unhappy.

“We didn’t get enough money,” Ahmed said, accusing local authorities of heavy-handedness as they vacated land during the construction process.

“When they came to ask us to leave our houses, they came with the police [...] how could people fight with them?”

Zargham Lukhesar, a local barrister who worked with activists to challenge the city’s route for the train, said residents — especially those from low-income groups — had often been pressured into selling their property.

“The official would give a document to sign, saying take it or leave it,” he said. “It was easy for the government to harass and push out residents and give them peanuts.”

The LDA said the Punjab government was authorized to take land under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, a colonial-era regulation granting the government the right to appropriate land if citizens receive compensation and advance notice.

It allocated Rs1.6 billion for compensation payments to residents living in government-owned properties and Rs20 billion to owners of private property, the LDA said.

A spokesman for the LDA said residents were not pressured to sell the property and denied that they had received below-market-value compensation. He added that the government had also compensated residents who may not have had proof of ownership.

“The residents [have] been paid compensation on humanitarian grounds by the government for [resettlement] even if they had no ownership rights,” the spokesman said. ‘THE CITIZENRY WILL BE PAYING’:

After a portion of the Maharaja Building was torn down, residents expected their construction nightmare to end.

But today, building work remains unfinished. A walkway outside the building is lined with sheets of corrugated metal and a temporary mosque sits at the perimeter after the Mauj Darya shrine’s main mosque was leveled for the Orange Line.

“The building is not safe and the structural integrity is no longer intact. The government should repair it since we do not have the money,” said Samina Naeem, 40, a mother who still lives in the Maharaja Building.

The government is currently building a new mosque to supplant the demolished one.

It is not only residents who have had their lives turned upside down by the Orange Line, said the barrister Lukhesar.

“The whole economy of the area was disturbed,” he said. “A small vendor who’d sit on the street would have to move, the tree would have to move — it had a phenomenal impact,” he said.

Six hundred trees were felled along the metro line, which also passes through some of Lahore’s most venerated heritage sites, including the Mauj Darya shrine, which also lost part of its courtyard to the bulldozers.

“Heritage sites have been destroyed forever,” said Kamil Khan Mumtaz, president of the Lahore Conservation Society.

On top of heritage and economic livelihood concerns, detractors argue that China’s investments risk swelling Pakistan’s hefty public debt. Debt servicing accounts for nearly 40 percent of the 2020-21 national budget.

“The rest of the citizenry will be paying for the low cost of these tickets,” Mumtaz said.

“I look at what is happening to my city, my pocket, my health, my environment – this will make all of us much poorer.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/704822/orange-line-brings-uncertainty-for-displaced-residents/>

CPEC projects have achieved ‘major progress’ despite corona virus: China

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Monday said that the development projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have achieved major progress despite challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

“It is fair to say that both sides have overcome the difficulties brought by Covid-19 and made new headways in a coordinated way. There was no stoppage of construction work, no job cuts and no withdrawal of workforce from CPEC projects,” the Chinese ambassador told an award ceremony held in honor of outstanding Pakistani staff working at CPEC projects. “Many Chinese workers have overcome difficulties and stayed in their posts in Pakistan. Each of the hard-earned achievements is the results of the sweat and joint efforts of both sides. We have written a new and touching chapter of China-Pakistan friendship through our cooperation,” he maintained.

The ambassador said CPEC is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation. “It is vital to deepening China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for building a closer community of shared future and the realization of high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative,” he said. “During the past five years since President Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan, the CPEC has achieved great

success and made tremendous contributions to the development of Pakistan and regional connectivity under the joint efforts of the governments, enterprises, and all walks of life from both countries,” he further said. “Based on consensus of both governments, we have further expanded the CEPC cooperation from Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure development and industrial cooperation to new areas of agriculture, science and technology, social economy and international cooperation,” he added.

The ambassador said the CPEC has not only supported Pakistan’s fight against Covid-19 by ensuring economic stability and wellbeing of the people but also continues to train high-quality talent for the country. “We are pleased to see that during the Covid-19, CEPC energy projects have provided one thirds of power supply across Pakistan. The focus for energy cooperation has been shifted from addressing power shortage to its structural adjustments,” he said. “In Lahore, the operation of the Orange Line project has brought Pakistan into a metro era. There has been increase of port handling capacity in Gwadar Port. The transit trade for Afghan goods through Gwadar Port has been officially launched, helped the sustainable supply of daily necessities for people of Pakistan and Afghanistan during Covid-19 period,” he further said. “China and Pakistan further promoted industrial cooperation with the signing of the development agreement of Rashakai Economic Zone. We have also completed a number of environment-friendly social economic projects such as the expansion work of Faqur School in Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest, aid of disaster relief facilities, donation of cold-chain vaccine storage and transportation equipment in a timely manner,” he added.

The ambassador said after overcoming the challenge of Covid-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan can find more solid ground on Belt and Road cooperation. “We are more motivated in furthering the CPEC, and the prospects of our all-around cooperation have been further widened. In the next stage, we will work with Pakistan to further implement the consensus reached by leaders of our two countries, making more coordination of CPEC cooperation with ‘Naya Pakistan’ initiative,” he further said. “On the basis of ensuring smooth construction and operation of the on-going projects, we will focus more on areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and social economy, and promote CPEC into a demonstration project for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative,” he added.

The ambassador said 18 outstanding Pakistani staff attending the ceremony are from Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and other fields of the CPEC construction. “They are outstanding representatives of Pakistani staff in all fields of CPEC cooperation and demonstrate the diversification of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era. On behalf of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, I would like to extend my warm congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to all those who have won the award for your excellent service. At the same time, I would also like to express my gratitude to all the companies and their staff working on the CPEC projects for their continuous contribution in advancing CPEC cooperation,” he said.

CPEC Authority Chairman Lt Gen (r) Asim Salim Bajwa also attended the ceremony and thanked the Chinese Embassy for arranging a ceremony to encourage Pakistani staff working on CPEC projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/704590/cpec-projects-have-achieved-major-progress-despite-coronavirus-china/>

Dawn News

China's Can-Sino recruits over 20,000 people for Covid vaccine trials

BEIJING: China's Can Sino Biologics Inc has recruited over 20,000 participants for late-stage human trials overseas for its corona virus vaccine, a health official said on Monday.

The candidate, known as Ad5-nCoV or Convidecia, which Can Sino BIO is jointly developing with a research institute backed by the Chinese military, is among the five vaccines China has moved into Phase 3 clinical trials to test their efficacy.

“As for now, the number of recruited participants has exceeded 20,000 people, and the progress is relatively fast,” Zheng Zhongwei, an official at China's National Health Commission, told a press conference.

Pakistan among states where participants are being listed

Phase 3 trials for Can Sino BIO's candidate, which are planned to involve 40,000 participants in total, have begun enrolling participants in Pakistan, Russia, Mexico and Chile, the latest clinical trial registration data showed. The candidate also has trials lined up in Argentina and has secured a supply deal with Mexico.

The one-dose vaccine had been given to about 40,000-50,000 people in emergency use since it obtained approval for use in military personnel in June, Can Sino BIO Chief Executive Yu Xuefeng said in an industrial event on Nov 28.

A vaccine developed by Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences could start Phase 3 clinical trial soon, Zheng said on Monday, without specifying where it will be tested.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1597151/chinas-cansino-recruits-over-20000-people-for-covid-vaccine-trials>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistanis hold China & CPEC close to their hearts: Gen Asim Ambassador Nong Rong congratulates 'outstanding' staff for winning awards

Chairman of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt General (R) Asim Bajwa on Monday remarked the people of Pakistan valued historic and deep-rooted ties with China.

Likewise, CPEC which is a game-changer in the region and promises unprecedented economic,

social and industrial progress of Pakistan is very dear to them and they feel emotional and personal association with this flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

Gen (R) Bajwa was addressing a virtual award ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects. The online seminar was organized by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. He also briefed the participants about various aspects of the project and the pace of different projects completed or under-completion so far. About the 'outstanding' staff of the CPEC, he said they were selected on the basis of careful evaluation of their performance and keeping in view their dedication, commitment and passion for work.

He hoped in the coming days, other staff members at various projects of the CPEC would display the same commitment and diligence and will be shortlisted for the awards.

While addressing on the occasion, Ambassador of China Nong Rong appreciated the award winners and said China was making CPEC a demonstration project of BRI. From 2014, when President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan, CPEC has advanced and reached its zenith during Covid-19. Moreover, he also briefed the participants about the recently signed projects under CPEC. While commenting on the documentary titled "CPEC cooperation during Covid-19" prepared by Pakistan-China Institute, he said it had aptly highlighted bilateral cooperation.

"Due to Covid-19, we have to hold an on-line ceremony this year," said the ambassador adding, "The 18 outstanding Pakistani staff attending today's ceremony is from Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and other fields of the CPEC construction." They are outstanding representatives of Pakistani staff in all fields of CPEC cooperation and demonstrate the diversification of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, said Ambassador Nong Rong.

On behalf of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, I would like to extend my warm congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to all those who have won the award for your excellent service.

At the same time, I would also like to express my gratitude to all the companies and their staff working on the CPEC projects for their continuous contribution in advancing CPEC cooperation. The Chinese ambassador was of the view that CPEC was an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation.

It is significant to deepen China- Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for the building a closer community of shared future, and the realization of high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistanis-hold-china-cpec-close-to-their-hearts-gen-asim-ambassador-nong-rong-congratulates-outstanding-staff-for-winning-awards/>

France, Switzerland, China reschedule Pakistan's debt MoUs signed under G-20 debt-service suspension initiative

Zubair Qureshi

Islamabad: The governments of France, China and Switzerland have rescheduled, effectively suspending Pakistan's debt payments thus providing the country much-needed relief and fiscal space in the fight against pandemic.

In this regard Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the Pakistan government and the respective embassies' representatives at the Economic Affairs Division on Monday.

Federal Secretary EAD, Noor Ahmed signed on behalf of the Federal Government signed the MoU while Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict de Cerjat, Charged' Affaires Embassy of France Yves Manville and Third Secretary Embassy of China Zhu Song signed the documents on their countries' behalf.

Suspending Pakistan's debt payments is an initiative of the G-20 countries followed by the Paris Club creditors and according to a senior official of the EAD Monday's signing ceremony is first of the several in the coming days when other countries too would offer a similar incentive to Pakistan.

The government of Pakistan has successfully negotiated and concluded rescheduling agreements with 19 bilateral creditors including members of the Paris Club.

Federal Secretary Noor Ahmed after the ceremony expressed his gratitude to the creditor countries (G-20 & Paris Club) for their debt suspension support. It is a timely gesture and will help Pakistan counter the pandemic and save lives and livelihoods of millions during the difficult Covid-19. Later, while talking to Pakistan Observer, Economic Counselor of the Embassy of France, Dominique Simon said under the MoU Pakistan would get a \$1.8 billion debt service suspension relief that was due in May this year but was postponed till the end of the current year. We are going to sign another MoU with the Pakistan government in the first semester of 2021 and under that second agreement, debt amounting to \$800 million would be further rescheduled, said Dominique Simon.

Senior officials of the EAD Joint Secretary Shehnaz Maqbool, Deputy Secretary Shahid Iqbal and Section Officer Sarmad Jabbar were also present at the MoU signing ceremony.

<https://pakobserver.net/france-switzerland-china-reschedule-pakistans-debt-mous-signed-under-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative/>

The Nation

Pak-China air force exercise not targeting any third country

BEIJING - A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Monday said the ongoing joint air force exercise between China and Pakistan was a routine drill and it was not targeting any third country.

“The relevant cooperation is a routine arrangement between the two militaries. It is not targeting any third party,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here.

China and Pakistan are holding the joint air force training dubbed “Shaheen-IX,” which will continue until the end of December. This is the ninth time the air forces of the two countries have held “Shaheen” joint training.

The first “Shaheen” joint training was in March 2011 in Pakistan. The last time was held in Northwest China in August 2019 and lasted for half a month. The training in 2019 involved some 50 aircraft, the most personnel and the most complete combat units.

To question that the month long exercise was seen by Indian experts as a larger strategic posture and matter of concerns for India, he said, “As all weather strategic cooperation partners, China and Pakistan have friendly exchanges and cooperation in many areas including politics, economy, military, and security.” •

He hoped that the relevant party could view the exercise being conducted in Pakistan, in an objective manner and said, “We are committed to jointly upholding regional peace and stability.”

According to Chinese defense ministry, the joint training, which is one part of the China-Pakistan military cooperation plan in 2020, will play a positive role in promoting the development of military relations, deepening practical cooperation between the air forces of the two countries and improving the actual combat training level of the two forces.

Commenting on the exercise, the Chinese experts said the joint air force training between the two countries amid the COVID-19 pandemic showed the profound friendship between China and Pakistan, which is conducive to improving the comprehensive combat capability of the two militaries.

Fu Qianshao, a Chinese military aviation expert told the Chinese media that although the timing of the joint air force training this year is later than previous years, the fact that it was held as usual shows the deep friendship between China and Pakistan and the importance the two countries attach to military exchanges.

The China-Pakistan “Shaheen” joint training saga has been conducted on a regular basis and rotated in China and Pakistan.

Fu believes that through years of exchanges the two militaries can learn a lot, especially in the field of actual combat training, which is conducive to improving the comprehensive combat capability of the two militaries.

The confrontations between India-Pakistan and China-India will not affect the normal military exchanges between China and Pakistan, said Fu. India's frequent military exercises with other countries have given it little reason to question normal military exchanges among other countries, said Fu.

<https://nation.com.pk/22-Dec-2020/pak-china-air-force-exercise-not-targeting-any-third-country>

Chinese Military Aviation Technology meets modern warfare standards: PAF chief

Pakistan's Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan on Tuesday said that the "Chinese Military Aviation Technology" has the credibility of contemporary requirements to meet the challenges of modern warfare.

According to a statement issued by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), the Chief of the Air Staff made the statement after flying an air superiority sortie in a hi-tech Chinese fighter aircraft during ongoing exercise Shaheen IX.

Furthermore, the PAF Chief Khan lauded the professionalism of PLAAF pilots and said their outstanding air combat skills are reflective of robust and modern combat training programme. He remarked it was "heartening to see the two air forces inter-operating across a wide spectrum of airpower employment options".

"In modern time's competition in the air domain centers not only around mastery of technology but also its artful execution in both strategy and tactics," he announced.

The air chief promulgated Shaheen series will go a long way in enhancing professional skills and operational training of understanding soldier's mutual combat, promoting inter-operability.

In addition, the joint air exercise, which began on December 9, has now entered its last phase.

<https://nation.com.pk/22-Dec-2020/chinese-military-aviation-technology-meets-modern-warfare-standards-paf-chief>

The News

Chinese envoy terms CPEC important pilot project of BRI

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Monday said that after overcoming the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan can find more solid ground on Belt and Road Initiative cooperation.

He was addressing the online award ceremony organised by Chinese embassy, Islamabad for outstanding Pakistani staff of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. CPEC Authority Chairman General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr Nong Rong attended the online award ceremony. The 18 outstanding Pakistani staff from Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and other fields of the CPEC construction received award for their outstanding performance.

While addressing the ceremony Chinese ambassador said, “Due to COVID-19, we have to hold an on-line ceremony this year. I would like to extend my warm congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to all those who have won the award for your excellent service.”

Chinese ambassador said that CPEC is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation. It is significant to deepen China- Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for the building a closer community of shared future, and the realisation of high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the past 5 years, since President Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan, the CPEC has achieved great success and made tremendous contributions to the development of Pakistan and regional connectivity under the joint efforts of the governments, enterprises, and all walks of life from both countries.

The Chinese envoy said, “Based on consensus of both governments, we further expand the CEPC cooperation from Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure development and industrial cooperation to new areas of agriculture, science and technology, social economy and international cooperation.”

Nong Rong said, in this year, the CPEC projects had achieved major progress despite the adversity challenge brought by COVID-19 pandemic. It has supported Pakistan’s drive in the fighting against COVID-19, ensuring economic stability, and well-being of the people. It has also continued to train high-quality talents for the country. He said that the transit trade for Afghan goods through Gwadar Port has been officially launched, helped the sustainable supply of daily necessities for people of Pakistan and Afghanistan during COVID-19 period.

“China and Pakistan further promoted industrial cooperation with the signing of the Development Agreement of Rashakai Economic Zone. We have also completed a number of environment-friendly social economic projects such as the expansion work of Faqur School in Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest, aid of disaster relief facilities, donation of cold-chain vaccine storage and transportation equipment in a timely manner.”

Chinese Ambassador said it is fair to say that both sides have overcome the difficulties of the COVID-19 and made new head ways of cooperation in a coordinated way.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/762476-chinese-envoy-terms-cpec-important-pilot-project-of-bri>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کا فرانس، چین اور سوئٹزر لینڈ کیساتھ 1.7 ارب ڈالر قرض کی ری شیڈولنگ کے لئے معاہدہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزارت اقتصادی امور کے مطابق جی 20 ممالک کی طرف سے ڈیٹ سروس کی معطلی کی سہولت کے تحت پاکستان نے فرانس، چین اور سوئٹزر لینڈ کیساتھ ڈیٹ کی ری شیڈولنگ کیلئے معاہدے پر دستخط کئے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے جی 20 ممالک کے ڈیٹ سروس کی معطلی کی سہولت سے فائدہ اٹھانے کیلئے مذاکرات

کئے۔ سہولت کے تحت پاکستان کو 1.7 ارب ڈالر کے قرض کی ادائیگی معطل رہے گی۔ پاکستان نے اس سہولت کے حصول کیلئے 19 دوطرفہ کریڈٹرز بشمول پیرس کلب ممبران سے مذاکرات کئے۔ جن میں سے 19 کے ساتھ معاہدے طے ہو گئے جبکہ کل تعداد 21 ہے۔ کرونا کے منفی معاشی اثرات سے محفوظ رکھنے کیلئے جی 20 ممالک ڈیٹ سروس کی معطلی کی سہولت کا آغاز کیا گیا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-22/page-1/detail-23>

December 23, 2020

Pakistan Observer

China ready to promote CPEC cooperation: Envoy

Islamabad: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong Tuesday said that both China and Pakistan were ready to promote China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation. In his series of tweets, the Chinese envoy pointed out that in 2020, the two countries had overcome the difficulties of Covid-19 and made new head ways of CPEC. Referring to an Award ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects, Nong Rong said he felt honor to deliver a speech at the ceremony.

He also thanked Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa for attending the ceremony. "I am impressed by the remarks delivered by representatives of outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects, and appreciate the contribution made by all Pakistani and Chinese staff working on the CPEC projects", he added.

Meanwhile Asim Bajwa in his addressed had said that CPEC brought employment and prosperity and improved social economy of Pakistan. He said every Pakistani was in romance of CPEC because now they could see its fruits.

They are getting jobs and new business opportunities that was helping to improve their living standard, he added.

Bajwa said that Covid-19 did not affect the speed of CPEC projects and both sides of Pakistani and Chinese employees made it possible with their hard work. He appreciated the award winner's Pakistani employees.

Asim Saleem Bajwa said that the CPEC was equally important for both countries. "This will bring the Pakistan and China more closely. With this project the investment in private sector of both countries would increase," he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-ready-to-promote-cpec-cooperation-envoy/>

The Express Tribune

China seeks additional guarantees for \$6b new loan

China has sought additional guarantees before sanctioning \$6 billion loan for Main Line-1 (ML-1) project due to weakening financial position of Pakistan and also proposed a mix of commercial and concessional loan against Islamabad's desire to secure the cheapest lending.

The issue of additional guarantees was raised during the third joint ML-1 financing committee meeting, held ten days ago, official documents said.

However, a senior Pakistani official involved in negotiations said that China did raise the additional guarantees issue during meeting but it did not make it part of the draft of the minutes shared with Pakistan.

The ML-1 project includes dualisation and upgrading of the 1,872km railway track from Peshawar to Karachi and is a major milestone for the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The purpose of raising the additional guarantees issue was getting more clarity after Pakistan availed G-20 countries debt relief initiative, he added. The draft minutes have not yet been signed by both the countries.

The third round of financial negotiations gave further clarity on the Chinese position on \$6 billion lending for the \$6.8 billion strategically important ML-1 project of Pakistan Railways, sources in the Ministry of Economic Affairs said.

The Chinese authorities asked for additional guarantee mechanism after Islamabad sought debt relief from G-20 countries, which was only meant for poorest nations of the world.

The G-20 nations have also imposed conditions that the poor countries would not secure expensive commercial loans, except those allowed under the IMF-WB framework.

The Chinese authorities have proposed that "keeping in view the financial situation in Pakistan so also the conditions laid down by the G-20 regulations for debt suspension, the government of Pakistan may provide additional guarantee mechanism for the loan other than sovereign loan for the ML-1 project", according to officials privy to these negotiations.

It was surprising for us when China raised the issue of additional guarantees during the meeting, another senior Pakistani official who was part of the meeting said.

In August this year, the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the strategically important ML-1 project worth \$6.8 billion.

The Ecneec meeting had continued for hardly 20 minutes, leaving many critical issues about financing and technical details unsettled.

Both the sides have reached broad-based consensus on the technical parameters including bidding documents, according to deliberations that took place in the joint bilateral third financial and seventh technical committee of ML-1 project.

But an early start of construction work on what the official described as “strategically important project” is also unlikely after China linked the civil works with prior finalization of financing mechanism of the single-largest project of CPEC.

Unlike Pakistan’s expectations of getting the \$6 billion loan at 1% interest rate, China has proposed a mix of commercial and concessional lending, the sources said.

China maintained that the lending will be both a combination of commercial and concessional loans, according to sources.

The Economic Affairs Ministry proposed 1% rate while Ministry of Railways was inclined to take the mix of commercial and concessional rate, subject to the condition that the average rate may remain lower than 2.38%, sources said.

However, Pakistan was expecting that due to strategic nature of the project, China would accept its request for 1% interest rate and a grace period of 10 years for repayment of the loan.

China has offered to finance 85% of the project cost with payback period of 15 to 20 years in biannual tranches. Sources said the Chinese had offered five years grace period.

Pakistan has asked for up to 90% of financing and was ready to accept 20 years repayment period, subject to the condition that the grace period should be 10 years.

“The Chinese side proposed that negotiations for financing must be only to the extent of package-1 consisting of \$2.434 billion and the negotiation for remaining two packages will be undertaken during implementation phase of package-I,” according to the official documents.

Pakistani authorities pressed for negotiation for the total project cost of the ML-1. China has also offered financing in Chinese currency RMB.

Pakistan Railways is not in a position to pay salaries and pensions to its employees without cash injection from the federal government. Newly appointed Minister for Railways Azam Swati hinted at closing Pakistan Railways due to poor financial conditions.

According to the ML-1 framework agreement, the project will be executed in the engineering, procurement and construction mode by Chinese contractors. Under the CPEC framework, ML-1 is the only strategic project being finalized as part of the initial \$46 billion deal.

The project faces significant delays and both the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) governments could not meet the originally agreed deadlines.

Sources said that Pakistan’s desire to start work on the package-1 from January 2021 would remain unfulfilled due to delay in finalization of financing details.

Pakistan had planned to complete the package-I from January 2021 to December 2024 and will cover the construction of a 527-km track between Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2277059/china-seeks-additional-guarantees-for-6b-new-loan>

The Nation

CSA Expo to promote Pak products in China

ISLAMABAD - The organizers of China-South Asia Expo (CSA Expo) have planned to hold various special events for each country in Pakistan in specific months.

“Taking Pakistan as an example, they plan to hold Pakistan Week, Pakistani Specialty Food Festival, Pakistani Commodity Promotion Conference,” said organizers of the event.

According to Gwadar Pro, the organizers also planned to arrange domestic and international tour exhibitions, not only to promote Pakistani products throughout China but also to promote Pakistani products to other countries, said Cao Kejian, Deputy General Manager of ECSAE Trading Company. He said that their goal is to increase imports from South and Southeast Asian countries especially Pakistan to China. In the national image pavilions of 18 countries, high-quality products, enterprises, investment projects and tourism resources introduced to the China-South Asia Expo (CSA Expo) will be presented their throughout the year.

This year’s CSA Expo ended last week, while the National Image Pavilions are still in continuous operation. “We hope to extend the 7-day exhibition into a 365-day trade platform, and promote the valuable trade resources on our platform.”

“The national image pavilion is a center of commodity display, and we also have an online cross border platform called Nanbomall.com which is available to customers throughout the world.”

Cao Kejian said.

“Admission to the national image pavilion is free. All the decoration costs are on our expense,” he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/23-Dec-2020/csa-expo-to-promote-pak-products-in-china>

The News

PAF chief lauds Chinese aviation hi-tech to meet modern warfare challenges

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, after flying a hi-tech Chinese aircraft on Monday, said that Military Aviation Technology of the friendly country was at par with contemporary requirements and having full capacity to meet the challenges of modern warfare.

Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan flew an air superiority sortie in a Hi-Tech Chinese fighter aircraft during ongoing Pak-China exercise Shaheen IX. Lauding the professionalism of

PLAAF pilots, the air chief said that the outstanding air combat skills of PLAAF pilots are reflective of robust and modern combat training programme of PLAAF.

Expressing his satisfaction over the conduct of the exercise, the air chief said that it was heartening to see the two air forces inter-operating across a wide spectrum of airpower employment options. He also said that in modern time competition in the air domain centres not only around mastery of technology, but also on its artful application in both strategy and tactics.

He added that Shaheen series of exercises will go a long way in enhancing the professional skills and operational preparedness of both the air forces in addition to developing mutual understanding of each other's combat skills and promoting inter-operability.

It is pertinent to mention that the joint Air Exercise Shaheen IX that commenced on December 09 has now entered its last phase.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/763080-paf-chief-lauds-chinese-aviation-hi-tech-to-meet-modern-warfare-challenges>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پاک چین کو جوڑنے کا منصوبہ، وفود کا تبادلہ ہونا چاہئے: قائم مقام چینی تو نصل جنرل

کراچی (آن لائن) کراچی میں تعینات عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قائم مقام تو نصل جنرل مسٹر چین ژاؤ ڈونگ نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین برادرانہ تعلقات کئی دہائی پرانے ہیں جن میں وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ اضافہ ہو رہا ہے، جبکہ سی پیک دونوں ممالک کو جوڑنے کا منصوبہ ہے، وہ بیچ لگٹری ہو ٹل میں چائیز فوڈ کے والدہ افراد بیچ لگٹری ہو ٹل اور ایونٹ کرافٹرز کے اشتراک سے دو روزہ چائیز کلچرل اور فوڈ فیسٹول کے انعقاد کے موقع پر میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے تھے، اس موقع پر آواری گروپ آف ہو ٹلز کے کو آپریٹ ڈائریکٹر سیز اور بیچ لگٹری ہو ٹل کے جنرل منیجر عظیم قریشی، بیرسٹر عبدالرزاق ستار و دیگر معزز مہمان موجود تھے، ایونٹ کے دونوں دن بے شمار سماجی اور سیاسی شخصیات کے علاوہ عوام کی بڑی تعداد نے بھرپور انداز میں شرکت کی، چینی سفارتکار نے مزید کہا کہ میری کوشش ہو گی کہ دونوں ممالک کے مابین وفود کا تبادلہ ہو اور پاکستان کا نادرن ایبریا ساحت کے لئے پرکشش ہیں، طانہوں نے کہا کہ چین میں پاکستان کے طلباء تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں اور یہ چائیز فوڈ فیسٹول میں چینی کھانوں سے شہری لطف اندوز ہو سکیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2019-12-23/page-1/detail-19>

December 24, 2020

Dunya News

CPEC projects progressing despite COVID-19 pandemic: PCJCCI president
LAHORE (Dunya News) – The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects have achieved major progress despite grave economic and health challenges, posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which will help Pakistan, sustain the emerging economic challenges.

This was stated by Pak-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed in a meeting of its think-tank here on Thursday. FPCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed, Vice President Khalid Rafique Chaudhry, Secretary General Salahud-din Hanif and a number of executive committee members attended the session.

The PCJCCI president said that as the global economy still faces uncertainties amid the pandemic, a more independent, resilient and flexible industrial chain, under CPEC could lay down a strong foundation for the growth of Pakistan's economy.

He said the biggest dividends people of Pakistan are going to witness due to CPEC in the coming days are creation of massive local jobs, transformation of technology, particularly in the newer areas of science and technology, industrialization and agriculture.

He appreciated the government for building more independent and controllable industrial chains to help Pakistan better cope with economic risks amid COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlighting the weak areas of industries, the joint chamber's SVP Daud Ahmed said that China is helping Pakistan to ensure better implementation of key projects targeting breakthroughs in key technologies and solutions to bottlenecks while encouraging businesses to focus on their areas of strength and forge new cutting-edge technologies.

He added that China's industrial chain is not just to cushion the outbreak's fallout on manufacturing, but a foundation for the both nations to better pursue the new dual-circulation development pattern and foreign markets boosting each other.

The VP Khalid Rafique Chaudhry said that China has the world's largest industrial system and efforts to boost the modernization level of industrial chains that will also help Pakistan to become a hub of manufacturing.

The timely implementation of the CPEC projects is one of the manifestations of time-tested friendship between the two countries that even the pandemic could not affect.

While, Salahud-din Hanif said that each country in the world was placing more emphasis on supply chain management in line with the emerging international situations.

The global industrial chain is vastly being reconstructed, which also offers an opportunity for Pakistan to better participate in this formulation process in accordance with international rules, he added.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/579805-CPEC-projects-progressing-despite-COVID-19-pandemic-PCJCCI-president->

The Express Tribune

Pak-China joint air exercise 'Shaheen-IX' culminates

The Pakistan-China joint air exercise "Shaheen-IX" culminated on Thursday with a resolve to jointly cope with shared security challenges, said a statement released by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

The exercise, ninth in the series of bilateral air man oeuvres by the two friendly air forces, saw the participation of latest aircraft and support elements from the People Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) and PAF. It is conducted each year in both countries on an alternate basis.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Mujahid Anwar Khan attended the closing ceremony as a chief guest alongside Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, who attended as a guest of honor.

“The existing global security scenario coupled with the evolving dynamics of air warfare called for enhanced partnership between Pakistan and China as indeed between our Armed Forces,” the ACM Anwar said addressing the exercise participants.

It is heartening that with every passing year, Pakistan-China friendship has become stronger and stronger, and the air chief said adding that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a game-changer and manifestation of Islamabad and Beijing’s common objectives and destiny.

The statement added that ACM Anwar also expressed his gratitude to Commander People's Liberation Army Air Force General Ding Laihang, for sending a large contingent to participate in the exercise despite Covid-19 pandemic.

Expressing his views at the occasion, Ambassador Rong said that the international and regional strategic situation was undergoing profound changes with growing complexity in the security environment.

“This calls for the collaboration of our two countries and two armed forces in maintaining peace and stability and to cope with various challenges,” the press release stated quoting the Chinese ambassador.

PAF regularly participates in similar operational exercises, both in-country and abroad, to remain abreast of challenges and response strategies in the contemporary threat environment, the press release maintained.

It added that the 10th round of the Shaheen Exercise is scheduled to take place in China, next year.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2277230/pak-china-joint-air-exercise-shaheen-ix-culminates>

The Nation

China supports Pakistan to boost transport sector

ISLAMABAD - China supports Pakistan to achieve sustainability in transportation industry under the China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), says a white paper issued by the State Council Information Office of China, Gwadar Pro reported yesterday.

The white paper, titled “Sustainable Development of Transport in China,” provided a full picture of the country’s achievements in the field and shares its strategy and activities in building a sustainable transport system.

According to the paper, China has been strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries especially Pakistan in the field of transportation connectivity. China has actively propelled ML-1 project and completed the Lahore Orange Line project.

The paper quoted former Railway Minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed as having said that ML-1 railway project under CPEC is a revolutionary project that will transform the entire railway structure in Pakistan, meanwhile to help controlling railway accidents and creating 150,000 jobs.

It says, subway is an important means of transportation in China and total number of passengers exceeded 28 billion in 2019.

This October, the Orange Line opened, welcoming more than 40,000 passengers on its first day, marking the beginning of the “Metro Era” in Pakistan. It means that the Pakistani people can also enjoy China’s advanced mode of transport.

The paper also mentioned the Peshawar-Karachi Expressway and the second phase of the Karakoram Highway. On the port side, China participated in the construction and operation of Gwadar Port.

With Pakistan’s active participation and joint efforts, the international connectivity architecture has basically taken shape.

An all-dimensional and multilevel infrastructure network, with a focus on railways, highways, shipping and aviation, is taking shape at a faster pace, and the cost of goods transactions and flows between regions is gradually being reduced, thus promoting the orderly flow and optimal allocation of resources across regions, the White Paper stated.

<https://nation.com.pk/24-Dec-2020/china-supports-pakistan-to-boost-transport-sector>

The News

Pakistan, China friendship important for peace in SA

Islamabad : Emerging strategic environment, regional dynamics, and Pakistan-China cooperation to advance peace and stability were discussed at the Second Pakistan-China Think Tank Dialogue organised by China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) via videoconferencing on Wednesday.

The dialogue was addressed by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and Pang Chunxue, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China in Islamabad. The dialogue brought together eminent experts of Pakistan-China relations including Dr. Fazal ur Rehman, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies, Dr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, Amir Rana, Director of Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies and Prof Zhang Jiadong, Director Center for South Asian Studies, Fudan University.

Dr. Talat Shabbir underlined that amid change, Pakistan-China relationship remains constant as both sides continue to maintain close political and strategic communication and coordination to stabilise the regional environment.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General ISSI, in his welcome remarks, underscored that China is not interested in strategic competition; it rather focuses on economic

competition for its peaceful rise. “Pakistan-China friendship is an important element for maintaining peace in South Asia. US and India are not in favour of China’s BRI and CPEC and that’s why the role of the think-tank is important in building a positive narrative and these dialogues are significant and Pakistan-China both have to counter that propaganda against CPEC,” he added.

Pang Chunxue, Deputy Chief of Mission, in her remarks, highlighted traditional and non-traditional issues that continue to influence regional dynamics. Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, she underlined that it has changed the international environment in unexpected ways. Meanwhile, as new challenges come up, so does the need for closer cooperation and coordination between regional countries.

Meanwhile, panelists highlighted various aspects of the contemporary strategic environment with a focus on a probable shift in regional politics as the new administration of Joe Biden takes over in the US, the influence of Indo-Pacific strategy of China’s approach to South Asia.

Meanwhile, experts debated ways in which Pakistan and China can respond to the hegemonic ambitions of Hindutva inspired Indian leadership.

The discussion also explored regional coordination to support going Afghan peace process and India-Pakistan tensions, with reference to the situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks, highlighted that strengthening relations with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy. Pakistan will continue to closely engage with China to foster regional stability. He also thanked speakers for participating in the dialogue, which is becoming an annual feature of the CPSC.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/763510-pakistan-china-friendship-important-for-peace-in-sa>

Express News

چینی سفیر کی احسن اقبال سے ملاقات، سی پیک پر مسلم لیگ ن کی کارکردگی کو سراہا

پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر لونگ رانگ نے پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے سیکریٹری جنرل احسن اقبال سے ملاقات کی اور باہمی دل چسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ملاقات میں سابق وزیر اعظم شاہد خاقان عباسی اور مرکزی ترجمان اور نگزیب بھی موجود تھیں۔

چین کے سفیر نے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے دور میں سی پیک اور پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ کی کاوشوں کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک کے حوالے سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے تجربے اور صلاحیت کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے عمل میں تاخیر افسوسناک ہے، پاکستان کے عوام اس میں تیزی دیکھنے کے خواہاں ہیں۔

شاہد خاقان عباسی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مضبوط اور گہرے تعلقات خطے اور عالمی امن کے لئے اہم ہیں۔ سی پیک کو پاکستان اور خطے کے لیے گیم چینجر منصوبہ تصور کرتے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین آرن برادرز اور با اعتماد دوست ہیں۔ پارٹی رہنماؤں نے تعزیت اور ہمدردی کے پیغام پر چین کی حکومت، عوام اور چین کے سفیر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

مریم اور نگزیب نے کہا کہ ہمارے دور میں پہلے پاک چائنا کلچرل ایکسچینج معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے تھے۔ ہم سی پیک کو معاشی ترقی کے منصوبے سے شائق شراکت داری کے اگلے مرحلے پر لے گئے تھے۔ چین کے سفیر نے محمد نواز شریف اور شہباز شریف کی والدہ کے انتقال پر بھی تعزیت کی۔ چین کے سفیر نے چین کی حکومت کی جانب سے سوگوار خاندان کے لئے تعزیت کا پیغام بھی پہنچایا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2121528/1/>

December 25, 2020

Business Recorder

MoC, TDAP hold seminar on 2nd phase of China-Pak FTA

GWADAR: Ministry of Commerce and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized an awareness seminar on the 2nd phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement on 24th December, 2020 for the businessmen of Gwadar and adjoining areas. The seminar was one of the series of seminars being organized by the Ministry of Commerce and TDAP across the country to disseminate the trade and export opportunities arising out of CPFTA-II which has become operational from 1st January, 2020.

A large number of businesses affiliated with different trade bodies attended the seminar. This included members of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce, Balochistan Dates Growers Association, Fishermen Cooperative Society, and Freight Forwarders from Gwadar and Turbat. Leading government agencies from Balochistan including the Agriculture Extension Department, Livestock Department, Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar Development Authority, Commerce & Industries Department, Gwadar, etc also attended the seminar.

Fahad Raza, Deputy Secretary (FT-I), Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the importance of CPFTA Phase-II. Ghulam Muhammad, former President, Gwadar Chamber of Commerce Industry appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce and TDAP and highlighted the export potential of businesses located in and around Gwadar. Riaz Shaikh, Director General-TDAP Karachi gave a detailed presentation on business opportunities under Phase-II of the CPFTA.

He apprised that under the 2nd phase of the CPFTA, China has eliminated the tariff on 313 high priority tariff lines of Pakistan's export interest. This includes textile, leather, agro food, machinery, auto, and other leading sectors. The exporters need to take full advantage of this opportunity by increasing their exports to China. A briefing on the opportunities emerging from the CPFTA for Pakistan in relation to import of goods from China was provided by Raees Naqvi, Section Officer, Ministry of Commerce.

An extensive Q&A Session was conducted, wherein queries of the participants were responded in detail. The event ended with the vote of thanks by Asif Kakar, Deputy Director, TDAP, Gwadar.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/25/2-page/862899-news.html>

Pak-China industrial cooperation emphasised

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of recently reconstituted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council was held under the chair of Adviser to PM for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, here at the Board of Investment (BOI) aimed at creating an interface between the government and business community, and to further industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State, and BOI chairman Atif R Bokhari, CPEC Authority chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa, BOI secretary Fareena Mazhar, members of the council and officials.

Fareena Mazhar briefed the participants on the role of CPEC Business Council, progress on industrial cooperation and proposed initiatives for enhancing B2B collaboration under the CPEC. Abdul Razak Dawood, in his opening remarks, said the CPEC was moving to a new direction of industrial and agriculture development, which needed bigger role of the private sector combined with technology companies.

The government would facilitate at the maximum level to ensure the establishment of large-scale manufacturing units and information technology zones under the CPEC, he said.

He further highlighted Pakistan's potential in petrochemical, steel manufacturing and IT sectors, appreciating the recommendations provided by the members for the development of projects in these sectors with the help of Chinese and other potential investors.

BOI chairman Aatif R Bokhari said the government is fully committed to ensure a business-friendly environment by providing competitive incentives to the industry.

He informed that efforts were being made to achieve the efficiency in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by placing one-window operation matching with the global practices.

“Rashakai would be a model zone to be established, followed by Dhabeji, which is uniquely placed and open for local and foreign investors equally,” he added.

Earlier, the members proposed inclusion of new sectors and projects in the CPEC. It was proposed that petrochemical and its domestic production at competitive prices require establishment of petrochemical cracker and it is a best possible option to include this project into the CPEC.

It was highlighted that tourism sector could be promoted by offering incentives and financial support.

It was further suggested that one-window facilitation for economic zones be made in place under one authority represented by all the concerned ministries to make the country an investment-friendly destination.

Private sector representatives further recommended that the RMB transaction should be facilitated for bilateral trade and investment with China.

In addition to business visas, facilitation in getting work visa for foreign experts be enhanced. It was recommended that infrastructure development such as manufacturing of hardware in IT sector would help to grow, expand, and boost the economy.

Pakistani institutes may take advantages of Chinese advancement in IT sector by ensuring transfer of technology.

It was highlighted that Thar, being a place of cheap and sustainable energy resources, could be an obvious choice for big industry such as petrochemical and naphtha cracker.

Industrial cooperation is a vital part of the CPEC, and government should facilitate to expedite development of infrastructure in the SEZs.

Financing for second phase of the CPEC be provided by Pakistan side too in the shape of incentives.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/25/13-page/862969-news.html>

Dunya News

CPEC moves towards new direction of industrial, agriculture development:

Razak Dawood

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is moving towards a new direction of industrial and agriculture development which needs a bigger role of the private sector technology companies.

The government would facilitate at the maximum level to ensure establishment of large-scale manufacturing units and information technology zones under CPEC, he said.

He expressed these views while addressing the first meeting of the recently re-constituted China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council was held under the chairmanship of Abdul Razak Dawood here at Board of Investment.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State/Chairman, Board of Investment Atif R. Bokhari, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa, Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar, members of the council and BOI's officials.

The adviser said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council aimed to create an interface between the government and business community and to further the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to a new height for mutual benefit.

He further highlighted Pakistan's potential in petrochemical, steel manufacturing and IT sectors and appreciated the recommendations provided by the members for development of projects in these sectors with the help of Chinese and other potential investors. The BOI Chairman, Aatif R. Bokhari said that the government is fully committed to ensure a business-friendly environment by providing competitive incentives to the industry.

He informed that efforts are being made to achieve the efficiency in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by placing one window operation matching with the global practices.

“Rashakai would be a model zone to be established, followed by Dhabeji which is uniquely placed and open for local and foreign investors equally” he added.

He further informed that efforts were made to develop SEZs in service sectors and approval was accorded to IT Zones to facilitate information technology and software development. Electronic vehicle and mobile phones manufacturing policies have been introduced and the same could be adopted for hardware manufacturing with support of the private sector, he stated.

The Federal Secretary BOI, Fareena Mazhar briefed the participants on the role of CPEC Business Council, progress on Industrial Cooperation and proposed initiatives for enhancing B2B collaboration under CPEC.

Earlier, in a meeting, the members proposed inclusion of new sectors and projects in CPEC.

It was also proposed that petrochemical and its domestic production at competitive prices require establishment of a petrochemical cracker and it is a best possible option to include this project into CPEC.

In the meeting, it was highlighted that the tourism sector could be promoted by offering incentives and financial support.

It was further suggested that once window facilitation for economic zones be made in place under one authority represented by all the concerned ministries to make the country as an investment friendly destination.

Private sector representatives further recommended that RMB transactions should be facilitated for bilateral trade and investment with China.

It was proposed that in addition to business visas, facilitation in getting work visas for foreign experts should be enhanced.

It was recommended that infrastructure development such as manufacturing of hardware in the IT sector would help to grow, expand, and boost the economy.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/579873-CPEC-new-direction-industrial-agriculture-development-Razak-Dawood>

Pakistan Observer

China soft loan to fund Pakistan rail project

Islamabad: In a major development in the billion-dollar ML-1 project, China and Pakistan have agreed on a concessional loan for the project funding and Beijing will provide soft loan for ML-1 sources said on Thursday. Pakistan will return the soft or concessional loan to China in 15 to 20 years and will also provide a sovereign guarantee for the loan. The entire responsibility of the loan will be on the Government of Pakistan.

The sources said China agreed on the sovereign guarantee for ML-1, which is a fast-track project of the CPEC. It is pertinent to note that Rehabilitation & Up gradation of Karachi-Lahore Peshawar (ML-1) Railway Track (1,872 kms) project is part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aimed at doubling the entire track from Karachi to Peshawar, speed of passenger trains to be raised from 65/110km/h to 160km/h, freight trains to operate at 120km/h, computer-based signaling and control system and grade separation to ensure the safety of train operations.

The location of ML-1 is Karachi to Peshawar via Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Rohri, Rahimyar Khan, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Sahiwal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-soft-loan-to-fund-pakistan-rail-project/>

China's rural development worth emulating for Pakistan: Haque

Beijing: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that Chinese success in rural development was worth emulating for developing countries like Pakistan which were striving for national development and socio-economic progress.

It has inspired us with a new hope that poverty is not ordained in mans destiny and that it can be uprooted by dispassionate, concerted and sustainable efforts, he said while addressing the 2020 BRI Beautiful Village Forum, themed Building a Beautiful Village by Holding Hands with BRI, held in Longnan, Gansu province of China.

He believed that rural development is facing a series of issues such as massive urbanization, inequality and environmental degradation imperiling prospects of future growth which led to low productivity, poor rural infrastructure, digital exclusion and meager access to financial markets. These factors disempowering and discourage rural youths and trigger waves upon waves of migration to big cities, thus further complicating the governance task. To solve those problems, he mentioned the importance of digital agriculture, technology and tourism, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Ambassador Haque also highly spoke of China's achievements in revitalizing the countryside.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-rural-development-worth-emulating-for-pakistan-haque/>

China, Pakistan and others declare ETIM a serious threat to peace

Beijing: Representatives from China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan while addressing the International Seminar on Joint Response to Terrorism said that the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement terrorist forces pose a serious threat to the peace, security and people's welfare in China, relevant countries and the whole region.

They emphasized that cooperation should be enhanced to fight them and safeguard regional and global security.

The seminar was held Wednesday under the New Circumstances held by the CIIS. According to the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Zhao Lijian, Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui delivered a keynote speech.

Chinese academics talked about China's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization work. Participants held candid and in-depth exchange, which helped them to build up consensus, enhance mutual trust, share experience and promote cooperation.

The Chinese side pointed out that non-traditional security threats require transnational responses. Response to non-traditional security issues should be based on a coherent and sustainable approach; we need a long-term view instead of knee-jerk reaction.

Opting for unilateralist and bullying practices, a certain country has politicized counter-terrorism and turned it into a convenient tool.

This has caused serious disruption to international counter-terrorism cooperation, and we all need to be on high alert. In fighting terrorism, the world must firmly uphold international common understanding, adopt effective measures, follow a unified standard, and eradicate the breeding ground of terrorism.

All participants hold that the pandemic has complicated and aggravated the international counter-terrorism situation, but the international community should always uphold multilateralism, strengthen solidarity and jointly deal with non-conventional security threats including terrorism.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-and-others-declare-etim-a-serious-threat-to-peace/>

The Express Tribune

Govt. urged to facilitate development of Gwadar

Builders have appreciated the present government for allotting construction sector the status of an industry keeping in view the importance of this sector.

Addressing an event on Thursday, Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) Chairman Fayyaz Ilyas lamented that development of the construction sector had been ignored for more than the past five decades.

He said that the comprehensive construction package, announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan, will help steer the country towards economic development.

Also speaking on the occasion, ABAD former chairman Mohsin Sheikhan urged the government to introduce business friendly policies at the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and other similar departments for economic growth of Pakistan.

“NAB and FIA are making running businesses difficult and investors are afraid of unwarranted actions by the two institutions, which affect industrial activities,” said Sheikhan.

He pointed out that Pakistan was ranked 108 among 190 economies in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) index, which had improved due to consistent effort to make the environment conducive for business activities.

Detailing further, Sheikhan said that since 2016, almost 300 reforms have been implemented to improve the investment climate in the country and as a result, Pakistan jumped 39 positions in EODB ranking during the last two years.

He underlined that Pakistan was recognized as the top reformer in South Asia and sixth reformer in the world.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the former ABAD official said that Gwadar was emerging as a hub of business and development but unfortunately local builders and developers were not allowed to participate in development of the port city.

He urged the government to take steps aimed at facilitating local builders and developers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2277311/govt-urged-to-facilitate-development-of-gwadar>

CPEC moves towards new direction of development

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is moving towards a new direction of industrial and agricultural development, which needs a proactive role by the private sector combined with technology companies, said Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood.

During first meeting of the recently reconstituted CPEC Business Council, Dawood emphasized that the government would facilitate at the maximum level to ensure establishment of large-scale manufacturing units and information technology zones under CPEC.

He highlighted Pakistan's potential in petrochemical, steel manufacturing and IT sectors, appreciating the recommendations made by the council members for development of projects in these sectors with the help of Chinese and other potential investors.

Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Atif R Bokhari said the government was fully committed to ensuring a business-friendly environment by providing incentives to the industry.

He stressed that efforts were being made to ensure efficiency in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by offering one-window operation in line with global practices.

“Rashakai SEZ will be a model zone, followed by Dhabeji SEZ, which is uniquely placed and open for local and foreign investors equally,” he added.

Bokhari added that efforts were made to develop SEZs for the services sector and approval was accorded to IT zones to facilitate information technology and software development.

“Electronics, vehicle and mobile phone manufacturing policies have been introduced and the same can be adopted for hardware manufacturing with support of the private sector,” he stated.

Earlier, the members proposed inclusion of new sectors and projects in CPEC. It was proposed that petrochemical production at competitive costs required establishment of a petrochemical cracker plant and “the best possible option is to include this project in CPEC”.

It was highlighted that the tourism sector could be promoted by offering incentives and financial support. It was suggested that one-window facilitation for economic zones be made under one authority with representation from all the ministries concerned to make the country an investment-friendly destination.

Private sector representatives recommended that renminbi-based transactions should be facilitated for bilateral trade and investment with China. In addition to business visas, facilitation in getting work visa for foreign experts should be enhanced.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2277314/cpec-moves-towards-new-direction-of-development>

The News

Chinese success in rural development worth emulating for Pakistan

BEIJING: Chinese success in rural development is worth emulating for developing countries like Pakistan which are striving for national development and socio-economic progress.

It has inspired us with a new hope that poverty is not ordained in man's destiny and that it can be uprooted by dispassionate, concerted and sustainable efforts," Moin ul Haque, Pakistani ambassador to China, said while addressing the BRI Beautiful Village Forum held in Longnan, Gansu province, according to Gwadar Pro. He believed that rural development is facing a series of issues such as massive urbanization, inequality and environmental degradation imperiling prospects of future growth which led to low productivity, poor rural infrastructure, digital exclusion and meagre access to financial markets. These factors disempower and discourage rural youths and trigger waves upon waves of migration to big cities, thus further complicating the governance task.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/764093-chinese-success-in-rural-development-worth-emulating-for-pakistan>

China greets award-winning Pak CPEC staffers

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Thursday congratulated 18 Pakistani staffers on winning awards from China in recognition of their contributions towards China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects pertaining to Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure and other fields."An online ceremony was recently held to confer awards on the Pakistani staffers working on CPEC projects. We express congratulations to them," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here. He said the CPEC is an important pioneering project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it has maintained positive momentum since its launch in 2013, making solid contribution to Pakistan's national development and regional connectivity. "We will work with the Pakistani side to make greater contribution to deliver more benefits to the two countries and people in the rest of the region," he added.

At an online-award ceremony organized by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, China conferred awards on 18 Pakistani staffers working on CPEC projects recognizing their outstanding services, professional expertise and strenuous contribution to making the CPEC a tangible reality and helping Pak-China relations get stronger.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/764127-china-greets-award-winning-pak-cpec-staffers>

Private sector asked to lead CPEC's new direction of development

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is moving to a new direction of industrial and agriculture development, which will require the private sector to play a bigger in collaboration with technology companies, commerce adviser said on Thursday.

“The government will facilitate at the maximum level to ensure the establishment of large-scale manufacturing units and information technology zones under CPEC,” said Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment at the first meeting of the recently re-constituted CPEC Business Council.

Dawood chaired the meeting to create an interface between the government and business community and to further the China-Pakistan industrial cooperation for mutual benefit.

Minister of State/Chairman, Board of Investment (BoI) Atif R Bokhari, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa, Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar, members of the council and BOI's officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting Dawood highlighted Pakistan's potential in petrochemical, steel manufacturing, and IT sectors, appreciating the recommendations provided by the members for the development of projects in these sectors with the help of Chinese and other potential investors.

BOI's Bokhari said the government was fully committed to ensuring a business-friendly environment by providing competitive incentives to the industry.

He said efforts were being made to achieve the efficiency in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by placing one window operation matching with the global practices.

“Rashakai will be a model zone to be established, followed by Dhabeji which is uniquely placed and open for local and foreign investors equally” the BOI chief added. He said the government was endeavouring to develop SEZs in services sector and approval had been accorded to IT Zones to facilitate information technology and software development.

“Electronic vehicle and mobile phones manufacturing policies have been introduced and the same could be adopted for hardware manufacturing with support of the private sector,” he stated.

Earlier, the members proposed the inclusion of new sectors and projects in CPEC. It was proposed that petrochemical and its domestic production at competitive prices require the establishment of petrochemical cracker and it is the best possible option to include this project into CPEC.

Private sector representatives attending the meeting recommended that RMB transaction should be facilitated for bilateral trade and investment with China and in addition to business visas, facilitation in getting work visa for foreign experts also be enhanced.

They also suggested that infrastructure development such as manufacturing of hardware in IT sector would help to grow, expand, and boost the economy.

Pakistani institutes may take advantages of Chinese advancement in IT sector by ensuring transfer of technology, the representatives added.

Another suggestion was that Thar, being a place of cheap and sustainable energy resources, could be an obvious choice for big industry such as petrochemical and naphtha cracker.

Furthermore, the meeting was recommended that Industrial Cooperation was a vital part of CPEC, and the government should facilitate to expedite the development of infrastructure in SEZs.

The participants stressed that more joint ventures should be established in SEZs to find import substitutions and equal benefits offered to international players be extended to domestic investors.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/763926-private-sector-asked-to-lead-cpec-s-new-direction-of-development>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین یا پاکستان کی جارحیت کا جواب دینے کے اہل ہیں: بھارتی آرمی چیف کی بڑھک

جھوں (کے پی آئی) بھارتی فوج کے سربراہ جنرل منوج مکند نروانے گیدڑ بھنگی دیتے ہوئے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ بھارت کی فوج چین یا پاکستان کی کسی بھی جارحیت کا منہ توڑ جواب دینے کی اہل ہے۔ جیسا کہ چینی فوج نے رواں سال ماہ جون جولائی میں دیکھ لیا۔ بھارتی میڈیا کے مطابق لداخ دورے کے دوران انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم اپنی سر زمین کی حفاظت کرنے کے علاوہ امن کے متلاشی ہیں تاہم اگر کسی کو امن پسند نہیں ہے تو ہمیں اسے اسی کی ہی زبان میں جواب دینا آتا ہے۔ جنرل نروانے، نے ریجن لاسمیت اگلے علاقوں کا دورہ کیا اور لداخ میں حقیقی کنٹرول لائن کے ساتھ صورتحال کا جائزہ لیا۔ کمانڈروں اور فوجی اہلکاروں کے ساتھ بات کی۔ اس دوران انہوں نے لداخ کی سخت ٹھنڈ سے بچنے کیلئے مشرقی سرحد پر تعینات فوج کیلئے گرمی اور دیگر انتظامات کا بھی جائزہ لیا۔ لیہہ میں قائم 14 کور کے کمانڈر جنرل پی جی کے مینن، نے فوج کے سربراہ کو صورتحال کے مختلف پہلوؤں سے آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی ہٹ دھرمی کے نتیجے میں دونوں جانب فوج کو اس علاقے میں قیام کرنا پڑا جہاں پر کوئی بھی جاندار زندہ نہیں رہ سکتا۔ فوجی سربراہ نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ جھوں کشمیر کی سرحدیں ہوں یا لداخ کی بریلی سرحدیں ہوں ہماری فوج جس بہادری کے ساتھ اپنے فرائض انجام دے رہی ہیں، فوجی سربراہ نے کہا کہ ہندوستانی فوج پاکستان یا چین کے ساتھ لگنے والی سرحدوں پر امن کے قیام کی خواہشمند ہیں۔ تاہم اگر کوئی امن نہیں چاہتا تو یہ اس کی کمزوری ہے۔ تاہم ہم اس کا بھرپور جواب دینے کے اہل ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-25/page-1/detail-27>

چینی سفیر کی مسلم لیگ (ن) کے وفد سے ملاقات، شریف برادران کی والدہ کے انتقال پر تعزیت

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگار خصوصی) مسلم لیگ (ن) کے وفد سے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نوگ رائگ نے ملاقات کی۔ چینی سفیر نے مسلم لیگ (ن) کی قیادت کیلئے نیک تمناؤں اور خیر سگالی کا پیغام پہنچایا اور شریف برادران کی والدہ کے انتقال پر اظہار تعزیت اور ہمدردی کی۔ چین کے سفیر نے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے دور میں سی پیک اور پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ کی کاوشوں کو سراہا اور کہا کہ سی پیک کے حوالے سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے تجربے اور صلاحیت کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ جمعرات کو پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نوگ رائگ کی پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے سیکریٹری جنرل احسن اقبال کی رہائش گاہ پر ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں سابق وزیر اعظم شاہد خاتون عباسی اور مرکزی ترجمان اور نگزیب بھی موجود تھیں۔ اس موقع پر سابق وزیر اعظم شاہد خاتون عباسی نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے عمل میں تاخیر افسوسناک ہے۔ پاکستان کے عوام اس میں تیزی دیکھنے کے خواہاں ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مضبوط اور گہرے تعلقات خطے اور عالمی امن کے لئے اہم ہیں۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کے سیکریٹری جنرل احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ سی پیک کو پاکستان اور خطے کے لئے یکم چینجر منصوبہ تصور کرتے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین آئرن برادرز اور با اعتماد دوست ہیں۔ پارٹی رہنماؤں نے تعزیت اور ہمدردی کے پیغام پر چین کی حکومت، عوام اور چین کے سفیر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ ترجمان مسلم لیگ (ن) مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ ہمارے دور میں پہلے پاک چائنہ کلچرل ایکسچینج معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے تھے، ہم سی پیک کو معاشی ترقی کے منصوبے سے ثقافتی شراکت داری کے اگلے مرحلے پر لے گئے تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-25/page-1/detail-33>

December 26, 2020

Dawn News

Fencing of Gawadar

Rafiullah Kakar

MEDIA reports about the federal government's plan to fence the port town of Gwadar for security reasons have sparked a controversy. Baloch political parties have termed it a conspiracy and vowed to resist it at all forums. This discontent is part of a wider societal skepticism towards Islamabad-led mega economic development projects in Balochistan, especially the multibillion-dollar CPEC. In response, the civilian and military elites maintain that CPEC will promote economic development and address major gaps in physical and energy infrastructure.

There is no denying that economic development interventions, such as CPEC, have the potential to reduce conflict in affected zones. However, poorly designed and ill-planned economic interventions may prove counterproductive. This warrants a dispassionate review of the state's approach towards economic development in Balochistan.

Successful economic development and reconstruction efforts in conflict zones are typically preceded by the cessation of hostilities and political reconciliation. Sustainable economic development can't effectively proceed without first achieving a minimum level of peace. Economic development amidst conflict is fraught with several risks.

An inclusionary approach is needed in Balochistan.

First, it leads to a situation where the military assumes a greater role not only in security matters but also economic development interventions. This, on the one hand, increases militarization in the region, which is bound to create anger in a place like Balochistan with its long history of local resentment towards security check posts and cantonments. The Baloch fear that increased militarization will intensify repression and further restrict people's movement. On the other hand, military-driven economic interventions create issues of legitimacy and local ownership. Political elements in Balochistan across the spectrum have expressed serious reservations about CPEC and the associated militarization. The local population in Gwadar, especially fishermen, believes they are being displaced and dispossessed in their own land. The fencing of Gwadar will validate their worst fears.

Further, the non-inclusive, extractive model of development pushed by the ruling elites in Islamabad has not only created resentment but also contributed to the delegitimation of parliamentary politics and alienation of pro-federation Baloch political voices. Baloch nationalist parties, which advocate non-violent parliamentary means for the resolution of their grievances, have traditionally been criticized by Baloch insurgents for giving legitimacy to what they dub as an 'ineffective' parliamentary system. The intensification of the militarized, exploitative approach to economic development has strengthened the former narrative and undermined non-violent, pro-federation political voices in the province.

Lastly, a militarized approach to economic development inadvertently puts off prospective investors and foreign governments for whom the enhanced security measures are intended. Attracting private or foreign investment in such an environment is bound to be difficult. The civilian and military elites need to realize that mega development initiatives like CPEC can't succeed without local buy-in and ownership. Repression and development can't go hand in hand. Local support can be ensured by adopting an approach to economic development that is conflict-sensitive and prioritizes the objective of peace-building over narrowly defined economic goals. This, among others, warrants the need for political reconciliation with Baloch insurgents and the adoption of a more inclusive, participatory approach to development.

The current political settlement in Balochistan is fragile and exclusionary in nature. Under these circumstances, it is imperative to first reform the current settlement and then promote economic development programmes that are aimed at reducing conflict. But instead of opting for political reconciliation, the state seems keen on using coercive tactics to deal with the situation.

The security establishment needs to realize and appreciate that a hard approach alone can ensure only partial and temporary peace at best and that a low-level insurgency could continue almost indefinitely no matter what security measures are taken. Complete suppression and defeat of the Baloch insurgency is nearly impossible. And low-level violence is enough to put the state on the defensive, draw international attention and unsettle foreign investors.

In the light of the above, it can be fairly concluded that the fencing of Gwadar is likely to intensify feelings of deprivation and marginalization in Balochistan. The people of Balochistan regard their coastal belt and Gwadar as an asset that may bring them prosperity. Only an

inclusive and conflict-sensitive approach to development may promote ownership and generate wider socioeconomic benefits for the local populace.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1597883/fencing-of-gwadar>

Chinese Prof lauds EV policy

BEIJING: Both China and Pakistan are big stakeholders when it comes to automobile production and consumption and it would be a wise decision on the latter's part to promote manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country.

In an article published by Chinese media, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, Cheng Xizhong opined that Pakistan may boldly introduce China's advanced production technology of EVs and gradually accelerate local production and sales of these cars. It would help inject new impetus into the rapid development of the national economy, the professor highlighted.

“With the continuous advancement of the construction of CPEC and special economic zones, China and Pakistan can carry out close cooperation,” he further added.

Referring to media reports, he said federal cabinet of Pakistan has granted massive tax exemptions to facilitate promotion of EVs in the country.

The summary forwarded by Pakistani Ministry of Industries was approved by the cabinet, allowing one per cent sales tax for locally-made EVs up to 50 kwh and light commercial vehicles (LCVs) up to 150 kwh.

The cabinet also capped the duty on import of charging equipment at 1pc.

At the same time, the EVs would be exempt from federal excise duty (FED), whereas import of machinery for manufacturing of these vehicles would be duty-free. Pakistani government has further removed additional customs duty (ACD).

As per policy, there would be only 1pc tax on import of EV parts for manufacturers. Apart from the tax facilities, Pakistani government has also waived registration and annual renewal fee for EVs.

In October this year, Chinese government issued New Energy Vehicle Industry Development Plan (2021-2035).

According to the plan, development of new energy vehicles was the only way for China to become a powerful automobile country from a big automobile country. It was also a strategic measure to deal with climate change and promote green development, he shared.

Cheng Xizhong, also a senior fellow of the Charhar Institute, said that since 2012, China's new energy vehicle industry has made great achievements and become one of the important forces in the development and transformation of the world's automobile industry.

Currently, a new round of global scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is developing vigorously. The integration of automobile and related technologies in energy, transportation, information and communication is accelerating.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1597862>

Pakistan Observer

Pak embassy in China works out plan to promote tourism industry

Beijing: The Pakistani Embassy in China is working on a plan to promote tourism-related industries between the two countries, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting ambassador Moin ul Haque, A Chinese website has been set up for this purpose, which the ambassador assured will be available soon. In view of the long-standing friendly relations between China and Pakistan, he added the two countries will work together to develop the endless potential of the tourism industry of both sides.

Ambassador Moin ul Haque delivered a speech via video on the Unveiling Ceremony of Qingdao Boutique Tourism Promotion Association held on Thursday. He emphasized the significance of tourism in strengthening cultural exchanges, investment promotion and social and economic development between countries on the occasion.

He said, “The development of tourism plays a vital role in the development of China’s rural and remote areas. It is also an indispensable part of the task of getting rid of poverty.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-embassy-in-china-works-out-plan-to-promote-tourism-industry/>

China-based Pakistani researcher to help Pakistan citrus farmers

Beijing: Pakistani researcher Shahzad Munir, who won Chinese national funding wants to help Pakistan citrus farmers, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. “Pakistan is my home country, it is my priority to transfer our technology there,” said Shahzad who is a senior researcher at Yunnan Agriculture University. He and his team are working on fighting against the citrus yellow shoot and helped a lot of citrus farmers in China enhance their production. Shahzad came to China in the year 2015. After getting a Ph.D. degree last year at Yunnan Agriculture University, Shahzad stayed in the university as a staff. “This year I am the project head and I won three funding. One is from the Yunnan government, one is from the Chinese Science Foundation and the last one is from the Chinese government, which is the national funding.”

<https://pakobserver.net/china-based-pakistani-researcher-to-help-pakistan-citrus-farmers/>

Pakistan, China jointly fight conspiracies against CPEC: Ding Bin

Lahore: Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq called on Chinese Consul General in Lahore Long Dingbin briefed him about the ongoing projects in Allama Iqbal Industrial City and appreciated China’s cooperation for CPEC. They discussed Pak-China relations, ongoing projects of CPEC and other issues.

During the meeting, Chinese Consul General Long Ding Bin said that since Prime Minister Imran Khan came into power, the relations between China and Pakistan are stronger and more ideal than ever before. Trade and bilateral relations can be increased even more during the tenure of Imran Khan.

He said that the decision of FIEDMC to create a separate special economic zone for Chinese investors is great initiative and all the work for the development of this special zone will be done by Chinese companies and they will bring Chinese investors here by marketing it. He said that Pakistan and China would jointly fight against conspiracies on CPEC. We are standing firmly by Pakistan and will never leave its alone. Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that China is a reliable friend of Pakistan, which has played a vital role in Pakistan's economic development.

In view of the rapidly changing global economic situation, the two countries should further enhance economic and defense cooperation. He said that business environment in Punjab is very conducive and investors friendly which Chinese businessmen should take full advantage of. We will provide all facilities to Chinese investors in Allama Iqbal Industrial City along with complete protection.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-jointly-fight-conspiracies-against-cpec-ding-bin/>

Pak-China joint air exercise “Shaheen-IX”

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

PAK-China joint air exercise “Shaheen-IX” is now going in the country which vividly reflects strong defense ties and military cooperation between the two countries which have strategic partnership too. It has been a regular but prominent feature of Air-Forces of both the countries for the last so many years which has multiplier effects in terms of operationalization and channelization of the war preparedness, tactical as well as strategically designs/strategies and finally, regional security. War clouds are again spreading on the regional horizons in the shape of imminent Indian surgical strike against Pakistan. In this connection, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited operational base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and witnessed the ongoing exercise. It is the series of joint exercise between Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) since 2011 and is held in Pakistan and China alternatively.

While addressing participants, General Bajwa appreciated the Pak-China joint air force drill which substantially improved combat capacity of the both air forces and further enhance interoperability between them with greater strength and harmony. He termed joint training ventures vital to increase combat readiness of both countries to face emerging geo-strategic challenges. He lauded the professionalism and dedication of PAF and reiterated the importance of inter-services harmony and synergy for operational success. He labeled PAF “second to none” having high morale and thorough professionalism of its personnel. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, PAF welcomed combat pilots and military aircraft from

China as they arrived for joint air force drills in Pakistan to further enhance defense cooperation between the two countries. Pakistan-China joint air drill, called ‘Shaheen-IX’, is currently underway in Pakistan. A contingent of People’s Liberation Army Air Force, comprising combat pilots, air defense controllers and technical ground crew is participating in the exercise. At the opening ceremony, Air vice Marshal Ahmed Sulehri, the Deputy Chief of Pakistan’s Air Staff (Operations), said the exercise offers “opportunity to further enhance interoperability of both the air forces, thereby fortifying brotherly relations between the two countries.” On his part, Chinese Major Gen. Sun Hong, the Assistant Chief of Staff of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force, said the Pak-China air drills would improve actual level of combat training” and further strengthen cooperation between the two air forces. It is reported that drills include China’s fourth generation Shenyang J-11, Chengdu J-10 multirole fighter aircraft, Chengdu F-7 interceptor as well as the JF-17 Thunder multirole combat aircraft, jointly developed by Pakistan and China. It is hoped that ongoing joint air force exercise will help bolster practical military cooperation in the future between Pakistan and China. The drills are being held a week after Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe visited Pakistan and signed a new defense accord to further deepen military cooperation. The visit of Chinese Defense Minister and the exercise are considered significant developments in the region because of the complex and complicated geo-political (deteriorating landscape of occupied Kashmir, escalating tension at the LOC) and geostrategic trends (China-India stand-off at Ladakh) in the region. Pakistan has shared sustainable defense, economic and strategic cooperation and ties with China since the 1950s. Defense collaboration forms the backbone of Pakistan-China relationship with frequent high-level military exchanges, joint exercises, training of personnel, joint defense production and defense trade. Now CPEC has climaxed Pak-China bilateral economic ties. The two strategic partners also enjoy an extensive range of cooperation including defense partnerships, joint ventures, particularly the production of aircraft, submarines, tanks and other military equipment.

The air exercise “Shaheen-IX” is designed to further strengthen the existing exemplary bonds between the two air forces, learn modern air warfare mechanics and share operational skills among pilots, radar controllers and other team members. On its part, PAF regularly undertakes similar operational exercises both inland and abroad to remain abreast of challenges and response strategies faced by air power in changing threat environment. The exercise is a great advantage for both air forces, as Chinese pilots got a chance to fly against an adversary whose training and tactics were Western based and PAF got a chance to fly against a new type. Furthermore, the joint drill is intended to boost cooperation between China and Pakistan and will be a source of valuable experience for pilots on both sides. The exercise is a “multi dimensional” and involves operations in “near real scenarios.”

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was established in 1947 as Royal Pakistan Air Force. The Pakistan defense force has approximately more than 700 fighters and other types of aircraft and nowadays PAF is concentrating and working out on fighter aircraft. In collaboration with China modern fighter aircraft are being constructed by Chinese and Pakistani aircraft engineers. PAF has always maintained the highest state of preparedness and professional excellence. The PAF has

repeatedly proved equal to the task even in the most difficult times and has measured up to the expectations of the nation in safeguarding the sacred soil and aerial frontiers of Pakistan.” It is PAF’s commitment to the nation that despite all odds, its resolve will remain unshakable in defending the territorial integrity of Pakistan against any aggression at any cost. Being the first line of physical defense, the PAF needs to continuously build up its capability for an even more assured aerial defense.

Joint training/drill is not an end but a new starting point which will deepen, broaden and promote the friendship, exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan, the two-defense forces and specially the two Air Forces. The SHAHEEN series of exercises began in 2011 and was originally designed to allow the air forces of China and Pakistan to cooperate more effectively. SHAHEEN-I took place in 2011 in Pakistan and SHAHEEN-II took place in 2013 in China. More broadly, the exercises are designed to cement military-to-military ties between the two countries. Being a prominent regional expert of China, I suggest that both countries should collaborate in developing of 5th generation war jets which would divert regional air supremacy towards two regional allies i.e. Pakistan and China. Indian obsession of Rafale war jets creates sense of shifting balance of power which needs to be ratified as soon as possible by extending military cooperation in terms of joint production of most advanced avionic apparatus/systems and JF-17 thunder block IV as soon as possible.

—The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics Member Board of Experts, and CGSS.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-joint-air-exercise-shaheen-ix/>

The Nation

China’s largest builder showcases BRI benefits with highways in Pakistan, Algeria

BEIJING - The China State Construction Engineering Corp, the largest Chinese builder, has announced completion of an infrastructure project each in Pakistan and Algeria, two economies that are participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

“This marks the construction giant’s efforts to boost regional cooperation amid the COVID-19 pandemic,” China Daily reported on Friday. According to CSCEC, the Sukkur-Multan Motorway, which is the largest transportation infrastructure project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, was officially handed over to the Pakistani side last week. The 392-kilometer-long motorway, also known as the M5 motorway in Pakistan, is part of the country’s Peshawar-Karachi Motorway and was designed for speeds of up to 120 km/hour with a total investment of about \$2.89 billion.

“The motorway opened to traffic in November last year and has greatly improved traffic conditions and helped drive economic development in central Pakistan,” said Xiao Hua, general manager of the PKM project.

“More than 29,000 jobs were created for the locals in the peak time of construction and the operation of the motorway will be all done by the Pakistani side (from now on),” Xiao said. Apart from the main body of the project, the Chinese constructor also built schools, roads, bridges, wells and water channels for the locals to make their lives more convenient, he said.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects have achieved major progress despite grave economic and health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the daily quoted Asim Saleem Bajwa, chairman of the CPEC Authority, as saying.

“After successful completion of the first phase, the CPEC is expanding into its second phase as per schedule despite a very serious setback of COVID-19 around the world, ensuring economic stability and well-being of the people of Pakistan,” Bajwa said while addressing an awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects.

In Algeria in northern Africa, CSCEC has helped build an expressway linking Chiffa and Berrouaghia. It is part of the Algeria South-North Expressway project undertaken by CSCEC. The expressway opened to traffic last weekend, passing across the Atlas Mountains and through the Sahara Desert.

With a total length of 53 kilometers, the expressway goes through the Atlas Mountains, which was the “bottleneck” part of the Algeria South-North Expressway, for its extremely high construction difficulties.

In the future, the expressway will also extend further southward to connect Mali, Niger and other countries in Sahil Area.

Proposed in 2013, the BRI comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road, which aim at building trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes of the Silk Road.

The government would continue to encourage SOEs (state-owned enterprises) to build more key infrastructure and manufacturing projects in the country and BRI partner economies over the next five years, said Peng Huagang, secretary-general of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

<https://nation.com.pk/26-Dec-2020/china-s-largest-builder-showcases-bri-benefits-with-highways-in-pakistan-algeria>

Express News

چینی تو نصل خانہ پر حملہ، بی ایل اے کے 15 دہشت گرد اشتہاری قرار، جائیداد ضبط کرنے کا حکم

چینی تو نصل خانے پر حملے کے مقدمے میں انسداد دہشت گردی کی خصوصی عدالت نے کالعدم بی ایل اے کے 15 مفرور دہشت گردوں کو اشتہاری قرار دیتے ہوئے تاحیات وارنٹ گرفتاری جاری کر دیئے اور ان کی تمام جائیداد ضبط کرنے کا بھی حکم دے دیا۔

کراچی میں انسداد دہشت گردی کی خصوصی عدالت کے روبرو چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کے مقدمے کی سماعت ہوئی۔ عدالت نے کالعدم بی ایل اے کے 15 مفرور دہشت گردوں کو اشتہاری قرار دے دیا۔ عدالت نے مفرور ملزمان کے تاحیات وارنٹ گرفتاری جاری کر دیئے۔ مفرور ملزمان میں ہر بیار مری، علی داد بلیدی کمانڈر شریف، راشد حسین، سمیر اور دیگر شامل ہیں۔

عدالت نے ملزمان کے خاکے بنا کر آویزاں کرنے اور منقولہ وغیرہ منقولہ جائیداد بھی ضبط کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔ مقدمہ میں احمد حسنین، نادر خان، علی احمد، عبداللطیف اور اسلم گرفتار ہیں۔

پولیس کے مطابق دہشت گردوں کی انڈین ایجنسی ”را“ نے مالی معاونت کی۔ عبداللطیف سمیت دو ملزمان اپنے جرم کا اعتراف کر چکے ہیں۔ دونوں ملزمان نے مجسٹریٹ کے روبرو زیر دفعہ 164 بیان قلم بند کر لیا اور ملزمان نے ہلاک دہشت گردوں کو سہولت فراہم کی۔

پولیس نے بتایا کہ ملزمان نے چائیز قونصلیٹ حملے کا اعتراف بھی کیا۔ ملزمان نے حملہ آوروں کو اسلحہ، دھماکا خیز مواد فراہم کیا۔ ملزمان نے ہلاک دہشت گرد کے ساتھ وقوع سے قبل چینی قونصل خانے کی ریکی بھی کی۔

پولیس کے مطابق ملزمان کا انڈین ایجنسی ”را“ اور بیرون ملک سے معالی معاونت حاصل ہے۔ مفرور ملزمان کی گرفتاری کے لیے انٹر پول رابطہ کیا جائے گا، عدالت نے گرفتار ملزمان پر فرد جرم عائد کی تاریخ مقرر کر دی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2122453/1/>

December 27, 2020

Daily Times

‘Parwaaz Hai Junoon’ to help boost Sino-Pak film cooperation

BEIJING: China and Pakistan should take the importation of Parwaaz Hai Junoon as an opportunity to strengthen their exchanges and cooperation in film industry, said Xiao Ping, president of China Film Import & Export Corporation.

It would be most befitting when 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, she said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

According to Xiao, the principle to import foreign films to China is “origins, themes and genres in diversity”. “Thanks to Belt and Road Initiative, we have imported films from Pakistan and other countries, so that Chinese audiences would have a better understanding of their history, culture and people & quote; “Parwaaz Hai Junoon is one of the top five highest-grossing films of Pakistan. It is a patriotic story mixing colorful song and dance numbers, a love story and action elements.

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

In recent years, foreign films with well-written scripts and gripping stories like *Chalard games goeng* (Thailand), *Contretemps* (Spain), *Andhadhun* (India), *Perfetti sconosciuti* (Italy) had made a hit in China, winning both box office and public praise. Therefore, according to Xiao's experience, Pakistani films could draw lessons from their ways of success into China's film market. "Hollywood and some European countries invest heavily in marketing and promotion for their films, and the publicity of Pakistani films seems to leave room for improvement."

Second is to nurture audience. "The importation of films from every country follows a process of nurturing audience. Foreign films could be promoted online or on TV in advance to make Chinese audience aware. It's better to cultivate their interest slowly before hitting the big screen."

Last but not least, the story itself matters. "Now Chinese audiences are more interested in what's going on around them. They are more into down-to-earth issues and small joys and sorrows of everyday life, so the choice of theme and content is critical."

"The importation of *Parwaaz Hai Junoon* was a testament to the friendship between China and Pakistan. As next year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between both countries, we hope to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in film industry and import more Pakistani films to China," Xiao Ping added.

China Film Group Corporation (CFG) is the largest and most influential state-run film enterprise in China. Its subsidiary China Film Import & Export Corporation is the only importer of foreign films in China and a major exporter of Chinese films.

Released in China on November 13, the 2018 Urdu-language film *Parwaaz Hai Junoon* (lit: Soaring Ambitions) tells a story of trials and tribulations of a group of patriotic young cadets who become Pakistan's best fighter pilots. It is the fifth highest grossing Pakistani film of all time with receipts of \$2.1 million in Pakistan and an 8.1/10 rating on IMDb.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/706292/parwaaz-hai-junoon-to-help-boost-sino-pak-film-cooperation/>

Ambassador visits China Tourism Academy, mulls over cooperation

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque visited China Tourism Academy (CTA) to discuss China-Pakistan tourism cooperation.

CTA President Dai Bin warmly welcomed Ambassador Haque and his delegation, and said that the Academy is willing to fully communicate with Pakistan on all topics related to tourism. "Both China and Pakistan are ancient civilizations and shared profound traditional friendship. We hope to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the two peoples through more in-depth tourism exchanges and cooperation, so that the friendship can be passed on from generation to generation," Ambassador Haque said, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

"Pakistan is ready to work with China to jointly promote tourism exchanges and cooperation between the two countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," Ambassador

Haque expressed his hope to better understand the needs of Chinese tourists with the help of CTA and attract more Chinese tourists to Pakistan.

Dai thanked the Ambassador for his high recognition of CTA and put forward a series of suggestions on how to promote China-Pakistan tourism exchanges. First, enhance the role of tourism industry in bilateral relations; second, it is hoped that Pakistan will further strengthen its publicity in the Chinese tourism market. CTA will also actively support the upcoming “Discovering Pakistan” theme activities; Third, strengthen regular communication between the two sides.

Dai expressed his hope that after the epidemic, exchanges between the government, academia and the tourism industry will be carried out as soon as possible to form a regular exchange mechanism. In addition, the two sides discussed possible ways of cooperation in the future and reached an agreement on this.

Syeda Saira Raza, Press Attaché of the Pakistani Embassy in China, and Yang Jinsong, Director of the Institute of International Studies of CTA also participated in the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/706417/ambassador-visits-china-tourism-academy-mulls-over-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

China can help Pakistan develop bee products sector

BEIJING: Billion Tree Honey initiative launched by PM Imran Khan will be a workable project to alleviate poverty and develop the bee products sector, said China Bee Products Association (CBPA) Chairman Yang Rong.

“It will lead to broad prospects of Pak-China cooperation in this field,” he added.

Rich natural and human resources have equipped Pakistan with favorable conditions to develop the bee products industry. Most of Pakistan’s land is subtropical, which provides a warm climate for vegetating nectariferous plants.

“Meanwhile, mature agriculture and diverse fruit plantation also lay a foundation for industrial development,” Yang analyzed.

He said, “Development of the bee products sector, a typical labor-intensive industry, will effectively alleviate local poverty in Pakistan. This method has made fruitful achievements in China.”

“A lot of Chinese local governments have chosen developing apiculture since 2013 and successfully solved poverty, even led the regions to prosperity. Considering the problems of employment and rural revitalization, the mature experiences of China are also suitable for Pakistan.”

The apiculture in Pakistan is facing challenges of pests and obsolete technology, which can be solved under Pak-China cooperation.

“Bee mite has been reckoned as one of the biggest menaces of Pakistani agriculture. From 1908 to 1979, Pakistan tried to import bees and develop apiculture 17 times, but all of those attempts failed due to bee mite.”

However, he added, “Nowadays, through scientific breeding, drug treatment, and the most advanced physical treatment, Chinese beekeepers have controlled it very well and at a world leading level. We can share all of those techniques with Pakistan to improve its apiculture.”

He said that under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor agriculture cooperation, both countries can share experiences and techniques, such as scale development of apiculture, vegetating nectariferous plants, scientific payoffs, and bee species breeding among others.

Yang emphasized that China, as the largest bee products producer and consumer in the world, has a full range of mature solutions to develop apiculture.

“Pakistan can import from China techniques and production modes, meanwhile export bee products to the Chinese market where bee products including honey, bee milk, bee wax, and especially propolis are in great demands.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2277552/china-can-help-pakistan-develop-bee-products-sector>

Express News

کے الیکٹرک کی چینی کمپنی کو منتقلی 6 ماہ میں متوقع

کے الیکٹرک کی شنگھائی الیکٹرک پاور کو منتقلی 6 ماہ کے عرصے میں عمل میں آسکتی ہے۔

شنگھائی الیکٹرک پاور (ایس ای پی) کے حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ کے الیکٹرک کی منتقلی التوا میں چلے آ رہے مسائل کے حل سے مشروط ہے۔ ماہ رواں کے دوسرے ہفتے میں وزیر توانائی اور وزیر نجکاری کی سربراہی میں ہونے والے اجلاس میں کے الیکٹرک کے شیئرز کی ایس ای پی کو منتقلی سے متعلق مسائل اور معاملات پر غور کیا گیا۔ اجلاس میں چینی کمپنی کے حکام بھی وڈیولنک کے ذریعے شریک تھے۔

چینی حکام کا کہنا تھا وزیر التوا ایٹوز کی صورت حال ان پر بالکل واضح ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ بزنس پلان تیار کرنے اور کے الیکٹرک کے ساتھ شیئرز کی قیمت پر اتفاق ہونے میں تقریباً دو ماہ کا عرصہ درکار ہو گا۔ اس کے بعد تمام ریگولیٹری اور انتظامی اپروول کی تکمیل کے لیے مزید چار ماہ درکار ہوں گے۔ یہ اجلاس کے الیکٹرک کے شیئرز کے منتقلی کے لیے نیشنل سیکورٹی سرٹیفکیٹ (این ایس سی) کے اجراء سے متعلق زیر التوا ایٹوز پر غور کرنے اور اس سارے معاملے میں ایس ای پی کے شامل کرنے کے لیے منعقد کیا گیا تھا۔

Deed of دوران اجلاس وزیر توانائی عمر ایوب خان نے کہا کہ کے الیکٹرک سے متعلق تمام زیر التوا مسائل کا حل تلاش کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اجلاس کو بتایا گیا کہ پر کے الیکٹرک اور شنگھائی الیکٹرک کے درمیان انتظامی سطح پر اتفاق ہو گیا ہے۔ Deed of Undertaking (DoU) اور Deed of Extinguishment (DoE) وزیر عظیم کے معاون خصوصی برائے توانائی نے کہا کہ حکومت گیس کی فراہمی اور نیشنل گرڈ سے اضافی بجلی کی فراہمی کے ذریعے کے الیکٹرک کے آپریشنل رکاوٹوں کو دور کرنے کے لیے پُر خلوص کوششیں کر رہی ہے۔

شنگھائی الیکٹریک کے نمائندے نے کہا کہ الیکٹریک کی سابقہ ادائیگیوں، وصولیوں کا مسئلہ حل کرنے کے لیے ہونے والے مذاکرات / اجلاسوں سے ایس ای پی آگاہ ہے اور امید کرتی ہے کہ تمام معاملات خوش اسلوبی سے حل ہو جائیں گے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2122506/6/>

Jang News

سی پیک کے بعد بلوچستان کے عوام کی زندگی مشکل ہو گئی، عبد المالک بلوچ

اپوزیشن اتحاد (پی ڈی ایم) کے سینئر رہنما اور سابق وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان عبد المالک بلوچ نے کہا ہے کہ آج پارلیمنٹ پر غمناک ہے اور کسان بھوکے مر رہے ہیں۔ گڑھی خدا بخش میں سابق وزیر اعظم بینظیر بھٹو کی برسی کی تقریب سے خطاب میں عبد المالک بلوچ نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے بعد بلوچستان کے عوام مشکل سے زندگی گزار رہے ہیں۔

انہوں نے حکومت کو تجویز دی کہ اگر ملک میں دہشت گردی کا خطرہ ہے تو پہلے اسلام آباد کو محفوظ بنائیں۔

سابق وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے مزید کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت جمہوریت کے نام پر طمانچہ ہے، بلوچ قوم کو جزیروں پر وفاق کا قبضہ منظور نہیں ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/863978>

December 28, 2020

Daily Times

CPEC: Prospects for Pakistan's Blue Economy

There is no denying the fact that future belongs to oceans. Maritime is not just a sector but a parallel economy, where all other sectors of economy cross through it. Pakistan is blessed with a vast area of oceans but it remained unexplored. However, with the initiation of CPEC and the development of Gwadar port, the dream to capitalize on the country's blue economy for a sustainable growth can be realized.

Introduction:

It is fact that Pakistan's economy has been under strain since long. In order to steer it from the crisis, we need to realign the traditional economy but also open new fronts of growth and production. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in this case serves not only a lifeline for Pakistan's traditional economy but also serves as a womb for the birth of Pakistan's blue economy. CPEC-which is not just a single road project but a multi-sectorial direct Chinese investment in Pakistan, has galvanized many sectors of Pakistan's economy. Under these lofty Chinese investments, Pakistan's blue economy shines like gold. CPEC offers immense opportunity to explore and exploit the untapped blue economy of Pakistan. Along with the regional connectivity, an enhanced maritime partnership between China and Pakistan under CPEC can ensure a sustained economic growth for Pakistan in particular and the region in general. Being a signatory of the Sustainable development Goals (SDG-14), Pakistan has already

taken the path of Blue development. However, under the umbrella of CPEC Pakistan can not only learn from China's maritime advancement but can also transform its relationship with China on the basis of 'Blue Partnership'. This partnership has already started with the development of the Gwadar Port, which is considered as a harbinger of the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This is the reason that the Gwadar port city is being developed on modern lines which will be equipped with all facilities of life. Owing to Pakistan's geography and vast maritime sovereignty, looking towards the seas for a sustained economic growth remains the only viable option for Pakistan to support its falling economy. Fortunately, being aware of the importance of the concept of Blue economy, the incumbent government of Pakistan has declared the year 2020 as the year of Blue economy, with an aim to exploit the maritime resources for the development of the country. This goal has also been included in the vision 2025 of the country.

Understanding Blue Economy:

Before dwelling on the Pakistan's blue economy potential, it is important to understand that what does blue economy actually mean? The word 'Blue Economy' is a relatively new term which was first coined in 2010. World Bank defines Blue economy as, a sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihood, jobs, and ocean ecosystem health. It includes range of sectors, like marine transportation, fisheries, tourism, aqua-culture, offshore drilling, renewable energy resources, waste management, maritime research and development, ship-making and ship-breaking and Exclusive Economic Zones etc. Like the 'Green Economy', the concept of 'Blue economy' also aids to the development, progress, wellbeing and social equity of human beings. According to an estimate of Commonwealth report 2018, the total global volume of the Blue economy is \$ 1.5 trillion per year. Moreover, worldwide 350 million people's income is directly related with the fishery industry. It is said that till 2025, thirty-four per cent of the total crude oil production will come out from oceans. According to the World Bank report, 80 per cent of the total world trade occurs through oceans. Keeping in view the utmost importance of this parallel economy many countries have come up with their policy initiatives, for example; Australia's Blue Well-being Initiative, EU's Blue growth (2012) and India's Sagar Malla etc. to cater for the resources of oceans. Pakistan's neighboring countries are already earning a handsome GDP from their oceans. According to World Bank report, in the year 2019 Bangladesh earned \$6 billion and India earned \$7 billion from their maritime sector. The importance and future of Blue economy is also recognized from the fact that the UN Sustainable Development Goals in (SDG-14) has ensured a co-ordinate response to ensure the protection and preservation of oceans for the present and future generations. So, all these facts undoubtedly proved that oceans and seas matter a lot for a sustained economic growth and development of countries.

Pakistan's Blue Economy Potential:

Pakistan's economy is marred in different crisis ranging from trade deficit to debt trap.

According to a World Bank report inflation will remain high till the fiscal year 2020. In such crisis times Pakistan's economy needs a major thrust to steer it from this quagmire. So, to stop

this steep downturn in the economy, reaping on the Pakistan's untapped maritime resources under the auspices of CPEC, remains the only viable option. Luckily, Pakistan is among those fortunate countries which have all the ingredients to adopt Blue economy.

“The future belongs to oceans because the land resources are depleting. The sooner we realize it the better it is.” Khan Hashim Bin Sadiq, President IPRI.

i. Pakistan's Unique Geography:

“The word Pakistan sums up the Indian Sub-continent” Robert D Kaplan Pakistan is blessed with a profound blend of landscape, ranging from the coastal areas of the Arabian Sea in the South and to the mountains of the Karakoram Range in the North.

Geologically Pakistan overlaps the Eurasian, Iranian and Indian tectonic plates. Pakistan has a long coastal-line over 1050 Km along the Indian Ocean, which stretches along the provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan. In addition to this Pakistan's maritime sovereignty includes Exclusive Economic Zones (EES) of 240,000 Sq. Km and 50,000 Sq. Km of Continental Shelf, which become greater than the combined area of the provinces of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This vast swathe of sea area is not only a route for international maritime trade but also rich of bio-productivity and bio-diversity.

ii. CPEC and the Construction of Gwadar Port:

“The Gwadar has a great strategic location. This sand will become gold”

Chinese Minister of Communication, 2011 Gwadar, a small coastal town in Baluchistan at the South of Pakistan, is the center stage of the \$50 billion CPEC project and a part of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Gwadar is a deep sea port which has a great potential in terms of trade, marine transportation, off-shore exploration, tourism, aqua resort and deep sea fisheries. According to Shahzeb Khan Kakar, Director General of Gwadar Development Authority (CDA), after the execution of the master plan of Gwadar city under CPEC, the city would become the Singapore of Pakistan with a GDP of \$30 billion by 2050 with the production of 1.2 million jobs for the locals. So, the success of CPEC and the development of Gwadar will give a great impetus to Pakistan's Blue economy. Gwadar development will pave the way for many subsidiary industries like ship-making, ship-breaking, shipyards construction, tourism and hoteling etc.

iii. Fishery and Aqua-culture:

Fishery is also one of the main export industries of the Blue economy. It plays an important role in boosting agriculture and food economy of a country. Luckily, Pakistan's coastal areas are rich of marine life. It is home to all types of bio-productivity and bio-diversity and a breeding place for important fishes like crab and shrimps. Presently Pakistan's fish export is between \$ 250-300 million per annum. According to Fisheries division of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, fisheries sector contribute 1 percent to the country's GDP and provides jobs for the 1 per cent of the total labor force. However, by apply correct method of fish catching and following hygiene protocols in packing, the industry has the potential to grow to \$2 billion

annually. Moreover, in Pakistan almost 400,000 people are directly or indirectly attached with fishery industry. In addition to this Pakistan has also lots of potential of cultivating freshwater and saltwater aquatic population under controlled condition of aqua culturing at the coastal area of Pakistan.

iv. Marine Transportation:

Pakistan's Blue economy also offers great potential in the marine transportation sector.

Presently Pakistan has only 12 ships and one ship breaking yard at Gaddani. Pakistan's freight bill is \$5 billion per annum. The construction of a new shipyard at Gwadar and the regular shipping service by the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) from Gwadar port and the development of Kati Bandar port in Sindh under CPEC will usher a new beginning for our marine transportation sector. It will also make a feasible ground for the development of other related industries like ship-making, ship-breaking, seafaring, aquaculture, minerals and offshore basins which will not only value-add to our ports and marine transportation but will also generate millions of employment opportunities.

v. Coastal and Marine Tourism:

According to World Economic Forum (WEF) report, Pakistan is among the least competitive countries of south Asia in terms of tourism and globally ranked at 121 out of 140 countries.

Pakistan's total coastal area 1050 km, which starts from Rann of Kutch in Sindh province till Jiwani in the Gwadar district of Baluchistan, is full of scenic spots and tourist resorts. It includes diverse range of landforms such as sand beaches, rock cliffs, headlands, bays, lagoons, deltas, islands, mud volcanoes, estuaries and mudflats etc. which are sights of all sorts of sea and recreational activities. Moreover, Pakistan's beaches it also need to be supplanted with water sports like boating, diving, snorkeling, and jet-skiing, cruise and scuba to attract more and more tourists.

Apart from the afore-mentioned major sectors of Pakistan's Blue economy the other related down-stream industries like sustainable use of oceanic resources, renewable energy, off-shore drilling, waste to energy (WTE) and hoteling etc. are the areas where Pakistan has immense potential. Nevertheless, it needs a compressive policy and the required infrastructure to fully capsize on it. Presently, Pakistan lacks both of them. The CPEC platform and Chinese assistance in this regard can prove instrumental to jump start Pakistan's blue economy.

Hurdles in the Way of Pakistan's Blue Economy:

“Despite being a bona-fide maritime nation, Pakistan suffers from sea blindness”

Khan Hashim Bin Sadiq, President IPRI. Since its inception, Pakistan has been unable to fully capitalize on its marine sovereignty.

Pakistan has remained sea blind owing to the following reasons; Firstly, Pakistan did not have a comprehensive policy to cater for the marine economy until July 2020, when the incumbent government revealed its “Blue Economy Policy 2020”.

However, it still has to come up with the parallel deep sea fishing policy. Due to the absence of a clear cut policy Pakistan’s Blue economy could neither attract private investors nor flourish on its own. The sitting government’s special attention towards blue economy will prove fruitful to remove these policy level hurdles in the way of blue economy. Secondly, blue economy prerequisites include vast infrastructure development, ports development and shipyards construction. Pakistan’s weak economy cannot bear this huge cost, so the oceans remained untapped. Presently only two ports and one shipyard are functional in Pakistan. That’s the reason that Pakistan could not reap all the benefits of the maritime sector. Thirdly, lack of proper mechanism of catching, transporting and packing of fish on international standards greatly impedes the fishery industry. Moreover, the absence of deep sea fishing policy is also a bottleneck to capitalize fully on the marine economy. Fourthly, due to lack of research and development in the maritime sector, Pakistan’s economy did not show any positive markers in the past. Fifthly, the lack of communication and coordination among the concerned ministries is also an impediment in the way of Pakistan’s blue economy. It is said that almost 43 federal and provincial departments are related to the maritime sector. So an extensive network of communication and coordination is needed. Lastly, Pakistan’s ports are public owned. In contrast, for a vibrant maritime sector Public-Private partnership is needed.

An Appraisal:

Pakistan’s maritime blindness has put greater pressure on Pakistan’s traditional economy. However, with the initiation and success of CPEC, prospects for the revival of the country’s oceanic economy are very high. It is the need of hour to leave no stone unturned to make CPEC a success and revitalize the country’s Blue economy under its umbrella. This is the only way which steer Pakistan from its economic crisis and put it on the road of sustainable growth and progress.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/706877/cpec-prospects-for-pakistans-blue-economy/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China cooperation in bee products sector enjoys broad prospects: CBPA

Beijing: Pak-China cooperation in bee products sector enjoys broad prospects, says Yang Rong, chairman of China Bee Products Association (CBPA), Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. “Billion Tree Honey Initiative launched by PM Imran Khan last Monday will be an available and workable project to alleviate poverty and develop the bee products sector.

Also, it will lead to broad prospects of Pak-China cooperation in this field,” Yang Rong said. Rich natural and human resources have equipped Pakistan favorable conditions to develop the bee products industry.

Most of Pakistan's land is subtropical, which provides a warm climate for vegetating nectariferous plants. "Meanwhile, mature agriculture and diverse fruit plantation also lay a foundation for industrial development," Yang analyzed.

He said, "development of the bee products sector, a typical labor-intensive industry, will effectively alleviate local poverty in Pakistan. Actually, this method has made fruitful achievements in China. A lot of Chinese local governments have chosen developing apiculture since 2013 and successfully solved poverty even led the regions to prosperity. Considering the problems of employment and rural revitalization, the mature experiences of China are also suitable for Pakistan."

The apiculture in Pakistan is facing the challenges of pest and obsolete technology which can be solved under Pak-China cooperation.

"Bee mite has been reckoned as one of the biggest menaces of Pakistani agriculture. From 1908 to 1979, Pakistan tried to import bees and develop apiculture 17 times, but all of those attempts failed due to bee mite.

Yang said, "Nowadays, through scientific breeding, drug treatment, and the most advanced physical treatment, Chinese beekeepers have controlled it very well and at a world leading level. We can share all of those techniques with Pakistan to improve its apiculture." "Under CPEC agriculture cooperation, we'd love to share other experiences and techniques with our iron brother as well, such as scale development of apiculture, vegetating nectariferous plants, scientific payoffs, bee species breeding and so on," Yang added.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-cooperation-in-bee-products-sector-enjoys-broad-prospects-cbpa/>

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Business Recorder

China, Pakistan resolute to promote CPEC construction: Zhao Lijian

BEIJING: The prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are bright as both China and Pakistan are resolute in pushing forward its construction, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday.

He made the remarks at his regular briefing when asked to comment on a report that China would gradually end its financial support of Pakistan pledged under CPEC.

"Such reports are groundless," Zhao said, adding as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had maintained positive development momentum since 2013.

He remarked that after COVID-19 broke out, the projects under the corridor showed no withdrawal of staff, and there was no jobs cut and no halt in construction.

Zhao Lijian said the batch of major projects were completed, handed over or became operational, offering a strong support to Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19 and economic recovery. “My colleagues have talked about this as well.”

He said last Friday, the CPEC International Coordination Cooperation Working Group’s second meeting was held in Xinjiang.

During the meeting, “the two sides reiterated their consensus to implement our leaders’ agreement and make sure the corridor will focus more on industry, agriculture, science and technology and livelihood besides focusing more on underdeveloped region. So, it will become a high quality demonstration project under the BRI.”

He said that other working group meetings would be held to prepare for the joint cooperation working meeting.

The spokesperson said China and Pakistan were firmly resolved to advance progress under CPEC which had bright prospect.

He stressed that against the global economic recession, China’s input in the BRI, including CPEC, had not reduced but rather increased against the odds.

“Over the first three quarters, China’s direct financial investment in BRI countries increased by around 30%, offering China’s support to many BRI partner countries in their effort to fight the epidemic and recover their economy,” he added.

Zhao Lijian also termed the certain media reports groundless which suggested that China was seeking additional guarantees from the Pakistani Government for releasing additional funds for ML1 project.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/29/2-page/863275-news.html>

Daily Times

China to further open its doors for Pakistan: envoy

Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong on Monday said that his country will steadfastly expand opening up and explore more opportunities for Pakistan in the next 5 years.

Addressing the virtual Sixth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Media Forum, the ambassador said as a pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation, CPEC plays a significant role in promoting the in-depth development of the all-weather strategic bilateral cooperative partnership. He said CPEC has been highly valued and sincerely safeguarded by all sectors of society in China and Pakistan as it meets the people’s aspiration, wins hearts and promotes livelihood.

H said China will uphold the concept of openness, cooperation, and solidarity and win-win spirit to help Pakistan achieve its development. “We appreciate the efforts of Pakistan’s government to build ‘Naya Pakistan’, and will deepen exchanges with Pakistan on governance, share experience

in poverty alleviation and reduction, help Pakistan develop industrial manufacturing, attract more foreign investment, promote the alignment of development strategies between the two countries, and work together to build a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era,” he added.

The ambassador said media as the expositor, promoter and disseminator of CPEC, plays a unique and important role. “In recent years, China and Pakistan have created a series of mechanisms and platforms for cultural and media cooperation. Under the framework of the Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC, a joint working group on international cooperation and coordination has been set up to encourage the media and think tanks of the two countries to strengthen cooperation and provide intellectual support for the construction of CPEC,” he said. “Since its inception in 2015, CPEC Media Forum has brought together the governments, business communities, media, think tanks and other sectors of China and Pakistan to focus on the construction of the CPEC, tell stories of China-Pakistan cooperation, and spread the spirit of mutual support, openness, equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, making important contribution to promoting the heart to heart exchanges of the two peoples and economic and social development of China and Pakistan,” he added.

He said in the next five years, China will promote the high-quality development of BRI and advance CPEC projects with high standards. “As an important pilot project of BRI, CPEC should seize the opportunity to take the lead in achieving high-quality development and benefit more from the new development pattern of the ‘Dual Circulations’,” he said. “Based on successful construction and operation of existing projects, we will tilt resources towards industry, agriculture, science and technology, and people’s livelihood, so that the achievements of CPEC will benefit more ordinary people in Pakistan,” he added.

Addressing the forum, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said, “The second phase of CPEC is set to boost China-Pakistan cooperation in agriculture and industrialization through the establishment of special economic zones. The zones will play a pilot role in Pakistan’s fight against poverty.” He thanked China for sharing its experience of development with Pakistan. “Media has played a very important role in publicity of facts on CPEC which has resulted in CPEC becoming a household name in Pakistan,” he added.

Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said it is imperative that media organizations and opinion makers of two countries devise a dispassionate, concerted and sustained media strategy to expose ill intentions of adversaries and highlight the success and significance of CPEC. “No media strategy is successful without stirring hearts of our peoples to the symphony of friendship. The media houses of Pakistan and China should undertake a fair and objective assessment of BRI and highlight its universal legitimacy and success,” he added.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, emphasized the resilience of CPEC despite the Covid-19. CPEC has been on track in this difficult year and nobody has been laid off, he added.

Zheng Qingdong, President and Editor-in-Chief of Economic Daily, said that since the outbreak of Covid-19, media practitioners from both China and Pakistan have been in the frontline of reporting the latest developments of the epidemic, spreading knowledge on epidemic prevention and control, and writing touching stories of cooperation to convey confidence and hope to the two countries and the international community. “As CPEC is entering a new phase of high-quality development, we hold that media is playing an irreplaceable role, and there is a broad space for media cooperation between the two countries,” he said.

Senator Azam Khan Swati, Federal Minister for Railways, highlighted the importance of ML-1 project of CPEC and its importance for Pakistan, its industries and the economy.

An award ceremony of the third “CPEC Golden Anchor Award” was also held at the end of the forum. Totally seven media staff were awarded the prizes for their contributions in strengthening CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship in the extraordinary times.

After six years of development, the forum has now grown into an indispensable exchange platform for the Chinese and Pakistani media with the biggest influence and most remarkable achievements.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/707106/china-to-further-open-its-doors-for-pakistan-envoy/>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pakistan resolute in building up CPEC

Beijing: China and Pakistan are resolute in pushing forward the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the prospects of the CPEC are bright, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

Spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a press briefing when asked to comment on a report that China will gradually end its financial support of Pakistan pledged under the CPEC. “Such reports are groundless,” said Zhao, adding that as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has maintained positive development momentum since 2013.

Zhao said that since the outbreak of Covid-19, CPEC projects have insisted on not evacuating people, not laying off workers, and not stopping construction.

A number of key projects have been completed or inaugurated and have provided strong support for Pakistan to fight the pandemic and stabilize its economy, said Zhao.

The CPEC international coordination and cooperation working group held its second meeting last Friday, he said. Zhao noted that during the meeting, China and Pakistan reiterated their commitment to implementing the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and agreed to promote CPEC cooperation in areas such as industry, agriculture, science and technology, and people's livelihoods.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-resolute-in-building-up-cpec/>

The Nation

CPEC now a household word in Pakistan: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD - Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor had become a household word in Pakistan.

Speaking at the sixth CPEC Media Forum here, Sanjrani said that CPEC had achieved significant milestones through joint efforts of the governments, enterprises and peoples of both countries.

The forum was jointly organized by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and China Economic Net (CEN) in cooperation with the embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan.

Sanjrani said the first phase of CPEC, which focused on energy and infrastructure projects met its successful completion and now the second phase was set to boost Pak-China cooperation in agriculture and initiate an era of industrialization through the establishment of special economic zones.

Commending the role of the media, he said that it had played a very important role in the dissemination of facts on CPEC which had resulted in CPEC becoming a household name in Pakistan. Through events like the CPEC media forum, both countries get an excellent opportunity to consolidate the existing all-weather friendship.

The Senate chairman also highlighted Pakistan's medical and moral support to China during its fight against the pandemic. Moreover, he said that the Senate passed a resolution that acknowledged China's robust measures to deal with corona virus and commended their efforts to make Pakistani there, mainly students in Wuhan, feel at home during this critical time.

It is evident from the documentary "CPEC Cooperation during COVID-19" made by PCI, that CPEC remained resilient even during a global pandemic and progressed ahead.

"As China-Pakistan cooperation proceeds to a greater depth, the Senate of Pakistan shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to the media of both countries to develop greater understanding and cooperation on the issues of common interests. The 10th Joint Cooperation Committee on CPEC will be held soon," he announced.

CPEC played major role in further promoting Pak-China friendship: Nong Rong

Zheng Qingdong, President and Editor-in-Chief of Economic Daily, and Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute, gave the welcome addresses. Zheng highlighted the importance of the CPEC media forum and said that since its launch, it had contributed a lot towards building a positive public opinion on CPEC.

He said that in the face of the complex international environment, the media of China and Pakistan should take joint actions and form synergies in firmly opposing the negative propaganda against CPEC. Moreover, he said that the year 2021 would be the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations which would be celebrated with zeal and zest in both countries.

In his address Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan Cooperation, the CPEC played a significant role to promote the in-depth development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and high-quality growth of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He said that high level and quality participation in the CPEC media forum was the testimony to the fact that CPEC had been highly valued in Pakistan. Since its inception in 2015, CPEC Media Forum had brought together the governments, business communities, media, think tanks, and other sectors of China and Pakistan to focus on the construction of the CPEC, he added.

Commenting on a recently held meeting of the Joint Working Group on international coordination on CPEC, the Chinese envoy said that China would strengthen coordination with academia and think-tanks through CPEC. Since its launch, Pakistan had achieved fruitful results of CPEC cooperation.

Pakistan's ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haq said that in this digital age, the media was playing a pivotal role in bolstering the friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Pakistan and China. He said that media had rightly guided the public about the true significance of the CPEC project, which had resulted in creating a national consensus on CPEC.

Moreover, he said, Pakistan was the biggest proponent of BRI and endorsed Chinese President Xi's philosophy of shared future and prosperity. Tian Yuhong, Executive Secretary of the All-China Journalists Association, said that CPEC was a symbol of attachment between Pakistan and China and even a global pandemic like COVID-19 could not stop the progress of projects under its umbrella.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, commended the resilience of CPEC which progressed with full speed and vigour during COVID-19. He said that not a single Pakistani working on CPEC sites was laid off. While commenting on the recently held meeting on Joint Working Group on international coordination, he said that there would be an increased focus on media and think-tank collaboration to take CPEC forward.

The meeting also welcomed third party participation in CPEC. Moreover, he highlighted three objectives of conducting CPEC media forum. Firstly, it was aimed to promote and strengthen the all-weather strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. "CPEC is part of BRI which is the biggest developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st Century." Secondly, it aimed to counter the propaganda against CPEC with facts. This type of media cooperation will create synergies and energise both sides to come up with facts needed to shape positive public opinion on CPEC, he added. Thirdly, it aims to highlight CPEC developments to the media and the general public. In this way, the forum was acting as a 'Force Multiplier' in taking this friendship forward.

NI Siyi, Deputy Director Office of Editor-in chief, Xinhua News Agency, said that since the launch of CPEC, there had been close cooperation between the media houses of both countries.

When Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China in October 2019, INP and Xinhua news signed an agreement to take this cooperation to next level. He called for airing more stories on CPEC which evoke people's engagement. Moreover, he said that the media of both countries needed to highlight the importance of the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations in 2021.

Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, gave a very comprehensive presentation on CPEC phase two. He said that CPEC was a multilayered project. In the first phase which ended in 2020, the focus was on improving infrastructure and solving the issue of energy. In the second phase which would end in 2025, processing and manufacturing industries would be developed and efforts would be made to ensure improvement in people's livelihoods and balancing regional economic development.

Zhao Qiao, Director Department of Urdu, Asian and African Center, China Media Group said that the media of both countries fought misinformation regarding Pakistani students in Wuhan during COVID-19 by interviewing them and communicating the true perspective. She called for enhanced media ties between two brotherly countries and said that steps should be taken at the government level to increase people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China.

Senator Azam Khan Swati, Federal Minister for Railways, highlighted the importance of the ML-1 project and said it would transform the socio-economic fate of Pakistan and the whole region by giving a boost to connectivity. This project, he said, would create employment opportunities for the locals and improve the logistics infrastructure in the country.

Mudassir Tipu Director-General (China), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, termed CPEC as a transformational and consensus-oriented project. He said that COVID-19 cooperation between Pakistan and China had been exemplary.

The CPEC Media Forum is conducted as an annual event in Beijing and Islamabad in alternate years. Due to COVID-19, this year's forum was held virtually and was themed 'Post-epidemic China-Pakistan Media Cooperation.'

The Forum conducted in-depth exchanges and discussions on topics including the opportunities for digital media, media as an engine for the high-quality development of CPEC, and China-Pakistan media cooperation. It was moderated by Zoon Ahmed Khan, anchor of China Economic Net. Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani was the Chief Guest.

After speeches, an award giving ceremony was held in which seven journalists were conferred with 'CPEC Communication Award.' Those seven journalists were Muhammad Asghar, correspondent of Associated Press of Pakistan in Beijing; Naveed Hussain, Editor (Print & Digital) Express Tribune; Shafqat Ali, Special correspondent of The Nation; Liu Chang, Journalist of China Media Group Pakistan Bureau; Tariq Sumair, Editor of INP; Amir Ghauri, Editor of The News; and Sultan Hali, Columnist, writer, and author of book on China.

<https://nation.com.pk/29-Dec-2020/cpec-now-a-household-word-in-pakistan-sanjrani>

The Nation's staffer wins CPEC Golden Anchor Award

ISLAMABAD - Shafqat Ali, Special Correspondent of The Nation, was presented the 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Golden Anchor Award' on Monday.

The award was presented at the sixth CPEC Media Forum here.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Golden Anchor Award, initiated by China Economic Net, was officially launched in September 2018.

The CPEC Media Forum conducted in-depth exchanges and discussions on topics including the opportunities for digital media, media as an engine for the high-quality development of CPEC, and China-Pakistan media cooperation.

The CPEC is an all-inclusive project that involves multiple stakeholders which has made it the topic of discussion around the globe. The CPEC Portal is facilitating media groups explore greater potential by establishing media collaboration between China and Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/29-Dec-2020/the-nation-s-staffer-wins-cpec-golden-anchor-award>

The News

'2nd phase of CPEC to initiate industrialisation'

ISLAMABAD: Experts from diverse fields on Monday noted that the second phase of the CPEC is set to boost Pak-China cooperation in agriculture and initiate an era of industrialization through establishment of Special Economic Zones.

They spoke here at the 6th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum. The forum was jointly organized by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and China Economic Net (CEN) in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan. It is conducted as an annual event in Beijing and Islamabad in alternate years. Due to COVID-19, this year's forum was held virtually and was themed "Post-epidemic China-Pakistan Media Cooperation".

The forum conducted discussions on topics including opportunities for digital media, media as an engine for the high-quality development of the CPEC and China-Pakistan media cooperation. It was moderated by an anchor of the China Economic Net. Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani was the chief guest. The forum was addressed by Railways minister, deputy chairman Planning Commission plus ambassadors of both the countries.

Zheng Qingdong, president and editor-in-chief of Economic Daily, and Mustafa Hyder Syed, executive director, Pakistan-China Institute, delivered the welcome addresses. Zheng highlighted the importance of the CPEC media forum and said since its launch, it has contributed a lot towards building a positive public opinion on the CPEC. He said that in the face of the complex international environment, the media of China and Pakistan should take joint actions and form synergies in firmly opposing the negative propaganda against the CPEC. Moreover, he said the year 2021 will be the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations, which will be celebrated with zeal in both the countries.

Mustafa Hyder Syed said the Pakistan-China Institute in collaboration with the China Economic Net launched the CPEC media forum as an online event and it is held in Beijing and Islamabad in alternate years. Last year, the Pakistan-China Institute launched the Rapid Response Information Network (RRIN) which identifies fake news on the CPEC and deconstructs them with facts. Moreover, the PCI has launched a monograph titled “CPEC: Facts Vs Fiction”. Mustafa informed the audience that the Pakistan-China Institute will be publishing “The Governance of China”, Part 2 and Part 3 in Urdu, which are authored by President Xi Jinping.

Sadiq Sanjrani, chairman Senate, in his keynote speech said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved significant milestones through joint efforts of the governments, enterprises and people of both countries. The first phase of the CPEC, which focused on energy and infrastructure projects met its successful completion and now the second phase is set to boost Pak-China cooperation in agriculture and initiate an era of industrialization through establishment of Special Economic Zones.

He commended the role of the media and said it has played a very important role in the dissemination of facts on the CPEC, which has resulted in the CPEC becoming a household name in Pakistan. Through events like the CPEC media forum, both the countries get an excellent opportunity to consolidate the existing all-weather friendship. He highlighted Pakistan’s medical and moral support to China during its fight against the corona pandemic.

Moreover, he said the Senate passed a resolution that acknowledged China’s robust measures to deal with coronavirus and commended their efforts to make Pakistani there, mainly students in Wuhan, feel at home during this critical time. It is evident from the documentary “CPEC Cooperation during COVID-19” made by the PCI that the CPEC remained resilient even during a global pandemic and progressed ahead. As the China-Pakistan cooperation proceeds to a greater depth, the Senate of Pakistan shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to the media of both the countries to develop greater understanding and cooperation on the issues of common interests. The 10th JCC on the CPEC will be held soon, he announced.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation, the CPEC plays a significant role to promote in-depth development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and high-quality growth of the Belt and Road Initiative. He said the high level and quality participation in the CPEC media forum is the testimony to the fact that the CPEC has been highly valued in Pakistan. Since its inception in 2015, the CPEC Media Forum has brought together the governments, business communities, media, think tanks and other sectors of China and Pakistan to focus on the construction of the CPEC.

Commenting on a recently held meeting of the Joint Working Group on international coordination on the CPEC, he said China would strengthen coordination with academia and think-tanks through CPEC. Since its launch, Pakistan has achieved fruitful results of CPEC cooperation. After the successful completion of CPEC Phase 1, which focussed on energy and infrastructure, the second phase would focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture, science,

technology and improving the livelihoods of people. Moreover, he highlighted the prospects of CPFTA-II and said it would solve the issue of trade imbalance between Pakistan and China.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haq said that in this digital age, the media is playing a pivotal role in bolstering the friendship and solidarity between the people of Pakistan and China. He said the media has rightly guided the public about the true significance of CPEC projects, which has resulted in creating a national consensus on the CPEC. Moreover, he said Pakistan is the biggest proponent of the BRI and endorses President Xi's philosophy of shared future and prosperity.

He concluded by saying that Pakistan and China need to strengthen media cooperation by screening more films in China just like 'Parwaaz hai Junoon', which was the first Pakistani film screened in China in the last 45 years. He said the JWG on International Cooperation was held in Urumqi on December 26, which agreed to broaden the CPEC by inviting third country participation.

Tian Yuhong, executive secretary of the All-China Journalists Association, said the CPEC is a symbol of attachment between Pakistan and China and even a global pandemic like COVID-19 could not stop the progress of projects under its umbrella. He said news exchange and cooperation is an important factor to promote the healthy development of bilateral relations and smooth implementation of CPEC projects. Under the BRI framework, the All-China Journalists Association has established close cooperative relations with several journalist organizations, including the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, All Pakistan Journalists Association and All Pakistan Newspapers Society. Moreover, he said that in the face of COVID-19, the common enemy of mankind, the media of China and Pakistan helped each other with a common mission.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, commended the resilience of the CPEC which progressed with full speed and vigour during COVID-19. He said not a single Pakistani working on CPEC sites was laid off. Commenting on a recently-held meeting of the Joint Working Group on international coordination, he said there will be an enhanced focus on media and think tank collaboration to take the CPEC forward. The meeting also welcomed third party participation in the CPEC.

He highlighted three objectives of conducting the CPEC media forum. Firstly, it is aimed to promote the all-weather strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. The CPEC is part of the BRI which is the biggest developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st Century. Secondly, it aims to counter the propaganda against the CPEC with facts. This type of media cooperation will create synergies and energize both sides to come up with facts needed to shape positive public opinion on the CPEC. Thirdly, it aims to highlight CPEC developments to the media and the general public. In this way, the forum is acting as a "Force Multiplier" in taking this friendship forward.

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When Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China in October 2019, the INP and the Xinhua signed an agreement to take this cooperation to next level. He called for airing more stories on the CPEC to evoke people's engagement. Moreover, he said the media of both the countries need to highlight the importance of the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations in 2021.

Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, deputy chairman Planning Commission, gave a comprehensive presentation on CPEC Phase II. He said the CPEC is a multilayered project. In the first phase which ended in 2020, the focus was on improving infrastructure and solving the issue of energy. In the second phase which will end in 2025, processing and manufacturing industries will be developed and efforts will be made to ensure improvement in people's livelihoods and balancing regional economic development. In the third phase (2025-2030) also called the period of maturity, the indigenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth will be in place and the CPEC will be ready to play a leadership role in the region.

Ms Zhao Qiao, director, Department of Urdu, Asian and African Centre, China Media Group, said the media of both the countries fought misinformation regarding Pakistani students in Wuhan during COVID-19 by interviewing them and communicating the true perspective. She called for enhanced media ties between the two brotherly countries and said that steps should be taken at the governmental level to increase people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China.

Senator Azam Khan Swati, federal minister for Railways, highlighted the importance of the ML-1 project and said that it would transform the socio-economic fate of Pakistan and the whole region by giving a boost to connectivity. This project, he said, will create employment opportunities for the locals and improve the logistics infrastructure in the country. Moreover, he thanked China for standing by Pakistan through thick and thin and said that in the coming days, this cooperation would be diversified and made more comprehensive. He said ML-1 would cover 80% of Pakistani territory and 78% of the population of Pakistan.

Mudassir Tipu, director general, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, termed the CPEC a transformational and consensus-oriented project. He said the COVID-19 cooperation between Pakistan and China has been exemplary. He appreciated the Chinese Communist Party for extending full support to Pakistan during the pandemic. Moreover, he called for closer cooperation between the media of both the countries.

Aamir Ghauri, editor of The News, talked about the ways to respond to CPEC challenges and said the coverage of this grand project has seen significant since its launch. He briefed the participants about the importance of connectivity as a result of the CPEC. Moreover, he called for upgrading media ties between the two nations.

After the speeches, an award-giving ceremony was held in which seven journalists were conferred with "CPEC Communication Award". Those seven journalists were: Muhammad Asghar, correspondent of Associated Press of Pakistan in Beijing; Naveed Hussain, editor (Print & Digital) Express Tribune; Shafqat Ali, special correspondent of The Nation; Liu Chang,

journalist of China Media Group, Pakistan Bureau; Tariq Sumair, editor of INP; Aamir Ghauri, editor of The News; Sultan Hali, columnist, writer and author of a book on China.

At the end of the conference, there was a comprehensive question/answer session from the participants, which lasted for over 15 minutes. The CPEC Media Forum has a huge online participation of over 300,000 people in Pakistan and China, including students and scholars, journalists, academics, policy-makers, think tanks and business and opinion leaders.

Meanwhile, a 12-member delegation led by Muhammad Ali Houmed, president of Djibouti National Parliament and acting chairman of the African Union, is arriving in Pakistan on Tuesday (today). The African Parliamentary delegation will be accompanied by the navel chief of Djibouti. The delegation is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of the chairman Senate and will have important meetings with the president of Pakistan, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the speaker National Assembly, the army chief, the navel chief and the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation will visit different areas of the country. Speaking in this regard, Sadiq Sanjrani said this visit is of utmost importance to strengthen the parliamentary relations between the Pakistan and African Parliament. He said Pakistan gives utmost priority to its ties with African countries and emphasised that parliamentary relations would pave the way for strong economic and trade corporation. He said there is need to increase parliamentary exchanges to steer the agenda of economic development in both the regions.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/766034-2nd-phase-of-cpec-to-initiate-industrialisation>

China to confer friendship award on Pakistani scientist

Islamabad: On the recommendation of Guangxi Normal University, the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, province of China has decided to honor Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary the 2020 Guangxi Golden Silkball Friendship Award for his outstanding contribution to the economic and social development of Guangxi.

The award comprises upon a Medal and RMB 100,000 bonus and the prize-awarding ceremony will be held in China in March 2021. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary is world renowned medicinal chemist. He has published 1,175 research papers in the fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry in international journals, 76 books and 40 chapters in books published by major US and European press.

He has secured 40 US patents so far. Dr. Iqbal's work has been cited by the researchers from around the world by 27,407 times and his h-index is 70. By now 94 national and international scholars have completed their PhD degrees under his supervision. Dr. Iqbal is D.Sc., Ph.D., and C. Chem. He has been awarded by different governments of Pakistan with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He has been elected fellow by world renowned science academies named Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Islamic World academy of Sciences, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Chemical Society of

Pakistan. Prof. Iqbal has been honored by the President of Iran with Khwarizmi International Award, President of Azerbaijan, with ECO Award in Education and the Prime Minister of Pakistan with Comstech Award in Chemistry.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/765950-china-to-confer-friendship-award-on-pakistani-scientist>

Express News

چینی وزارت خارجہ نے سی پیک پر بھارتی میڈیا کی پروپیگنڈا رپورٹ مسترد کر دی

گزشتہ روز چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان چاؤلی نے حالیہ دنوں میں سی پیک سے متعلق بھارتی میڈیا میں چلنے والی رپورٹ کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبے مثبت طور پر آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں۔

کورونائرس کی عالمی وبا کے باوجود سی پیک کے تحت متعدد اہم منصوبوں پر نمایاں پیش رفت ہوئی ہے جو پاکستان میں اقتصادی استحکام کے ساتھ ساتھ اس وبا کے پھیلاؤ پر قابو پانے اور تدارک کے لیے بھی بھرپور طور پر معاون ثابت ہو رہی ہے۔

سی پیک کے خلاف بھارتی مٹا صحت

سی پیک، ایم ایل ون منصوبہ اور پاکستانی ترقی کا تیز رفتار سفر

گوادر بندرگاہ کے سی پیک میں اہم کردار کے حامی ہیں، چین

سی پیک سے پاکستان عالمی ویلیو چین میں داخل ہو گا، عاصم باجوہ

چین نے سی پیک پر تیزی سے کام کیلئے پاکستان کا شکریہ ادا کیا ہے، عاصم باجوہ

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے بارے میں چین اور پاکستان کے غیر متزلزل عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے چاؤلی نے پر زور الفاظ میں کہا کہ سی پیک کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے چین اور پاکستان کا عزیمت ہے؛ اور سی پیک کا مستقبل روشن ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ عالمی اقتصادی کساد بازاری کے باوجود سی پیک سمیت ”دی ہیلٹ اینڈ روڈ“ پر چینی سرمایہ کاری میں کمی کے بجائے اضافہ ہوا ہے اور چین نے اس سے وابستہ ممالک کو اپنی صلاحیت کے مطابق مدد و معاونت فراہم کی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2123402/10/>

December 30, 2020

Business Recorder

2nd phase of CPEC: Chinese envoy lists sectors of prime focus

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong Tuesday said the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would focus on industrialisation, agriculture, socioeconomic and scientific and technological sectors.

The Chinese ambassador expressed these views in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser at the Parliament House on Tuesday.

He said that completion of the 1st phase of the CPEC would open new avenues of development for the people of the region.

He informed that with the start of 2nd phase of the CPEC, socioeconomic, industrialization, agriculture and scientific and technological sectors would be focused. He added that the completion of the CPEC would change the destiny of the region and would unleash a new era of Pak-China relations.

He informed the speaker that time and date for holding virtual conference would be coordinated mutually with the National Assembly Secretariat.

Ambassador Nong Kong said that relations between the two countries were exceptional and were gaining strength with the passage of time.

He said that cooperation between China and Pakistan was a clear depiction of the commitment of leadership of both the countries towards each other.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said that completion of the CPEC would help Pakistan to achieve its economic and industrial goals besides extending the benefits of it to the region.

He said that the present government was committed to take that exemplary relation to new heights.

Talking to the ambassador, the speaker said that the relations between the two countries were based on regional development, mutual trust, trade and economic cooperation.

He added that the cooperation between both the countries was rapidly expanding, thus, it could confidently count on Chinese support at international and regional forums.

He underlined the need for cementing parliamentary contacts for further cementing those ties. He agreed with the proposal for holding a virtual meeting with chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress on the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. While discussing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the speaker said it would significantly contribute not only in bringing socio-economic development in Pakistan but its benefits could be extended to the region.

He said that Parliament stands with the CPEC, therefore, a series of seminars had been arranged to mobilise stakeholders, intelligentsia and other segments of society to increase effectiveness of the project.

He said that commitment of political leadership in Pakistan would make the CPEC a novel model of cooperation.

Referring to the Rashakai Special Economic Zone project, the speaker said that it would prove to be a milestone in the industrial development of the country especially the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The speaker informed that apart from Parliamentary Committee on the CEPC, another Special Committee had been constituted to oversee the early completion of Chashma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway, Chakdara-Chitral Road (Dir Expressway) and other CEPC projects.

He said that the prime minister was on board on all the parliamentary initiatives who had directed all the concerned quarters to extend maximum support to the Parliament in realising the goals.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/30/1-page/863397-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC under the spotlight

One thing some countries in the region and some far away, really liked about the pandemic was that it suddenly created chances of derailing the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in their opinion. Once credit markets dried they thought it was only natural for such large funding to cease as well, at least for a while, and not just because China was believed to be the epicenter of the virus; something that new evidence now seems to contradict. Yet the Chinese remained resolute in their commitment to the project, which is in effect the flagship program of Beijing's revolutionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). And Pakistan hasn't even noticed the slightest glitch in the progress of the mega project so far.

Now that such reports have surfaced once again in the Indian media, the Chinese foreign ministry has stepped into the debate to kill all sorts of rumors, which in itself shows how high CPEC is on the priority list in the Middle Kingdom. Talking about CEPC, their spokesman said, "Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, there is no stop of the construction, no job cut and no withdrawal of workforce." In fact, he went on to clarify, China's input in the BRI, including CPEC, has increased despite the global recession.

One very important lesson that Pakistan can learn from its all-weather friend China is the importance of planning for the long term. They plan well into the future, and then get down to the job of putting all the blocks in place one by one no matter how long it takes. And CPEC is no doubt a godsend for Pakistan. For if it hadn't been for this project there is no way that this country's rotting infrastructure could have got such a quick and thorough face-lift. Both Islamabad and New Delhi are of course very well aware of just which countries' interest it is in

to act against this project. Washington has been dead against BRI right from the beginning because anything that cements China's rise in the region and in the world is anathema to the United States. And everybody knows that America's number-one henchman in the region is now India that is why it has been placed at the centre of the Pivot to Asia policy and showered with rare gifts such as the nuclear power deal. But so far all their efforts to hurt CPEC have failed very badly.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/707418/cpec-under-the-spotlight/>

Tourism exchanges to help promote Pakistan-China cooperation

Tourism is a good medium that can promote cultural exchanges and pass on the friendship between China and Pakistan from generation to generation, a researcher from China Tourism Academy (CTA) said.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Yang Jinsong, and Director of the Institute of International Studies at CTA said that China-Pakistan exchanges in the tourism industry are in their infancy. Pakistan became a destination country for Chinese group tourists since 2003. In 2015, there were more than 50,000 Chinese tourists to Pakistan, which increased to more than 80,000 in 2019. While there were 155 million Chinese outbound tourists in 2019, so the digital divide is still very large. "In the future, we hope to promote mutual understanding and tourism exchanges between the two countries through traditional media, social media and other platforms."

Touching on Chinese tourists' demand for Pakistan, Yang said, Pakistan has abundant tourism resources, but Chinese tourists cannot get access to that information. First, Pakistan should do more publicity about their tourist industry. Second, as people are increasingly concerned about safety and health due to the COVID-19 epidemic, how to ensure the safety of tourists is a very important issue. Third, we hope Pakistan will learn more about the consumption habits of Chinese tourists. For example, Chinese tourists like to buy special commodities and souvenirs during their journeys. If a destination country can study the purchasing habits of tourists in depth, it will definitely promote the development of local tourism.

In terms of travel facilitation, Yang said, "If the visa processing can be simplified, shuttle flights can be increased and 5G network coverage can be improved, I believe the Chinese tourists will be more willing to visit Pakistan."

Regarding CTA's medium and long-term plans to promote China-Pakistan tourist exchanges, Yang said that in the future, it will establish a linkage and cooperation mechanism with other ministries towards tourism. As the data center of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the academy is currently conducting country studies and hopes to carry out more cooperation with Pakistan in data exchange. CTA has rich experience in research report seminars and tourism training, which can be shared with Pakistan.

In terms of learning from China's tourism development experience, Yang said that each country has its own national conditions and sometimes cannot directly copy other countries' experience.

But some of China's successful experience can help Pakistan avoid hiccups, for example, we can provide a reference for Pakistan in scenic spot construction and market order regulation.

At present, China's domestic tourism is recovering at an accelerating pace, we can also offer Pakistan some experience in epidemic prevention and control and resumption of work and production. According to a recent report of Gwadar Pro, Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China visited CTA in mid-December. Yang described Haque's visit as an opportunity and a starting point to promote the development of Pakistani tourist industry and spur on China-Pakistan cultural and tourist cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/707473/tourism-exchanges-to-help-promote-pakistan-china-cooperation/>

Dawn News

Supply chains choke as container shortage persisted

KARACHI: as economies around the world emerge from the Covid lockdowns, a new challenge has tripped up supply chains everywhere. A dire shortage of shipping containers in some countries matched by an oversupply in others has created awkward bottlenecks all over the globe, with Pakistan hit particularly hard.

“There is a material shortage of containers, and it will take us till March to sort it out,” said Mohammed Raj par, Chairman of the Pakistan Ship's Agents Association. “The crunch began back in September but has shown no signs of abating,” he added.

As shipping lines around the world came to a halt, some countries were left with a surplus of containers and others with a deficit as vessels were laid off at the nearest ports where they could be stowed safely at the lowest cost. Getting global shipping lines to restart is proving more challenging than what was imagined at first.

In the meanwhile, costs of freight have skyrocketed, in some cases forcing importers to cancel certain orders. Exporters are also hard hit by the crisis.

Growing demand driving up shipping costs

“Freight rates have gone up by two to four times and in some cases as much as 8 to 10 times,” Raj par told Dawn. “We used to be able to send cargo to China for \$400-\$500 which now costs \$4,000. Cargoes to US used to go for \$2,500 and they have gone to \$4,000-\$5,000” he said. Although, he adds, rates can vary depending on volumes.

Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers Chairman Abdul Rehman Aizaz said sea freight charges from Far East and China has swelled to \$2,500 per 20ft container in the last few months from \$500 in just four months.

He said due to lockdown in Europe and North America, return of containers to China and other Far Eastern countries were getting delayed resulting in shortages and price hike.

In Pakistan, he said, containers from Far East and China used to arrive in 19 to 24 days, but now they are facing a delay of seven to 15 days. “This delay and port congestion situation at various ports may exist till February 2021 in view of the gravity of the situation at the foreign ports,” he said.

Indus Motor Company CEO Ali Asghar Jamali has a similar story. “Due to congestion at international ports and supply chain issues, we are facing a delay of 15-21 days in getting raw material, parts and accessories for local assembly of vehicles from various foreign destinations,” he told Dawn.

Some industries are less affected because their imports arrive in special purpose vehicles that always return empty in any case. Examples are soya bean or coal. The cement industry, for example, imports coal but relies on containers for export of cement. Coal imports have been impacted by port congestion, but cement makers told Dawn that the shortage of containers has hit their industry as well.

Council of Textile Association Chairman Zubair Motiwalla said freight charges from China and other countries have risen to \$3,200-3,400 per 20ft container from \$700-800 from a few months ago.

He said various Chinese ports were stuck and containers were unavailable while the ports in the USA especially ports in America were facing congestion due to overflow of containers.

He added that “both China and the USA have geared up efforts to resolve supply chain issues triggered by port congestion but I think this will take another month to resolve.”

Association of Pakistan Motorcycle Assemblers Chairman Mohammad Sabir Sheikh anticipated raw material crisis in March and April if the supply chain issue led by shipping crisis was not resolved. He said export destinations were short of containers and while import destinations were flushed with empty containers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1598612>

Pakistan Observer

Firm assurances from China

REACTING to a report about the possibility of China gradually ending its financial support to Pakistan pledged under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry categorically stated on Monday that the two countries are resolute in pushing forward the CPEC and the prospects of the Corridor are bright. He termed such reports as groundless and pointed out that all projects are progressing ahead despite challenges.

This is a welcome assurance which speaks volumes about the commitment of Beijing to pursue the CPEC with original vigor that has resulted into fast-tracked completion of a number of projects. It is a reality that the world over projects and development programmers were either abandoned altogether or shelved for the time being due to the situation arising out of Covid-19

but there was no halt of work on any CPEC-related projects. There was also no cut in staff on these projects, which was a reflection of the fact that their implementation continued unhindered due to flow of resources by China. Incidentally, speakers at the 6th CPEC Media Forum, organized jointly by the Pakistan-China Institute and China Economic Net in cooperation with the Embassy of China, also noted negative propaganda being churned out by some vested interests against the gigantic initiative (which is part of BRI) emphasizing the need for joint actions to counter venomous propaganda. They pointed out that contrary to the propaganda about lack of interest; the two countries have embarked upon the second phase of CPEC that aims at industrialization of Pakistan. The Pakistan Government is also working hard to remove hurdles in the way of implementation and in a latest development Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired a meeting to review progress on ML-I, which is the largest project under the CPEC. Pakistan cannot afford slackness as CPEC is instrumental in accelerating the pace of socio-economic development of the entire country especially backward regions.

<https://pakobserver.net/firm-assurances-from-china/>

The Nation

Pakistan to achieve economic goals through CPEC completion: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD - Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser yesterday said completion of CPEC would help Pakistan to achieve its economic and industrial goals, besides extending benefits of the Corridor to region.

“Pakistan is proud of its decades-old all-weather unique friendship and strategic partnership with China and present government is committed to take that exemplary relation to new heights,” said National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong.

He said that completion of CPEC would help Pakistan to achieve its economic and industrial goals, besides extending the benefits of CPEC to the region. Talking to ambassador, the speaker said China and Pakistan have cherished vibrant, friendly relations spreading over decades. He said that those ties were based on regional development, mutual trust, trade and economic cooperation.

He added that cooperation between both countries was rapidly expanding, thus it could confidently count on Chinese support at international and regional forums. He underlined the need for cementing parliamentary contacts for further strengthening those ties. He agreed with the proposal for holding a virtual meeting with chairman of the Chinese National People’s Congress on the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China Diplomatic relations.

While discussing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Speaker said CPEC was a game changer for both the countries and the whole region. He said that it would significantly contribute not only in bringing socio-economic development in Pakistan but its benefits could be extended to the region. He said that Parliament out rightly stands with the CPEC, therefore a series of seminars had been arranged to mobilize stakeholders, intelligentsia and other segments

of society to increase effectiveness to the project. He said that commitment of political leadership in Pakistan would make CPEC a novel model of cooperation.

Referring to the Rashakai Special Economic Zone project, the Speaker said that it will prove a milestone in the industrial development of the country especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Speaker informed that apart from Parliamentary Committee on CEPC, another Special Committee had been constituted to oversee the early completion of Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar-D.I. Khan Motorway, Chakdara-Chitral Road (Dir Expressway) and other CEPC projects.

He said that Prime Minister was on board on all the Parliamentary Initiatives who had directed all the concerned quarters to extend maximum support to Parliament in realizing the goals.

Ambassador Nong Kong said that relations between two countries were exceptional and gaining strength with the passage of time. He said that cooperation between China and Pakistan was clear depiction of the commitment of leadership of both the countries towards each other.

The Ambassador said that completion of 1st phase of the CPEC would open new avenues of development for the people of the region. He informed that with the advent of 2nd Phase of the CPEC, socio-economic, industrialization, agriculture and scientific and technological sectors would be focused. He added that the completion of CPEC would change the destiny of the region and would unleash a new era of Pak-China relations. He informed the Speaker that time and date for holding Virtual conference would be coordinated mutually with between the National Assembly Secretariat.

<https://nation.com.pk/30-Dec-2020/pakistan-to-achieve-economic-goals-through-cpec-completion-qaiser>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان چین تجارت کے حجم میں 5 ماہ کے دوران 8 فیصد اضافہ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دو طرفہ تجارت کے حجم میں جاری مالی سال کے دوران گزشتہ مالی سال کی اسی مدت کے مقابلہ میں 8 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے، مالی سال کے پہلے پانچ ماہ میں چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات میں کمی جبکہ چین سے درآمدات میں اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے۔ سٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے مطابق جولائی سے لیکر نومبر 2020 تک کی مدت میں چین کو 615.73 ملین ڈالر مالیت کی برآمدات ریکارڈ کی گئی جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصہ کے مقابلہ میں 18.74 فیصد کم ہے، گزشتہ مالی سال کی اسی مدت میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 727.48 ملین ڈالر ریکارڈ کیا گیا تھا۔ نومبر 2020 میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 153.46 ملین ڈالر ریکارڈ کیا گیا، گزشتہ سال نومبر میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 141.11 ملین ڈالر رہا تھا۔ مالی سال 20-2019 میں چین کو پاکستان کی مجموعی برآمدات کا حجم 1.663 ارب ڈالر ریکارڈ کیا گیا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-12-30/page-6/detail-16>

December 31, 2020

Daily Times

China continues power transmission project in Pakistan despite Covid-19

China continued its support constructing power transmission line in Pakistan despite Covid-19, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

Affected by the pandemic this year, the domestic economy has been sluggish, and every industry has been attacked at varying degrees. In spite of this, the construction of domestic power transmission and transformation projects has made significant progress with the support of Chinese enterprises in 2020.

According to the report, after two years of preparing and constructing, the Matiari to Lahore ± 660 kV HVDC Transmission Line Project was completed in November. The project was expected to be completed in 2021, and its actual commissioning date is one year ahead of schedule.

Matiari to Lahore ± 660 kV HVDC Transmission Line Project was signed on 2018 May 14th and started constructing on December 1st of the same year. The project, with a capacity of 4 megawatts and an annual capacity of about 35 billion kilowatt-hours, fills a technical gap in Pakistan's HVDC sector and creates 5,000 – 7, 000 local jobs.

Besides the mega-project under CPEC frame, several crucial power transmission projects also have made progress. In October this year, China XD Group signed the DHABEJI 220kV transmission line project contract with K-Electric Limited. Under the project, a new overhead and buried cable line connecting the DHABEJI substations in Karachi will be built. The contract includes every step of construction such as design, survey, supply, civil engineering, construction, installation, and field testing.

On December 24, China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited (Energy China) signed the EPC contract for ADB-401A 500 kV double circuit power transmission Line project with NTDC. The project is a 500 kV transmission line from SK Hydropower Station to Neelum-Jhelum, with a total length of about 75 km, using a double loop and four split mode.

The power transmission project delivering electricity from SK hydropower station will further alleviate Pakistan's power shortage and boost local economic and social development. Apart from the lack of generating capacity, poor transmission systems are also reckoned as a major factor of domestic power shortage. Pakistan was hit by a massive power outage caused by a malfunction of electric transmission line on January 26, 2015, which is considered as one of the worst energy crises in Pakistan's history, affecting the capital Islamabad as well as a number of towns and villages in the provinces.

As the construction of transmission system under CPEC, the domestic power shortage has been relieved in the past 5 years, and new signed projects will also support Pakistan to cope with the power shortage in the future, the report added.

Meanwhile, Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong said the construction of CPEC has entered a new stage of high-quality development, which will continue to play an important role in pushing forward Pakistan's efforts to improve the socio-economic life of its people.

According to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN), he said, a large number of projects have been completed, bringing about more than \$25 billion direct investment to Pakistan. Prof Cheng added, "China and Pakistan have jointly overcome challenges and promoted CPEC's construction and have not withdrawn engineers working on CPEC projects nor laid off Pakistani workers since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Pakistan. Therefore, CPEC has made gratifying progress.

China and Pakistan will complete the projects under construction in time, create more jobs for Pakistanis, vigorously improve people's livelihood, strengthen cooperation in industrial parks construction, human resource training, poverty alleviation, medical and health care, agriculture and other fields, and continuously release the great potential of CPEC and realize common development and progress.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/708023/china-continues-power-transmission-project-in-pakistan-despite-covid-19/>

Dawn News

What's up in Gawadar?

Khurram Husain

SOMETIME around the first week of December, the residents of Gwadar woke up to find work taking place to build a large metal fence that would stretch from just north of the old airport and extend westward along a road known as the Balochistan Broadway Avenue. The total length of the fence would be 24 kilometers, and according to what the locals were able to gather, it is planned to extend in a straight line along the central divider of Broadway Avenue and then cut straight south to the sea. Along the way, it will cut two habitations of 30 to 40 houses into two parts, one part inside the fence and one outside.

The master plan for Gwadar includes three special zones, known as the Gwadar Port Free Zone (2,280 acres), GIEDA Industrial Zone (3,000 acres) and EPZA export processing zone (1,000 acres). As part of the infrastructure development programme for these three zones, a series of projects are envisioned, including construction of roads, utilities, warehouses and security. In the project description, fencing is given as one of the elements of the security plan.

But the strange thing is that the fence is being built nowhere near any of these three zones. Nobody seems to know who is building it since it does not feature in the provincial or federal development projects. Some press reports cite 'sources' saying it is being built at the behest of the Chinese, who are keeping a wary eye on the security situation in the region since three separate militant groups came under one umbrella in November 2018, and then went on to launch a series of assaults starting with the attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, followed

by the one on the Pakistan Stock Exchange building, and then a series of small ambushes on army and FC personnel in Kech, Turbat, Panjgur, Ormara, and so on.

However, it is not clear if the fence is indeed being built at the behest of the Chinese. Nowhere have the Chinese owned it themselves, and there is no public record of any Chinese demands for it, or references to it, in the recent past. But the following did happen.

At whose behest is this fence being built, and for what purpose?

Days after the construction of the fence was noted by locals, Senator Mir Kabir Mohammad Shahi of the National Party floated a sinister take at a press conference in Quetta. He said the fence is part of an attempt to separate Gwadar from Balochistan. He invoked memories of an older attempt under the Musharraf regime to bring Gwadar under the control of the federal government, reminded his audience of the federal government's attempt to seize the coastline and islands of Sindh and Balochistan via a presidential ordinance a few months ago, and said the fence will divide the city into two, with those who live on the outside requiring permits to be able to cross.

And then days after this press conference, an online news agency that calls itself the 'Independent News Pakistan' seemed to carry a response. Its report quoted the Gwadar Port Authority chairman describing the fence as "a long proposed desire that has come true now" that will enable "a transformation of Gwadar to become safer and more secure on modern age's demand". The report was carried by a number of Pakistani newspapers who treat the *INP* as a wire service.

That report aimed to distribute responsibility for the project widely, and locally. "In collaboration with the army, Makran Administration, Gwadar Development Authority, Gwadar Port Authority and Balochistan government, installation of iron fences will complete in phases," it said.

The same report quoted "a senior GDA official" whose words deserve to be scrutinized in full, so here they are reproduced exactly as they appeared in that *INP* report.

"Meanwhile, GDA senior official said that since Chinese people came here and exerted their energies to many assignments did not venture out to enjoy routine life in the streets and markets of Gwadar due to security issues. 'Recent terror attack at private hotel in Gwadar had further limited their foot movement,' he added. 'They deserve a normal life free from all sorts of threats. After rigorous work, they need to go for outing and cherishing marvelous walk at boisterous beaches of Gwadar. They must have an environment in which they dine outside enjoying and feasting their eyes on traditional Gwadar cuisines. They seek leisure time besides shopping spree with their families,' he added."

It is worthwhile to add that *INP* takes Chinese investments in Pakistan as a key focus and on its website claims "[t]he *INP* has bilateral news exchange arrangements with China's State-run News Agency *XINHUA* and *China Radio International (CRI)*".

The language of the *INP* report makes clear it has not been drafted by a Pakistani, and that it is a direct response to the concerns around the fence such as those of Senator Shahi. So let us ask one more time: at whose behest is this fence being built, and for what purpose?

In some places it is said that the fence is part of the Gwadar Smart Port Cities project. But nobody connected with that project has any inkling of it, neither the Makran Division bureaucracy, nor the GDA nor officials from relevant departments of the Balochistan government such as planning. These are the people tasked with implementing the smart port cities project, and thus far none of them seem to know anything about this fence.

I have long maintained that we in Pakistan don't have a clear idea of what exactly is being built in our country under the umbrella of CPEC. There are important gaps between what we are told is being built, and what we see coming up on the ground. The Balochistan Bar Association has filed a legal challenge before the Balochistan High Court in Quetta around the fence, and the first hearing will be held today. Let's hope this legal action can shine a light on what is going on.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1598832>

Pakistan Observer

Govt. to buy corona virus vaccine from China

Islamabad: In a major development, the government has decided to purchase corona virus vaccine from brotherly country China. It was decided during a meeting of the special committee on procurement of COVID-19 vaccine chaired by the Federal Minister for Planning and National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar in Islamabad today.

The meeting has decided to buy the corona virus vaccine from Chinese state-owned pharmaceutical company Sinopharm. Taking to the social networking website, Twitter, Asad Umar announced that the cabinet had given nod to procurement of more than one million corona virus doses which will cover all frontline health workers.

“Target is to deploy these vaccines within 1st quarter of 2021,” he added Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry, Minister of Industries and Production Hammad Azhar, Special Assistant on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan and others were present in the meeting.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-to-buy-coronavirus-vaccine-from-china/>

Express News

بھارت پاکستان اور چین کیخلاف جنگ نہیں جیت سکتا، بھارتی دفاعی ماہر

سابق بھارتی پولیس افسر، دفاعی ماہر این سی استھانہ نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ بھارت پاکستان یا چین سے جنگ جیتنے کی طاقت نہیں رکھتا۔

بھارت پاکستان اور چین کے خلاف نظریاتی اور اسٹریٹجک حوالے سے کنفیوژن کا شکار ہے، بھارت پاکستان یا چین سے جنگ جیتنے کی طاقت نہیں رکھتا، یہ انکشاف سابق بھارتی

پولیس افسر، دفاعی ماہر این سی استھانہ نے اپنی نئی کتاب میں کیا ہے، کتاب میں قومی سلامتی اور روایتی اسلحے کی دوڑ کے حوالے سے ایٹمی جنگ کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔

کتاب میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ایک طرف عسکری اہلکاروں کی میڈیا پر بیان بازی جاری ہے لیکن حقیقت یہ ہے کہ بھارت کسی بھی ملک کو فوجی لحاظ سے شکست نہیں دے سکتا،

ہتھیاروں پر خفیہ رقم خرچ کرنے کے بجائے بھارت اور پاکستان کو مضبوط بنا کر موجودہ سلامتی چیلنجوں کا حل تلاش کرنا چاہیے۔

لکھا کہ انتخابی فوائد کے لئے پاکستان سے دشمنی کا ناجائز فائدہ اٹھانا بھارتی قائدین کی عادت بن چکا، بھارتی سیاست دان عوام کو جنگ کیلئے آکسارہ ہیں جو کہ کسی طرح بھی خطے

کے لئے فائدہ مند نہیں، بھارت نے 2014 سے اب تک 5 سال میں اسلحہ کی درآمد پر 14 ارب ڈالر خرچ کیے، 36 رائل ٹیباروں کی نامعلوم قیمت اس میں شامل نہیں

ہے، پاکستان اور چین ایٹمی ہتھیاروں والے ممالک ہیں، ان کو میدان جنگ میں فیصلہ کن شکست نہیں دی جاسکتی۔

کتاب میں مزید کہا گیا کہ ایٹمی پاکستان کی بارے خواب غیر حقیقت پسند ہے، بھارت کو کولڈ اسٹارٹ ڈاکٹر ان سے سخت پریشانی کا سامنا کرنا پڑ سکتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2124134/1/>