



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

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A pilot project of PICS

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*Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar and Zohaib Sultan*

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**February 01, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **CPEC-Challenges and opportunities**

*Dr Shahid Raza*

CPEC is a real game-changer with geo-economic importance and gateway to prosperity for the whole region. It is a golden opportunity for Pakistan to promote cooperation on infrastructure, transportation, industrial collaboration and Gwadar and energy security through CPEC. It is closely associated with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. The Belt and Road run through the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe, connected East Asia to Europe, and huge economic potential. Gwadar is the lifeline for China and CPEC. Pakistan-future of “Tiger of Asia” and CPEC can play an important role in this regard and its great opportunity for Pakistan. This great country is full of natural abundant resources from north to south and east to west and has a real geostrategic position. Pakistan being at an intersection of south Asia, central Asia, and China can play a positive role for the greater geo-economic development and in the region by regional connectivity. The total allocated amount under CPEC is 50 billion dollars included 35 billion dollars for energy projects and 15 billion dollars for Gwadar infrastructure, industrial zones. This project needs to be completed by 2030. Energy-related projects need to be completed by 2019. Gwadar development and roads related projects will be completed by 2020. Railways and industrial zones to be completed by 2025. Agriculture, Tourism, and industrial zones will be completed by 2030. China and Pakistan can exploit natural resources through cooperation. CPEC will speed up the industrialization process in Pakistan through its high-quality infrastructure. CPEC is the growth axis and is the engine of the growth for the entire region with aim of socio-economic development, prosperity, and security in the region along with it. It will not only help and benefit Pakistan and China but the whole region including Afghanistan, Iran, India, and central Asia republics with real impact. Road, rail, and air linkages will lead to win-win model for all and is considered a real hope of better regain of the future with growth and development of the economy. India and Afghanistan will join sooner or later this project. We should strengthen deep strategic cooperation with China and use CPEC to develop infrastructure, hydro energy resources, and industrial cooperation for real fruits and long term industrialization. No doubt, CPEC is not only for our economic growth but in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and will bring transformation through regional connectivity. The Karakorum Highway (KKH) will link China to the Arabian Sea, central Asia, South Asia and West Asia.

China is to invest more than I trillion dollars in sixty countries all over the world to establish six different corridors under its One Belt and Road Initiative

ML-1 is a great historic and landmark project under CPEC and will bring a real economic revolution for the country with unlimited benefits and opportunities for the masses at gross level with more convenient transportation from Karachi to Peshawar. This project needs revolutionary steps on war footing basis without any further delay and this opportunity should not missed as we missed several opportunities in the past for various sectors and areas including hydel

resources. There are some common reservations on CPEC including lack of transparency and non-availability of complete information. Some believe that Punjab will be a major beneficiary while others consider that country would be under heavy external debt and loans due to this mega project. In the same way, the energy projects missed the hydro side and the main focus was on the coal and oil-based projects due to strong oil lobbies which affected and increase oil prices for the general public and industry in the country. Hydro resources should be focused with long term planning with the help and guidance of WAPDA. The Chinese showed concern over negative propaganda in Pakistani media especially by some international forces. We need to re-address these issued and should take CBMs with Chinese leadership. China is to invest more than I trillion dollars in sixty countries all over the world to establish six different corridors under its One Belt and Road Initiative (maritime Silk Road). The special economic zones (SEZS) and industrial parks under CPEC along the corridor are important and need special attention and focus to concerned zone authorities. Pakistanis firms and Chinese companies should be given a level playing field on the same term and conditions. China is planning to relocate its industry along this corridor which needs proper planning. Prefeasibility studies should be carried out by zone authorities with the help of local firms or universities through industry-academia linkages. CPEC projects under special economic zones (SEZs) would help and benefits training and development of skilled manpower. CPEC will provide and ensure defense security in the region especially for Pakistan.

In the end, there is no doubt that CPEC is the game-changer in the region and beyond. Let us work to together to create and have a bright future for Pakistan and China. Both countries leadership and statesmanship need special attention and focus with dedication and commitment to promoting CPEC and OBOR as a success story but with strong political will, wisdom, vision, for real economic growth and common prosperity for the whole region through regional connectivity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/719184/cpec-challenges-and-opportunities/>

### **Pakistan, China sign MoU to set up intelligent agri systems**

China and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance agricultural cooperation and establish intelligent agricultural systems in Pakistan.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), on behalf of Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin Ul Haque signed the MOU with China Aerospace Construction Group (CACG).

The report says the signing of the MoU, as part of the celebration of 70 years of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, was a testament to the rapidly increasing Pakistan-China agriculture cooperation in the next stage of CPEC's higher-quality development. Under the MoU, both sides would design and implement model projects across Pakistan using modern technology to upgrade Pakistan's irrigation system for optimum use of water and fertilizer, and thereby increase production through quality and efficiency. The MoU will also be instrumental in developing fishery industry and shrimp farming in Pakistan.

During the meeting, ambassador Haque and Mr. Gao Feng, Chairman of CACG also discussed other possible projects for modernization of Pakistan's agricultural sector, which was a priority under government's socioeconomic development agenda for laying the foundations for sustained economic growth.

In view of the potential CAGC's expertise in cutting edge technologies, other possible areas of cooperation were also discussed, including smart cities, water purification and vibration proof construction applications. The signing of the MoU was witnessed by Ahmed Farooq, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, and Prof. Dr. Li Naihong, Vice President of China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp.

Meanwhile, Iqrar Ahmad Khan, former Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University said that Xinjiang-agriculture development model could help to improve cotton production in Pakistan. According to Gwadar Pro, he was speaking at a live forum jointly organised by China Economic Net and Machinery Engineering Corporation of China to mark the launch of China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information platform. Khan said that the Xinjiang model was a role model for Pakistan where cotton production is facing serious challenges and annual yield in continuously declining. He said that Pakistan not only needed seeds from China but the whole package of Xinjiang model for enhancing cotton production.

The former VC also highlighted various areas of prospective cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural and industrial spheres. He emphasised the need of introducing technology in agriculture in rural areas, citing lack of technology as a reason behind the failure of drip irrigation in Pakistan. Several experts and government officials from both China and Pakistan participated in the online event, including Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong and Pakistan ambassador to China Moen ul Haq, who reiterated commitments to further improving bilateral cooperation in several sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/719396/pakistan-china-sign-mou-to-set-up-intelligent-agri-systems/>

### **Chairman FPCCI urges to enhance Sino-Pakistan economic, trade ties**

Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office, Qurban Ali urged on Sunday for enhancing the China and Pakistan economic and trade connectivity through the nearer region of Gilgit Baltistan(GB).

The senior business leader said that the GB region is a gateway for CPEC to provide opportunities to the Chinese business community and investors to connect with China as well as other regional countries including Central Asian Republics (CARs) to get benefits from their economies said a press release issued by FPCCI here.

The Chairman FPCCI said this in a meeting of a delegation of the FPCCI led by him to Ambassador of China in Islamabad, Nong Rong was held at Chinese embassy along with senior business leaders Immediate Past Vice President FPCCI, Muhammad Ali Quaid, Coordinator FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad Mirza Abdul Rehman.

The President Hunza Chamber of Commerce Industry (CCI) Mehboob Rabani and Former President Gilgit CCI, Mushtaq Hussain also attended the meeting.

He said that China Pakistan Economic (CPEC) related Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Special economic Zone (SEZ) and others would increase the business and industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Qurban said that Chinese investors and businessmen can invest and start Joint Ventures (JVs) with local industrialists in Gilgit Baltistan, SEZ in value addition on agriculture, livestock, mines, and minerals and milk products.

While he said that in Gilgit Baltistan, there is a huge potential for hydropower, which also supports any Chinese investor for available cheap energy to the industrial sector and provides secure business opportunities.

Qurban Ali also said that the GB region has a huge potential for tourism and livestock as the region owns the 8 biggest mountains of the world including any raw material for the Industrial sector and agro-industries. Due to close proximity with China the local business community of Gilgit Baltistan has been facing certain issues and having some benefits as well, he said.

Qurban Ali said that during the COVID-19 because of the closure of Khunjerab Pass bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and China through Khunjerab was decreasing.

He informed that because of expensive freight charges of Chinese trucks/ containers bilateral trade was at a halt.

In the briefing, he informed that for instance, the freight charges from Urumqi to Sust which was 1889 KM, for 30 feet containers is 20000 RMB in November 2017.

He added that now the freight of vehicles which usually is about 20,000 RMB has been increased up to 120,000 RMB.

Qurban also said that the issues of the Chinese Visas for genuine businessmen should be simplified and easy to provide the facility to the business community of Pakistan on the recommendation of FPCCI.

He said that last year's no Pakistani businessman went to China due to the closure of the border due to the COVID-19 pandemic and now Visa's process should be easy and simplified for the business community.

While the Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong welcomed the delegation of FPCCI to the Chinese Embassy and told that he has served as Mayor in the city of Guigang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region near to GB region.

The ambassador said that China and Pakistan have a long term relationship and the CPEC is a project of shared prosperity and economic integration between the two brotherly countries.

He said that there is a history of cherished relations of the FPCCI and Chinese enterprises, which played a huge role for business to business ties between both of the country

He said that the China embassy in Islamabad would like to coordinate with the enterprises of both the countries and also to promote Pakistan's enterprise in China.

In meeting coordinator FPCCI Capital Office, Mirza Abdul Rehman has briefed the ambassador FPCCI function and organization.

He also highlights the different aspects of Pakistan and China's economic and trade ties and the role of FPCCI in promoting trade between both sides.

Muhammad Ali Quaid, Immediate past Vice President FPCCI welcome the efforts of the Chinese embassy in Islamabad for promoting bilateral trade and businesses.

He said that GB is a nearer region of China, which totally depends on trade with China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/719397/chairman-fpcci-urges-to-enhance-sino-pakistan-economic-trade-ties/>

### **Dunya News**

#### **First batch of Covid-19 vaccine from China reaches Pakistan**

BEIJING (Dunya News) - A special Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plane with the first batch of Covid-19 vaccine doses reached Islamabad today (Monday), Dunya News reported.

China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi during a phone call with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi last week had promised to provide 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan by January 31.

Beijing had asked Islamabad to send an airplane to get the vaccines.

Later, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying had also confirmed that in order to support the brothers and sisters in Pakistan, the Chinese government would provide a batch of vaccines as aid and would actively coordinate with the relevant Chinese enterprise to speed up export of vaccines to Pakistan.

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), which oversees Pakistan's coronavirus response, had sent the special aircraft to bring the vaccine that Beijing had promised to provide.

The NCOC has taken necessary steps to store the vaccine in Islamabad and onward supply to various federating units particularly to Sindh and Balochistan through the air.

It has also set up a vaccine nerve center with the provincial and district level vaccine administration and coordination and adult vaccination centers.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties. Pakistan has approved two foreign anti-COVID vaccines as of now, including the Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, for emergency use in the country.

Pakistan plans to provide vaccines to frontline health workers and elderly people in the first phase.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/585881-Special-plane-with-first-batch-of-Covid-19-vaccine-to-reach-Islamabad-to>

#### **China-Pakistan vaccine cooperation reflects joint efforts to fight Covid-19: spokesperson**

BEIJING (Web Desk) – Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday said that the vaccine cooperation between Pakistan and China not only reflected the sincere mutual assistance between the two all-weather strategic cooperative partners, but also reflected the duo's efforts to promote vaccines as a global public product and improve the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.

“The vaccine cooperation demonstrates not only our mutual assistance as all weather strategic cooperative partners but also our joint efforts as two developing countries to make vaccine a

global public good and to promote their accessibility and affordability in fellow developing countries”, he said during his regular briefing held here.

He informed that in the early hours today, a batch of inactivated Covid-19 vaccines donated by Chinese government to Pakistan arrived in Islamabad.

“It was the first batch of vaccine provided by the Chinese government to another country and a concrete step in honouring President Xi’s pledge of making Covid-19 vaccine a global public good,” he added.

He remarked that China and Pakistan are all weather strategic partners, adding, Since the Covid-19 began, the two countries have been supporting and assisting each other.

The spokesperson pointed out that last year at China’s most trying moment, Pakistan offered valuable support, by first donating medical supplies, among the first group of countries.

When the epidemic situation in China eased, we supported Pakistan’s fight against the virus through various means including donating medical supplies and sending medical experts, he added.

“Virus respects no boundaries and we are all in this together”, he said and added, Solidarity and cooperation is our most powerful weapon”.

He hoped that all parties would take real actions, provide more vaccines to developing countries and contribute to equitable allocation and application of vaccines across the world so that “we can defeat the virus at an early date.”

While sharing details of China’s plans to providing vaccine to other countries, he said that besides Pakistan, China was providing vaccine assistance to 13 development countries including Brunei, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Laos, Belarus, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Myanmar, Belarus, Mongolia, Zimbabwe etc.

In next phase, we will continue to providing such assistance to another 38 developing countries in need, he added.

He said that the Chinese side was also participating in the WHO-led Covax initiative to provide vaccine to developing countries and added, China supports our companies in joint research and development and manufacturing.

Wang Wenbin said that on vaccine with foreign partners, China exported Sinopharm and Siovac vaccines to countries like UAE, Morocco, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil and Chile for clinical trials.

China also supports our companies in exporting vaccines to countries who are in urgent need of vaccine, recognize the Chinese vaccine and authorise its domestic use, he said.

It is worth mentioning that a plane of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) carrying 500,000 doses of China-made Covid-19 vaccine returned to Islamabad from Beijing, making Pakistan the first country to which China has provided vaccines as overseas assistance, in keeping with the bilateral all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

The donation of vaccines was announced by State Councilor Wang Yi to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a telephone call last week.

The vaccines will be offered to 250,000 people, with everyone receiving two doses.



Two foreign Covid-19 vaccines have been approved for emergency use in Pakistan so far, including the vaccine manufactured by Chinese enterprise Sinopharm.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/586018-China-Pakistan-vaccine-cooperation-reflects-joint-efforts-fight-Covid-19>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **CPEC western route to bring multiple benefits for Zhob-Quetta belt**

The CPEC western route will bring multiple benefits for Zhob-Quetta belt of Balochistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro. The report says, N-50 Highway being upgraded as part of the CPEC western route has become a beacon of hope for people of Zhob -Quetta, from where it leads to Gwadar via Khuzdar district.

The local people are extremely happy and hopeful with the CPEC route passing through their areas. The N-50 starts from Yarak in D.I.Khan district of KP and enters Zhob district of Blochistan.

The highway goes through Qilla Saifullah, Muslim Bagh, Quetta and Khuzdar, where from a section of it leads to the port city of Karachi while the other culminates at Gwadar port. This Highway is being upgraded to a 4-lane dual carriage way under CPEC.

The N-50 can benefit people of the areas in multiple ways, said Nasim Mandokhel, a social activist from Zhob district. He said that Zhob, Muslim Bagh and Khanozai areas of Balochistan are rich in chromite ore, where it is transported to Karachi for enrichment to be exported to China. If the chromite enrichment industry is established in source areas, it will not only provide jobs to local people but its transportation to China will also become more cost-effective, he said. Mandokhel said that the mountains of the Suleman and Ras Koh ranges are rich in precious minerals but still the people of these areas are extremely poor due to unorganised mining.

On the other hand, Noor Ahmed, a wholesale dealer of fresh and dry fruits in Hazarganji market of Quetta.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-western-route-to-bring-multiple-benefits-for-zhob-quetta-belt/>

#### **China building digital Silk Road stretching from Asia through Africa to Europe**

The final stretch of a cross-border fibre optic cable is set to be laid by China in Pakistan to create the Digital Silk Road (DSR). According to a Nikkei Asia report, the Digital Silk Road is part of the broader Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The fibre cable will link to the Pakistan East Africa Connecting Europe (PEACE) submarine cable in the Arabian Sea, to service countries participating in BRI and Europe.

It is currently being laid between Rawalpindi and the port cities of Karachi and Gwadar. The \$240-million project, which is in partnership with China's Huawei Technologies, was approved by the government last week. The laying of sea cable in Pakistan's territorial waters will begin in March, following government approval this month for Cybernet, a local internet service provider, to construct an Arabian Sea landing station in Karachi.

The Mediterranean section of the cable is already being laid, and runs from Egypt to France. The 15,000 kilometre-long cable is expected to go into service later this year.

The PEACE cable will provide the shortest direct internet route between participating countries, and will drastically reduce internet data transfer speeds. It is expected to help reduce Pakistan's exposure to internet outages from damaged submarine cables by providing an additional route for internet connectivity.

He told Nikkei Asia that "Beijing wants to dominate the physical infrastructure underlying global communications, particularly the internet," adding: "This will give it an advantage in internationalizing its tech sector and pursuing future tech-related deals with partner countries."

The ambitious multi-trillion-dollar BRI initiative (or the new Silk Road), announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to boost connectivity and cooperation between East Asia, Europe, and East Africa. It is expected to significantly boost global trade, cutting trading costs in half for the countries involved, according to expert estimates. —TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-building-digital-silk-road-stretching-from-asia-through-africa-to-europe/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **NA approves CPEC authority bill**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed three bills amid noisy protests from opposition lawmakers but an adjournment motion for a debate on electricity tariff hike was postponed again despite being on the day's agenda.

The session began with Speaker Asad Qaiser in the chair. During the Question Hour, the house was informed that the total debt of Pakistan was Rs21,400 billion in 2016-17 which increased to Rs36,900 billion by September 2020.

After the Question Hour, the legislative process began, but the opposition members rose from their seats and started raising slogans. Amid the noisy, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Dr Babar Awan introduced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill 2020 and the Public Private Partnership Authority Bill 2020, while Parliamentary Secretary for Finance Zain Qureshi tabled the Pakistan One-Window Bill 2020.

The bills were passed by the house. Two ordinances were also introduced in the house despite the continuing opposition protest. Later the speaker allowed initiation of the debate on the presidential address to the parliament.

Treasury bench member Alia Hamza said that a non-political honourable woman was criticised and ridiculed by an occupation mafia belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). she added that the privilege of the house was violated by the occupation mafia.

While she was speaking, the speaker adjourned the sitting till Tuesday. Due to the opposition's protest, debate on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) adjournment motion on electricity tariff hike could not take place.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282255/na-approves-cpec-authority-bill>

## The Nation

### **Pakistan's exports to China up 41pc in Dec**

BEIJING/ISLAMABAD-Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$312.33 million in December 2020, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Exports increased by 41% on a year-on-year basis last December, according to GACC figures received by Pakistan.

Despite the epidemic of COVID-19, bilateral trade has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports stood at \$312.33 million in December 2020, up 41 percent from \$221 million in the same month of the previous year, which grew for six consecutive months, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Last month, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that Pakistan's export to China registered an increase of 30% in November 2020. Pakistan made the highest gain in December 2020 when its export volume was \$312.33 million against total exports to China. Overall, from January to December 2020, China's imports from Pakistan counted \$2.12 billion irrespective of COVID-19 that impacted fiscal 2020. This year China's export to Pakistan decreased 4.95 percent amounting to \$15.36 billion as compared to the previous year which was \$ 16.17 billion.

The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan was decreased by 2.69 percent amounting to \$17.49 billion as compared to 2019 which was \$17.97 billion due to COVID-19.

In the fourth quarter, China's imports rose 44% from the previous year to \$695.63 million, while the overall imports and exports in last quarter increased 4% amounting to \$5.46 billion whereas in the last year it was \$5.27 billion.

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

US, UK, China top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 1st half

United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination of the Pakistani products during the first half of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Kingdom (UK) and China. Total exports to the USA during July-December (2020-21) were recorded at \$ 2280.318 million against the exports of \$2074.080 million during July-December (2019-20), showing growth of 9.94 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$956.498 million against the exports of \$ 863.333 million last year, showing increase of 10.79 percent.

China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$837.912 million during the months under review against the exports of \$936.858 million during last year, showing decline of 10.56 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$748.793 million against \$670.934 million during last year, showing increase of 11.60 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$697.154 million against \$827.731 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-December (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$516.107 million against \$502.087 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$450.243 million against \$543.159 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$355.294 million against the exports of \$386.969 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$362.753 million against \$445.086 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$274.246 million against \$369.313 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$212.560 million against \$222.013 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$244.221 million against \$243.201 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at \$124.498 million during the current year compared to \$148.465 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$143.398 million against \$143.242 million, to Poland \$141.437 million against \$131.912 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at \$119.698 million during the current year against \$99.698 million during last year. The overall imports into the all countries increased by 4.83 percent, from \$22.136 billion to \$23.207 billion, according to the data.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-01/page-8/detail-0>

### Jang News

پاکستان کے ویکسی نیشن پلان میں حصہ ڈالنے والا پہلا ملک بننے پر فخر ہے، چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان میں متعین چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا ہے کہ ہمیں پاکستان کے ویکسی نیشن پلان میں حصہ ڈالنے والا پہلا ملک بننے پر فخر ہے۔ اتوار کو اپنے بیان میں انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ ہم اپنے آہنی برادر ملک کی مدد کے لیے ہمہ وقت تیار ہیں، چینی حکومت کی عطیہ کردہ ویکسین پاکستان کے خصوصی طیارے میں لوڈ کی گئی ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/879573>

## February 02, 2021

### Dunya News

#### **Chaudhry Sarwar hails China for Covid-19 vaccines gift**

LAHORE (Dunya News) – Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that the gift of 0.5 million Covid-19 vaccines from China is a testament of perennial, ever strong friendship between Pakistan and China.

Speaking at launching ceremony of a book on telemedicine at the King Edward Medical University (KEMU) on Tuesday, he said vaccination of every Pakistani against coronavirus is the first priority of the government, adding that China has once again proved to be a time-tested friend who stands by in the hour of need.

Governor Punjab Ch. Mohammad Sarwar said telemedicine helpline initiative has been a great success during the coronavirus pandemic as millions of Pakistanis sought medical guidance from doctors from home, adding that KEMU's Telemedicine Center is the best in terms of quality.

Sarwar said Insaf Health Card is a gift for the masses from the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the government

distributed more than 180 billion rupees among deserving families purely on merit under the Ehsas Program in the most difficult economic conditions.

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, said that Covid-19 pandemic shook foundations of the most economically developed countries, adding that the countries, like the United States and the United Kingdom, were still faced with an economic crisis.

“Pakistan government, led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, not only contained pandemic despite its limited resources, but also saved Pakistan from economic bankruptcy”, he said.

Lauding the role of doctors and paramedics, Governor said that the whole nation salutes those doctors, nurses and paramedics who have fought on the frontline in the war against COVID-19 pandemic, and the services of these doctors and medical staff will always be remembered and cherished.

Vice-Chancellor KEMU Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Asad Aslam Khan, Chairman HEC Punjab Dr Fazal Ahmad Khalid,

Registrar KEMU Dr Riasat Ali, Incharge Telemedicine Department Prof Dr Bilquees Shabir, Dean Public Health and Preventive Medicine and editor Telemedicine book Prof Dr Saira Afzal were present on the occasion.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/586231-Chaudhry-Sarwar-hails-China-for-Covid-19-vaccines-gift>

### **The Nation**

#### **China hands over 500,000 vaccine doses to Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan received a batch of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine donated by China when a special plane of Pakistan Air Force returned from Beijing with the vaccine consignment here yesterday.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong formally delivered the vaccine batch to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at a ceremony held at the Nur Khan Airbase.

On the occasion, Qureshi thanked the leadership and people of China for sending the gift of Sinopharm vaccine to Pakistan to fight the pandemic. He also said that China had proved its everlasting friendship with Pakistan.

He added that the vaccine had arrived right at the time when Pakistan was grappling with the second wave of Covid-19. Its delivery, coinciding with commencement of celebrations of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between two the countries, reaffirmed the finest tradition that China always stood by Pakistan. It also showed that Pakistan-China friendship was timeless and that China was our staunchest partner, he added.

Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed special gratitude to State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for expeditiously sending the vaccine to Pakistan.

The vaccine will be used to inoculate the front-line health workers to protect them from Covid-19 and will play an important role in saving precious human lives, the Foreign Minister added. It was underlined by the Foreign Minister that recently Phase-III clinical trials of Chinese vaccine CanSino had successfully concluded in Pakistan and Pakistan was deepening co-operation with China in the matters relating to vaccine.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Secretary Health Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, and Executive Director National Institute of Health Major General Aamer Ikram were also present on the occasion. The Pak-China cooperation in fighting the pandemic, since its outbreak, has been exemplary. Pakistan firmly supported China's global and regional initiatives aimed at controlling the pandemic.

Pakistan has supported China-led regional forums that are meaningfully engaged in containing the pandemic and resuming economic activities across the region.

A special Pakistan Air Force plane with the first batch of Covid-19 vaccine doses reached Islamabad earlier in the day. The National Command and Operation Center, which oversees Pakistan's coronavirus response, had sent the special aircraft to bring the vaccine that Beijing had promised to provide.

The NCOC has taken necessary steps to store the vaccine in Islamabad and onward supply to various federating units particularly to Sindh and Balochistan through the air.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, Ambassador Nong Rong said, "I am proud to announce that Pakistan is the first country in the world to receive the Chinese government donated vaccine. I think everyone agrees with me that it is not only the vaccine to the people needed in Pakistan but more importantly a new manifestation to our iron brotherhood," he added.

President Xi Jinping, he mentioned, had repeatedly said that the Chinese COVID-19 vaccines, once developed and put into use, will be global public good. China has honored its commitment. "Keeping the huge global need for vaccine in mind, China has lived to its best to offer assistance and support. Pakistan, as our closest friend, is the priority of our cooperation. Here, I would like to appreciate the Pakistan government for its facilitation and cooperation in the approval of the Emergency Use Authorization for Sinopharm's vaccine and the phase III trials with the Cansino company of China. We expect more cooperation to follow and more people can benefit from it," the envoy said.

He said, "This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. We are proud of the friendship that is higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea, sweeter than the honey. Our hearts grow closer in the joint fight against Covid-19 with the great solidarity and support we have for each other, the steady progress in bilateral cooperation, including the CPEC. China is ready to contribute to Pakistan's pandemic prevention drive, economic recovery and social development. We are committed to the building of China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future. With these words, I am happy to hand over the vaccines to the government of Pakistan."

China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, during a phone call with Foreign Minister Qureshi last week had promised to provide 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan by January 31.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties. Pakistan has approved two foreign anti-COVID vaccines as of now, including the Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, for emergency use in the country.

Pakistan plans to provide vaccines to frontline health workers and elderly people in the first phase.

China's CanSino Biologics Inc. has also offered 20 million shots to Pakistan as it gets ready to release efficacy results "in a few days" from phase III trials that have recently been completed in the South Asian nation, according to its local partner.

Pakistan is currently going through a second wave of infections that caused a peak in hospitalizations and deaths last month. Still, the nation has largely been spared the sweeping outbreaks of its neighbors Iran and India: total cases number 527,000 and fatalities over 11,000.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan said the government was grateful to China and everyone who made this happen. He said National Command and Operation Center and all provinces played an instrumental role in tackling Covid-19.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-02/page-1/detail-0>

**February 03, 2021**

**Daily Times**

### **China's new digital yuan: Lessons for Pakistan**

*Muhammad Zubair Mumtaz*

As more and more nation contributes to and depend on the global economy, the process associated with routing payments smoothly so that they can be monitored by the central banks becomes important. Over time, various types of digital payments were introduced to facilitate business and household transactions. However, a lot more is required to be done by Central Banks to help build trust in digital payments.

China, being the leader, has launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). An initiative was taken in September of 2020 to allow Digital Currency Electronic Payments (DC/EP). In simple words, the DC/EP is a digital version of the Chinese yuan backed by deposits held by the central bank. To take advantage of this form of digital payments, banks must replace a portion of yuan holdings with assets that are in digital form and then allocate it to businesses and the public using mobile technology.

In contrast, payments are also made using cryptocurrencies; what is different in DC/EP? The answer is the legal status that differentiates between DC/EP and cryptocurrencies. In terms of making payments through cryptocurrencies, the laws are vague in regards to whether it is legal to pay for goods and services in China using this form of payment; however, DC/EP is recognized as a legal tender to make transactions. The government will also control the digital yuan while cryptocurrencies are decentralized and do not have a single entity to manage their supply. Anonymity is another significant difference between the digital yuan and cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrencies are anonymous whereas the digital yuan will be monitored, tracked, and backed by the government.

Though Raast is not an alternative to digital currency it will be useful to align the transaction channels as the government will have full information about receipts and payments

The broad advantages of the digital yuan include:

Digital transactions will help to monitor the flow of funds in the economy and execute appropriate decisions. As a result, a community without access to bank facilities will be able to participate in the mainstream economy;

• Cash is considered a primary mechanism that is used to make transactions across all economies but this new payment variant emphasizes digital transfers of money employing diversified technological platforms, which include cell phones, QR codes, and token systems. Payment firms such as Alibaba, Tencent, and WeChat favor executing transactions using digital yuan as it matches well with their payment taxonomy. As it is easier for the government to track digital token as compared to cash; and new Digital yuan will help to increase the likelihood that the Renminbi is used for international reserves. After the financial crisis of 2007/08, economists and international agencies have extensively discussed the likelihood of replacing the US dollar for international transactions. Currently, the US dollar accounts for 88.3% of all global transactions whereas the Renminbi has only 4%. Being China has the second-largest economy, the digital yuan will allow China to compete with the US for international trade and make its currency popular among the international community.

In conclusion, the Chinese digital yuan will connect the entire market in one place, which will enhance its prominence in the international community in the near future. In line with the digital yuan, it is proposed that the Pakistani government may introduce its digital currency which may help to smooth payments. It is not as easy to introduce a digital currency in Pakistan because 63% of the population live in rural areas. However, a digital currency will help citizen to access financial products and make payments without burdensome hassles. Also, several benefits can be attained by introducing a digital currency: (a) transaction cost and time associated with transactions can be reduced; (b) non-printing of fiat currency reduces the cost of the government; (c) the informality of the economy will diminish in the absence of cash transactions and digital transactions will be processed on a fast-track basis, (d) monitoring and control of digital currency will be easy for the government as they will have complete information regarding the receipts and payments, (e) the tourism sector may flourish as cash will not be required in the wake of digital currency, and (f) corruption can be reduced using digital currency. It may take a decade to create the necessary infrastructure to establish a digital currency in Pakistan; however, the benefits are enormous and will serve its people for many decades.

On January 11, 2021, Prime Minister, Imran Khan, launched the first digital payment system, 'Raast,' to promote financial inclusion and government revenue. This system will be implemented in three phases ending in early 2022. This timely initiative by the government is highly commendable as it will serve its purpose in many ways. Several private-sector digital cash transfer systems already exist that do not require a bank account like JazzCash, Easypaisa, Telenor Pakistan; however, Raast would be the first to connect government organizations and financial institutions. Businesses, fintechs, merchants, individuals, and government entities will utilize this system to receive and send real-time payments via the internet, mobiles, and agents. Using the Raast, the government will pay salaries, pensions, and financial support programs



(e.g., the Benazir Income Support Program, the Ehsaas Emergency Cash program, etc.). This initiative is vital to restrict illegal financial transactions perpetuated by militant and extremist organizations. An essential requirement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is fulfilled through digital payments which will help Pakistan come off of the grey list. Furthermore, Raast will automate the collection of taxes on transactions and tighten rules on banking.

Though Raast is not an alternative to digital currency it will be useful to align the transaction channels as the government will have full information about receipts and payments. Based on this information, the informal economy will be brought into the tax net and corruption can be reduced significantly. The government may also control the money supply and take fiscal and monetary measures accordingly.

The writer is associated with the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/719831/chinas-new-digital-yuan-lessons-for-pakistan/>

### **China's online locust monitoring protects Pakistani agriculture: report**

China's supported Desert Locust Monitoring Archive protects Pakistani agriculture, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

In order to protect Pakistani agriculture from desert locust, as of January 2021, 15 desert locust disaster monitoring reports have been issued. The report says, all of them were uploaded to Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) this week.

In order to provide real-time information on the locust situation, the data in the system is continuously updated. Meanwhile, analytical reports are also being produced and released regularly. The monitoring archive, integrated with multi-source Earth Observation data, self-developed models and algorithms, is launched by RSCROP, supported by Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of Chinese Academy of Sciences(CAS).

Publishing the reports on GBIF means that valuable data is accessible to each Pakistani for free. The archive focuses on the situation of desert locusts in Pakistan, meanwhile also mentions cases in other countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and so on. The RSCROP said that the archive will provide technical support for multinational joint prevention and control of locust. "Through protecting ecosystem security and biodiversity, we'd love to contribute China's scientific and technological strength to Pakistani food security and human well-being.

The online archive, believed as an effective means for dealing with locust disasters, will protect Pakistan's agricultural development. The RSCROP confirmed that they will continue to follow the progress, constantly work on Pakistani desert locust prevention, and release related service data and scientific reports. The system has been used by government organs, international organizations, research institutes, universities and enterprises in China, Britain and Italy, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/719996/chinas-online-locust-monitoring-protects-pakistani-agriculture-report/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **Why is Delhi afraid of CPEC? – Pakistan Observer**

It is clear that the C-Pack project is so important that it is rightly called a “game-changer.” It may be recalled that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a collection of various infrastructure projects that have been under construction across Pakistan since 2013.

The project aims to rapidly improve Pakistan’s economic and industrial infrastructure and stabilize the country’s economy through the construction of modern transport networks, various energy projects and special economic zones.

The main objective of CPEC is to build a vast network of highways and railways that will expand the length and breadth of Pakistan. The government estimates that the loss of competence caused by most of Pakistan’s dilapidated transport network is 3.55% of the country’s annual GDP.

The modern transport network built under CPEC will connect the seaports of Gwadar and Karachi with North Pakistan. At the same time, it will expand northward in western China and Central Asia. Under this project, it was decided to build a 1,000 km long motorway between Karachi and Lahore, while the Karakoram Highway from Hassan Abdal to the Chinese border is being completely rebuilt and repaired.

Karachi-Peshawar main railway line is also planned to be upgraded. In addition, Pakistan’s railway network was expanded in Kashgar to connect with China’s Southern Xinjiang Railway. It should also be noted that after the completion of CPEC’s grand project, it is likely that the concessional loans will provide the 11 billion needed to modernize the transport network.

It may be recalled that the potential impact of CPEC on Pakistan is being compared with the post-World War II reconstruction “Martial Plan” launched by Japan and Germany. Pak officials expect CPEC to create more than 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030 and increase the country’s annual economic growth by 2.5 percentage points. The importance and usefulness of this great project need no further introduction.

Everyone is also aware of the fact that the Delhi government is putting up all sorts of obstacles in the way of CPEC and it would not be out of place to say that they are afraid of CPEC. According to impartial observers, it is no secret that India is trying its best to sabotage the CPEC in every possible way.

And in this regard, on the one hand, the NDS in Afghanistan is being used for this purpose, and on the other hand, some elements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan are continuing an endless series of baseless propaganda against Pakistan at every level.

According to experts, every effort was made to give a certain colour to the death of a woman named Karima Baloch last month. It is a different matter that when the Canadian government made it clear that Karima Baloch’s death was completely natural and no other evidence came to light in this regard after that, the hopes of the anti-Pakistan elements were dashed.

Despite this, this vested interest group has not given up its abominable attitude and still, all its energies are being spent against Pakistan and its security agencies and some new characters have joined this Indian conspiracy in recent days.

Aqil Shah, Tariq Fateh and many other similar groups and names are playing a significant role in this abominable practice. Last month, on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, several rallies and protests were held across India-occupied Kashmir despite the Indian military siege.

Besides, the Modi government's talks with the Sikhs staging a sit-in in Delhi have once again ended inconclusively. Informed circles have told that the RAW is working on a new strategy to divert the world's attention from all this. In this regard, the Kashmiri freedom fighters will be accused that the situation in India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not due to such struggle for independence but due to organizations like Al Qaeda and ISIS.

Indian intelligence agencies have asked all Indian media houses to try to link Kashmir's Hurriyat struggle with ISIS. Possibly in the coming days, there will be massive propaganda in India against the Kashmir freedom fighters in this regard.

India will try to divert the world's attention from ISIS's training camps in different parts of India, along with Kashmir's struggle for independence, Delhi's Farmer's sit-in, Love Jihad and actions against the GuRaksha Act.

It may be recalled that even a few days ago, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India registered 21 cases related to ISIS and arrested 143 accused from five states of India. Apart from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, the organization has now set up its network in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, etc. According to the Indian Home Ministry, ISIS is active in many parts of India under different names.

On the other hand, a spate of sexual assaults in India has exacerbated the sense of insecurity among women and the so-called "legislation" of the Indian government has failed to stop the perpetrators. And now the crime of rape by Indian citizens in other countries is also increasing alarmingly.

It may be recalled that a few years ago in Kabul, an Indian Army Brigadier was deported from Afghanistan on the charges of raping an Afghan girl. But the Indian Army and Indian courts have taken virtually no action against the accused who committed such a heinous crime.

<https://pakobserver.net/why-is-delhi-afraid-of-cpec/>

### **CPEC: Pakistan Navy & Future Maritime Economic Cooperation**

Success of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is directly "correlated" with Pakistan Navy's "operationalization" and "channelization". On its part, the Pakistan Navy (PN) being "custodian" of blue economy, coastal areas, shores, and waters of the country is "utilizing" all possible resources to safeguard the security and commercial interest of the CPEC. In this connection, its strategic partnership with China is a "game changer".

Most recently, China launched a second advanced warship a Type-054 Class Frigate for Pakistan. It is indeed the country's most advanced frigate. It has a better defence capability and is equipped with an improved radar system and a larger amount of missiles with a longer range. Moreover, it also has world-class stealth capability.

According to reports (January 30, 2021) the launching ceremony was held at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in China's Shanghai and was attended by Chief Naval Overseer (China)

Commodore Azfar Humayun and senior Chinese officials. It is hoped that modernization of the PV would be vital for securing the ongoing projects of the CPEC especially trade and commerce activities of the Gwadar seaport in the days to come.

The 7th AMAN multinational naval exercise will be held in Pakistan in the month of February 2021. It is expected that 40 countries will participate in it. Russia will also be taking part in the AMAN-7 for the first time which shows its eagerness to extend military and naval cooperation with Pakistan.

Hopefully AMAN-7 will further enhance Pakistan's Navy professional and tactical capability and will be a giant step in its future capacity building measures. The main theme of AMAN-7 is "peace" which means through peace the "pace", "production" and "prosperity" of the Gwadar seaport will be further enhanced.

For the further strengthening of maritime security the navies of China and Pakistan held sixth bilateral naval exercise, titled "Sea Guardians-2020", in the northern Arabian Sea during 2020. The naval drills were aimed at exploring new methods of conducting China-Pakistan joint naval drills while stepping up the capabilities to jointly address issues such as maritime terrorism and crime.

Chinese government announced its 'one belt, one road initiative (BRI) in 2013 aiming to create land routes and maritime openings for building trade linkages and connections regionally and globally and CPEC is a vital part of it. The CPEC is significant as it connects the BRI with the 21st century maritime silk road. It provides an important land route between China, Pakistan, the GCC region, the MENA and beyond.

CPEC, being a mega project, strengthens the existing road links such as the Karakoram Highway, trade, investment and economic ties between China and Pakistan and opens new opportunities for economic and infrastructure development in the country. CPEC and developments in Gwadar and Kashgar can be evaluated as implementing China's 'Go West' and Pakistan's 'Go East' policies.

Development of Gwadar Port is important for the economic prosperity of Pakistan. For Pakistan, the economic benefits from Gwadar stem from its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz as a key shipping point and trade hub, once road, rail and air links connect it to the rest of Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Central Asia.

Pakistan wishes to use Gwadar Port for trade and energy transportation to China, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Moreover, with the development of rail, road and air connection between Gwadar and surrounding areas, all trade from and to China and Central Asia will adopt the shortest available route via Gwadar multiplying the trade benefits for Pakistan.

Islamabad and Beijing plan to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of maritime security, search and rescue, disaster relief at sea, maritime scientific research, environmental protection and the blue economy. In 2013, both states inked two MoUs on maritime cooperation and cooperation in the field of marine science and technology'.

In 2015, both states also signed the protocol on the establishment of China-Pakistan joint marine research centre between State Oceanic Administration of China and the Ministry of Science and

Technology of Pakistan. In order to ensure meaningful progress on all maritime cooperation-related issues, a special dialogue forum was also initiated.

CPEC is the main focus of recent relations between Pakistan and China. It provides an opportunity for China and Pakistan to improve their interaction with Central Asia, West Asia and the Middle East, will equally contribute to the socio-economic development of other countries that become part of these arrangements.

Pakistan Navy has already realized the importance of a “holistic” and “futuristic” policy to pursue a “collective” and “collaborative” policies/plans and approaches towards maritime security. By pursuing and implementing “diversified” but “integrated” peace initiatives, the Pakistan Navy has become an “active partner” in international naval coalitions.

Furthermore, it has also developed its own initiatives such as the “AMAN” series of multinational naval exercises, the annual international maritime conference, institutionalization of coastal command and the joint maritime information coordination centre (JMICC). However, the increased economic and commercial stakes in the region will necessitate additional maritime security efforts notably from the Pakistan Navy (PN).

To match up with the emerging maritime security trends and to protect ongoing mega project of the CPEC, Pakistan government is committed to enhancing the operational capacity of both the Pakistan Navy and associated Maritime Security Agency (MSA). The PN started a high level submarine construction project with China; in 2015, both countries also signed a contract for the joint construction of six corvettes for the Maritime Security Agency. While four of these corvettes will be built in China, two corvettes will be concurrently built in Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works in Pakistan.

80-90 global trade is carried through water in which energy shipment and food security is also done through seas. The future of blue economy is directly correlated with maritime security in which PN is scaling new heights of “productivity”, “efficacy” and “vigilance”. It has to face national as well as regional maritime threats for which it has been trained and motivated.

Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I uphold that the complexity of Indian Ocean, diversity & depth of Arabian Sea, protection of commercial/merchant navy operations, coping with dangerous pirates and last but not the least, security of coastal areas all witness “gallant” response and combat capabilities of Pakistan Navy.

It is indeed “champion” of “Sea Peace” and “guarantor” of “indispensible” maritime security. Sincere efforts should be initiated to have joint venture with Turkey to build a “stealth submarine” for the further strengthening of maritime security of the country in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-pakistan-navy-future-maritime-economic-cooperation/>

### **Belt and Road projects fight winter virus spike as workers remain at posts**

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese engineers and project managers working on the many overseas projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are planning to spend this year’s Chinese Lunar New Year at project sites around the globe, giving up what is a major holiday and opportunity for family reunion, to ensure project progress and alleviate burden of domestic epidemic control efforts at home.

The development came as global confirmed cases for the coronavirus have topped the 100 million mark and sporadic outbreaks hit multiple Chinese localities during the winter months.

Observers following the development of the BRI said their sacrifice of the family reunion could alleviate the pressure on domestic epidemic control efforts and add valuable time for the projects to get ahead of schedule.

As they think about their family members and feel homesick, they look forward new, easier way of testing for COVID-19 that could help support the epidemic control efforts at their work sites, the Global Times learned.

Closed-loop management Amid rising infection cases around the world in winter, keeping everyone safe from the virus has become a priority. To such end, the most stringent epidemic control efforts are applied at overseas work sites run by Chinese companies whenever possible.

A manager with an energy project in Africa surnamed Wang said that epidemic control efforts at the project site he works rely on closed-loop management. This means only those granted COVID-19 negative certificates and served a 14-day quarantine term could work inside the cordoned-off zone.

Chinese engineers and managers who returned following the domestic outbreak being brought under control in early 2020 are mostly vaccinated against the virus with domestically developed vaccines.

For local workers hired on site, closed-loop management protocols are also strictly enforced. Adjusting to local conditions Of course, closed-loop management can only be applied to a restricted number of businesses, and for a large number of projects more practical and locally suitable measures are adopted to ward off the virus. This is especially the case for infrastructure project which is often carried out in open space and with large teams.

A railway construction project manager that works on a transportation project in Southeast Asia, surnamed Li, said the local epidemic control follows local government requirements.

“At the project site, which is far away from cities, we don’t require Chinese and local workers who have never left the site to undertake nucleic acid tests – they are deemed safe,” Li told the Global Times.

For those newcomers joining our projects or those who have travel experience, they need to undergo tests to get a green lights first, Li said, adding that there are many local hospitals capable of offering such tests.

Li said the project he oversaw has improved after a period of uncertainty. “Last year, I did not come home for the Spring Festival holidays. This year would be the same,” Li said. “I don’t want to add trouble to those at home fighting to contain the virus.”

Li’s voluntary choice is reflective of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese engineers and project managers who have chosen to spend this year’s Spring Festival holidays at their project sites. That includes many who haven’t been back to China for over 900 days.

China has seen spike of infection cases as winter descends, with outbreaks reported in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, and Shijiazhuang, in North China’s Hebei Province and

Beijing. This has prompted the government to call for a “stay in place” policy for Lunar New Year in China.

Chinese experts said staying at the project sites helps fight the virus and ensures the progress of the projects. “Less moving around is in itself a contribution to combating the epidemic,” said Liu Ying, research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China in Beijing.

“It helps alleviate the pressure of medical personnel in China and the countries they will be traveling through,” Liu said. And ensuring the progress of BRI projects is to ensure the growth of local and regional economy, Liu said. “Their sacrifice means a lot as part of the global fight on the virus.”

A number of Chinese companies with overseas projects contracts have confirmed with the Global Times that they have told their employees to stay put abroad to ensure project progress. Glimmer of hope Wang, who works in Africa, said it is still needed to have on-site test capacity even as many of the employees are vaccinated. It is hard to get by at their sites at the moment.

“In our remote areas, any test has to be done usually by traveling to a nearby city,” Wang said. “Given the serious pandemic situation, leaving the closed-off zone for a COVID-19 nucleic acid test itself is risky.”

Wang said this is the reason that they are happy after learning over the weekend on a new testing method that can be performed by non-medical professionals. Back in China, developers of antigen and antibody detection products, including Guangzhou-based coronavirus test kit maker Wondfo Biotech Co, are pinning on hopes of antibody tests, which can also be conducted by an individual rather than by professional medical organizations and thus making it possible for such test kits to be delivered to remote areas for testing. Say goodbye to celebrating the Spring Festival family reunion in home country amplifies homesickness for those working on overseas projects, especially for many who haven’t returned home for years. To ease a certain psychological tension among employees staying put abroad, China Railway Construction Corp, one of world’s largest railway construction contractors, turned to online psychological courses to offer consultations to those in need.

Some 900 rounds of consultations have been completed as of January and over 600 went through psychological testing, the company said in a statement sent to the Global Times on Monday.—  
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<https://pakobserver.net/belt-and-road-projects-fight-winter-virus-spike-as-workers-remain-at-posts/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **UK firms ready to deepen trade**

LAHORE: UK is keen to invest in agriculture, renewable energy, green infrastructure and education sectors of Pakistan, said British High Commission Deputy Director for Trade Olivia Campbell.

Speaking during her visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday, she highlighted that Pakistan was a huge emerging market and British businessmen were ready to deepen trade and economic ties with their Pakistani counterparts.

“A modest number of UK companies are already operating in Pakistan, which is ample proof that the UK recognises Pakistan as a potential market,” she said.

Speaking on the occasion, LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah invited British businessmen to invest in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), terming it a game changer.

He stressed that it was the perfect time for overseas businessmen to invest in Gwadar. Pakistan’s business community attached great value to good working relations with the British High Commission for the sake of strengthening bilateral ties further, he said.

“UK is one of Pakistan’s major trading partners and also ranks among its top export destinations,” the LCCI chief said. “However, the bilateral trade volume has dropped over the last two years.”

Citing figures, he said trade value fell from \$2.6 billion in 2018 to \$2.4 billion in 2019. During the period, he lamented, Pakistan’s exports to the UK fell from \$869 million to \$701 million and imports contracted from \$1.74 billion to \$1.68 billion.

“We are quite optimistic about reversing the declining trend while keeping in view the latest developments concerning Brexit,” Misbah said. “Since the UK has always been in favour of granting market access to Pakistan, we expect deeper penetration into the UK market in the foreseeable future.”

According to him, pharmaceutical, leather, surgical instrument, renewable energy, retail, agriculture, IT and value added textile are the potential areas for forming joint ventures between business communities of Pakistan and the UK.

Misbah highlighted that the UK imported sizable quantity of textile, leather, furniture, paper, plastic and footwear from China and urged the nation to enhance imports of these items from Pakistan, which had immense export potential in those areas.

“Similarly, the UK imports considerable volume of textiles and pharmaceuticals from India,” he said. “These sectors are blossoming in Pakistan as well and the country has great potential to enhance their exports to the UK.”

He added that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were being established all across the country under CPEC and they would have all the necessities.

“SEZs are open for foreign investors and they will be fully facilitated by the government in setting up their industrial units in Pakistan or collaborating with local companies for forming joint ventures,” he assured the envoy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282405/uk-firms-ready-to-deepen-trade>

### **23 CPEC projects passed: Chairman Asim Bajwa**

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal on Tuesday presided over a high-level meeting in connection with the progress of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Balochistan.



CPEC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa gave a detailed briefing on the CPEC projects being carried out in the province.

The meeting was informed that 23 projects related to energy, road infrastructure, industrial cooperation, social and economic development and Gwadar development have been formulated out of which a 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant project has been completed in Hub whereas the Gwadar smart port city master plan project has also been completed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282436/23-cpec-projects-passed-chairman-asim-bajwa>

### **The Nation**

#### **China Cultural Centre to celebrate Chinese New Year, 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic ties**

ISLAMABAD-China Cultural Centre in Pakistan will host a series of cultural activities to celebrate online the Chinese New Year and mark the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic ties.

A statement by the Centre said arrangements had been made to celebrate the occasion. “This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relation between China and Pakistan, to celebrate this significant event and in conjunction with upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan will host a series of cultural activities to celebrate online the Chinese New Year in Pakistan,” said the Centre.

The Spring Festival, which is also known as Chinese New Year, according to the lunar calendar, is held by the Chinese as their most important festival and has a history of over 4,000 years.

It is an occasion on which people pray for a good harvest, celebrate and enjoy themselves. Nowadays, the festival is celebrated from the evening of the last day of the 12th lunar month to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the new lunar year.

During the Spring Festival, Han Chinese and many of China’s other ethnic groups hold a variety of distinctive celebrations in order to honour deities and ancestors, symbolise the replacing of the old with the new, and to welcome the New Year and pray for a bumper harvest. People do everything in their power to spend Chinese New Year with their families so that they can welcome the New Year and the happiness that they wish it will bring with those closest to them.

The Spring Festival in 2021 is on February 12. A series of online celebrations for the “Happy Chinese New Year” will be held by China Cultural Centre in Pakistan from February 4th to February 26th.

“Our Centre has prepared a variety of online programmes, such as “Paper Cut Animation Chinese New Year,” “Chinese New Year Virtual Exhibition,” “Longquan Celadon Experience Tour,” and “Ice Show,” “Animation Celebration Carnival,” to share the traditional Chinese concepts “Joy, Harmony, Sharing and Blessing” with you,” the statement said.

It added: “This year also marks the year for the cooperation between China Cultural Centre in Pakistan and the Department of Culture and Tourism of south China’s Jiangxi Province, they have brought us Man of Hakka which you may browse on our centre’s Facebook and we will bring the Dream Night of ‘Baixi,’ which is an acrobatic play that was created, rehearsed and

performed by Jiangxi Acrobatic Troupe Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Jiangxi Cultural Performance Group. And there'll be more for your visual attractions.”

Moreover, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan will also host a series of rich and diversified cultural events. Online activities can be seen on below link from February 4, 2021 to 11 February 2021, said the Centre.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-03/page-14/detail-2>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **ہر پاکستانی کو کرونا ویکسین لگانا حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے: گورنر**

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا ہے کہ ہر پاکستانی کو کرونا ویکسین لگانا حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ پاکستان کو کرونا ویکسین کی فراہمی پاک چین دوستی کی عظیم مثال ہے۔ انصاف ہیلتھ کارڈوزیر اعظم عمران خان کی حکومت کا عوام کیلئے تحفہ ہے۔ وہ منگل کے روزکنگ ایڈوارڈ میڈیکل یونیورسٹی میں ٹیلی میڈیسن پر لکھی جانے والی کتاب کی تقریب رونمائی سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ اس موقع پر وائس چانسلر کننگ ایڈوارڈ میڈیکل یونیورسٹی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر خالد مسعود گوندل، پرووائس چانسلر پروفیسر اسد اسلم خان، چیئر مین ایچ ای سی پنجاب ڈاکٹر فضل احمد خالد، رجسٹرار کننگ ایڈوارڈ میڈیکل یونیورسٹی ڈاکٹر ریاست علی، انچارج ٹیلی میڈیسن ڈیپارٹمنٹ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر بلقیس شیر، ڈین پبلک ہیلتھ اینڈ پریوینٹو میڈیسن اینڈ ایڈیٹری ٹیلی میڈیسن کتاب پروفیسر ڈاکٹر سائرہ افضل سمیت دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔ تقریب سے خطاب کے دوران گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا آج بھی کرونا کے خطرات موجود ہیں جس کے لئے احتیاط ضروری ہے۔ گورنر نے کہا کہ کرونا بحران کے دوران پاکستان میں ٹیلی میڈیسن ہیپ لائن تجربہ انتہائی کامیاب رہا ہے جس سے لاکھوں پاکستانیوں نے گھر بیٹھے ڈاکٹر سے طبی راہنمائی لی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کرونا کیخلاف جنگ میں ڈاکٹروں، نرسوں اور پیرامیڈیکل سٹاف نے جس طرح حفرنٹ لائن پر جنگ لڑی ہے پوری قوم ان ہیروز کو سلام پیش کرتی ہے۔ فیصل آباد سے آن لائن کے مطابق گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے فیصل آباد و من چیئرمین کے زیر اہتمام گورنر ہاؤس میں ایڈی آف لاکل پور ایوارڈ کی تیسری سالانہ تقریب سے خطاب کیا اور سرکردہ کاروباری خواتین میں ایڈی آف لاکل پور ایوارڈ بھی تقسیم کئے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-02-03/page-8/detail-19>

### **February 04, 2021**

#### **Business Recorder**

#### **Inclusion of new sectors, projects in CPEC proposed**

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the recently re-constituted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council was held under the chair of Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment, here at Board of Investment on Wednesday.

Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa also attended the meeting with BoI officials. Members of the committee proposed inclusion of new sectors and projects in the CPEC. 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 CPEC, it was suggested.

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

One window facilitation for economic zones should 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 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. They 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 the 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 SEZs.

More joint ventures should be established in SEZs to look for import substitutions and equal benefits offered to international players be extended to domestic investors. Financing for second phase of the CPEC be provided by Pakistan side too in the shape of incentives. Earlier, 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 the CPEC.

Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment, in his opening remarks, said that the CPEC is moving to a new direction of industrial and agriculture development which needs bigger role of the private sector combined with technology companies. Government would facilitate at the maximum level to ensure 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 development of projects in these sectors with the help of Chinese and other potential investors.

Chairman BoI, 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 in 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 same could be adopted for hardware manufacturing with support of private sector, he stated.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/04/12-page/868536-news.html>

## Daily Times

### **China Cultural Center to host online programs to celebrate Chinese New Year**

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan and to celebrate this significant event and in conjunction with upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, the China Cultural Center in Pakistan will host a series of cultural activities to virtually celebrate the Happy Chinese New Year in Pakistan.

The Spring Festival, which is also known as Chinese New Year, according to the lunar calendar, is held by the Chinese as their most important festival and has a history of over 4,000 years. It is an occasion on which people pray for a good harvest, celebrate and enjoy themselves. Nowadays, the festival is celebrated from the evening of the last day of the 12th lunar month to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the new lunar year. During the Spring Festival, Han Chinese and many of China's other ethnic groups hold a variety of distinctive celebrations in order to honor deities and ancestors, symbolize the replacing of the old with the new, and to welcome the New Year and pray for a bumper harvest. People do everything in their power to spend Chinese New Year with their families so that they can welcome the New Year and the happiness that they wish it will bring with those closest to them.

The Spring Festival in 2021 is on February 12. A series of online celebrations for the "Happy Chinese New Year" will be given by China Cultural Center in Pakistan from February 4th to February 26th. Our Center has prepared a variety of online programmes, such as "Paper Cut Animation Chinese New Year", "Chinese New Year Virtual Exhibition", "Longquan Celadon Experience Tour" and "Ice Show", "Animation Celebration Carnival", to share the traditional Chinese concepts "Joy, Harmony, Sharing and Blessing" with you.

This year also marks the year for the cooperation between China Cultural Center in Pakistan and the Department of Culture and Tourism of south China's Jiangxi Province, they have brought us Man of Hakka which you may browse on our center's facebook and we will bring the Dream Night of 'Baixi', which is an acrobatic play that was created, rehearsed and performed by Jiangxi Acrobatic Troupe Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Jiangxi Cultural Performance Group. And there'll be more for your visual attractions.

Moreover, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, China Cultural Center in Pakistan will also host a series of rich and diversified cultural events.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/720354/china-cultural-center-to-host-online-programs-to-celebrate-chinese-new-year/>

### **Central Asian countries ready to invest in CPEC: Bajwa**

Asim-Saleem-Bajwa-1 Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday directed to ensure all necessary steps to coordinate China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects.

“CPEC is the best project for Pakistan’s social and economic development and it guarantees the country’s bright future,” he said while chairing a meeting to review progress on the projects under CPEC in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, CPEC Authority Chairman Lieutenant General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said that the CPEC projects would ensure employment for local people. Central Asian countries were also taking keen interest in investing in CPEC, he said. He added that CPEC has entered in phase II and the full functioning of Gwadar Port would bring development and prosperity in the region.

The meeting was briefed by the Chairman CPEC Authority and Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development on the progress of CPEC related projects in Balochistan. The meeting was informed that 23 projects have been formulated in energy, road infrastructure, railways, industrial cooperation and socio-economic sectors under CPEC. Moreover, a 1320 MW coal fire power plant project has been completed in Hub under CPEC. The Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan has been completed. Physical work of the Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar East-Bay Expressway, Gwadar Port and Free Zone Development, Pak-China Friendship Hospital has also been started. The meeting vowed to expedite the development works related to CPEC projects. The meeting agreed to set up a special desk to track the follow-up and progress of projects. Federal Minister for Defense Production Zubaida Jalal, Provincial Ministers Mir Arif Jan Mohammad Hassani, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Parliamentary Secretary Information Bushra Rind, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Abdul Saboor Kakar, Chief Minister Principal Secretary Zahid Saleem, Secretaries of departments concerns and senior officials attended the meeting.

### **New leap of China’s economy benefits Sino-Pak cooperation**

*Nong Rong*

At the beginning of 2021, there comes an encouraging news from China. According to the preliminary calculation of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, China’s GDP in 2020 reached 101.6 trillion yuan (around 14.7 trillion USD), increased by 2.3% from 2019. For the first time, China’s GDP exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold? achieving a historic leap.

#### **This Leap Is Significant**

For China, this leap marks the milestone in the journey of Chinese national rejuvenation. The GDP of 100 trillion yuan and the per capita GDP of 10,000 USD for the second consecutive year indicates a new height in the overall national strength and people’s living standard. It has laid a solid foundation for China in implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and embarking on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country. It has also created ample space for China to follow a new development philosophy and foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulations as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other.

For the world, this leap is a ray of warm sunshine amid economic gloom. The world economy has been severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. China is the first and the only major economy to achieve positive growth in 2020, injecting impetus into the global economic recovery. The

China's share in the world economy is anticipated to rise to around 17%. China's growing economy will further enhance its potential of foreign trade and investment, strengthen the inter-connection and mutual promotion of the markets of China and the world, and make greater contributions to the improvement of global economic governance, the building of an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind.

### **This Leap Is Hard-Won**

This leap is attributed to the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the turbulent external environment, the CPC has united and led all the Chinese people to respond calmly and rise up to challenges. The CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as its core assessed the situation from the long-term perspective while taking both the domestic and international situations into consideration, coordinated pandemic control and socioeconomic development, and resolutely adopted a series of significant measures. CPC organizations at all levels strictly implemented the decisions and instructions of the CPC Central Committee. The majority of CPC members actively responded to the Party's call by rushing to the front-line in fighting against pandemic and played a leading role in every field. The judgment, decision, and action taken by the CPC are decisive in helping China to take the lead in controlling COVID-19 pandemic, resuming work and production, and achieving positive economic growth.

This leap is attributed to the unique advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. First, this system guarantees the whole nation acts in an coordinated way. Both in COVID-19 response and economic development, China gives the full play to the initiative of both the central and local governments. The local governments cooperate with the central government and the central government assists the local governments. At local level, governments also support each other under the coordination of the central government. Second, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we concentrate efforts on major tasks. Faced with arduous development tasks, China, following the belief that "good steel is used for the cutting edge", concentrates on the most important tasks with the best resources, and has achieved progress in poverty alleviation, research and development of vaccine, and technological innovation. Third, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we make cohesive planning to achieve consistent development. 2020 was the last year of China's 13th Five-Year Plan. China maintained its strategic focus, overcame the impact of COVID-19, stuck to its goals, and completed the development tasks specified in the 13th Five-Year Plan on schedule. These advantages are the institutional basis for the resilience of China's economy.

This leap is attributed to China's adherence to reform and opening up. China is not swayed by the historical counter-currents of unilateralism and protectionism, and does not fear the threat of decoupling, supply disruption or sanctions. We uphold that the development quality and market vitality should be enhanced by deepening reform and opening up. China has taken the initiative to maintain the stability of the global supply chain, industrial chain, and value chain. With both the goods trade and the actual use of foreign investment growing against the trend, China has maintained its status as the largest trading nation and has become the largest host country for

foreign direct investment (FDI). Besides, the “Belt and Road Initiative” continued to advance steadily, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was successfully signed, and the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment completed negotiations on schedule. Reform and opening up is the source of China’s economic vitality.

### **This Leap benefits China-Pakistan Cooperation**

The new leap of China’s economy is the result of China’s adherence to self-reliance and opening-up, the hard work of the Chinese people, as well as the support and contributions of friends from various countries including Pakistan. Therefore, the expansion of China’s economic volume will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also have a positive impact on the international community, especially create more development opportunities for Pakistan, China’s all-weather strategic cooperative partner. With the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the implementation of the Second Phase Protocol of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, China’s new economic leap will bring a larger market and deeper cooperation potential for Pakistan, and lays a more solid material foundation for upgrading China-Pakistan practical cooperation.

China’s good economic performance can boost the determination and confidence of the two countries to join hands in fighting the pandemic. At the just-concluded World Economic Forum “Davos Agenda” dialogue, President Xi Jinping stated that China will continue to take an active part in international cooperation on COVID-19 and continue to implement a win-win strategy of opening up. China is still facing a tight anti-pandemic situation, and there is a severe supply and demand gap in vaccine production. Even so, China, as a responsible major country in the international community, and a reliable partner who withstands the test in the face of danger, will do its best to make safe and effective Chinese vaccines available and affordable for the Pakistani people, and to boost Pakistan’s economy to full recovery at an early date.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will take this opportunity to speed up the high-quality development of CPEC. The two sides are in close communication and serious preparation for the upcoming 10th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee. In the next stage, the two countries will take well-targeted steps in developing Gwadar Port, industrial parks, agriculture, science and technology, assisting Pakistan’s development towards industrialization, urbanization, digitization and agricultural modernization. We also welcome friends from all walks of life in Pakistan to get a more comprehensive understanding of the contemporary China, promote bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and give new momentum to this time-tested friendship!

The writer is Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/720323/new-leap-of-chinas-economy-benefits-sino-pak-cooperation/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Kamal seeks effective mechanism to follow up CPEC projects**

Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan has stressed the need to form an effective mechanism to follow up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

The chief minister said this on Wednesday while talking to Chairman CPEC Authority Lieutenant General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa who called on him.

During the meeting, progress on CPEC related projects and other issues of mutual interest came under discussion. The chief minister said that provision of employment opportunities to the youth of Balochistan in CPEC projects should be ensured.

Talking on the occasion, the chairman CPEC Authority said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has significance for the stability of the national economy.

A day earlier on Tuesday, Jam Kamal Khan said the joint venture of Gwadar Shipyard is a historic project which would help enhance economic and development of Balochistan in future.

He said this while addressing a ceremony where the federal and Balochistan governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on joint venture of Gwadar Shipyard.

Addressing the MoU signing ceremony, Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal said that Gwadar Shipyard would be owned by Balochistan government which is being acquired by the federal government under equity. She said the capacity of Gwadar Shipyard would be much greater than Karachi Shipyard which would be significant for improvement in the economy of Balochistan.

Zubaida Jalal said that professional training would be provided to youth of Balochistan in Gwadar Institute and Karachi Shipyard to enable them to work outside the country after making them skilled. She said a workshop will be established in Gwadar for repairing ships.—TLTP

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Ministries seek time to remove hurdles in CPEC**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has termed the slow progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) against “national interest”, as the federal and provincial bureaucracy again fails to meet expectations of the political leadership.

Headed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCoCPEC) ended on Wednesday within minutes due to lack of progress on issues identified in last week’s meeting on CPEC, a senior government official told The Express Tribune.

This time four summaries were tabled for consideration of the CPEC body, which were primarily related to the progress on projects being executed in Gwadar.

“Three summaries were presented but the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence sought more time to address the outstanding issues,” said Umar while talking to The Express Tribune. He added that the Power Division would bring more summaries next week.

The maritime affairs ministry had presented three summaries related to the vacation of land needed to build the Gwadar free zone phase-II and for the construction of Eastbay Expressway project. The land is being occupied by the Pakistan Coast Guard and Pakistan Navy.

However, the officials said that the ministries were again directed to resubmit their summaries after completing due consultation.



Last week, Umar had directed the ministries to remove irritants in the way of fast-paced execution of projects and gave them a stern warning that if the task was not completed within a week they would face the music.

Even the warning could not convince the bureaucracy to show progress. CPEC Authority Chairman Asim Bajwa also flew to Quetta this week to seek the help of provincial government to remove obstacles in the way of execution of CPEC projects.

The only progress between the current and last week was that Pakistan had shared a revised term sheet of Mainline-I project of Pakistan Railways with China for securing a \$6 billion loan. The Power Division was the other government department that did make efforts to show some progress.

Last week, the CCoCPEC chairman set new deadlines for the bureaucracy to resolve matters that were lingering for quite some time and carried implications for the \$53 billion planned portfolio.

The official record of the last meeting showed some serious observations made by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Qureshi did not attend Wednesday's meeting.

The minister for foreign affairs "stressed that proceedings on various fronts of the programme should be made on a fast-track basis as slow pace in this respect shall demonstrate lack of resolve to implement CPEC and that would not be in national interest of Pakistan".

"Noticing slow progress on different CPEC projects, the chair (Asad Umar) was of the view that the forum of Cabinet Committee on CPEC was underutilised," according to the documents.

The portfolio of CPEC projects has grown to \$53 billion, comprising completed, ongoing and under-consideration schemes. But the share of projects that are in the pipeline is more than half at \$28 billion, the cabinet committee was informed.

So far, 17 projects worth \$13 billion have been completed while another 21 projects having an estimated cost of \$12 billion are under implementation.

Last week, the cabinet committee was told that there was a need to expand the Gwadar Port. The CPEC Authority took up the issue with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce. Both the ministries did not respond to the authority, according to the officials.

The issue of interim payment certificate to contractors of the Multan-Sukkur motorway remains pending. Sources said that the CPEC Authority took up the matter but the Ministry of Communication did not submit a reply, said the officials.

For the construction of Eastbay Expressway, the approval of design and right of way at some points was pending. Sources said that the CPEC Authority took up the issue with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and National Highway Authority (NHA). But it did not receive a reply, they added.

A few years ago, Pakistan and China had decided to realign the Thakot-Raikot section of KKH. In light of the last cabinet committee meeting discussions, the CPEC Authority took up the issue with the NHA but it did not get a reply.

Similarly, the government of Sindh also did not address the issue affecting the execution of 1,320MW Thar block-I coal power project.

Sources said that there was a need for Pakistan to review the plan to add more power projects due to an already huge idle capacity that was leading to Rs850 billion in annual capacity payments.

The Power Division did respond to the queries of CPEC Authority and it also got one issue related to the Gwadar power project fixed last week.

There was also delay on China's part over the issue of execution of social sector projects in Balochistan, said the officials.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282545/ministries-see-time-to-remove-hurdles-in-cpec>

### **Tourism attracts hefty investment**

GILGIT: As expected, the economic benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are beginning to emerge in a big way as overseas Pakistanis are pouring investment into Gilgit-Baltistan to cash in on the lucrative opportunities in the untapped sectors.

With the improvement in communication infrastructure under CPEC, construction of motorways and opening of Karakoram Highway, domestic tourism is growing at a swift pace, triggering a wave of investment in the tourism sector of northern regions including Gilgit-Baltistan.

Northern Pakistan has caught the attention of domestic and foreign investors specialising in tourism.

Pak Greenland Corporation, a company owned by overseas Pakistanis, has announced its first major foreign investment of \$10 million over the next five years in Gilgit-Baltistan, which will cover the areas of logistics, tourism, hospitality, agriculture, livestock and floriculture.

Pak Greenland Director Zulfiqar Momin told Daily Express that overseas Pakistanis were making hefty investment in their home country because of the opportunities created by CPEC, government policies, investment-friendly initiatives and incentives for expatriate Pakistanis.

He added that his company had decided to reap benefits of available opportunities in the tourism and agriculture sectors of Gilgit-Baltistan.

So far, the company has laid the groundwork for \$2 million worth of projects and the entire capital has been sent to Pakistan through direct banking channels while utilising the facilities provided by the government.

Momin said that his enterprise had initiated "land banking" for its projects in Gilgit-Baltistan where hotels and agricultural farms would be developed soon and farm products would be produced in collaboration with the local community.

"Initiatives will also be undertaken to modernise fresh fruit, dry fruit, dairy, yak meat and trout farming," he said. "These commodities will be exported and the revenue will help accelerate growth of Gilgit-Baltistan and strengthen Pakistan's economy."

He elaborated that the company's products would be exported to China's Xinjiang province via land and agricultural products from Xinjiang would be exported to the Middle East via Gwadar or Karachi.

The company has already sought government's permission for international transport from Pakistan and the process has entered the final phase.

Momin said that his group was committed to uplifting the tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan on a par with international standards. The group wants to improve tourism activities and facilities in order to help the sector gain a foothold in the world market.

He said his group planned to enhance its investment to \$10 million in Gilgit-Baltistan over the next five years.

The company focuses on constructing state-of-the-art hotels on slopes of high mountains in the Hunza region similar to those in Peru that attract scores of international tourists.

Similarly, it plans to lay a zip line as well as introduce a high-speed water jet boat to be run on the river.

“A suitable location for the zip line is being selected while the plan to launch the world’s fastest water jet boat has been finalised,” he said.

He revealed that the boat was being manufactured in Turkey and it would be powered by a powerful jet engine made by an American company. “This type of tourism is being promoted in different countries of the world including New Zealand, the US, China, South Korea, Australia and India.”

He declared that the jet boat would be introduced in Pakistan in the summer of 2021 and a specific section of the river in the Hunza region had been selected for running the boat.

The Gilgit administration and the local population have welcomed the development as well as the spike in investment in the tourism sector.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282541/tourism-attracts-hefty-investment>

### The Nation

#### **China’s biomass tech helps Pakistan to get energy**

Islamabad - Research and technologies on biomass energy and circular agriculture developed by Lanzhou University are being introduced to Pakistan, helping the country cope with insufficient energy supply and promote agricultural modernization, CEN reported yesterday.

It said that biomass energy is is non-fossil organic materials such as wood, straw, vegetable oils and wastes from forestry, agriculture and industry, as well as municipal solid waste.

As an important renewable source of energy, it contains stored energy from the sun. When biomass is burned, the chemical energy in biomass is released as heat.

Lanzhou University, located in Gansu Province in western China where there is drought with little rain, has focused on the development of circular agriculture and made innovations in the fields of planting, animal husbandry and biomass energy over the years.

The fragile ecology in Gansu is quite similar to many areas of Pakistan, which lays a ground for applying related Chinese technologies to Pakistan.

Data from Lanzhou University’s official website shows that the university provided experimental equipment worth RMB 1 million, and PARC provided a 2000-cubic-meter experimental building with Rs. 920 million.

Biomass energy, such as biogas, has become increasingly popular in developing countries because of its low cost and high efficiency.

Latest information shows that the Chinese and Pakistani researchers have developed a technology of utilizing vegetable wastes for bioenergy generation, which is suitable for Pakistan with great potential to be gradually popularized, the report added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-04/page-4/detail-3>

### **China remains top importer among other countries**

ISLAMABAD-China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first half of the current financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. The total imports from China during July-December (2020-21) were recorded at \$5730.084 million against the \$4878.751 million during July-December (2019-20), showing an increase of 17.44 percent during the period, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said. This was followed by UAE, where Pakistan imported goods worth \$3300.862 million against the imports of \$3643.200 million last year, showing negative growth of 9.39 percent. Singapore was the third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$1341.440 million against the imports of \$1081.356 million last year, showing growth of 24.05 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani imports from Saudi Arabia stood at \$1037.234 million against \$747.506 million during last year, showing growth of 38.75 percent while the imports from USA were recorded at \$993.583 million against \$977.529 million last year, showing increase of 1.64 percent, the data revealed. The imports from Malaysia were recorded at \$564.809 million against \$469.489 million whereas the imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$533.435 million against \$502.875 million last year. During July-December, the imports from South Korea were recorded at \$578.304 million against \$344.583 million whereas the imports from Indonesia at \$514.480 million against \$512.043 million.

Pakistan's imports from Japan were recorded at \$549.307 million against \$596.552 million whereas the imports from Switzerland stood at \$563.322 million against \$279.689 million. Similarly, the imports from Germany during the period under review were recorded at \$502.622 million against \$468.771 million while the imports from Thailand stood at \$428.534 million against \$395.430 million. Pakistan's imports from Qatar were recorded at \$450.231 million during the current fiscal year compared to \$958.823 million last year, whereas the imports from UK stood at \$380.583 million against \$353.364m.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-04/page-8/detail-5>

### **No side effects of Chinese corona vaccine appear, says Dr Imran**

In a conversation with The Nation, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Head for Anesthesia and critical care medicine Prof. Dr. Imran Sikandar while encouraging other healthcare workers to get vaccinated requested, "all those who get opportunity must get vaccinated."

Dr. Imran Sikandar also said that despite passing 18 hours of getting the vaccine jab, he has not observed any side-effects. "I'm completely fit and felt no fever symptoms," he said. He also added that after three hours of vaccination he was on his routine duty and also exercised as per his schedule. Dr. Imran Sikandar said that he was leader of his team in handling the novel

coronavirus (Covid-19) and it was important to present himself for the vaccination to give trust to other healthcare workers.

“It’s job of the team-lead to come first so others can follow him without any hesitation,” said Dr. Imran.

Negating the impression about mistrust of Chinese vaccine he said that there is no harm in getting the vaccine as the country is leading the world in technology and development. Dr. Imran also added that the second jab of the vaccine will be administered to him after three to four weeks.

Meanwhile, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Wednesday simultaneously initiated national immunisation drive against Covid-19 across the country with all federating units including that of AJK and GB.

The NCOC held the inaugural ceremony of national Covid-19 immunisation programme with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in chair flanked by National Coordinator NCOC Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman Khan. Commercial Minister Counsellor China Xie Guoxiang was the chief guest where Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Hussain Chaudhary, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan and SAPM on Poverty Alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar were also present on the occasion.

The vaccine was administered to Rizwan Yasmeen. She is working as charge nurse at PIMS isolation unit. She and her team had been working tirelessly in fight against Covid-19 and she is representing all medical and paramedical staff of PIMS who have been involved in managing Covid-19 patients.

The vaccinated individuals also included Javed Iqbal who is Covid-19 surveillance team member from DHO office Islamabad, he has been working in surveillance activities since first case of Covid-19 was reported in Islamabad. He and his team had been working tirelessly and diagnosed over 10,000 positive cases in Islamabad by contact tracing and sampling.

He was representing all Covid-19 surveillance teams who were the backbone of Covid-19 management in Islamabad. Fahad Mehmood was also inoculated with vaccine who was working in pathology department of Shifa International dealing with Covid-19 testing. Shifa International hospital has been carrying out a major bulk of Covid-19 testing in Islamabad and has also been managing patients suffering from Covid-19 infection. He was representing all people in Shifa International.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-04/page-13/detail-1>

### **The News**

#### **Chinese vaccine not safe for people above 60, pregnant women: Dr Sultan**

KARACHI: Although, Pakistani authorities have started vaccinating their frontline healthcare workers with Chinese vaccine Sinopharm all over the country yet it is not suitable and recommended for people above 60 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, under 18 year-olds among others, the country’s top health authorities warned on Wednesday.

Confirming that Sinopharm vaccine should not be given to people above 60 years of age, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr. Faisal Sultan said people above 60 would be vaccinated with Oxford-AstraZeneca's vaccine AZD1222, which is due for arrival in Pakistan in Feb.

"Astrazeneca and others – probably Pfizer's vaccine are the most suitable option for the elderly. AstraZeneca's vaccine is expected to reach Pakistan this month through Covax (international health alliance) while Pfizer's vaccine in limited number may also be available in March this year," SAPM Dr. Faisal Sultan told The News.

Responding to queries regarding other suitable vaccines for the elderly, he said Russian vaccine Sputnik and another Chinese vaccine Cansino, whose trials have recently concluded in Pakistan, could also be used to vaccinate the elderly and they would be available in the country 'shortly'.

Some other leading infectious diseases experts also confirmed that Chinese vaccine Sinopharm was not recommended for people above 60 years of age due to lack of safety and efficacy data in the elderly and added that its trials were underway to determine efficacy for the elderly, pregnant women and lactating mothers. "Sinopharm vaccine can't be given to those above 60 years of age due to pending data," said Dr. Faisal Mehmood, an Infectious Diseases expert at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), while talking to The News.

Another infectious diseases expert associated with the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination also confirmed that Sinopharm vaccine being used to inoculate frontline healthcare workers can't be given to people above 60, saying: "For the moment (it can't be given) as the sample size of 60+ persons in phase-3 trails is not adequate."

The federal ministry's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) also issued Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Sinopharm Vaccine (Vero Cell) to all the Adult Vaccination Centers (AVCs) in the country, warning that this vaccine should not be given to individuals above 60 years of age, children below 18 years of age, pregnant women besides women of childbearing age should avoid getting pregnant two months after the second dose of the vaccine.

Besides, according to the SOPs, the Sinopharm vaccine should also not be given to patients who have received SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, patients with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular disease, patients with previous history of anaphylaxis and individuals who are allergic to any component (active, excipients) of this vaccine.

Similarly, Sinopharm vaccine is also not recommended for individuals with serious chronic disease or history of hypersensitivity. The vaccinators have been directed to postpone vaccination to individuals having fever or during acute phase of any disease.

The EPI officials issued strong warnings against administering intravascular injection besides keeping the vaccinated individuals under observation for at least 30 minutes. The healthcare workers quarantined due to recent exposure of Covid-19 should not be vaccinated.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/784993-chinese-vaccine-not-safe-for-people-above-60-pregnant-women-dr-sultan>

## Express News

**چین سے براہ راست کورونا ویکسین منگوانا چاہتے ہیں لیکن وفاق رکاوٹ ہے، وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ**

وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے کہا ہے کہ چین سے براہ راست کورونا ویکسین منگوانا چاہتے ہیں لیکن وفاق رکاوٹ ہے۔ کراچی میں طبی عملے کو ویکسین لگا کر ویکسی نیشن کے پہلے مرحلے کا آغاز کر دیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے کہا کہ مشکل حالات میں ساتھ دینے پر چینی حکومت کے مشکور ہیں، چین نے ہمیں کورونا ویکسین کی 5 لاکھ خوراکیں دیں، حیدرآباد و دیگر شہروں میں کورونا ویکسین سینٹر بنائے ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے کہا کہ کراچی، حیدرآباد، بے نظیر آباد میں سب سے زیادہ کیسز ہیں، 83 ہزار ویکسین وفاق نے سندھ کے حوالے کی ہیں، ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ براہ راست چائنا سے ویکسین منگوائیں لیکن وفاق کی جانب سے رکاوٹیں ہیں، وفاقی حکومت کی حکمت عملی سمجھ نہیں آرہی، ڈاکٹر زاور ہیلتھ کیئر اسٹاف کی 1166 پر رجسٹریشن کا عمل مناسب نہیں ہے، 62 سے 63 ہزار خوراکیں کراچی کے لئے دی گئی ہیں، نہیں معلوم ویکسین کس طریقہ کار کے تحت تقسیم کی جا رہی ہے، ویکسینیشن کے عمل میں شفافیت کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔

وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے کہا کہ سندھ نے کورونا کے حوالے سے شروع سے ہی سخت اقدامات کئے ہیں جسے جاری رکھیں گے، ایس او پیز پر عملدرآمد کیا جائے، یہ مرض کا ہونا پانہ ہونا آچکے ہاتھ میں ہے، جیسے جیسے ویکسین آئے گی مرحلہ وار ویکسینیشن ہوگی۔

مراد علی شاہ نے مزید کہا کہ ویکسین کے عمل میں پاکستان کا نمبر 80 ہے، ہم سے پہلے 79 ملک نے ویکسین کا عمل شروع کر دیا ہے، چین کے علاوہ کوئی بھی ملک پاکستان کی مدد کے لیے آگے نہیں بڑھا، پوری دنیا میں ویکسین کے معاملے میں حکومتیں بہت زیادہ فعال کردار ادا کر رہی ہیں، بد قسمتی سے پاکستانی حکومت اس عمل میں اپنا کردار ادا نہیں کر سکی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2138454/1/>

**February 05, 2021**

## Daily Times

### **Sinopharm's Covid vaccine dependable and safe: SAPM**

The efficacy of Sinopharm's Covid-19 vaccine is between 79-86 per cent and it is safe and dependable, said Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr Faisal Sultan.

“We are planning to buy it in sufficient quantity as 110 million out of 220 million of total Pakistan's population need Coronavirus vaccine,” Dr Faisal Sultan said, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday says. According to the statistical analysis of Sinopharm China Biotech, the results of the interim analysis of the new coronavirus inactivated vaccine phase III clinical trial showed that the safety of the new coronavirus inactivated vaccine of Sinopharm China Bio Beijing Company is good after inoculation. All patients produced high-titer antibodies, the neutralizing antibody positive conversion rate was 99.52%, and the vaccine's protective efficacy against the disease caused by the new coronavirus infection (Covid-19) was 79.34%.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Asad Umar, federal Minister for planning appreciated government of China for donating 500,000 doses of vaccines. “We are grateful to China for gifting 500,000 vaccine doses to Pakistan which enabled the government to inoculate the national immunization drive,” Asad Umar added.

According to Sinopharm's press release, its vaccine was 79.34% effective at preventing new cases of Covid-19. The data results reached the relevant technical standards of the World Health Organization and the country. The "Guiding Principles for Clinical Evaluation of New Coronavirus Preventive Vaccines (Trial)" issued by the Food and Drug Administration is required by relevant standards. "At present, Sinopharm China Biotech Beijing has formally submitted a conditional listing application to the State Food and Drug Administration," a press note issued from Sinopharm had stated earlier.

Pakistani authorities endorsed the results and requested Chinese authorities for provision of its vaccine. Dr. Faisal Sultan launched countrywide vaccine and spoke highly of Sinopharm's Coronavirus vaccine. "It's highly effective and ultra-safe. Pakistan also conducted its trial that was found satisfactory," he told journalists on Wednesday.

Endorsing Faisal Sultan, the executive Director of Pakistan's National Institute of Health Major General Aamer Ikram also spoke highly of Sinopharm's vaccine saying it worked well during trials. "It's heavy work. We will overcome the Pandemic of Covid-19 with this [Sinopharm's Coronavirus vaccine] Insha'Allah (God willing)," Major General Aamer Ikram told this correspondent.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) had approved Sinopharm's vaccine for emergency use in mid-January this year. Vaccine was only approved after its trials satisfied Pakistani authorities to great extent. "In a meeting conducted by [the] Registration Board of Drap, another vaccine manufactured by China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) has also been given EUA (emergency use authorization)," a spokesperson for the regulatory body said earlier in a statement.

The Sinopharm's Covid-19 vaccine was evaluated for its safety and quality and granted EUA "with certain conditions", the statement added. It is worth noting that Sinopharm-China's state-owned drug company, also known as the China National Pharmaceutical Group had announced on December 30, 2020 promising phase 3 clinical results for its coronavirus vaccine candidate.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/720567/sinopharms-covid-vaccine-dependable-and-safe-sapm/>

## **CPEC 2.0**

A project so huge it invites anxiety and awe alike, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is nothing like Pakistan has ever seen before. Promising concrete carpeted highways to the tune of \$60 billion, special industrial zones, energy projects said to generate around 9000 MW of electricity, the government was bound to be enthusiastic about the "game-changer" plan. The whole country is. But the very fact that Pakistan's silver lining has not yet ushered in the prosperity it repeatedly promised is an undeniable cause for concern.

Despite Prime Minister Imran Khan regularly waging rallying cries of delivering on the ambitious project at "any cost," his bureaucracy does not appear ready to live up to his expectations. Abject unproductivity echoed across Wednesday's meeting of the CPEC cabinet committee that ended within minutes. Even after being sternly warned in a previous meeting that failure to remove irritants for fast-paced execution of the CPEC projects would be brought to the premier's notice, the ministries returned with nothing but time requests. This momentum in



carrying out the multi-million dollar project is being regularly questioned by both local opposition and international rivals' campaigns.

CPEC's star player, Gwadar Port and Free Zone, continues to suffer from official backlog despite being functional for one year. The federal revenue bureau has still not defined Gwadar Free Zone policy and Customs rules and regulations; chopping down all business activities. Therefore, none of the 42 potential investors (given licenses) has broken ground in the economic zone. Additional constraints include delays in construction of the breakwater and capital dredging of berthing area on top of land under possession of the Pakistan Coast Guard and Pakistan Navy. Regarding the Mainline-1 project, the committee is still struggling as to what currency to use to secure Chinese loan and what insurance tariff to agree to.

There remain no qualms about the immense importance the cross-Pakistan project holds for its economy as well as its society. Still, to use this opportunity to its best advantage, Islamabad needs to regain its full-throttle drive on CPEC projects. First and foremost, the government needs to quell all corruption rumours. The official heading the CPEC commission is deemed highly controversial in the light of the infamous Papa John's scandal. Then again, there remains the issue of the authority's blanket immunity from watchdog bodies' investigations. How can the Chinese authorities and provincial governments be expected to give unflinching support to a body that has been tainted in such an unprecedented manner? It is oft-argued that corruption scandals tarnishing CPEC projects are kept under wraps only because of fears over China's displeasure. Khan's team should rise to the occasion with transparency and credibility-building exercises.

Making use of synergistic coordination, the government's goals should revolve around developing its capacity to plan projects that best absorb concessionary loans and grants. Effective dissemination of information that the prosperity would come to entire Pakistan, not just cities in Punjab and Sindh, could well quash hostility in Balochistan. A united Pakistan would mean a secure platform that shapes CPEC projects as a whole.

China has repeatedly asserted that Pakistan stands to attract extensive Chinese investment if it provides a business-friendly environment. Therefore, cutting the bureaucratic tape so that potential investors can register and operate in SEZs sans wasting time should be prioritised by the government.

Extending CPEC to Afghanistan and distributing its low-hanging fruit to all provinces would help seize this never-before-seen opportunity in the best manner possible. The ball is surely in Islamabad's court. It remains to be seen how many wickets would it take.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/720526/cpec-2-0/>

**February 06, 2021**

**Daily Times**

**CPEC and China Pakistan Knowledge Corridor**

*Prof Dr Attaullah Shah*

China and Pakistan are time tested friends with shared boundaries, culture and history dating back to the ancient silk route. The two countries have always stood for inclusivity, peaceful co-

existence and sustainable growth in the region. While inaugurating, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, President Xi-Jinping, said:” Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on trust and mutual support, and we have been devoted friends through both good and hard times. Our friendship is a pacesetter for amicable relations.....” The unwavering support of China to Pakistan’s stance on Indian Occupied Kashmir, Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the enormous allocation of resources to China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of One Belt and One Road (OBOR) Initiative of President Xi are some of the major dividends of this friendship. To restrain the hegemonic and expansionist designs of the India and Narendra Moodi led, BJP Government, the need for this partnership has further intensified in last few years.

The Chinese New Normal of Economic Development, drawn by current Chinese leadership, is based on the OBOR lately called Belt and Roads Initiative (BRI). These initiatives call for strengthening the regional development strategies through a robust and global trade networks. The road networks at regional and global levels are strengthened with three major systems namely Yangtze River Economic Belt, Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The principal and strategic component of this network is CPEC which is part of 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The multibillion USD mega projects under CPEC are destined to usher a new era of economic prosperity and peace in the region. These mammoth projects in the energy sector, strengthening of physical and telecommunication networks, upgradation and strengthening of Gawadar port and establishment of Export Promotions Zones across Pakistan, are collectively called the “Destiny Changer” in the region. The dividends of the first early harvest phase of CPEC have already created trickle-down effects to the masses in Pakistan.

Develop mechanisms to fully exploit the opportunities arising out of the China’s appetite for global talent, and facilitate absorption of their graduates by Pakistani economy

With huge investment of Chinese Government in Research and Development, today more than 100 Chinese Universities are placed in the global best 500 Universities of the world, according to Times Higher Education Ranking (2021), Shanghai Jiao Thong Universities ranking (2020) and US News and World Report (2020). According to QS Ranking, the top 9 Chinese Universities include Tsinghua University, Peking University, Fujian University, University of Science and Tech China, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Thong University, Nanjing University, Sun Yat Sen University, Wuhan University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Xian Jiao Thong University. The academic and research collaboration between China and Pakistan have witnessed impressive growth in last few decades, in the areas of graduates studies, joint collaborative research, research funding, exchange programs, short term placement of students and faculty, organizing Conferences, Seminars and workshops etc. While looking at the significance of intellectual and knowledge connectivity, alongside the physical routes, Higher Education Commission has timely established the CPEC center at its headquarter. Under the aegis of this initiatives, a consortium of CPEC Universities has been created, which is comprised of more than 50 Universities now. HEC submitted a series of PC-1s for establishing Knowledge and Research Corridor between the two countries. The two important projects, have started its work, China Pakistan Joint Research

Centre at Quaid-e- Azam University and Academic Collaboration under CPEC consortium Universities. In the former mega project, three centers will be established with main seat at QUA for earth Sciences, Labs for Cryosphere and Climate at Karakoram International University Gilgit and Marine Sciences Labs at Marine University Karachi.

The objectives of the project for establishing collaboration amongst the CPEC Consortium Universities include

Study the geo-strategic and geo-economic dimensions of the Chinese Belt and Road initiative and CPEC to understand their long-term impact on Pakistan.

Develop mechanisms to fully exploit the opportunities arising out of the China's appetite for global talent, and facilitate absorption of their graduates by Pakistani economy.

Support higher education institutions (HEIs) in the development of human resource to implement CPEC Long Term Plan.

Develop capacity of Pakistani universities for providing policy inputs to the government on the challenges emerging in the wake of implementation of CPEC Long Term Plan.

Develop an understanding of Chinese history, culture and governance system that has created the Chinese miracle, while drawing lessons for own development.

The various components of this knowledge and research collaboration are summarised below:

**Joint Research:** For implementation of these strategies, HEC has proposed some of the way forward like Joint research on selected themes of joint interest, which can include Climate Adaptation, Sustainable Mountain Development, Food Security, Urban Planning, Water Resource Management, Supply Chain Management, IT Entrepreneurship, Medicinal Plants, Gemstones and Mineral resource management etc.

**Talent Cultivation and Training:** This component mainly focuses on the capacity building of faculty to strengthen the academic and intellectual relations. About 400 faculty members will be trained under this component both at Pakistan and China

**Post-doctoral research:** Post-doctoral research and trainings provide ample opportunities to faculty for exchange of latest knowledge, research and technologies. About 30 faculty member (15 on each side) will be provided with the opportunities for such research.

**Short Term Trainings:** Due to shortage of qualified PhD faculty in the newly established Universities in Pakistan, it may not be affordable for them to place most of the faculty on PhD studies or Post Doc research. Hence a window of short term placement of 150 faculty and staff for short term trainings of 2-3 weeks will be provided

**Dual degree programs between Chinese and Pakistani Universities:** For internationalization of Universities in Pakistan, one option can be joint or dual degree programs. **International Dual/Double Degree program:** Two or more institutions in different countries collaborate on one-degree program. Upon completion, students receive degree certificates issued separately by each of the institutions involved in the program. These programs generally use the terminology 2+2 or 1+2+1. Under the proposed project 10 BS and 20 MS students will be provided with this opportunity to complete their degrees under dual degree programs of Chinese and Pakistani Universities.

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Colloquia etc. In current phase, about 12 International Conferences will be arranged at Pakistan and China to showcase the research in both countries, which will be focused on the challenges faced by the two countries, with special emphasis over CPEC and BRI.

Establishment of China Study Centres: At least 6 China Study Centres will be established across Pakistan, one each in 5 provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and AJ&K. These centres will focus on strengthening the Chinese language teaching, cultural and history studies and act as Think Tank for paving long term understanding about CPEC.

Gilgit Baltistan is a region blessed with unique opportunities by nature. The region has a distinction of being the converging point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world, namely: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush. These ranges have many of the world's highest peaks and the world's largest concentration of glaciers outside the Polar Region, also called "Third Pole". In the Karakoram alone 30 peaks soar over 24,000 feet (7,500 m) and culminate in the 28,250 feet (8,612 m) high K2, second only to Mt. Everest in elevation. Sheer rock walls and ravines, plunging thousands of vertical feet down to the rivers flowing below, mark the unique panorama. These lofty mountains and valleys boast a spectrum of wildlife such as the snow leopard, brown bear, Marco Polo sheep, Himalayan ibex, Astore markhor, golden marmot, woolly flying quirel and other species, some of which are rare or endangered. Substantial deposits of various minerals and semi-precious stones add to the natural wealth of the region. Glacier and snow melts are the source of fresh water in this arid region. Water flows into the valleys in the form of nullahs (streams) and makes human existence possible.

GB being a gateway to CPEC and Karakoram International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China both physically, historically and traditionally. The flow of services and goods across the two region under regional trade arrangements, provide unmatched opportunities to the people on both sides of the boarder. KIU established its Confucius Centre , years back to impact Chinese Language literacy to the students and youth. All graduates of KIU are bound to learn the two level of Chinese literacy (HESI&II). Every year more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers. A good number of the faculty of KIU also graduated from Chinese top Universities, who have brought, their rich experience to the region for quality education and research to more than 7000 students at KIU. The faculty and students of Pakistani Universities and general and KIU in particular would need to abreast for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor. Drew Faust President Harvard University quoted: "Higher Education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder for socioeconomic mobility". CPEC knowledge and Research Corridor (CKRC), will enhance the intellectual capacity of the faculty and staff of Pakistani Higher Education Institutes, which will turn the youth force of Pakistan, as growth engine as envisaged by HEC.

The author is Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University Gilgit

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/720864/cpec-and-china-pakistan-knowledge-corridor/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **People's happy life in Xinjiang is really inspiring: Pakistan Envoy**

Pakistani and Russian ambassadors in Geneva at a webinar said that Xinjiang's development and people's happy life are really inspiring and helpful for the diplomatic circle to get to know the real Xinjiang in an all-round and accurate way.

According to the Spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Wang Wenbin here, the webinar titled "Xinjiang is a Wonderful Land" was jointly held by China's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on February 3.

Many diplomatic representatives recalled their visits to Xinjiang and spoke highly of the Chinese government's commitment to promoting sustainable development, safeguarding social order, protecting human rights, and improving people's livelihoods.

The Pakistani and Russian ambassadors also expressed firm opposition to politicizing human rights issues and using Xinjiang-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The event was aimed at introducing Xinjiang's socioeconomic development achievements and people's living conditions there to diplomats from more than 50 countries, including nearly 20 ambassadors.

The online event also attracted the participation of officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN human rights experts.

At the event, a series of video clips reflecting Xinjiang's natural scenery, development achievements and people's happy life were played for the audience.

Erkin Tuniyaz, vice chairman of the regional government and head of the Xinjiang Islamic Association and the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, and Muhtiram Sherip, the Imam of Yanghang Mosque in Urumqi City, further introduced how religious freedom is guaranteed in Xinjiang.

Representatives of graduated trainees from former vocational education and training centers attended the event and talked about how they got rid of extremist ideologies and how their lives have been changed after learning skills and graduating from the centers.

<https://pakobserver.net/peoples-happy-life-in-xinjiang-is-really-inspiring-pakistan-envoy/>

## The Express Tribune

### **China builds 'Digital Silk Road' to bypass India for Pakistani internet traffic**

As part of the broader Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is set to lay the final stretch of a cross-border fiber optic cable in Pakistan that will create the Digital Silk Road, serving the geostrategic interests of both countries, Nikkei Asia reported.

The fiber cable will link to the Pakistan East Africa Connecting Europe (PEACE) submarine cable in the Arabian Sea, to service countries participating in BRI, and Europe.

The PEACE cable will provide the shortest direct internet route between participating countries and drastically reduce the time taken to transfer internet data.

The report stated that the cable is currently being laid between Rawalpindi and the port cities of Karachi and Gwadar. "The \$240-million project, which is in partnership with China's Huawei Technologies, was approved by the government last week," it added.

The laying of sea cable in the country's territorial waters will begin in March, following government's approval this month to construct an Arabian Sea landing station in Karachi.

"The Mediterranean section of the cable is already being laid, and runs from Egypt to France. The 15,000 kilometre-long cable is expected to go into service later this year," it said.

Observers see this as a strategic move to circumvent international telecommunication consortiums dominated by Western and Indian companies.

The report stated that some BRI projects have been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic and debt crises in partner countries, including a \$6.8 billion railway project in Pakistan. "Part of Beijing's response has been to step up digital projects and the development of communications infrastructure."

The report acknowledged that in recent months, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority has accelerated efforts to improve Gwadar's connectivity with major road and rail upgrades.

Pakistan is also looking for an alternate link to the internet through China. At present, most Europe-bound internet traffic from China feeds through terrestrial cables traversing Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Pakistan is served by seven submarine cables at present, four of which come out of India, according to Telegeography, a Washington-based telecommunications market research company. These cable networks have been developed by consortiums that include telecom companies from India, Egypt and Pakistan.

The PEACE cable is expected to help reduce Pakistan's exposure to internet outages from damaged submarine cables by providing an additional route for internet connectivity.

Eyck Freymann, author of *One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets the World*, told Nikkei that the BRI is evolving to place less emphasis on traditional heavy infrastructure, and more on high-tech cooperation and digital services.

"Beijing wants to dominate the physical infrastructure underlying global communications, particularly the internet," he said. "This will give it an advantage in internationalizing its tech sector and pursuing future tech-related deals with partner countries."

The ambitious multi-trillion-dollar BRI initiative (or the new Silk Road), announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to boost connectivity and cooperation between East Asia, Europe, and East Africa. It is expected to significantly boost global trade, cutting trading costs in half for the countries involved, according to expert estimates.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2282931/china-builds-digital-silk-road-to-bypass-india-for-pakistani-internet-traffic>

**February 07, 2021**

**Daily Times**

**CPEC to contribute to Pakistan's economic progress: senator**

Convener Senate Special Committee on National Cohesion, Senator Muhammad Ali Saif on Saturday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offered huge job opportunities which were needed to be utilized in favor of Pakistan especially for developing the industrial sector of the country. Talking to APP, he said that CPEC has potential to bring infrastructural and industrial revolution in the country by providing thousands of new job opportunities, which will ultimately boost Pakistan's socioeconomic situation. He also underlined that CPEC will prove a milestone for sustained development of Pakistan to lead the country on the path of sustainable development goals. Senator further added that CPEC is flagship project for road infrastructure as well as cultural and political integration with multiple development projects including energy and infrastructure.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/721346/cpec-to-contribute-to-pakistans-economic-progress-senator/>

**CPEC bringing regional stability, development & prosperity: Cheng**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not only push Pakistan's economy onto the track of fast development, but also lead the whole region to stability, connectivity, development and prosperity with the active participation of Afghanistan, Central Asian countries and other regional countries.

These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and senior fellow of the Charhar Institute said in an article issued here on Saturday.

While commenting on media reports about a roadmap approved by Pakistan, Afghanistan and Afghanistan for the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway, he believed that the implementation of the project would also create unique opportunities for ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, stimulating the progressive economic growth of the region by creating tens of thousands of new jobs.

The railway project is supposed to open up broad prospects for international trade, economic development cooperation and the connection of Central Asia to South Asia via Afghanistan.

Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood represented Pakistan in the trilateral working group on the construction of the railway.

Afghan Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar said in a tweet that the project would boost connectivity, contribute to economic cooperation and realize a shared vision to link Central and South Asia.

The Uzbek Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade said in a statement that the 600 km long railway project would open Pakistani seaports to the Central Asian and Eurasian railway systems, significantly increasing cargo flows and also reviving the region's historical role as a bridge linking Europe and Asia.

According to the analysis of relevant experts, the implementation of the railway project will reduce the time and cost of transporting goods along the North South Corridor (NSC) by 30%.

Thus, the delivery time of goods from the Russian border to Karachi will be 16-18 days, and from Termez, Uzbekistan to Karachi, Pakistan 8-10 days. The volume of traffic can grow to 10 million tons in the early days of operation of the railway.

The railway will also form a new world paradigm for access through Pakistani ports Gwadar and Karachi to the countries of the Persian Gulf.

Transport to the ports of Pakistan from Central Asia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Russian Federation will create ample opportunities for the development of international trade. Recently, CPEC Authority Chairman Lt.Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said Central Asian countries were taking keen interest in investing in the CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bringing-regional-stability-development-prosperity-cheng/>

### The News

#### **Pak-China business matching in buffalo industry held boosting investment**

BEIJING: The first business matchmaking event between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises in the Buffalo industry was held by the Pakistan-China Agriculture Cooperation Information Platform, that was established last month aiming to break information barriers between agricultural enterprises of the both sides and enhance pragmatic cooperation.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), gathering representatives from Chinese and Pakistani leading companies and institutes engaging in the Buffalo industry, the virtual meeting has discussed the feasibility of technological cooperation in developing Buffalo embryos to create high-yield type of Buffalo and the possibility of business cooperation in the production of Buffalo milk, powder, meat and other value-added products that could shore up Pakistan's export.

“Can we import buffaloes from Pakistan?” That's the first question asked by Lu Yangqing, Deputy Dean of College of Animal Science and Technology, Guangxi University. Pakistan's Neeli-Ravi buffalo is one of the world's famous river milk buffalo varieties, known as “black gold “. A Chinese expert in dairy Wang Dingmian once introduced in a report that the milk production of domestic dairy cow in China is relatively low, with an annual output of about 600 to 800 kg per cow, while the annual milk production of Pakistan's Neeli-Ravi buffalo is about 1.5 tons per one.

As early as 1974, 50 Pakistani Neeli-Ravi buffaloes were introduced to China, but the milk production decreased with the passage of time and no more were imported since then. In this condition, Chinese companies expect to import more improved types of buffaloes from Pakistan. However, according to the Pakistani government's policy, “it's not allowed to export live animals,” noted Dr. Khurshid Ahmad from Animal husbandry commissioner of Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

“If that's not viable, we can develop buffaloes embryos,” Lu Yangqing suggested. “We have a lot of recipient buffaloes that are all swamp type buffaloes. So we can import embryos of indigenous types like Neeli Ravi or Hula Buffalo embryos into China and then transfer to our recipients.” Responding the suggestion, Dr. Farooq Sandhu from Al Haiwan Semen Company, Sahiwal, said, “Pakistan's buffalo industry is in urgent need to extend its industrial chain to



realize added value growth, and we hope Chinese counterparts can support us in technologies and manufacturing.”

According to Dr. Farooq’s introduction, Al Haiwan Semen Company has six years of experiences in developing cow embryos, and with the technological assistance from the Chinese company, Al Haiwan Semen may be capable of conducting experiments in Buffalo embryos and breeding better types.

“We are keen to invest in Pakistan, setting up a lab to jointly develop Buffalo embryos or having joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts to produce Buffalo milk and powder for export.

But we hope Pakistan can provide more favorable policies,” said Huang Jiadi, Chairman of Royal Group Co., Ltd., Chinese leading enterprise in the dairy industry and a pioneer in Buffalo milk production. He added that there is already a mature business model in the camel milk and powder industry between enterprises from China and East-Asia that could lead the way forward.

“We will send a delegation to Pakistan in the following months to carry out investigations and seek for potential partners,” Huang hinted.

If the company decides to make a huge investment in Pakistan to support the whole supply chain of China’s buffalo milk business, it will undoubtedly bring enormous economic benefits to the country.

Dr. Sajjad Khan, Vice Chancellor of Cholistan University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences suggested research institutes and associations in the Buffalo industry should be considered if there were to be cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises.

All guests thanked the Information Platform for organizing the business matchmaking to bridge information gap between the enterprises of two countries.

Following the buffalo industry cooperation and matchmaking event, the platform will carry out a series of online discussion and exchange activities this year.

It will also explore deep into the agricultural subdivision fields such as seed industry, animal husbandry and fishery, dairy products and agricultural products processing, agricultural materials and agricultural machinery and cold chain storage, horticultural crops, etc.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/786458-pak-china-business-matching-in-buffalo-industry-held-boosting-investment>

**February 08, 2021**

**Dunya News**

### **Pakistan armed forces give COVID-19 vaccine donated by China in national drive**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – China on Monday has donated coronavirus vaccination to Pakistan’s Armed Forces.

According to the Inter-Services Public relations (ISPR), it has been decided to contribute complete Chinese vaccine donation in the national drive to be administered to front line healthcare workers across Pakistan who are real heroes fighting against pandemic and saving

precious lives. This is keeping with the armed forces' traditional spirit of 'nation comes first, always and every time,' the military media wing stated.

The ISPR further said that the armed forces extend their deepest gratitude to China for this magnanimous donation during testing times.

It is to be mentioned here that Pakistan military is the first foreign military to receive vaccine assistance from China.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/587010-Pakistan-armed-forces-COVID-19-vaccine-donated-China-national-drive>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Infrastructure construction under CPEC will emerge as model**

Infrastructure construction under CPEC will emerge as a model, according to China International Contractors Association (CHINCA).

Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday, that CHINCA summarized the development of Chinese international projects in BRI countries in 2020 last week. Fang Qiuchen, the Chairman of CHINCA, remarked that infrastructure construction under BRI and CPEC will transform and upgrade their model in several respects.

The summary says in 1979, the annual value of China's overseas contracts was only \$34 million, and in 2020, the number exceeded \$250 billion, an increase of nearly 8,000 times in the past 40 years. Fang said, Asia, the largest benefited destination area of China's infrastructure assistance, has accounted for more than 50% of the newly signed and completed contracts globally in 2020.

Among them, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia are key host countries. In recent years, Chinese projects in Pakistan have focused on energy, housing and roads. From 2020, the construction of rail transit, such as high-speed rail and subway, will also rise under CPEC.

"China has built many large railway projects in BRI countries, which can be seen in CPEC. Lahore Orange Line subway project, an exact example of BRI railway projects, was completed and started operation in 2020," Fang said, "it's the first respect of transformation."

The second transformation is that in addition to building infrastructure directly, China will also share more Chinese solutions and wisdom with Pakistan so that the nation can develop its own abilities to construct infrastructure. CPEC infrastructure projects emphasize localization, employing Pakistani workers and training local technicians.

<https://pakobserver.net/infrastructure-construction-under-cpec-will-emerge-as-model/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Unpacking the CPEC Authority legislation**

The EU DisinfoLab's story, uncovering a massive Indian propaganda operation against Pakistan, broke out only two months ago. But anyone who was following the global chatter on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) knew much earlier that international media was rife with unsubstantiated and often factually wrong stories about the corridor. The cat is now out of the bag, but such fabricated stories continue to appear. In recent days, the CPEC Authority legislation has provided ample fodder for such stories.

A Nikkie Asia report says that Pakistan Army would get sweeping powers through the CPEC Authority law, undermining civilian supremacy. The South Asia Monitor has reported that the Authority's chairman and other officials will have immunity from investigations by NAB and FIA, while another news report suggests that the Joint Cooperation Committee would now be headed by the chairman, instead of the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform.

None of this is of course true.

The CPEC Authority was created through an ordinance in 2019 that expired last year. The CPEC Authority Bill 2020 was recently passed by the National Assembly and has yet to get the Senate's approval. If anything, the new law is a definite improvement over the previous ordinance.

Let's unpack this draft legislation.

The JCC is still co-chaired by the Minister for Planning and Vice Chairperson of China's National Development and Reform Commission. The law does not provide any role for the army, and clearly mandates the Authority to work under the ambit of CPEC's Long Term Plan and JCC's decisions.

The Authority with a total of nine members, including the chairperson, has to take all decisions by majority vote. There is no special voting privilege for the chairperson. Previously, the Authority reported to the Ministry of Planning, but now it will directly report to the Prime Minister. The earlier introduced position of CEO has been removed in the new legislation, which will reduce bureaucracy.

The functions of the Authority as per the earlier ordinance included coordination, monitoring and evaluation of CPEC projects, but under the new law, three new words — planning, facilitating and enforcing — have also been added. The word 'enforcing' may create some confusion, as individual CPEC projects will still be managed by respective ministries. Moreover, the ordinance earlier empowered the Authority to interface with the People's Republic of China for identifying new projects, but the new law has narrowed this down to interaction with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) only.

Previously, the Authority had the power to call for information and impose a penalty on any person for non-compliance. Under the new law, while the Authority can still call for information, it can no longer impose any penalty.

There is no special immunity provided to CPEC Authority officials, and NAB and FIA aren't even mentioned. The law contains a standard indemnity clause, which was wrongly labelled as 'immunity' under the previous ordinance, to protect actions taken in good faith. This is a fairly standard clause. In fact, the civil servants enjoy the exact same indemnity under Section 23A of the Civil Servants Act 1973.

Interestingly, all CPEC Authority officials under the law will be considered public servants and will be subjected to Pakistan Penal Code's stipulated offences for public servants, under Sections 161 to 171, including corruption. Another section of the law mandates audit of CPEC Authority by the Auditor General of Pakistan, similar to any other government entity. In addition, the law includes a conflict-of-interest clause, which is a good measure to ensure transparency.

The CPEC Authority law is a fairly standard piece of legislation, which has nothing controversial in it. It is just an enabling law to create a new institution, a slightly more empowered body than the previous CPEC Project Directorate, to facilitate CPEC projects, and nothing more.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2283157/unpacking-the-cpec-authority-legislation>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan Army first foreign military to receive Chinese COVID-19 vaccine**

BEIJING - The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has delivered a batch of COVID-19 vaccine to the Pakistani military, according to a written statement by China's Ministry of National Defense here on Sunday.

The statement said that the Pakistani military was the first foreign military to receive the COVID-19 vaccine from the Chinese military.

China's Central Military Commission has approved supply of the coronavirus vaccine to Pakistani side, to implement President Xi Jinping's important declaration on China's COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good.

The Chinese PLA would continue to make positive contributions to the building of a community of common health for mankind. The first batch of PLA-donated vaccine has been delivered to Pakistani side at the latter's request.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-08/page-12/detail-2>

### **The News**

#### **Construction of overhead bridges on CPEC route sought**

BATTAGRAM: An all-parties conference was convened here to discuss accidents taking place on the route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and ways to prevent such mishaps.

A 16-member action committee was formed at the event. The committee later told the media that representatives from political parties and social organisations participated in the conference.

They said the conference participants suggested that local people should be exempted from toll tax on Koza Banda Toll Plaza, and also called for the construction of overhead bridges and underpasses at various places from Kakati Tunnel up to Thakot.

They announced to hold separate meetings with the district administration, elected members of assemblies, CPEC and NHA officials to inform them of their concerns.

They said the members of the committee would meet the deputy commissioner of Battagram today (Monday) and brief him on the CPEC route issues.

They warned of stage protests that if the authorities did not heed their issues. The participants condemned the non-participation of the elected members of the federal and provincial assemblies in the conference.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/786850-construction-of-overhead-bridges-on-cpec-route-sought>

### **Pakistan offers China partnership in \$9b PARCO coastal refinery**

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to seek investment from China for becoming a shareholder in the state-of-art PARCO coastal refinery and petrochemical complex of \$8-9 billion, to be built at Hub, Balochistan.

In addition, Islamabad has also asked Beijing to invest in projects, including upgradation of existing refineries, setting up of underground gas storages, exploration and production activities and national seismic surveys in frontiers and hard areas, such as some pockets of Balochistan and bordering areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

And now in the next 10th Pak-China JCC meeting, the PARCO coastal refinery project among others is the main project on part of Pakistan that will be included in the agenda. More importantly, projects like LNG storages and exploration and production projects will be also offered to China in the 10th JCC meeting. “Pakistan wants the investment in refinery, exploration & production activities and LNG storages projects from China under the CPEC umbrella and seismic surveys in frontiers and hard areas.”

Earlier, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Nadeem Babar also wrote a letter to Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliky on September 2020, inviting Saudi Arabia to become a partner with PARCO in installing the PARCO coastal refinery of 2,500,000 BPD. It is worth mentioning that the Saudi envoy, some days back in a meeting with SAPM on Petroleum, responded to the letter saying that his country Saudi Arabia will positively consider the offer.

Meanwhile, in a positive development, the Government of Balochistan has granted NOC for development of 1,811 acres of land on 27 September 2020 and to this effect, a 30-year lease agreement has been signed by PARCO and PERAC for the project. And further discussions are underway regarding acquisition of additional land of 1,000 acres near Hub, Baluchistan. To a question, the official said that a feasibility report about the PARCO refinery and petrochemical complex is nearing completion. Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to inaugurate in April-May, 2021 initiation of work on the oil terminal, worth \$700-800 million, at site of the proposed PARCO refinery at Hub. The official said that the Petroleum Division is working to make the POL tariff regime attractive enough to ensure maximum investment in the refining sector as currently the tariff of crude oil is at higher side and finishing products have no competitive tariff structure.

More importantly, PARCO Coastal Refinery Limited (PCRL) has been incorporated as a 100pc subsidiary of PARCO. And the Government of Pakistan has announced various incentives for development of green field refinery projects, including exemption from all taxes for a period of 20 years from the date of commercial production.

The refinery configuration study has been completed by Honeywell (UOP, USA) and the feasibility study updation done by Jacobs Consultancy.

More importantly, the execution strategy and governance structure has been approved and the Government of Pakistan has already accorded approval to incentives for new refinery projects

and the project site studies have been completed, including land survey. Hydrology study, geotechnical offshore investigation, offshore data acquisition have also been completed.

The official said that Technip FMC has been appointed as the Project Management Consultant and project organization has been developed and relevant human resources engaged. Allen & Overy has been appointed as International Legal Adviser and the revised market study has been updated and project cost update has been finalized. Also, the International Financial Advisers have been shortlisted. The Front End Engineering Design (FEED) contractors have also been shortlisted. The Invitation to Bid (ITB) is under preparation for issuance to the shortlisted contractors.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/786888-pakistan-offers-china-partnership-in-9b-parco-coastal-refinery>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### کردنا سے شفا یاب کرنیوالی چینی ویکسین کا استعمال جاری افتتاح وزیر اعظم نے کیا

استان بھر میں کورونا وائرس کی روک تھام کے لیے ویکسین لگانے کا عمل شروع ہو گیا ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اسلام آباد میں ویکسین لگانے کے عمل کا آغاز کیا، ویکسینیشن کے پہلے مرحلے کے دوران طبی عملے کو چین کی کمپنی سائنوفارم کی تیار کردہ کووڈ 19 ویکسین لگائی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان کے سب سے قریبی دوست چین کی جانب سے اس ویکسین کی 5 لاکھ خوراکیں تحفے کے طور پر پاکستان کو دی گئی تھیں۔ ویکسین کی ایک فرد کو 2 خوراکیوں میں استعمال کرائی جائیں گی۔ جنوری کے دوسرے عشرے کے دوران پاکستان نے چین کی اس ویکسین کو ہنگامی استعمال کے لیے منظوری دی تھی۔ پاکستان کی جانب سے اس ویکسین کی 11 لاکھ خوراکیوں کی ہنگامی کرائی جا چکی ہے۔ اس سے قبل 16 جنوری کو ڈریپ نے برطانیہ کی آکسفورڈ یونیورسٹی اور دوسرا کمپنی ایسٹرا زینیکا کی کووڈ 19 ویکسین کی پاکستان میں استعمال کی منظوری دی تھی، تاہم اس کی آمد مارچ تک متوقع ہے۔ 2020 کے آغاز میں چین میں کورونا وائرس کی وبا کے ساتھ اس ویکسین کے ٹرائلز کا آغاز ہوا تھا اور جنوری کے شروع میں چین میں اس کے استعمال کی منظوری دی گئی۔ یہ ویکسین مدافعتی نظام کو نئے کورونا وائرس کے خلاف ایٹمی باڈیز تیار کرنے میں مدد دیتی ہے، یہ ایٹمی باڈیز وائرس پر وٹین یعنی اسپائیک پروٹینز سے منسلک ہوتی ہیں۔

دوست ملک چین کی وجہ سے پاکستان اب ان ممالک کی فہرست میں شامل ہو گیا جہاں کووڈ 19 ویکسین کا اسٹاک موجود ہے۔ ویکسین کی پہلی کھیپ مکمل طور پر اس وبا کے خلاف جنگ لڑنے والے فرنٹ لائن ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز کو لگائی جا رہی ہے، ملک بھر میں ایڈلٹ ویکسینیشن مراکز قائم کیے جا چکے ہیں اور ویکسینیشن کا تمام تر عمل ڈیجیٹل میکانزم سے کنٹرول کیا جا رہا ہے۔ تمام ہیلتھ گائیڈ لائنز کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے ویکسین وفاقی کابینوں کو فراہم کی گئی ہے۔ یکم فروری کی سہ پہر پاک فضائیہ کا خصوصی طیارہ چین سے عطیہ کی گئی ویکسین کی پہلی کھیپ لے کر پاکستان پہنچا تو نور خان ایئر بیس پر چین کی چین کی ٹیم کا وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے استقبال کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر خارجہ کے ساتھ وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے صحت ڈاکٹر فیصل سلطان اور چینی سفیر نوگ روگنگ کے ساتھ ساتھ دونوں ملکوں کے اہم عہدیدار موجود تھے۔

نور خان ایئر بیس پر ویکسین کی حوالگی کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نوگ روگنگ نے کہا کہ آج چینی حکومت کی جانب سے تیار کردہ ویکسین کے بارے میں مجھے یہ بتاتے ہوئے فخر محسوس ہو رہا ہے کہ پاکستان دنیا میں پہلا ملک ہے جسے چینی حکومت کی جانب سے اس کی کھیپ عطیہ کی گئی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ویکسین پاکستان کی محض ضرورت ہی نہیں بلکہ یہ ہمارے بھائی چارے کا عملی نمونہ بھی ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ صدر شی متعد بار کہہ چکے ہیں کہ چین نے اپنے وعدے پر پورا اترتے ہوئے ایک ماہ کے اندر ہی دنیا بھر کو ویکسین کی فراہمی یقینی بنا رکھی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان دیرینہ دوست کی حیثیت سے ہماری پہلی ترجیح ہے۔ سائنوفارم ویکسین کے ایمر جنسی بنیادوں پر استعمال کی منظوری اور اس سلسلے میں تعاون کرنے پر ہم پاکستان کے شکر گزار ہیں، ہمیں امید ہے کہ اس دوطرفہ تعاون سے مزید لوگ بھی استفادہ کریں گے۔ نوگ روگنگ نے کہا کہ رواں سال پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ بھی ہے، ہمیں اس دوستی پر فخر ہے۔ چین اقتصادی راہداری سمیت دوطرفہ تعلقات کے

تحت پاکستان کو اس وبا سے پاک کرنے کی مہم، اور معیشت کی بحالی کے لیے اپنا تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ چینی سفیر کے خطاب کے بعد وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے ان سے باضابطہ طور پر کورونا وائرس کی ویکسین وصول کی۔

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مجھے یہ بتاتے ہوئے انتہائی خوشی محسوس ہو رہی ہے کہ چین نے پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی لازوال دوستی کا عملی مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سال چین کے ساتھ ہمارے سفارتی تعلقات کو 7 دہائیاں مکمل ہونے کو ہیں اور ہمارا واضح منصوبہ ہے کہ ہم اس سال کو شایان شان طریقے سے منائیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ میں حکومت پاکستان، وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور پاکستان کے عوام کی طرف سے چین کی حکومت خصوصاً صدر شی جن پنگ کا شکریہ ادا کرنا چاہتا ہوں جنہوں نے ویکسین تیار کر کے مفاد عامہ اور لوگوں کی جانوں کے تحفظ کے لیے اس کی تقسیم کا آغاز پاکستان سے کیا ہے۔ یہ عملی ثبوت پاکستان چین دوستی کا مظہر ہے۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے اسٹیٹ ٹوٹلرز وزیر خارجہ ووگنگ کی کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ ان کی خصوصی کاوش سے چین نے پاکستان کو 5 لاکھ خوراک بطور تحفہ پیش کرنے کی خوشخبری دی۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ جس دن سے ہم نے وزیر اعظم کی سربراہی میں کووڈ-19 کا مقابلہ کرنے کا آغاز کیا، ہم نے ایک حکمت عملی اپنائی، این سی او سی اور وزارت صحت نے اپنا کام شروع کیا تو برادر ملک چین ہمارے شانہ بشانہ کھڑا ہوا اور اس کے ماہرین جس طرح ہماری مدد کرتے رہے وہ پوری قوم کے سامنے ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی اور چین کے ڈاکٹرز نے یہاں تشریف لاکر ہمارے ڈاکٹرز کی رہنمائی کی اور اپنے تجربات ہم سے شیئر کیے۔ جس سے ہماری ٹریننگ کیلئے بھی قابل ذکر مواقع میسر آئے۔ کینسانو کے نام سے ویکسین کی تیاری کیلئے بھی چین اور پاکستان مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں جس کے ابتدائی نتائج حوصلہ افزا ہیں۔

وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے قومی صحت ڈاکٹر فیصل سلطان نے چین کی حکومت کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پہلا ملک ہے جس نے پاکستان کو کووڈ-19 ویکسین تحفے میں دی ہے۔ سب سے پہلے فرنٹ لائن ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز کو ویکسین دی جائے گی، ویکسین کے لیے 4 لاکھ سے زیادہ ہیلتھ ورکرز نے درخواست دی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلام آباد میں ویکسین کو ذخیرہ اور مختلف وفاقی اکائیوں خصوصاً سندھ اور بلوچستان کو فضائی راستوں سے فراہم کرنے کے لیے تمام ضروری اقدامات کر لیے گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ سرکاری اور نجی شعبہ دونوں پاکستان میں ویکسین لاسکیں گے لیکن نجی شعبے کو ڈرگ ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی آف پاکستان (ڈی آر اے پی) کے پاس اپنی ویکسین رجسٹر کروانی ہوگی۔

خصوصی طیارے سے ویکسین کی پہلی کھیپ پاکستان پہنچنے پر اسے اسلام آباد میں مرکزی اسٹورج سینٹر میں منتقل کر دیا گیا تھا۔ جس کے بعد تمام ہیلتھ گائیڈ لائنز کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے ویکسین وفاقی اکائیوں کو فراہم کی گئی۔ ویکسین کی منتقلی کے پلان کو این سی او سی نے حتمی شکل دی تھی۔ درجہ حرارت کو برقرار اور وقت بچانے کے لیے سندھ اور بلوچستان اور گلگت بلتستان کو ویکسین طیاروں پر فراہم کی گئی۔ ویکسین کی پہلی کھیپ مکمل طور پر کووڈ-19 کے خلاف جنگ لڑنے والے فرنٹ لائن ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز کو لگائی جا رہی اور این سی او سی اور تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز کی طے کردہ ترجیحات کے مطابق ویکسین کی پہلی خوراک ہیلتھ ورکرز کو لگائی جا رہی ہے۔ ملک بھر میں ایڈلٹ ویکسینیشن مراکز قائم کیے جا چکے ہیں اور ویکسینیشن کا تمام تر عمل ڈیجیٹل میکانزم سے کنٹرول کیا جا رہا ہے۔

ویکسینیشن کے پہلے مرحلے کے لیے پنجاب میں 189، سندھ میں 14 خیر پختونخوا میں 280، بلوچستان میں 44 اور اسلام آباد میں 14 ویکسینیشن سینٹر قائم کیے گئے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ آزاد کشمیر میں 25 اور گلگت بلتستان میں 16 مراکز کے ذریعے ویکسینیشن کی جا رہی ہے۔ این سی او سی پوری ویکسینیشن مہم کے دوران نرو سینٹر کے طور پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ اس کیلئے صوبے، اضلاع اور تحصیل کی سطح پر بھی کور سینٹرز قائم کئے گئے ہیں۔

پہلے مرحلے میں تمام شہری بمعہ فرنٹ لائن ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز ایس ایم ایس کے ذریعے 1166 پر اپنا قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر بھیجیں گے یا رجسٹریشن کے لیے نیشنل امیونائزیشن مینجمنٹ سسٹم کی ویب سائٹ کا استعمال کریں گے۔ دوسرے مرحلے میں تصدیق کے بعد موجودہ پتے کی بنیاد پر نامزد آڈلٹ ویکسین سینٹر اور پین کوڈ شہریوں کو بذریعہ ایس ایم ایس بھیجا جائے گا۔ تیسرے مرحلے میں اگر نامزد اے وی سی شہریوں کی موجودہ تحصیل سے باہر ہے تو شہری ایس ایم ایس موصول ہونے کے 5 دن کے اندر این آئی ایم ایس کی

ویب پورٹل یا 11666 ہیلپ لائن پر کال کر کے اپنا اے وی سی تبدیل کر سکتا ہے۔ چوتھے مرحلے میں مقررہ ویکسین سینٹر پر ویکسین کی دستیابی پر اپائنٹمنٹ کی تاریخ سے قبل شہریوں کو ایس ایم ایس بھیجا جائے گا۔ پانچویں مرحلے میں کامیاب رجسٹریشن کے بعد شہری اپنا شناختی کارڈ اور موصول شدہ پین کوڈ (لازمی) کے ساتھ مقررہ تاریخ اور وقت پر اے وی سی آئیں گے۔ چھٹے مرحلے میں اے وی سی میں ویکسین اسٹاف شناختی کارڈ اور پین کوڈ کی تصدیق کرے گا۔ ساتویں مرحلے میں تصدیق کے بعد شہریوں کو ویکسین لگائی جائے گی اور انتظامیہ این آئی ایم ایس میں تفصیلات کا اندراج کرے گی اور شہری کو ایس ایم ایس کے ذریعے تصدیقی پیغام بھیجا جائے گا۔ ویکسین لگائے جانے کے بعد 30 منٹ تک شہری کو نگرانی کے لیے وہاں موجود رہنا ہو گا۔ آٹھویں اور آخری مرحلے میں اس طریقہ کار سے وفاقی، صوبائی اور ضلعی محکمہ صحت کیلئے ریکل ٹائم ڈیش بوڈ خود کار طریقے سے تیار ہو گا۔

اس سے قبل چینی کمپنی کین سائنونے پاکستان سمیت 5 ممالک میں اپنا کلینکل ٹرائل مکمل کیا اور بین الاقوامی ڈیولپمنٹ نگر اس کمیٹی (آئی ڈی ایم سی) کو اس کے افادیت کی شرح کے باضابطہ اعلان کے لیے بھیج دیا گیا، پاکستان میں کین سائنونے کے فیروز 3 کلینکل ٹرائل کے لیے قومی معاون ڈاکٹر حسن عباس ظہیر نے بتایا پاکستان، میکسیکو، ارجنٹینا، چلی اور روس میں 40 ہزار رضاکاروں کو ویکسین دی گئی۔ ڈاکٹر حسن ظہیر کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں تقریباً 18 ہزار رضاکاروں کو ویکسین لگائی گئی، لیکن چونکہ ابھی ڈیٹا کا اعلان نہیں کر سکتے لہذا اسے آئی ڈی ایم سی کو بھیجا گیا ہے۔ جس کے بعد نتائج سامنے لائے جائیں گے، بعد ازاں یہ نتائج ڈریپ کے ساتھ شیئر کیے جائیں گے، انہوں نے کہا کہ صرف 5 فیصد رضاکاروں کو ہلکا سا بخار ہوا لیکن کسی موت یا ہسپتال میں داخل ہونے کی اطلاع ملی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سب سے اچھی بات یہ ہے کہ ویکسین سنگل خوراک ہے اور اسے ایک مرتبہ ہی لگانا ہو گا، تاہم ایک اور چینی کمپنی نے کلینکل ٹرائل کے لیے ہم سے رابطہ کیا ہے جو ڈریپ کی منظوری کے بعد شروع ہوں گے۔ طبی ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ بڑی پیش رفت ہے کہ پاکستان ان ممالک کی فہرست میں شامل ہو گیا جہاں کووڈ 19 ویکسین کا اسٹاک ہے۔ قومی ادارہ صحت کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر میجر جنرل عامر اکرام ویکسین کے ضروری لاجسٹکس کے انتظامات کے لیے فوکل پرسن ہیں۔

دنیا بھر میں کووڈ وائرس سے متاثرہ افراد کی تعداد جہاں کروڑوں اور اموات لاکھوں میں ہے وہیں پاکستان میں بھی اس وبا سے اب تک لاکھوں لوگ متاثر اور ہزاروں انتقال کر چکے ہیں۔ ہلاکتوں کے بڑھتے واقعات کے بعد ویکسین کو تیار کرنے کے لیے بیجنگ انسٹیٹیوٹ کے محققین نے چین کے ہسپتالوں میں زیر علاج مریضوں سے کووڈ وائرس کی 13 اقسام کو حاصل کیا تھا اور اس میں سے اس قسم کا انتخاب کیا جو بندر کے گردوں کے خلیات میں بہت تیزی سے اپنی تعداد بڑھانے میں کامیاب ہوئی۔ ویکسین کے لیے اس وائرس کی ناکارہ قسم کا استعمال کیا گیا ہے جو بیمار نہیں کرتی بلکہ مدافعتی نظام کو تقویت دینے میں مدد فراہم کرتی ہے۔ ویکسینز کی تیاری کے لیے غیر فعال وائرس کا استعمال عرصے سے کیا جا رہا ہے، 1950 کی دہائی میں اسی طریقے سے پولیو ویکسین تیار ہوئی تھی اور سپائنا ٹنٹس اے اور دیگر ویکسینز بھی اس طریقہ کار کے تحت تیار کی گئیں۔ چونکہ اس ویکسین میں موجود کووڈ وائرس ناکارہ ہوتے ہیں، تو ان کو جسم میں داخل کرنے سے کووڈ 19 کا سامنا نہیں ہوتا۔ مگر جسم کے اندر جانے کے بعد ان میں سے کچھ غیر فعال وائرسز کو ایک قسم کے مدافعتی خلیات نگل لیتے ہیں جن کو اینٹی جین سیل بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ یہ خلیات کووڈ وائرس کے ٹکڑے کر دیتے ہیں اور اس کے کچھ ذرات اپنی سطح پر چھوڑ دیتے ہیں، جس کے بعد مددگار ٹی سیل ان ذرات کو شناخت کرتا ہے۔ اور متحرک ہو دیگر مدافعتی خلیات کو اکٹھا کر کے ویکسین کے لیے رد عمل کو تیار کر دیتا ہے۔ اس طرح ویکسین کے استعمال کے بعد مدافعتی نظام زندہ کووڈ وائرسز سے ہونے والی بیماری کے خلاف رد عمل ظاہر کرتا ہے، بی سیلز اینٹی باڈیز بناتے ہیں جو حملہ آور وائرس سے چپک جاتی ہیں۔ اینٹی باڈیز اسپائیک پروٹین کو ہدف بنا کر وائرس کو خلیات میں داخلے سے روکتی ہیں، دیگر اقسام کی اینٹی باڈیز حملہ طور پر وائرس کو دیگر طریقوں سے ہلاک کر سکتی ہیں۔ اس ویکسین کے کلینیکل ٹرائلز میں دریافت کیا گیا کہ اس کے استعمال سے لوگوں کو کووڈ 19 کے خلاف تحفظ ملتا ہے، تاہم یہ ابھی کہنا قبل از وقت ہو گا کہ یہ تحفظ کتنے عرصے تک برقرار رہ سکتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-02-08/page-9/detail-0>



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**The Nation**

**CanSino applies for emergency use authorisation of Covid-19 vaccine**

ISLAMABAD-Another Chinese company CanSino has applied for the emergency use authorisation of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine with the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday.

The CanSino earlier also conducted COVID-19 trials in the country and it will be the second China based COVID-19 vaccine after the SinoPharm to be allowed emergency use in Pakistan.

Other than SinoPharm, the government has confirmed the arrival of the United Kingdom (UK) based AstraZenca vaccine from COVAX in the third week of the ongoing month.

The government has also confirmed that Russian based vaccine Sputnik-V vaccine has been also given emergency use authorisation, while in upcoming months United States (US) based Pfizer will be also available in Pakistan.

Officials at the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) also said that CanSino has given application for the emergency use authorisation of the COVID-19 vaccine and DRAP authorization board will consider its application. Officials said that the DRAP will give approval of the emergency use authorisation of the CanSino vaccine in the next meeting.

Officials said that the CanSino has been manufactured in Chinese military medical sciences academy and its trials were conducted in Pakistan, Russia, Mexico, Chile and Argentina.

In Pakistan, CanSino clinical trials were conducted in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Officials added that the CanSino is a single dose vaccine.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on NHS Dr. Faisal Sultan in his social media message said that clinical trial data (phase-3) of a one-dose Ad5-nCoV vaccine for Covid-19 (Cansino Bio) was received. Interim analysis by the Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC) shows 65.7% efficacy at preventing symptomatic cases and 90.98% at preventing severe disease (multicountry analysis).

He said that in the Pakistani subset, efficacy at preventing symptomatic cases is 74.8% & 100% at preventing severe disease.

SAPM on NHS also added that the IDMC didn't report any serious safety concerns. Data include 30,000 participants & 101 virologically confirmed COVID cases.

Meanwhile, DRAP in collaboration with the World Health Organization arranged a one-day training session on monitoring adverse events following immunization (AEFI) of COVID-19 vaccine.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-09/page-13/detail-1>

**The News**

**Chinese vaccine nearly 75pc effective: Dr Faisal**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday announced that China's CanSinoBio COVID-19 vaccine is nearly 75% effective against the virus in Pakistan.

Taking to Twitter, the special assistant said that according to the vaccine's phase-three trials data, it has turned out to be 74.8% effective against the virus, while it also showed 100% effectiveness in preventing severe disease.

Further citing the Independent Data Monitoring Committee's report, he said that in multiple countries, the vaccine was 65.7% and 90.98% effective in preventing symptomatic cases and severe diseases, respectively.

The SAPM said that the IDMC did not report any "serious safety concerns" and that the data included as many as 30,000 participants and 101 people who had tested positive for coronavirus. At the beginning of February, China's CanSino Biologics had said that an independent committee found the drugmaker's COVID-19 vaccine met its pre-specified primary safety and efficacy targets under an interim analysis of Phase-three trial data.

No adverse events related to the vaccine have occurred and the findings of the IDMC means the company could go ahead with advancing its Phase-three clinical trial for the candidate, known as Ad5-nCoV or Convidecia, CanSinoBio said. Back in November 2020, officials said Pakistan had inoculated about 7,000 of the 10,000 phase-three trial participants.

Pakistan has approved two coronavirus vaccines – AstraZeneca and Sinopharm — while the vaccination drive kicked off last week across the country. Pakistan will administer the vaccine in three phases, starting with front-line healthcare workers.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/787318-chinese-vaccine-nearly-75pc-effective-dr-faisal>

### **Jang News**

#### **ٹیاری۔ لاہور ٹرانسمیشن پروجیکٹ پر چینی کمپنی اور این ٹی ڈی سی میں ڈیڈ لاک**

اسلام آباد (خالد مصطفیٰ) ٹیاری۔ لاہور ایچ وی ڈی سی ٹرانسمیشن پروجیکٹ پر چینی کمپنی اور این ٹی ڈی سی میں ڈیڈ لاک برقرار ہے۔ چینی کمپنی اس حوالے سے عالمی مصالحتی عدالت سے رجوع کر سکتی ہے، جب کہ پاور ڈویژن اور ایم ڈی، این ٹی ڈی سی نے دی نیوز کے رابطہ کرنے پر جواب نہیں دیا ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق، چین کی کمپنی پاک ٹیاری۔ لاہور ٹرانسمیشن کمپنی (پی ایم ایل ٹی سی)، جس نے 660 کے وی کی ٹیاری۔ لاہور ایچ وی ڈی سی ٹرانسمیشن پروجیکٹ پر 2.2 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کر کے اسے دو سال میں مکمل کیا تھا۔ اس نے حکومتی کمپنی نیشنل ٹرانسمیشن ڈسپنچر کمپنی (این ٹی ڈی سی) کو خبردار کیا ہے کہ این ٹی ڈی سی کے خلاف قانونی کارروائی کر سکتا ہے، جس میں چینی حکومت کو اعلیٰ سطح پر شامل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ جب کہ عالمی مصالحتی عدالت سے رجوع بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے کیوں کہ وہ منصوبے کی راہ میں رکاوٹیں پیدا کر رہی ہے۔ چینی کمپنی نے این ٹی ڈی سی کے بورڈ آف ڈائریکٹرز سے اجلاس کا کہا ہے اور انہیں منصوبے پر بریفنگ کا موقع فراہم کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔ ٹیاری۔ لاہور ایچ وی ڈی سی ٹرانسمیشن منصوبہ، سی پیک کے اہم منصوبوں میں سے ایک ہے۔ جس کے کمرشل آپریشنز یکم مارچ سے 2021 سے شروع ہونا ہیں۔ تاہم، موجودہ صورت حال میں این ٹی ڈی سی اور پی ایم ایل ٹی سی کے درمیان ہونے والے

ڈیڈ لاک کی وجہ سے کمرشل آپریشن کی فعالیت تذبذب کا شکار ہے۔ 6 فروری، 2021 کو چیئر مین این ٹی ڈی سی بورڈ نوید اسماعیل کو لکھے گئے خط میں پاک ٹیاری۔ لاہور ٹرانسمیشن کمپنی کے سی ای او، ڈیگ لائی نے کہا کہ پی ایم ایل ٹی سی نے یہ منصوبہ دو سال کی مدت میں مکمل کیا اور اس کے سسٹم نے یکم دسمبر، 2020 سے تجارتی طور پر کام کرنا شروع کیا۔ تاہم، این ٹی ڈی سی نے اس کی فعالیت معطل کر دی، جسے دو ماہ سے زائد وقت گزر چکا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے کمپنی کے 300 سے زیادہ انجینئرز اور ٹیکنیشنز فارغ بیٹھے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/883033>

**February 10, 2021**

**Business Recorder**

**CPEC's Thar Coal Block-1 project making rapid progress: Li Jigen**

KARACHI: The Thar Coal Block-1 project, which is an important part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is making rapid progress despite all odds, says a top official.

At the office relocation ceremony of Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL), Li Jigen, Chief Operating Officer of SSRL, a subsidiary of Shanghai Electric, said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and other obstacles, the mega project in Thar has picked up pace in recent times. Tariq Shah, Sindh Energy Secretary, Meng Donghai, CEO of Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Co and Li Jigen, inaugurated SSRL's new office at The Harbour Front.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/10/11-page/869272-news.html>

**Pakistan Observer**

**CPEC & chances of greater regional connectivity**

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now “revolutionized” prospects of achieving greater regional connectivity. It is indeed a victory of Pak-China’s “commercial diplomacy” having firm belief in the philosophy of “peaceful co-existence” and “shared prosperity”. In this context, operationalization of strategic seaport of Gwadar and signing of trans-regional railway project (Pakistan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan) has further brightened the chances of greater socio-economic integration and meaningful, productivity, participatory and befitting regional connectivity. Moreover, a series of long-term logistic/transportation projects have further strengthened bilateral or trilateral relations in the region especially, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. Now chances of inflows of FDIs, joint ventures, trade & commerce activities, cultural cooperation, tourism, textile, agriculture collaboration and last but not the least, direct connectivity have been further streamlined.

Most recently, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood visited Uzbekistan and held various meaningful bilateral trade negotiations with Uzbekistan’s high officials to enhance the trade volume between both sides. While meeting with H.E. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev he discussed early completion of trans-regional railway project and diverse matters for further strengthening of bilateral trade, regional connectivity, trans-regional railways project, PTA/FTA, FDI and joint ventures. It was agreed to proceed in a collaborative manner to achieve the mutually beneficial propositions for both the countries. Signing ceremony was also held to finalize modalities (road-map) pertaining to the mega project of rail-link (US\$4.8 billion) to be connected with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

During the signing ceremony Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov termed peace and stability in Afghanistan essential for development, economic growth and increased regional cooperation. Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar thanked the host country for playing its leading role in the pursuit of the landmark project. Last month, Pakistan’s

Prime Minister Imran Khan assured Pakistan's seaports facility to Central Asian states for easy and smooth access to the Indian Ocean. The proposed 573 km railway track is set to connect Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent via Afghan capital Kabul with Pakistan's northern city of Peshawar. The three countries signed a joint request last month seeking a \$4.8 billion loan from international financial institutions for the Trans-Afghan railway project.

Furthermore, both states resolved to enter into a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) for increasing bilateral trade and promote trade liberalization. Revival of the Joint Business Council (JBC) was also discussed and consequently assured that bilateral engagements like Inter-Governmental Commission will be held more frequently. Even business delegation of Pakistan mainly All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and Governor Punjab Ch Muhammad Sarwar visited Uzbekistan and met with different high officials and stakeholders to discuss numerous opportunities of bilateral cooperation in the fields of textiles, garment industry, agriculture, pharmaceutical, culture, tourism and education. The Governor Punjab showcased huge investment and business potential of Pakistan and projected the strategic importance of the CPEC for further strengthening of regional connectivity.

Last month (January 2021) Turkmenistan and Afghanistan inaugurated/initiated three major energy and connectivity projects aimed at strengthening bilateral and regional ties. The three projects consisted of a power transmission project, a fibre optic line for high speed internet, and a railway line between the two neighbours. Turkmenistan President H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani graced the occasion through video links from Kabul and Ashgabat. Turkmen President termed it historic day for further regional connectivity in terms of logistics and transportation.

Turkmen President further elaborated that all three projects have been completed in a short time and termed beneficial for long-term development, wellbeing and prosperity of Turkmen and Afghan people, assisting expanded international cooperation, mutual understanding, political and social stability. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) gas pipeline is the gift of Turkmenistan for greater regional energy cooperation.

President Ghani said it is a matter of immense pride that Afghanistan is renewing its longstanding relations with Central Asian countries. He shared various mega projects such as railway, TAPI, TAP (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan) power transmission line, fibre optics network that can link South Asia to Europe by land and to the rest of the world will transform the living conditions of the Afghan people for the better and improve the situation in the entire region. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan Railway project is the 30 km (18.6 mi) railway link between the two neighbours 24 km (15 mi) main railroad and 6 km (3.6 mi) branch line in the Andkхой station along with construction of small bridges, level crossings and a road parallel to the rail-track.

China the international "bearer" of "peaceful" co-existence and "community" development initiated the project of the century i.e. "One Belt One Road" and extended its economic, financial and infrastructure expertise to all the participating countries. China continues to brighten regional connectivity especially, with all the Central Asian countries through "rail-links". On

June 5, 2020, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan transportation corridor was further developed into China. A cargo train from China's Lanzhou, in Gansu province, for the first time transported goods to Tashkent. Tashkent has now become a "logistic & connecting hub" and cargo train received electric appliances from Lanzhou that travelled by way of Kashgar in Xinjiang and Irkashtan and Osh in Kyrgyzstan. For the trip back, the containers will carry cotton fabric. The route is around 4400 kilometres and can be covered in seven to 10 days. At both ends of the trip, in China and Uzbekistan, cargo on the corridor is moved by rail, and in the middle part, in Kyrgyzstan, cargo is transported by trucks. While the railroad has been in the making in one form or another for 25 years, no rail connection exists to directly link China and Uzbekistan via Kyrgyzstan.

Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I really appreciate China's onward socio-economic prosperity in terms of GDP. According to the preliminary calculation of the National Bureau of Statistics of China (January 2021), its GDP has now reached 101.6 trillion Yuan (around 14.7 trillion USD), increased by 2.3% from 2019. For the first time, China's GDP exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold. Moreover, the GDP of 100 trillion Yuan and the per capita GDP of 10,000 USD for the second consecutive year indicates a new height in socio-economic development. It has laid a solid foundation for China in implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). Arrival of H.E. Aybek Arif Usmanov Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Pakistan is indeed a "value-addition" in further strengthening of bilateral/trilateral relations. He is in fact "champion" & "guru" of public and commercial diplomacy due to which business and investment oriented activities have already been geared-up between the two countries. CPEC has instrumented chances of regional connectivity in which Pakistan can play a major role.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-chances-of-greater-regional-connectivity/>

### **CPEC: A golden opportunity for Pakistan's economic development**

AS the Chinese-financed 3000 kilometres long CPEC connecting the Kashgar city of China's Xinjiang Autonomous region with Gwadar Port city of Balochistan province of Pakistan, would be a network of roads, railways, ports, power plants, pipelines, industrial zones and cooperation in agriculture, its development is going to give a quantum jump to the development of Pakistan's economy. With the huge economic and trade-related opportunities that the CPEC will provide to Pakistan, the project will definitely help Pakistan in achieving economic self-reliance, which is necessary for it to become a strong economic and military power and a true sovereign state.

Thus, the CPEC is going to become a pivot for Pakistan's economic development by helping it enhance its economic growth and progress on a long term basis, by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), providing energy producing resources, advancing industrialization, improving internet-based communication, road, rail, air and sea-based transport network, modernizing industry and agriculture, improving services through manpower's skill development, constructing tourism spots and enhancing Pakistan's national, regional and international connectivity, to make it a hub of international trade and investment.

Now, let us see the economic benefits of the CPEC-related projects during and after their completion, which will help boost Pakistan's economic development. Already, out of the 19

energy projects included in the CPEC plan, 10 projects, based on coal, have been completed and approximately 4666MW to 5000 MW electricity has been pumped into the national grid so far. This has greatly helped Pakistan address its energy shortage. On completion of the remaining projects, 17000 MW of electricity will be available for the industry, agriculture, services, construction and other sectors of economic development, which will help in enhancing the economic growth. Also, a network of pipelines to transport liquefied natural gas and oil will be laid as part of the CPEC project.

A vast network of highways and railways is also being built under the CPEC plan. This transportation network will link Gwadar and Karachi seaports with northern Pakistan, as well as points further north in western China and Central Asia. A 1,100-kilometre-long motorway is being built between Karachi and Lahore as part of CPEC, while the Karakoram Highway from Hasan Abdal to the Chinese border is also being reconstructed. The Karachi–Peshawar main railway line will also be upgraded to allow for train travel at up to 160 km per hour. Pakistan’s railway network will also be extended to connect to China’s Southern Xinjiang Railway in Kashgar.

Gwadar port forms the core of the CPEC project, as it would act as a major link between China’s One Belt, One Road project, and its Maritime Silk Road project and trade of China, Central Asia and South Asia with the outer world and vice-versa. Gwadar Port has been initially expanded to allow for docking of larger ships of up to the tonnage of 70,000. In Gwadar, a floating liquefied natural gas facility will also be constructed and will be connected to the Gwadar-Nawabshah segment of the Iran–Pakistan gas pipeline. In total, there are nine projects in Gwadar’s development plan, including the construction of a modern airport, funded by China.

In Science & Technology, Pakistan and China have signed an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement. The two countries also pledged to establish the “China-Pakistan Joint Marine Research Centre”. Also as part of the CPEC agreement, Pakistan and China have agreed to cooperate in the field of space research. The two countries also agreed to establish the “Pak-China Science, Technology, Commerce and Logistic Park” near Islamabad at an estimated cost of \$1.5 billion.

As part of the CPEC, the \$44 million 820 kilometre long Pakistan-China Fibre Optic Project, a Cross Border Optical Fibre Cable is being laid that will enhance telecommunication and ICT Industry in Pakistan. The two countries have also signed an agricultural cooperation framework agreement to modernize agriculture. To expand and modernize industry in Pakistan, nine special economic zones are also being developed along the CPEC route in phases aimed to bring an industrial revolution in the country.

The above discussion indicates that the completion of the CPEC-related development projects will bring many socio-economic advantages to Pakistan. Whereas the vast transportation and communication infrastructure will make Pakistan a hub for world trade, its domestic trade will also multiply. While Pakistan’s industrial production will increase in volume and quality, its production in agriculture-related fields will also enhance. The construction of CPEC-related projects, the expansion in industry, agriculture and services sectors and tourism will increase

employment opportunities in Pakistan. The increased economic activity and production in these sectors will enable Pakistan to meet the domestic demands of products and will also enhance its exports to earn the valuable foreign exchange.

In the overall context, the CPEC-generated huge economic activity will enhance Pakistan production, economic growth, employment, exports and ability to act as route for the international trade to earn valuable foreign exchange and enough budgetary funds to spend on its annual development plans, kill poverty, make its people wealthy and become an economically self-reliant and sovereign state. Therefore, it can be said with certainty that the CPEC mega project is a golden opportunity for Pakistan's economic development and progress to make it a true welfare state and a strong economic and military power.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-golden-opportunity-for-pakistans-economic-development/>

### **China will continue to support Pakistan's anti-epidemic efforts, economic recovery: Wang Wenbin**

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, China will continue to offer support and assistance for Pakistan's anti-epidemic efforts, economic recovery and social development in accordance with its needs, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday.

In accordance with the diplomatic ties, China will continue to offer support and assistance for Pakistan's anti epidemic efforts, economic recovery and social development in accordance with its needs, he said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP correspondent.

We will together make sure the success of our celebrations activities and lent new momentum to our bilateral relations, he added. Wang Wenbin observed that since the outbreak, China and Pakistan have been supporting each other.

“When China was in depth of anti-epidemic war, Pakistan was among the first to help China. In the same way, the Chinese side has been helping and assisting Pakistan with testing agents, masks protective suits and vaccines. These are concrete steps illustrating our iron brother relationship”, he added.

On February 1, the first batch of 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government arrived by a special plane in Islamabad from Beijing, 10 days after Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi promised with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during a phone call that China would assist Pakistan with vaccines. Later, on February 8, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) delivered a batch of Covid-19 vaccines to the Pakistan Armed Forces at the latter's request.

Thus, Pakistan has become the first country to receive Covid-19 vaccines assistance from the Chinese government as well the Chinese military.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-will-continue-to-support-pakistans-anti-epidemic-efforts-economic-recovery-wang-wenbin/>

### **HEC calls on researches to submit proposals on CPEC-CRG**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has called on researchers to bring forward their proposals for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor-Collaborative Research Grant (CPEC-CRG).

According to the HEC's tweet on Tuesday, the project is one of the key components of the recently launched HEC initiative "Academic Collaboration under CPEC Consortium of Universities", a statement posted on HEC's website said.

"The objective of the project is to understand and respond to the historic global geo-strategic and geo-economic transition, and its impact on the region, in general, and Pakistan in particular," it said.

The CPEC-CRG is expected to support promising research partnerships between Pakistan and China, aiming at finding solutions to CPEC-related problems through joint research by the universities of Pakistan and China, HEC said.

"CPEC- CRG research projects must be collaborative in scope, with teams composed of academic researchers from Pakistan and China with the appropriate expertise to address the research challenge, as well as industrial and sectoral collaborators within Pakistan and China," read the statement.

<https://pakobserver.net/hec-calls-on-researches-to-submit-proposals-on-cpec-crg/>

### **Gwadar a commercial port, to receive port calls by ships of different navies: Pakistan Navy chief**

*Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan*

The Gwadar Port is a commercial port that may receive port calls by ships of different navies, said Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, in a recent exclusive interview with the Global Times, in response to media reports claiming the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is mulling to build a naval base in Pakistan.

Explaining the context of the Gwadar Port, rumored to be the designation of the Chinese naval base, Admiral Niazi said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an economic integration initiative of China which will improve interconnectivity and usher massive growth across regions, and the ongoing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the BRI, would contribute significantly toward economic prosperity of all the stakeholders.

Infrastructure development under the CPEC Project will create job opportunities and economic development for the people of Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan and along the Makran belt, Admiral Niazi said. "The CPEC is a manifestation of strong and fortifying ties between China and Pakistan that will play a key role in the economic uplift and betterment of the entire region."

"Gwadar is a commercial port that will serve as the lynchpin of the CPEC project. As the port gets fully operational, like any other commercial port, it may also receive port calls by ships of different navies," Admiral Niazi told the Global Times.

The Karachi Port, for example, receives ships of different navies quite often. Visit of a commercial port by naval ships does not alter the commercial nature of the project, he said.

Moreover, the Pakistan Navy is taking all possible measures to ensure protection of Gwadar Port and its seaward approaches through sustained presence in and around the adjoining waters off Gwadar, the admiral said.



<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-a-commercial-port-to-receive-port-calls-by-ships-of-different-navies-pakistan-navy-chief/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Chinese envoy, Wapda chairman discuss water, hydropower projects**

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD-Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Tuesday called on Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Lt Gen (r) Muzammil Hussain. The matters relating to the Chinese cooperation for Wapda in construction of water and hydropower projects were discussed during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese ambassador appreciated the efforts made by Wapda for implementation of its projects to cope with water and electricity needs in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan and China have been the partners in progress since decades, and Chinese institutions will continue working with Wapda in water and hydropower sectors for prosperity of the people. Wapda chairman expressed the gratitude for Chinese assistance in completion of Wapda projects. He said that Chinese construction firms have been working on a number of Wapda projects including super mega Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam and Dasu Hydropower Project. Underlining significance of these projects for sustained economic development, poverty alleviation and social uplift in Pakistan, he expressed the hope that the Chinese construction firms would complete these projects on time and in accordance with the laid down standards. He said that Wapda highly values the Chinese support for its projects, adding that the level of cooperation between Wapda and the Chinese institutions will further enhance in the days to come.

Railways minister, Chinese envoy discuss CPEC, ML-1 projects

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong here on Tuesday called on Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati and discussed matters pertaining to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Mainline (ML-1) projects.

The minister thanked the Chinese ambassador for his keen interest in the ML-1 project, a news release said. Azam Swati appreciated the services rendered by the Chinese ambassador, and both the sides agreed on early launching of the ML-1 aimed at further strengthening the Pak-China friendship.

The Chinese envoy said the ML-1 would be the biggest project in the history of Pakistan and it would further cement the existing ties between the two countries.

Azam Swati said the ML-1 project was of great importance for Pakistan Railways (PR) and the national economy, adding the Chinese partnership in this sector would change the fate of PR.

“We are grateful to the Chinese government for all possible assistance to Pakistan for the project. The ML-1 project will be carried out in the four provinces from Peshawar to Karachi, under which locals and Chinese workers will be hired for its construction,” the minister said.

He also invited the Chinese ambassador to the inauguration ceremony of the safari train.

The two sides also discussed other issues of mutual interest. The minister thanked the Chinese envoy for his continued efforts to strengthen Pak-China friendship.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-10/page-8/detail-2>

## The News

### **‘Pakistan to seek debt relief from China’**

LONDON: Pakistan plans to ask China for relief on payments for power projects Beijing financed over the past eight years, the latest developing nation that's struggling to repay debt under President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, Bloomberg reported.

In informal talks, Pakistan and China have discussed easing terms on the repayment of debt on about a dozen power plants, according to a person with knowledge of the matter, who said Islamabad hasn't made a formal request yet. The parties have canvassed Beijing's willingness to stagger debt payments, as opposed to lowering equity returns, the person said, requesting anonymity as the plan is private.

An enormous build-out of Chinese-financed power plants in Pakistan, which was originally intended to solve its electricity shortages, has resulted in a surplus that Islamabad isn't able to afford. Infrastructure projects funded by China's initiative in other developing nations, such as Sri Lanka and Malaysia, have suffered issues ranging from heavy debt loads to corruption.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance, as well as Pakistan's power division, didn't respond to requests seeking comment. China has denied US criticism that the initiative leads to debt traps, while acknowledging that countries have had difficulties repaying loans due to the pandemic-induced global recession. Last year, Beijing cancelled interest-free loans to 15 African countries due to mature by the end of 2020, and it has delayed other payments.

The Belt and Road program had found new life in Pakistan last year with the signing of \$11 billion worth of projects, most of which went to revamping the nation's railway system.

While Chinese financing has helped Pakistan diversify fuel supplies, it has also resulted in a surplus of electricity, which is problematic for the government in Islamabad because it is the sole buyer and pays producers even when they don't generate. To help tackle the issue, the government has negotiated with power plants, which produce roughly half of its electricity, to lower rates.

Pakistan will formally make the request to defer debt payments to China, as well as other plants that were part of the latest power policy, after it concludes deals with those local power producers to reduce electricity tariffs, said the person with knowledge of the matter. Debt relief from China will also help the government reduce power payments.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/787909-pakistan-to-seek-debt-relief-from-china>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### **پاکستان چین ترقی کے سفر میں عشروں سے ساتھی ہیں: نونگ روٹنگ**

نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کئی عشروں سے ترقی کے سفر میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھی ہیں اور پانی (Nong Rong) لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نونگ روٹنگ اور پین بجلی کے شعبوں میں ترقی کے لئے چین کے اداروں کی معاونت جاری رہے گی۔ انہوں نے پاکستان میں پانی اور بجلی کی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کے لئے واپڈا کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ روز چیئر مین واپڈا ایٹھنٹ جزل مزمل حسین (ریٹائرڈ) سے ملاقات کی۔ چیئر مین واپڈا نے کہا کہ چینی تعمیراتی کمپنیاں واپڈا کے کئی ایک منصوبوں

پروگرام کر رہی ہیں، جن میں دیامر بھاشا ڈیم، مہمند ڈیم اور داسو ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ بھی شامل ہیں۔ چیئرمین واپڈا نے امید ظاہر کی کہ چینی تعمیراتی کمپنیاں ان منصوبوں کو مقررہ وقت اور مطلوبہ معیار کے مطابق مکمل کریں گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-02-10/page-8/detail-23>

## **February 11, 2021**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **Chinese delegation, SU VC agree to work together**

HYDERABAD: A Chinese delegation headed by the director of the Chinese Confucius Institute, Karachi University, Zhang Xiao Ping, called on the vice chancellor, University of Sindh, Prof. Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, and discussed with him initiating of Chinese language courses and research collaboration here on Wednesday.

Both the academic heads agreed to work together in the field of research and provide the researchers with the opportunity to learn mutually from each other's experiences.

Zhang Xiao Ping, who led the Chinese 10-member delegation in the meeting, briefed the vice chancellor, University of Sindh, about the language courses they are offering at Confucius Institute, Karachi University, and Cadet College Petaro.

He said that Chinese language courses were being offered in Karachi and Petaro for the Sindhi youth where the SU students could also join.

"We will provide them with a facility of pick and drop and accommodation but the trainees will bear the cost of the books themselves," he said.

On the occasion, the vice chancellor Prof. Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro said that the physical classes for teaching Chinese language at present could not be started due to coronavirus pandemic. However, he said the research collaboration could be undertaken with Confucius Institute and Chinese Universities.

Earlier, the Chinese delegation visited SU's Area Study Center and discussed with the director of the center, Dr. Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, research collaborations.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/11/16-page/869419-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **CPEC, a game changer for entire region**

Governor Balochistan Amanullah Yasinzai on Wednesday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for the entire region including Pakistan. He expressed these views while talking to trainee officers of PAF Air War College Course at Governor House led by Air Commodore Kashif Jamal called on him.

The participants were informed about CPEC, ongoing development progress in Balochistan, law and order situation, technical and vocational training centers, agriculture and livestock. Governor Amanullah Yasinzai said that Balochistan is rich of natural resources and minerals and the government was trying hard to provide basic amenities at people's doorstep.

He said despite having long borders with Afghanistan and Iran, the law and order situation in Balochistan is much better than the past due to the sacrifices made by the security agencies.—  
APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-game-changer-for-entire-region/>

### The Nation

## **Peng Zhengwu visits Orange Line, greets staff for upcoming Chinese Spring Festival**

LAHORE - Mr Peng Zhengwu, Acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Lahore visited the Orange Line and extended warm greetings to both Chinese and Pakistani Staff for the upcoming traditional Chinese Spring Festival on Wednesday morning.

The Consul General labeled the Orange Line as a golden business card of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and promised more bilateral cooperative projects this year, which marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-11/page-1/detail-5>

### Jang News

#### **نئی چینئی ویکسین پروٹین میسڈ ہے، پروفیسر جاوید اکرم**

یونیورسٹی آف ہیلتھ سائنسز لاہور کے وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر جاوید اکرم کا کہنا ہے کہ نئی چینئی ویکسین بھی پروٹین میسڈ ہے۔ یونیورسٹی آف ہیلتھ سائنسز لاہور کے وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر جاوید اکرم نے اپنے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ یونیورسٹی آف ہیلتھ سائنسز ایک اور کورونا وائرس ویکسین کا ٹرائل کرے گی۔ وی سی ڈاکٹر جاوید اکرم نے کہا کہ چینئی ویکسین زیڈ ایف 2001 کے ٹرائل کی منظوری مل چکی ہے، ویکسین کی منظوری نیشنل بائیو ایٹھکس کمیٹی سے ملی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تمام ویکسینز کو مقامی لوگوں کے لیے چیک کرنا چاہتے ہیں، نئی ویکسین کین سائنس ویکسین سے مختلف ہے۔ پروفیسر جاوید اکرم نے کہا کہ ٹرائل میں حصہ لینے والے ہر ہیلتھ ورکر اور رضا کاروں کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں، اُمید ہے کین سائنس کی طرح زیڈ ایف 2001 کے بھی مضر اثرات نہیں ہوں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/884318>

## **February 12, 2021**

### Jang News

#### **ڈریپ نے چینئی ویکسین کین سائنس کے ہنگامی استعمال کی منظوری دیدی**

ڈرگ ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی آف پاکستان (ڈریپ) نے چینئی ویکسین کین سائنس کے ہنگامی استعمال کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ کین سائنس ویکسین کے فیڈرٹری کلینکل ٹرائلز پاکستان سمیت دیگر ممالک میں منعقد ہوئے تھے۔ ویکسین کین سائنس کی ہنگامی حالات میں منظور ڈریپ کے رجسٹریشن بورڈ نے دی ہے۔ ڈریپ حکام کے مطابق کین سائنس سٹیکل ڈوز ویکسین ہے۔

ڈریپ حکام کے مطابق کین سائنس ویکسین کے استعمال کے لیے درخواست اے جے ایم فارماسیوٹیکل کمپنی نے دی تھی۔ حکام کے مطابق ایک چینئی، روسی اور برطانوی کمپنیوں کی ویکسینز کو ہنگامی حالات میں استعمال کی اجازت دی جا چکی ہے۔

ڈریپ حکام کے مطابق چینی ویڈیو چین کے ہنگامی استعمال کی منظوری رجسٹریشن بورڈ کے 300 ویں اجلاس میں دی گئی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/884893>

**February 13, 2021**

**Daily Times**

## **Exposing the Occident's baseless lies about Xinjiang**

*S M Hali*

Abraham Lincoln, American statesman and lawyer who served as the 16th president of the USA and led his nation through the American Civil War, (1861 to 1865), succeeded in preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, bolstering the federal government, and modernizing the U.S. economy. The sagacious president, besides his stellar achievements, left behind a legacy of pearls of wisdom, which some of his successors chose to ignore at the peril of damaging values of morality their nation once prided in.

One of his most famous quotes, “You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time” remains valid even today. Unfortunately, perhaps blinded by vested interest or myopic vision, some media organizations in the Occident continue to churn out a plethora of lies about how the Chinese government is maltreating the ethnic Uighur community, is engaged in eliminating, suppressing it committing genocide, enforcing sterilization, slave labour, impeding the practice of Islam (the faith of majority of Uighurs). It is deplorable that little or no evidence is provided apart from grainy interviews of some people of Uighur origin claiming to be victims of Chinese tyranny.

In this age of information technology and a wide network of resources, which can easily debunk the lies, some western governments accept “opinion as facts”, and based on shaky evidence, impose sanctions against China to castigate it. Possibly their verdict is clouded by “Tall Poppy Syndrome”—a term that was popularized in Australia—which occurs when people are attacked, resented, disliked, criticized or cut down because of their achievements and/or success.

The western provinces of China lagged behind in the more opulent eastern regions—a weakness exploited by China's detractors to instigate the Uighurs promoting violence, separatism and extremism

Prima facie, submerged by the onslaught of accusations, a lesser nation would have buckled under the assault but China, depicting maturity and patience, has let its news agency Xinhua, issue a ‘Fact Check: Lies on Xinjiang-related Issues Versus the Truth’. The detailed report picks up 24 of the most blatant accusations about China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and logically refutes the assault on China through hard evidence.

Normally this scribe would have no need to comb through Xinhua's laboriously prepared “Fact Check”—not because I have blind faith on our Chinese brothers—but because seeing is believing. Since 1974 I have been visiting China, especially Xinjiang, which shares a common border with Pakistan. First as an Air Force officer, later as an analyst, academic and author of six books on China, researching for material.

Being an eyewitness to the economic growth of China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the population growth of the Uighur community, I can safely debunk the politically-motivated mudslinging being hurled by some elements in the west. In the last 47 years, I have personally watched Xinjiang grow from a backward, underdeveloped region into a modern progressive province equipped with amenities and services even the Occident does not provide to its areas in the boondocks. It is true that the western provinces of China lagged behind in the more opulent eastern regions—a weakness exploited by China's detractors to instigate the Uighurs promoting violence, separatism and extremism. Creditably, the Chinese government adopted timely measures to ensure Xinjiang's economic development and progress in poverty alleviation, simultaneously taking concrete steps to effectively counter terrorism and deradicalization. This scribe has toured every inch of Xinjiang and personally witnessed how the once underprivileged community is now enjoying perks of a higher quality of life ensured by President Xi Jinping's mega development projects like the Belt and Road Initiative of which Xinjiang in general and the Uighurs in particular are the prime beneficiary.

Interestingly, since 2018, more than 1,200 people from over 100 countries have visited Xinjiang including this scribe. The visitors comprised UN officials, foreign diplomats posted in China, some countries' permanent representatives to Geneva, journalists and religious groups. We personally observed a region thriving with stability and prosperity and commended its exemplary counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts. Critics are oblivious to a reality that we Muslims, especially Pakistanis are quick to jump to the support of oppressed Muslims, be they Indian Muslims, Kashmiris, Rohingya or Palestinians. If we have not taken up the cudgel on behalf of the allegedly oppressed Uighurs, it is not because of our love for China but because we are privy to the truth that the accusations of suppressing the Uighurs are totally baseless.

The Xinhua "Fact Check" belies the indictment of China committing genocide or ethnic cleansing through verifiable hard statistics. During the period 2010-2018, the Uighur population in Xinjiang rose from 10.17 million to 12.72 million, an increase of 2.55 million or 25.04 percent. The growth rate of the Uighur population is not only higher than that of Xinjiang's total population, which is 13.99 percent, but also higher than that of all ethnic minority groups, which is 22.14 percent, let alone the Han population's 2 percent. All 3.09 million impoverished people in Xinjiang have been lifted out of poverty while from 2014 to 2019, the GDP of Xinjiang increased from 919.59 billion yuan to 1.36 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 7.2 percent.

It is pitiable that BBC Newsnight reports depict Uighur female Zamira Dawut claiming to have been "forced to go through sterilization" in a vocational education and training centre. Her own elder brother Abduhelil Dawut has confirmed that Zamira Dawut has never studied in any vocational education and training centre. Her charges of forced sterilization too are baseless as according to Urumqi Maternal and Child Care Service Centre records, having undergone three deliveries, she signed a childbirth consent form voluntarily to have a caesarean section and tubal ligation, negating her assertion of being sterilized or uterus removal. She also claimed that her aging father was repeatedly detained and investigated by Xinjiang authorities, and died not long

ago from an unknown cause. In fact, her father had been living with his children until he died from heart disease on October 12, 2019. He had never been investigated or placed in detention, a fact substantiated by her brothers Abduhelil Dawut and Elkin Dawut. The Xinhua exposé lifts the shroud of conspiracy from the concerted effort to denigrate China and the usual culprit is a notorious racist Adrian Zenz, a member of the far-right group “Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation”.

The Latin judicial phrase *Cui Bono* (who benefits?) points towards the real perpetrators of the anti-China smear campaign.

The writer is a retired Group Captain of PAF. He is a columnist, analyst and TV talk show host, who has authored six books on current affairs, including three on China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/723317/exposing-the-occidents-baseless-lies-about-xinjiang/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Chinese New Year celebrated at Karachi University**

KARACHI: The Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi on Thursday evening celebrated Chinese New Year also known as Happy Spring Festival at an hour-long ceremony on the university campus.

Speaking on the occasion, the Pakistani director of the institute, Prof Nasiruddin thanked KU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi for lending a helping hand in organising the event. He wished that the new year would bring happiness and prosperity to China and hoped that Pak-China relations would further strengthen. He told the audience that the institute was in its seventh year having six to seven teaching sites in Karachi with 800 students.

Campus security adviser Dr Moiz Khan said he’s been teaching history for the last 18 years, and among other things he’s taught ancient Chinese civilisation. He claimed China’s is one of the unique civilisations and has “heavily” contributed to the world. In support of his argument he told the gathering that [the invention of] paper is associated with China. He also mentioned calculators and gunpowder that were effectively first used by China.

Psychology department’s Prof Dr Farah said she went to China in 2019 and it proved to be a wonderful and learning experience for her.

Vice Chancellor of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University Lyari Dr Akhtar Baloch said when he visited China he saw that everything there was big. “It’s meant to be big because it needs to accommodate a huge number of people.”

‘China’s civilisation is unique and has contributed to the world’

The Chinese director of the institute Prof Xhang Xiao Ping said the Spring Festival was the most important festival for the Chinese people. “Today is New Year’s Eve and it was time for family reunions. In the last two years of my stay here I’ve felt a part of the University of Karachi.”

He said there are a large number of people in the university who are close to him and his colleagues, and in the last seven years the Confucius Institute has developed from a small one to one of the largest in Pakistan.

Dr Khalid Iraqi said the event was about expressing our feelings to the Chinese people. “In your days of enjoyment we are with you. [China’s] New Year festival is just like America’s

thanksgiving and Pakistan's Eid. It's about family gathering. It's about connecting families ... It is Pakistani culture that we celebrate other nations' festivals as well."

He added that the Belt and Road initiative in the context of CPEC is a very important project for Pakistan because it provides connectivity.

After the speeches, a cake was also cut to celebrate the day.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1607004/chinese-new-year-celebrated-at-karachi-university>

### The Nation

#### **Senate committee on CPEC rejects proposal of barricading Gwadar**

ISLAMABAD - The Senate Special Committee on China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) Friday rejected the idea of barricading Gwadar saying it is a ploy to dislocate the local population.

The Senate Special Committee also objected to the bifurcation of Balochistan on the basis of North and South.

The Special Committee on the Project of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC), which met here under Senator Sikander Mandhro, showed its concern regarding delay in the corridor projects in Balochistan and stressed the need for maintaining timelines if progress is to be made.

The committee considered and adopted the Second Interim Report and the Final Report of the Committee on CPEC.

While discussing recommendations made in previous meetings; the Committee took strong note of delayed responses from the Ministries and Departments. It also pointed out overlapping responsibilities; which was recognised as the main reason for slow progress of projects.

Deliberating over the briefing made by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives regarding CPEC Projects in Balochistan; the Committee was informed that four socio-economic projects have been completed so far, that included the Gwadar Smart City Master Plan, HUBCO Coal Power project, Surab-Hoshab Highway and Hoshab-Gwadar Motorway. The Committee while discussing details of these projects showed grave concern regarding the Surab-Hoshab Highway.

It was asserted that the road had already collapsed and was incredibly unfit for heavy vehicles as would be in the case of CPEC. About the Hoshab-Gwadar Motorway; the Committee questioned NHA for its discretion and said it was not a motorway and that the Committee was being misled. Reviewing the HUBCO Coal Power Project, the Committee was of the view that in most cases such installations are designed to use imported raw material. It asserted that modifications must be made to use indigenous raw material that would conserve foreign exchange, essential for economic stability.

The Committee rejected the idea of barricading Gwadar and said that it was a ploy to dislocate the local population. It also objected to the bifurcation of Balochistan on the basis of North and South.

Ongoing projects that were discussed included the New Gwadar International Airport, Eastbay Expressway, ML-4 Railway Project from Gwadar to Sukkur via Basima and Fresh Water Supply and Treatment Plants. Development of ML-4 was termed a strategy to cut off Gwadar from the



rest of Balochistan. The Committee showed immense dissatisfaction with the management of the projects and the briefing given by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives. The convener also showed displeasure due to the non-availability of senior officers of the ministry and the concerned departments. Therefore, the committee took serious notice and decided to defer the remaining agenda items, as any further discussion on these projects would be a waste of time.

The meeting was attended by Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar, Senator Muhammad Akram, Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar and senior officers of the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) & Board of Investment (BOI), along with all concerned.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-02-13/page-3/detail-2>

**February 14, 2021**

**Dunya News**

### **CPEC shrugs off all odds, moving forward with new vigour**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Despite the international propaganda move, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is moving forward by shrugging off all odds with lot of successes and new investments.

Although the year 2020 proved to be yet another period of misunderstanding about the CPEC, all such negative campaigns are gradually proving wrong.

The campaigners utilize “debt trap”, “slow pace of CPEC projects” and “withdrawal of Chinese investment” as their main weapons to misguide the people specially those living in Pakistan. A US based Magazine “The Itlantic” in its research article has termed the slogan of “debt trap” by China, a myth.

The debt trap slogan is definitely aimed at halting the flow of Chinese investment to Pakistan and it was first used in Sri Lanka. Although the country is in debt crisis but China has nothing to do with the crisis.

Dushni Weerakoon of Sri Lanka’s Institute of Policy Studies and Sisira Jayasuriya, a professor of economics at Monash University, highlighted that China’s share in the national debt was only 10%. Furthermore, over 60% of this 10% loan is at the concessionary rate of 2%. It is only a myth that Sri Lanka has to cede Hambantota Port to China.

The same strategy has been adopted to malign CPEC without paying any heed to data or analysis on CPEC investment. Such disinformation starts with reports of debt crisis in Pakistan and its weak foreign currency reserves. It is used to stir fear among people.

The US magazine said “Chinese banks are willing to restructure the terms of existing loans and have never actually seized an asset from any country, much less the port of Hambantota, Sri Lanka”. It added the Sri Lanka never defaulted and it was only a myth that the Chinese firms had taken over the Sri Lankan port due to non-payment of dues.

Meanwhile another article published in a local daily newspaper, said Pakistan was indebted to a number of international financial institutions including World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Paris Club, but the focus of international propaganda campaign was only on Chinese investment and debts.

The article added that they manipulate data in such a way that puts all the blame on CPEC, though the contribution of CPEC-related investment is only 5.6%, which they intentionally ignore.

The same reports are highlighted and propagated through different media channels. Innocent minds of Pakistanis are trapped through these reports. Common people cannot understand the economic terminologies and the complicated debt data.

Talking about another false slogan- the rolling back of Chinese investment, the article added that the disinformation campaign has accelerated following the Covid-19 outbreak.

The pandemic and its impact on the global economy and investment have provided a greater opportunity to manipulate data. Thus, it is necessary to understand the global dynamics before discussing CPEC.

Despite all odds and challenges amid the pandemic, China is not sitting back. While first half of 2020 saw some turbulence, later China recovered and accelerated its investment.

Pakistan being the host to CPEC, the flagship project of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), got special focus. China started enhancing investment in CPEC and non-CPEC projects.

According to official sources, China and Pakistan recently launched two mega hydroelectric power projects valuing \$1.93 billion. Further, the ML-1 railway project has also been finally agreed between the two countries and discussions are now at advanced stages.

The CPEC opponents are also trying to create confusion among the people about slow speed of the projects. The evidences show that the CPEC is going on at a good pace, rather the project has expanded over the past two years.

The setting up of CPEC Authority gave a fresh impetus to the project with expansion in the areas of cooperation.

The M-4 motorway project was completed during that period. CPEC helped Pakistan to keep 40,000 of its workers engaged. Gwadar Port started functioning as a transit trade facility.

The groundbreaking of Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was performed and preparation for the groundbreaking of Rashakai SEZ has been finalised.

Pakistan and China also expanded cooperation under CPEC. First, social development was added to the basket and China committed more than \$1 billion. The programme will focus on skills development, healthcare, education and job creation.

In 2020, two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed in the fields of agriculture and science and technology. Besides, China offered to donate a date processing plant for Balochistan. The plant will play an important role in creating livelihood opportunities for the local people and enhancing export earnings for Pakistan.

Hence, the campaign against CPEC is unjustified and does not have any sound footing. It is suggested that the government should take immediate steps to improve communication about

CPEC benefits for poverty reduction, industrialisation and economic transformation. The CPEC Authority is already working on it and it has improved the communication tremendously but there is a need to further accelerate the process.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/588022-CPEC-shrugs-off-all-odds-moving-forward-with-new-vigour>

**February 15, 2021**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **E-commerce accelerating economic recovery in Pakistan: Cheng**

BEIJING: The expansion of Pakistan's e-commerce market and the substantial growth of its turnover are the result of the correct policies adopted by the Pakistani government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute said on Sunday.

“In my point of view, the expansion of Pakistan's e-commerce market and the substantial growth of its turnover are the result of the correct policies adopted by the Pakistani government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic,” • he said in an article published by China Economic Net (CEN).

This is also closely related to the cooperation between Chinese e-commerce enterprises and local partners in Pakistan, and one of the main reasons why Pakistan's economy had recovered so quickly, he added.

Prof Cheng said, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, consumers had all shifted from offline to online purchases. As consumers continue to avoid making in-store purchases, the e-commerce market will see additional growth in the years ahead. It is predicted by some international authoritative institutions that the e-commerce market will grow by 11% per annum.

In the field of e-commerce, China has been playing a leading role in the world. Due to the great role of e-commerce, China became the only country among the world's major economies to grow positively last year despite the severe novel coronavirus pneumonia. China has the most mobile users in the world and more e-commerce activities than any other country. In 2020, Chinese consumers spent more than RMB 35 trillion online – more than the UK and US combined.

In the past few years, China's e-commerce has developed rapidly, and the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the expansion of e-commerce. China's retail e-commerce business in 2019 increased 27.3% to \$ 1.935 trillion – making up 36.6% of total retail sales, according to Digital Data and Research Company eMarkter.

The company also predicted that Chinese retail e-commerce sales would maintain its strong growth in the next few years.

With the rapid growth of the number of Internet users, the continuous progress of information technology, and the rapid development of logistics industry, e-commerce is showing a blowout. As I see, Pakistan has only made a good start in developing e-commerce market. Pakistan is an emerging economy with huge potential for e-commerce.

Vigorously developing e-commerce can not only create a lot of employment opportunities, but also accelerate the development of the whole national economy.

As for how to adapt to the increasingly strong trend of e-commerce, he suggested that first, the government should timely study the new trend of e-commerce, and take targeted measures to create a fair and open online shopping environment.

Second, the government should formulate a series of new policies to help e-commerce enterprises develop in the fields of taxation, employment, financing, venture capital and entrepreneurship guidance, etc.

Third, we should speed up talent cultivation so as to build a solid foundation for the fast development of e-commerce. The government, enterprises and educational institutions should jointly train talents needed for e-commerce development.

Fourth, we should speed up the development of logistics and warehousing industry to boost the development of e-commerce.

According to a media report, Pakistan's e-commerce market size posted a growth of over 35% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year to Rs.96 billion compared with Rs.71 billion over the corresponding period of last fiscal year.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/15/3-page/869806-news.html>

## **Indian Ocean region**

### **BRI, its implications on maritime security highlighted**

KARACHI: The 9th International Maritime Conference (IMC) 2021 organised by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), under the aegis of Pakistan Navy and being conducted in tandem with 7th Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21, is in progress at Karachi. The IMC is themed on 'Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A shared future for Western Indian Ocean Region'. The second day of the IMC featured eminent international and national scholars to elucidate variety of issues pertaining to maritime security, environment and relevant growth opportunities in the region.

The second day of the conference was divided into three sessions; Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Security, Dr Moeed Yusuf graced the first session as chief guest. Intellectuals across the globe extended their views on 'Need of Maritime Security and Sustainable Growth – A Shared Vision for Western Indian Ocean Region'. During the session, Executive Director Institute of China America Studies, USA Dr Nong Hong, delivered important keynote on BRI and its implications on maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region and emphasised on keeping Indian Ocean stable in the wake of non-traditional security threats where interests of multiple stakeholders converge. Later, Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi, during his talk, enlightened the audience on Pakistan Navy's contributions for maritime security and regional stability in the Western Indian Ocean Region. The last speaker of the session was Rear Admiral (LH) Murat Dincman of Turkish Navy, who provided valuable insight on Turkish perspective on maritime security challenges.

During the second session, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, graced the session as chief guest. Distinguished scholars presented their talks on 'Development of

Pakistan's Maritime Sector and Blue Economy. CEO JS Global, Kamran Nasir highlighted maritime potential of Pakistan and opportunities for capitalizing on blue economy whereas, Executive Director, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation Khurram Mirza discussed private sector's engagements in the shipping industry of Pakistan. Additionally, Head of Maritime Education & Training World Maritime University, Sweden Dr Michael Ekow Manuel emphasized on the importance of maritime research training in education. Later, Head of Marine and Aviation, Lloyd's Market Association, UK, Neil Roberts presented paper on marine insurance supporting the blue economy and the last speaker of the session was Dr Edmund Hughes from Green Marines Associates, UK underscored the contemporary shipping trends and regulatory requirements for safety management and environment.

In the third and last session of the day, Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed graced the event as chief guest. During the session scholars discussed the contours of 'Contemporary Strategic Environment of Indian Ocean Region and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation'. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was the first speaker to share his views on Significance of building strategic partnership for socio - economic in Indian Ocean Region. Besides, Mayor Laut (P) Dedi Gunawan Widya tmoko from Indonesian Navy delivered talk on the roles of navies and Coast Guard in the South China Sea disputes and take aways for Western Indian Ocean Region. Besides, CT Ops Nigerian Navy, Rear Admiral Ibikunle Taiwo Olaiya discussed Nigeria's blue economy potentials and sustainable development in the Gulf of Guinea. The last speaker of the session was the Associate Dean, IBA Dr Huma Naz Baqai who presented the paper on the Tripolar Great Game, competition, cooperation or acute confrontation.

The conference was attended by a large number of dignitaries from across the globe, defence forces officers from Pakistan and friendly countries, academia, media representatives and researchers from local and international think tanks. International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) is being held from 13 to 15 February 2021 covering the thoughts of distinguished International and national scholars.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/15/5-page/869820-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **NLC completes 95% work on CPEC Western Route Package-1**

Ensuring the highest quality of work, the National Logistics Cell (NLC) is giving final touches to one of the most important component of China Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) Western Route Alignment as more than 95% of work has so far been completed.

The 285-kilometers long Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway project has been divided into five different packages which were awarded to various construction firms. NLC is working on Package-1 of the project and will be the first to complete its assigned section of motorway. Package-1 comprises of 4-lane carriageway having total length of 55 kilometers that originates from Yarik near DI Khan and culminates at Rehmani Khel area. The NLC has completed all major infrastructure development works including construction of carriageway, two interchanges (one each at Yarik and Abdulkhel), six underpasses, four bridges and other structures like accommodation buildings and toll plazas etc. Ancillary work on a couple of weigh stations is

currently underway which is expected to be concluded ahead of its scheduled completion date of 31st March 2021.

As the motorway passes through sandy and rugged terrain with little or no forest cover, NLC has planted 154,000 saplings on right of way along road. The plantation is part of “Sar Sabz-o-Shadab Pakistan” afforestation campaign launched by Pakistan Army across the country. The motorway will not only drastically cut travel distance between Islamabad and DI Khan but also link major highways i.e N-50 and N-55 at Dera Ismail Khan Junction which will open up new vistas of socio-economic development in the hitherto underdeveloped areas of the country.

It is worth mentioning here that the areas around the western alignment are known for producing pulses, grains & fruits specially mangoes and dates of superior quality. After completion of this improved connectivity project, vast expanses of North Punjab, South KPK and North West Balochistan will be opened for all kinds of trade activities leading to phenomenal improvement in the living standards of people in the entire region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/723942/nlc-completes-95-work-on-cpec-western-route-package-1/>

### **China’s third vaccine enters Pakistan**

Pakistan has become the first country in the world to be the recipient of the third Chinese vaccine ‘ZF2001’ to boost up its Covid-19 vaccination drive, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Earlier, Pakistan has already welcomed CanSino and Sinopharm. The third Chinese Vaccine is being co-developed by Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biologic Pharmacy Co. Ltd, and the Institute of Microbiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved ZF2001’s last stage trails usually called Phase III Clinical Trials in order to pave its way for emergency use authentication shortly. University of Health Sciences (UHS) spokesperson Dr Shehnoor Azhar said, “With its reliability and performance against new COVID-19 variants, it seems to be very effective in triggering immunity response.” “Given the third phase trial, approximately around 10000 trial participants will be allowed to join the trials to be conducted in UHS, National Defense Hospital and Agha Khan Hospital. UHS will conduct trial of 1000 people of various age groups, gender and social strata, living standard besides urban and rural class on March 1. Within 3 months, trial participants are supposed to pay nine visits for vaccine shots,” he added.

Anhui Biopharmaceutical has officially presented its proposal to the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing asking for third phase trial to join healthy competition among foreign firms which won emergency use authentication in Pakistan. Ministry of National Health Services spokesperson, Sajid Shah, has said that since one company can never meet the huge size of population, so it is pragmatic approach to allow a number of companies to make things happen.

Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biologic Pharmacy Co. Ltd, is part of Chongqing Zhifei Biological Products Co., Ltd. has its presence in biological product industry in 2002. As a high-tech biological enterprise integrating R&D, production, marketing, distribution as well as import & export, Zhifei mainly engages in the production of vaccines for human use, which is one of the seven strategic emerging industries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/723934/chinas-third-vaccine-enters-pakistan/>

## The News

### **COMSATS to explore more projects with China**

Islamabad : The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) has further explored the prospects of launching multilateral projects under the umbrella of Belt and Road Initiative, with the Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong. A Founding Member of COMSATS, China, has representation at all statutory bodies of COMSATS through its Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST); and Centres of Excellence – the International Center for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES) and the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB).

During a meeting the Chinese Ambassador held in the Embassy, a four-member delegation of COMSATS, led by Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director COMSATS met the newly appointed ambassador of China. COMSATS' delegation included Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Tahir, Advisor (China Desk); Mr. Tajammul Hussain, Advisor (Programmes); and Engr. Qaiser Nawab, Assistant Director (Programmes). Held at the Embassy of China in Islamabad, the meeting was also attended by Mr. Jia Wei, First Secretary on Science and Technology, and Ms. Bao Zhong, Director Political and Press Section at the Embassy.

Felicitating H.E. Mr. Nong Rong on assuming charge of Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Dr. Zaidi apprised him of COMSATS – China collaboration. The Ambassador was apprised that COMSATS and Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology have also signed an agreement on 'Cooperation Initiative on Silk Road of Innovation' for ST&I cooperation for sustainable development.

The Ambassador was also acquainted with COMSATS' programmes and activities in 27 COMSATS Member States and 24 Centers of Excellence. COMSATS' recent collaboration with the Torch Hi-tech Industry Development Centre of the Chinese Science and Technology ministry, and the Chinese Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO) were also noted.

H.E. Mr. Rong thanked Dr. Zaidi for apprising him on the role COMSATS is playing for the promotion of Science and Technology and pledged full support of his office for the realization of various matters discussed during the meeting.

The meeting with the Ambassador resulted in acquainting him about COMSATS' programmes and activities as well as in exploring new avenues of cooperation with China Embassy. It was assured that Chinese government will play a catalytic role for institution-building (research and academic institutions as well as S&T parks) in COMSATS' Member States as well as initiating joint programmes with Ministry of S& T China and ANSO.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/790221-comsats-to-explore-more-projects-with-china>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### پاک چین تعلقات کو دنیا کیلئے رول ماڈل بنائیں گے: چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر نونگ روگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین اپنے تمام تر وسائل کے ساتھ نصف صدی سے زائد عرصے پر محیط پاک چین تعلقات کو دنیا کے لیے رول ماڈل بنائے گا۔ چینی سفیر نے پاک چین دوستی کو مستقبل میں ایک نئی جہت دینے کے لیے اپنے بھرپور تعاون کی یقین دہانی کراتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس

مقصد کے لیے چین کسی بھی رکاوٹ کو عبور کرنے سے دریغ نہیں کرے گا۔ یہ بات انہوں نے کامیٹیٹس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ایس ایم جنید زیدی کی سربراہی میں کامیٹیٹس کے ایک اعلیٰ سطح وفد سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہی، جنہوں نے ان کے ساتھ ملاقات کی۔ چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ چینی حکومت کامیٹیٹس کے رکن ممالک میں ادارہ سازی کے شعبے میں تحقیقی اور تعلیمی اداروں کے ساتھ ساتھ سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی پارکس قائم کرنے اور چین کی وزارت سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی کے علاوہ بین الاقوامی سائنس تنظیموں کے چینی اتحاد کے ساتھ بھی مختلف مشترکہ پروگرامز کا آغاز کر سکتی ہے۔ چینی سفیر کے ساتھ تبادلہ خیال کے دوران کامیٹیٹس کے چار رکنی وفد میں میجر جنرل (ر) محمد طاہر، مشیر برائے چین ڈیسک کے ساتھ کامیٹیٹس کے مشیر برائے پروگرام مسٹر تجمل حسین اور اسسٹنٹ ڈائریکٹر پروگرام، انجینئر قیصر نواب بھی موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-02-15/page-1/detail-22>