



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

February 01-15, 2023

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Table of Contents

01: February 01, 2023.....	03
02: February 02, 2023.....	13
03: February 03, 2023.....	14
04: February 04, 2023.....	20
05: February 05, 2023.....	22
06: February 06, 2023.....	25
07: February 07, 2023.....	33
08: February 08, 2023.....	38
09: February 09, 2023.....	39
10: February 10, 2023.....	45
11: February 11, 2023.....	54
12: February 12, 2023.....	62
13: February 13, 2023.....	67
14: February 14, 2023.....	69
15: February 15, 2023.....	70

Chinese Newspapers

01: February 02, 2023.....	71
02: February 03, 2023.....	76
03: February 04, 2023.....	77
04: February 07, 2023.....	78
05: February 09, 2023.....	81
06: February 10, 2023.....	84
07: February 15, 2023.....	89

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February 01, 2023

Business Recorder

FF Steel celebrates Chinese New Year

PESHAWAR: FF Steel, a leading and fastest growing steel manufacturing company in Pakistan, marked the Chinese New Year in the presence of top-level management from Chinese enterprises working in Pakistan on CPEC and other infrastructure projects.

A press release issued here on Tuesday stated that a function was held at a local hotel in Islamabad to serve as an important and effective platform for strengthening business ties of FF Steel with major business enterprises of China. The participants appreciated FF Steel for holding such an event on the eve of Chinese New Year.

The Chairman, FF Steel, Senator Nauman Wazir while acknowledging the efforts of Chinese investors and teams, said that Pakistan was passing through tough times and it was imperative to work as a team for bringing great results not only for Pakistani enterprises but also for Chinese businesses, adding that Pak-China friendship was time tested and it was our duty to further strengthen it.

He highlighted that CPEC projects were game changer for Pakistan and FF Steel was delighted to be a part of the construction projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/01/2-page/953935-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar: the Nucleus of CPEC

Raheel Baloch

The largest development project spearheaded by China in Pakistan ever since 2015 is known as the game changer, China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Quite fortunately, it started from Gwadar Seaport, the deepest sea area in the world located on the Arabian Sea in the South of Gwadar District of Baluchistan. People of Pakistan, especially from the undeveloped province of Baluchistan, had attached a lot of hope to it, rightfully so, because Chinese companies had begun the development work on Gwadar city and seaport as early as November 2016.

The development of Gwadar and Baluchistan, however, kickstarted serious problems for India and its lobbies in America and Iran. For this reason alone, their intelligence agencies planned to sabotage the CPEC project. In this regard, various plans were set up to thwart the development projects. Some circles believe that the Gwadar Haq Du movement is also being used by the organizations/agencies of these countries against the CPEC.

There have been 12 attacks on officers and other personnel working on Chinese projects so far, in which many Chinese have been killed and injured. Among these attacks, the most notable were the bombing of the Quetta Sarina Hotel that targetted the ambassador of China; the attack on the Dasu Dam in which more than six Chinese residents were killed, and the suicide bomb attack of a Baloch woman on the Chinese teachers of the Karachi University

Confucius Center. Therein, the attacker was a Baloch woman that belonged to BLA. In this blast, three Chinese teachers were killed.

Moreover, a Chinese officer's car was fired upon in Gwadar and all these incidents were claimed and accepted by BLA's Majeed Brigade. BLA's social media accounts propagating against China's projects are further proof that Baloch nationalists and separatists are being used against CPEC. Our think tanks and state agencies also believe that India is using Baloch nationalists against CPEC. The US is also troubled by the Chinese project, and this has been expressed many a time by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States.

The CPEC projects include the construction of 8,000 km of roads from the coastal area of Gwadar to connect the entire district with Baluchistan and Sindh.

The most important issue in Gwadar is the electricity supply. So far, the electricity is supplied through the Iran Turbat transmission line, which is 17 megawatts. However, the 100-MW power project from Iran will be completed this year. 50.2 billion rupees have been spent on this project and 3600 solar panels have been distributed to remote areas. 10000 more panels will be distributed. The 300-MW power plant coal project is to be completed by 2025. All this development work is being done by a Chinese company through CPEC projects. Under the same CPEC project, up to 500 KVA transmission line (Basilsa Jiwani) will also be completed by the end of 2023.

The limited nature of water resources is another overwhelming issue in the area. A Chinese company has started building the Shezik Dam project to supply water to Gwadar, which will cost 11 billion rupees. This will solve the water problem of Gwadar. Similarly, three million gallons of clean water will be supplied to Gwadar city through GDM Reverse O Samos Dip Plant, installed by a Chinese company at Gwadar Airport.

Apart from this, a supply of eight lakh gallons of water has been arranged through a desalination plant. The water problem of Gwadar city will be solved for five years with this project.

The CPEC projects include the construction of 8,000 km of roads from the coastal area of Gwadar to connect the entire district with Baluchistan and Sindh.

Poor telecom connectivity is also an issue, for which VBox is already working and optical fibre will be completed soon.

The main issues of Gwadar should be resolved as soon as possible, for which a friendly atmosphere should be established with the help of the local politicians.

100 per cent of funds have been allocated to the provincial government for border markets in Gabad, Mand and Chirhi. They will be connected to the M-8 Coastal Highway. It is the responsibility of the government of Baluchistan to build the border markets as soon as possible for which they have received the required amount of funds.

In the health sector, Pakistan China Friendship Hospital (PCFH) Gwadar, a 70-bed hospital, is functioning here in Gwadar. However, in phase 2, this hospital will be handed over to Indus Hospital and another 100 beds will be provided.

M-8 Section (Awaran) will connect Gwadar Port with the North through the Eastern, Central and Western alignments of CPEC. Gwadar will be connected to the North through the East, Central and West alignments of CPEC routes. After this, Gwadar's distance to Ratodero will only be 23 km.

2000 boat engines have been distributed to fishermen of Gwadar in December 2022. On the other hand, the illegal trawling of Sindh fishermen in Gwadar is a major controversy. However, after the 18th Amendment, this has become a provincial issue, so PMSA/Pakistan Navy has no jurisdiction. Sindh does not have any action to restrict fishermen in Karachi.

The great news for the youth of Gwadar is that 500 acres of land have been acquired for the establishment of the University of Gwadar, the ground-breaking ceremony of which is expected in February 2023. Gwadar University will be affiliated with Shanghai Maritime University and a Maritime Center of Excellence will also be built in it. Moreover, a lot of money is being allocated to the CPEC project for the development of Gwadar. However, everyone knows how development projects do not come within weeks or a month. People are also aware of the bureaucracy and how the contracting system works in our country.

The Gwadar Haq Du movement was raised 29 months ago to raise the voice of the local fishermen. It claimed that some fishermen from Karachi and Sindh were destroying the jobs of local fishermen by catching large-scale fish in the marine area of Gwadar with the help of trawlers. Protests and sit-ins began to solve other local problems. This movement was led by the provincial general secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, and this protest took a public colour. In the meantime, the nationalist lobby of Baluchistan, which is accused of having links with the institutions of India and the US, included dozens of its people in the Gwadar Haq Du movement and added demands that had nothing to do with the people of Gwadar and the fishermen. These included criticism and objections against the army's check posts; demanding illegal trade on the border of Iran, illegal import on the Afghan border, and opposition against the CPEC project. By including these demands in the protest of the Gwadar Haq Du movement, it can be inferred that these are the demands that are voiced by Baloch nationalists and the Baloch Liberation Army.

Maulana Hidayat, the leader of Gwadar Haq Du Tehreek, who restarted the sit-in in November and December 2022, took the path of violence instead of remaining peaceful. He tried to disrupt the work on the CPEC project; threatened the Chinese residents and addressed the rally with a gun; encouraging the youth to pick up weapons. The government of Baluchistan also held talks with Maulana, but they were not successful. It is clear that Pakistan's government wants to keep Gwadar a peaceful and safe area.

The writer is a social activist.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1057956/gwadar-the-nucleus-of-cpec/>

US, China, UK top three destinations of Pak exports

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first six months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-December (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 3065.989 million against the exports of US\$ 3323.470 million during July- December (2021-22), showing a decline of 7.74 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1058.055 million against the exports of US\$ 1332.823 million last year, showing a decrease of 20.61 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1003.238 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 1146.171 million during last year, showing a decline of 12.47 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 881.045 million against US\$ 864.241 million last year, showing an increase of 1.94 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 725.975 million against US\$ 687.766 million last year.

During July- December (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 747.700 million against US\$ 687.766 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 251.580 million against US\$240.504 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 572.851 million against the exports of US\$ 488.689 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 690.693 million against US\$ 508.334 million last year.

Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 420.829 million against US\$ 399.426 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US\$ 297.543 million against US\$ 256.323 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 221.376 million against US\$ 195.688 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at US\$ 164.255 million during the current year compared to US\$ 157.733 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 243.146 million against US\$ 194.453 million, and Australia stood at US\$ 151.970 million during the current year against US\$ 138.700 million during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1058107/us-china-uk-top-three-destinations-of-pak-exports/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC unfolding opportunities for Pakistan

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

China Pakistan Economic Corridor by supplementing Pakistan's socio-economic development as the tremendous human capital of the region has been proving as the biggest asset for the country.

By marking the 10th anniversary of its launch under the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has unfolded substantial opportunities for Pakistan, promising a prosperous and peaceful future for the Pakistani people.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region which highlights agriculture, energy, transport, trade and industrial cooperation.

With investment in the country's modern transportation networks including roads and railways, energy projects, ports and special economic zones, the CPEC has provided the opportunity for Pakistan to promote development and economic growth.

CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is linked with the long-lasting economic benefits and sustainable development for the people of Pakistan that has generated thousands of jobs for local people by tackling the energy crisis of the country.

CPEC has played a significant role in promoting the in-depth development of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and the high-quality development of the BRI, which has grabbed attention in Pakistan and around the world.

Since the launch of CPEC, China has become the top destination for Pakistan's students and there are strong links between our people nurtured by artists, academia, the scientific community and the media. It meets the people's aspirations, wins the people's hearts and benefits the people's livelihoods.

With the joint efforts of the two governments, enterprises and all sectors of society, CPEC cooperation has achieved fruitful results and made a great contribution to Pakistan's national construction and regional interconnection.

Despite numerous obstacles, Pakistan has witnessed economic development in the region as projects under CPEC made major progress over the past few years.

CPEC has shown strong resilience against the challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff and workers of the two countries working on CPEC projects have worked dedicatedly hand-in-hand to overcome the difficulties and written a new moving story of Pakistan-China friendship.

The high-quality development of CPEC would certainly provide significant opportunities for the development of Pakistan and countries along the BRI route, helping them implement the global goals for regional prosperity.

CPEC will supplement Pakistan's socio-economic development as the tremendous human capital of the region is its biggest asset.

China has assisted Pakistan in power projects generating 5,200 MW while 886-km national transmission Network has been completed. Besides, 510-km roads have been constructed under the CPEC. Moreover, 7,000 sets of solar energy cells have been installed in Gwadar to address the energy needs.

The CPEC project has generated huge employment opportunities and out of 5,000 jobs generated in Gwadar, 4,000 are local employees.

After the completion of the first phase of the CPEC, various projects in the field of agriculture, industry, science & technology are being undertaken on priority.

China has played a key role in creating regional awareness to underscore the significance of cultural and educational exchanges through its ventures like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), resulting in substantial educational, political, economic, and trade cooperation among various countries and regions. The economic zones being established in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan provinces would bring about immense opportunities for Pakistani people in job and business sectors.

The potential industries being set up in the CPEC special economic zones include food processing, cooking oil, ceramics, gems and jewelry, marble, minerals, agriculture machinery, iron and steel, motorbike assembling, electrical appliances and automobiles.

While globalization is coming under stress, we need to look at China as an example of socio-economic development. CPEC, together with China's Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, is pivotal for Pakistan to address the sustainability issues, and the integration of security and technology.

CPEC has spread a vast network of roads from the south, east and north of Pakistan, making the tourist resorts in north Pakistan accessible to tourists, and it will play a vital role in the revival of the tourism sector.

Currently, 300,000 people in the country are associated with the tourism industry, and with an uptick in the number of tourists in the country due to better roads and connectivity, the number is likely to increase to 500,000 in the coming years.

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Germany are among those that have taken moves on the cooperation with Pakistan via the flagship project. As China extends a welcoming attitude toward the investment, it is believed that the CPEC would continue to attract more third-country investors.

For Saudi Arabia, its intention to invest in CPEC projects started as early as 2019 when the Middle Eastern country announced plans to set up a \$10 billion oil refinery in Pakistan's deep-water port of Gwadar.

The CPEC has brought Pakistan direct investment totaling \$25.4 billion over the past years while many more is expected to be pumped under this project in Pakistan that may cultivate huge benefits for Pakistan in the future.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-unfolding-opportunities-for-pakistan-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

CPEC & BRI and Poly-Crisis: A Chinese Perspective

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Despite regional weak economic outcome and global prospective recessionary trends, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One Belt One Belt Initiative (BRI) are "striving hard" to turn the table towards socio-economic prosperity, immense business integration, greater regional connectivity, infrastructure development and eradication of poverty and generation of new jobs in the country and around the globe.

It seems that the “war of titanic” of geopolitical domination and socio-economic hegemony has created unlimited invisible ripples and formed a “tsunami” of high inflation, price hike, high interest rate, energy & food insecurity along with the looming threat of increasing climate change in the world.

Unfortunately, the world has entered from “global risk” syndrome to “poly-crisis turf” due to which all the international economic, banking & finance organizations and risk rating agencies are worried about the future prospects of the world economy in 2023 and beyond. They all predict recessionary economic trends throughout the 2023. However, China’s economy is the last hope for quick economic recovery.

The concept of “global poly-crisis” provides a necessary and productive framework which is the byproduct of complex and complicated socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic conflicting realities afflicting humanity today. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has been mutated but now re-motivated in Omicron B-1 shape and Russia-Ukraine unending conflict have exposed pitfalls in the globalized economic and political system which is being carried out on “whims and wishes” of the few global power brokers (US/EU). Unfortunately, this conflict has disrupted global food and energy systems, reinvigorated the NATO alliance, exacerbated domestic ideological cleavages in many countries and threatens to divert international resources from climate action.

However, the Middle Powers mainly Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and China in the “leading” role are working hard to avoid the unpleasant outcome from the “widening” gap between the West and the East. For the time being numerous “Middle Economic Corridors” have provided the “alternative” ways and means of regional and global connectivity in South Asia, Middle East, Central Asia, South Caucasus, Black Sea and last but not the least Mediterranean Sea and saved a total “disconnect”, “discomfort”, “disengagement” and “disinformation” in the era of globalization.

In this connection, Liu He, Vice-Premier & State Councillor of the People’s Republic of China delivered a keynote speech in the recently concluded “World Economic Forum 2023” and highlighted the significant contribution of the Chinese economy in the world. According to him, in 2022, China’s growth was 3 percent, still higher than the expectations and estimations of the West and IMF & WB. China succeeded in keeping jobs and prices stable. Urban surveyed unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, CPI was two percent and current account surplus was slightly above two percent of GDP. Moreover, in 2023, it will hopefully continue to try to make progress while maintaining stability and follow a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy. It will strive to maintain reasonable economic growth and keep prices and jobs stable.

The policy makers have decided to focus on expanding domestic demand, keeping supply chains stable, supporting the private sector, reforming the state-owned enterprises (SOEs), attracting foreign investment and preventing economic and financial risks in the days to come. Critical analysis reveals that in the last ten years, China’s GDP grew from 54 trillion to 121 trillion RMB; average life expectancy increased from 74.8 to 78.2 years; and contribution to global growth reached around 36-38 percent.

It is evident that the Chinese policy makers have been taking “economic development” as the primary and central task. Now after the 20th CPC a new development policy has been introduced due to which the philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, high-quality economic development will always be prioritized in which role of the CPEC & BRI will be “contributory” and “concessionary”. Fortunately, a socialist market economy has been the main inspiration and “institutional Bible” to its miraculous socio-economic development. Now China is rigorously playing a supportive role in the global governance, equitable economic system, just social equivalence and unconditional socio-economic alliances in the world. It has now become champion of regional as well as global connectivity and compassionate humanitarian assistance.

Now the policy makers of China are working on to play a decisive role in resource allocation, good governance, SOE reform, support the private sector and promote fair competition, anti-monopoly and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the opening-up and persuasion of the qualitative development path should be accelerated. Hopefully, it will be a catalyst of reform and development, and a key driver of economic progress in China, the region and the globe alike in which its mega wings of connectivity i.e. CPEC and BRI would play an important role in the days to come.

To conclude, emerging global poly-crisis may be controlled by following the Chinese holistic and comprehensive policies of shared prosperity, community development, Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) with upholding of rule of the law and complete abolishing of unilateral imposition of socio-economic and geo-political sanctions. In this regard, greater regional connectivity, trans-regional immense socio-economic integration and global economic corridors would hold the key in which the Chinese CPEC & BRI would be pioneer. Hopefully, walls of self-defined principles of economic prosperity, national economic nationalism, political glory, social supremacy and ethnic white phobia would be collapsed because of greater outreach of the CPEC and BRI in Pakistan and around the globe. Invisible walls of prejudice, conspiracy and destruction may be dismantled through the inbuilt capabilities of progress, human compassion and development orientations of the CPEC & BRI in the days to come.

Moreover, global poly-crisis may be entangled by protecting property rights and IPRs in accordance with the law and shunning of prevailing trade war, especially CHIP between the US & China, creation of a world-class and market-oriented mutually befitting business environment underpinned by a sound legal framework. Both West and the East poles should frame government and market activities within the confines of law. Persuasion of innovation driven development, education, human capital, sound interaction of finance, technology and industry and boost productivity would be the way forward to curb the global poly-crisis.

It is high time to introduce a new equitable international economic order for the whole world. Furthermore, equitable division of wealth, resources, labor, healthy competition instead of an iron triangle of competition, promotion of monopoly, absence of property rights and IPRs and promoting entrepreneurship and free flow of production factors should be institutionalized.

Global governance has a key role to play on major issues, despite temporary resistance and some setbacks, the policy makers of the world must have the courage to uphold truth and law of economics, and address complex issues pragmatically with plain and simple solutions.

Regional rapidly changing geopolitical and geostrategic compulsions have further marginalized economic prospects of Pakistan's economy which has badly damaged national political stability and merchants of darkness, despair and pseudo intellectuals of ignorance are now everywhere to cast their shadows even on the pace and development of the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

The economic challenges and political gimmickry have broken the back of the common citizen and masters are still behaving like perfect strangers. However, China could be a trustworthy and iron-clad partner in this economic depression.

Under the flagship project of the CPEC, CPEC Phase-II would benefit Pakistan to avail diversified benefits. BRI is the biggest trade, economic, investment and development program of the 21st century. It has 149 member countries. Therefore, Pakistan through the BRI can connect to 150 markets of the world, which will open diverse markets.

Moreover, doors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank can be opened for our sinking economy and scattered politics. The China International Import Expo (CIIE) may also be beneficial for our traders and businessmen. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) would be another important platform from the Chinese initiatives like the China-SCO Special Free Economic Zone and the Digital Economy Forum. It would facilitate the CPEC journey towards the Central Asia Region in the days to come.

Last but not the least, China has also announced two major initiatives called the GDI & Six-100 Development program. These are very comprehensive initiatives which cover almost all major areas of development and environmental protection and may be beneficial for Pakistan and its economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/pec-bri-and-poly-crisis-a-chinese-perspective-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

Pak-China hydropower coop injecting energy into Pak green development
ISLAMABAD - China-Pakistan small hydropower cooperation is injecting energy into Pakistan's green economic development, said Wang Chunping, chairperson of Heroboss Technology Group, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

He said, the development of small scale hydropower can not only solve the problem of electricity consumption of local residents, but also help in developing small local industries, increasing local taxes after being incorporated into the national power grid, and regulating the local ecological climate.

Wang Chunping said that Heroboss Technology is mainly engaged in scientific and technological cooperation with the Pakistani Ministry of Science and Technology and local energy institutes.

It is responsible for setting up the S&T cooperation platform between the two countries in the China-Pakistan small hydropower joint research centre, connecting the joint discussions of Chinese state-owned enterprises in Pakistan, and promoting the integrated S&T development.

The China-Pakistan small-scale Hydropower Technology Joint Research Centre is one of the first batch of joint laboratories under the “Belt and Road Initiative.”

Since the implementation of the China-Pakistan “Belt and Road” joint laboratory on small hydropower technology in early 2021, 5 meetings have been held and consensus has been reached on small hydropower development.

The energy exhibition hall has been completed and 80 percent of the equipment donated by China has arrived. It has also completed studies for the development of several small hydropower projects, and assisted in the compilation of relevant regulations for small hydropower projects in Pakistan.

Tan Bixuan, Project Manager of CGGC DASU Hydropower Project in Pakistan, consultant of the research centre emphasised that the centre is willing to carry out all technology transfer within the scope of national permits, so as to enable the iron brother to develop faster and better.

He explained that “recently, we conducted a joint discussion with major enterprises involved in BRI on how to give full play to achieve more technological transformation.”

In Pakistan, hydropower projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are in full swing. According to Wang, small hydropower development is more conducive to the economic development of poor mountainous areas than large-scale hydropower projects.

60% of rivers in Pakistan are tributaries with a partial annual water flow of 50 m³/s, a large height difference, and a kilometer long length, allowing for multi-stage small hydropower development in natural conditions.

Pakistan is one of the countries hardest hit by climate change. Since mid-June 2022, multiple rounds of rainstorms have hit various provinces of Pakistan, causing severe flooding. Tan believes that S&T should be used to support Pakistan’s post-disaster reconstruction and fight climate change.

“For post-disaster reconstruction, we are actively studying and cooperating on mobile solar power houses, mobile energy storage systems and mobile communications.

And there is a lot of room for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of renewable energy, including hydropower, such as small hydropower development in the northern mountains, urban waste power generation, solar power generation, hydrogen energy, air storage, etc,” added Tan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-01/page-3/detail-5>

Chinese embassy condemns Peshawar blast

ISLAMABAD - The Embassy of China in Pakistan has strongly condemned the terrorist attack that took place in a mosque at Peshawar Police Lines and extended condolences to the Pakistani people. “We feel deeply grieved and pay our deepest condolences to the families of

victims and injured of the tragedy,” the Chinese embassy said in a statement issued here on Tuesday.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-01/page-12/detail-6>

Jang News

پشاور میں دہشت گردی: چینی صدر کا وزیر اعظم کے نام تعزیتی پیغام

چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے پشاور میں دہشت گردی کے واقعے پر وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے نام تعزیتی پیغام میں چینی حکومت اور عوام کی جانب سے شہداء کے لواحقین سے تعزیت کی۔

سرکاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق چینی صدر نے سانحہ پشاور کے زخمیوں کی جلد صحتیابی کے لئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار بھی کیا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے اس موقع پر مزید کہا کہ چین انسداد دہشت گردی کے قومی ایکشن پلان کو فروغ دینے، سماجی استحکام اور عوام کی سلامتی و تحفظ کے لیے پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔

دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے نام چینی ہم منصب لی کی چیانگ نے بھی تعزیتی پیغام جاری کیا ہے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم نے پشاور دہشت گرد حملے میں جانی نقصان پر تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے اس سانحے پر اظہارِ تعزیت کرنے پر چینی صدر اور وزیر اعظم کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1188846>

February 02, 2023

The Nation

Shehbaz vows to strengthen Pak-China strategic partnership

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has vowed to further strengthen Pakistan's strategic partnership with China. He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation in Islamabad on Wednesday. The Prime Minister said the k-3 Nuclear Power Plant built in Karachi with Chinese assistance will be inaugurated today.

He said this project will increase total production of electricity from nuclear power plants in Karachi to 2200 megawatts. Shehbaz Sharif said China is a time tested friend of Pakistan and strategic partnership between the two countries is ideal.

He said billions of dollars of Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan economic Corridor is proof of strong bond between the two countries.

He said different projects under CPEC helped significantly in controlling the electricity shortfall in Pakistan. During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed on China's investment in nuclear energy projects in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to President Arif Alvi over the deadly terrorist attack on a mosque in Peshawar. on behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, Xi extended condolences over the sad incident and expressed sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-02/page-12/detail-7>

February 03, 2023

Business Recorder

1,100MW K-3 inaugurated, China praised

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday inaugurated K-3, the third unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp), which will produce 1,100 megawatts of electricity.

The project has been completed with the Chinese assistance.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said K-3 was a step forward in cooperation with Pakistan's trusted friend China. He congratulated the scientists and workers of Pakistan and China who strove for completion of the project.

He said the staff of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, who contributed to the project, would be invited to the Prime Minister's Office for public recognition.

The prime minister said in view of \$27 billion energy import bill, Pakistan required alternative and inexpensive sources of energy including solar, wind, hydel and nuclear.

He said Pakistan was blessed with enormous resources, having the potential of producing 60,000 megawatts through hydel power. But he regretted that the power generation stood merely 10,000 megawatts.

He recalled that the project of Kanupp was finalized during the tenure of then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and expressed gratitude to the government of China for extending cooperation in this regard.

Shehbaz said the electricity projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were greatly contributing to the country's energy demands through the production of thousands of megawatts.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, in a video message, emphasized the importance of safe use of nuclear energy as Pakistan faced challenges of climate change.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Raja Ali Raza Anwar said National Electric Power Regulatory Authority had declared KANUPP a high power producing facility with its 27.15 percent production.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also visited the residence of Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Shazia Marri to extend greetings on her son's wedding. The prime minister, who was on day-long visit here, expressed good wishes for the newly-married couple.

He prayed that the wedding of the couple might become a source of pleasure for both the families.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/03/1-page/954110-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese, Pakistani institutes to cooperate on water, energy, food

The project “Assessment and Regulation Mechanism of Climate Change Impacts on Water-energy-food Linkages in typical Regions of China and Pakistan”, jointly submitted by Chinese and Pakistani research institutes, has been successfully approved recently, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

As an international (regional) cooperation and exchange project under China’s National Natural Science Foundation, it was jointly applied by Changjiang River Scientific Research Institute (CRSRI) and Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences. It is also the second such project of CRSRI approved in nearly 20 years.

Based on its research on “Water Cycle Patterns and Effects of Water Conservation and Emission Reduction in Irrigation Areas of Yangtze River Basin”, CRSRI plans to cooperate with its Pakistani counterpart to explore the impact of climate change on water-energy-food linkages between China and Pakistan.

In addition, the project will provide technical support for realizing the sustainability of natural resources.

To address future extreme events linked to climate change, systemic water-energy-food plans and programmes are urgently needed both in China and Pakistan. China’s Policies and Actions Responding to Climate Change and Pakistan’s Vision 2025 all call for the design of water, food and energy security policies that address climate change while protecting natural resources.

According to CRSRI, it will take this project as an opportunity to strengthen personnel exchanges and cooperative research with relevant institutions in Pakistan, further broaden the channels of international scientific and technological cooperation, enhance its influence on international cooperation, and provide technical support for improving agricultural water resources and food security in China and Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1058838/chinese-pakistani-institutes-to-cooperate-on-water-energy-food/>

Dawn News

Chinese nationals asked to hire private firms for security

Imran Gabol

LAHORE: After an increase in terrorism incidents in the country, the Punjab Home Department has directed the Chinese nationals living in the province or working with private companies to hire private security companies of A category for their security.

The home department and police held a meeting on Thursday to review the security of the Chinese nationals working on government and private projects in the province.

In 2014, the Punjab government had established the Special Protection Unit (SPU) as a dedicated unit for the security of foreigners working at different projects of national

importance. As many as 3,336 security constables, 187 drivers, 20 wireless operators, 244 former army personnel in the rank of senior security constable to chief security officer and seven former army officers in the rank of additional director & deputy director were recruited in the SPU.

Keeping in view the job requirement, the personnel were imparted six months rigorous training at four police training schools by the professional trainers.

Presently, 3,829 officers and personnel of the SPU along with 2,552 attached personnel from districts are providing security to 7,567 Chinese working at four CPEC and 27 non-CPEC projects in the province. They are also providing security to the Chinese residing at 70 residences and 24 camps in the province.

SPU providing security to those working on CPEC or govt projects

SPU DIG Agha Yousuf told Dawn that due to an increase in terror incidents in the country, the security of the Chinese officials working on government projects had been beefed up further.

He said the SPU was deployed for the security of the Chinese nationals working only on the CPEC and other government-related projects and added that the Chinese nationals working with private projects or visiting the country on their own were directed to hire security companies for their security.

He said there were hundreds of Chinese nationals who were working with private companies and steps were being taken to ensure their security.

“The government also has established the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the Chinese nationals have been directed to hire A category security companies for their security,” he said.

Mr Yousuf added that the government was paying for the security of the Chinese nationals working on government projects but they could not deploy SPU personnel everywhere and the government could not pay for the security of Chinese nationals working with private companies.

He said the Chinese nationals working with private companies or running their personal business would have to hire their own security and the home department would evaluate the company.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1734966/chinese-nationals-asked-to-hire-private-firms-for-security>

PM regrets ‘self-created’ hurdles to CPEC

Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Pakistan’s “self-created hurdles” stalled work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif agreed on Thursday, as he inaugurated the country’s seventh nuclear power plant and stressed the need for more cheap energy sources in the face of a costly fuel import bill.

However, speaking at the launching ceremony, attended by Chinese authorities, the premier vowed that there would be no roadblocks to the multibillion-dollar infrastructure project from now on.

Without naming the previous government, PM Shehbaz said the launching, execution and completion of several CPEC-related projects ranging from rebuilding the railway network to setting up special industrial zones were earlier delayed.

“In the recent past, we ourselves created hurdles that led to a deadlock in the CPEC project,” he told participants. “But now, I firmly hope and believe that these CPEC projects will be completed at pace.”

The newly inaugurated nuclear power facility — called K-3, the third unit of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp) — has a nameplate capacity of 1,100 megawatts.

Taking the opportunity at the event, the prime minister addressed top officials of China’s nuclear energy regulatory agency among the audience to consider signing an agreement for another nuclear power project in Pakistan called Chasnupp-5.

“I publicly make a very serious and sincere offer that let’s sit down and discuss all the important aspects of our next proposal,” he said. “And if you can really agree on pricing formulas and important terms and conditions, I think we can certainly sign a letter of intent tomorrow, which would lead to an agreement in weeks and months. So, the ball is now in your court. And if you agree on a price of \$2 million per megawatt, we can sign an agreement right now.”

Earlier, sources told Dawn that the development of C-5, which is the fifth unit of the Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Station, has hit a snag because of the reported refusal by the Ministry of Finance to furnish a sovereign guarantee.

The share of nuclear power in the national energy mix has grown at a sharp pace in recent years; with a share of 27.1pc, it was the largest contributor to the energy pie in December. Hydel, coal and local gas were the other main sources, with respective contributions of 20.4pc, 18.1pc and 15.1pc.

As many as six nuclear power plants are currently operational in the country. The first nuclear power plant, known as Kanupp-1, started generating 137MW of electricity way back in 1971. It was de-commissioned in 2021 after a 50-year run.

Meanwhile, the PAEC set up and has been running four nuclear power units based on Chinese technology near Chashma, Punjab. With a nameplate capacity of 325MW each, C-1 and C-2 started operations in 2000 and 2011, respectively. C-3 and C-4 became operational in 2016 and 2017, respectively, and have a gross capacity of 340MW each.

Separately, PAEC established K-2 and K-3 at Paradise Point, once a popular public beach on the outskirts of Karachi. The two units have a nameplate capacity of 1,100MW each.

The six nuclear plants have a combined installed capacity of 3,530MW, constituting a share of 8.1pc in the country’s total nameplate power-generating capacity.

In his speech on Thursday, PM Shehbaz called the completion of K-3 a step forward in cooperation with Pakistan's "most trusted friend," China. He also congratulated the scientists and engineers of both countries "who worked tirelessly to complete the project".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1735069>

Students urged to promote Pak-Chinese ties

LAHORE: Participants in a workshop said that the students should play an active role in the promotion of relations between Pakistan and China.

The Punjab University's (PU's) Regional Integration Centre (RIC) in collaboration with the Chinese embassy in Pakistan and the Pakistan Research Center organized the workshop on 'Governance System and Development Model of China' on Thursday.

Former PU former vice-chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Department of Political Science chairperson Prof Dr Iram Khalid, Department of History's head Prof Dr Mehboob Hussain, Executive Director of Pakistan Research Center retired Col Khalid Taimur Akram, RIC Director Dr Fouzia Hadi Ali, teachers, researchers and Chinese students studying in PU were present.

Mr Mazhar said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and One Belt, One Road projects were very important projects for the prosperity of Pakistan and the region, and for their completion, everyone had to work together.

He said that measures should be taken at all levels to highlight people-to-people contact and cultural heritage, including exchange programs for teachers and students between Pakistan and China.

He said that centres should be established to promote the Chinese language in the universities of Pakistan and the Urdu language in China so that the languages could be familiarized and each other could be better defended in crises.

Dr Khalid said that China was taking great measures to bring countries around the world closer for the development and prosperity of humanity. She said that China's interests in the CPEC project were small, but they were still striving for its success. She said that Pakistanis should play their role in the field of action to remedy the propaganda against China through fake news.

Dr Hussain said that the world has seen many wars, but countries came closer to each other through trade and progressed.

Mr Akram said that since the establishment of the RIC, relations with South Asian countries, including Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, have been promoted at all levels.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1734958/students-urged-to-promote-pak-chinese-ties>

The Nation

Pakistan must collaborate with China on AI, quantum computing

ISLAMABAD-Pakistani tech experts believe that the country's future information technology (IT) development is aligned with that of China, which is doing wonders in

Artificial Intelligence (AI), nanotechnology, quantum computing and other high-end industries.

Talking to WealthPK, co-founder of Automcamp Naveed Iftikhar said that China had achieved remarkable progress in research and development (R&D) and training of human resources. “Pakistan needs to collaborate more with China to train our human resources and do more R&D,” he stressed.

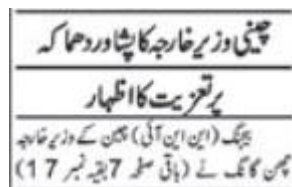
Hussain Nadim, a well-known IT expert and founder of a 5G Internet observatory, told WealthPK that Pakistan’s overwhelming focus is on tangible development items like dams and infrastructure. “On the other hand, China dominates in R&D as it is one of the leaders in AI, nanotechnology, quantum computing and other industries,” he pointed out.

“Even if with one percent of Chinese tech cooperation, we could do wonders in enhancing our technical capabilities,” Hussain Nadim said. He said that Pakistan needs to ‘de-securitise’ the technology space and focus on business, commercial and training sides. “We also need to have technical and information technology corridors, which is the future of Pakistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,” he added.

Hamza Saeed Orakzai, director of planning and regulatory affairs, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), told WealthPK that “we established China Pakistan Science and Technology Centre, the first of its kind, in Beijing around two months ago. Recently, we also conducted a webinar, where around 5,000 Chinese technology companies and delegations participated.” He said that Pakistan has considerably large youth population, which should be made to learn the Chinese language, and at the same time they have to speak English, to properly align Pakistan with the world’s two largest economies – China and the US. He said STZA was assisting Chinese companies wanting to open ventures in Pakistan in obtaining licensing speedily, sparing them the hassle of going to 10 different government agencies for the purpose. “These companies can just come to STZA, register digitally and start doing business at once, thus saving them about six months needed for a company to clear a lot of regulatory bottlenecks before being able to do business.” Hamza Saeed said that hopefully, more Chinese tech companies will join Pakistani tech market soon with the help of STZA.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-03/page-9/detail-3>

K2 Daily



[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-02-03](https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-03/page-9/detail-3)

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-02-03](https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-03/page-9/detail-3)

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین زراعت تعاون: چینی پھل ”کیوی“ کی پاکستان میں کاشت متعارف

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان چین زراعت تعاون کے تحت چین کے مشہور پھل ”کیوی“ کی پاکستان میں کاشت متعارف کروائی گئی ہے۔ چین کے کیوی پھل کی پیداواری صلاحیتوں سے پاکستان کی زراعت کو فائدہ پہنچے گا اور کسانوں کی معاشی حالت بہتر ہوگی۔ چین میں کیوی کے پھل کی کاشت سے چینی کسانوں کو غربت سے نجات حاصل کرنے میں مدد ملی۔ پاکستانی کسان بھی کیوی پھل کی پیداوار کو غربت کے خاتمے کا ماڈل بنا سکتے ہیں۔ پی اے آر سی این ٹی ایچ آر آئی شنگیاری کے سائنسی افسر نوید احمد نے بتایا کہ ہم نے چین سے کیوی کے پودے درآمد کیے اور خیبر پٹی، اسلام آباد کے ساتھ ساتھ پنجاب کے مختلف علاقوں میں اس کے تجربات کئے جس میں خیبر پٹی کے ضلع مانسہرہ کے علاقے میں اس کا نتیجہ انتہائی شاندار رہا ہے۔ بین الاقوامی سطح پر کیوی کو فی پودا 30 سے 35 کلو گرام پھل دیتا ہے جبکہ پاکستانی میں کیوی کے پودے سے اوسطاً 40 سے 45 کلو گرام پھل حاصل ہوا ہے۔ کچھ پودوں نے تو فی پودا 100 کلو پھل بھی دیا ہے جو حیران کن ہے۔ اس سے یہ نتیجہ اخذ کیا جاسکتا ہے کہ پاکستان میں کیوی پھل کو تجارتی بنیادوں پر فروغ دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ نقد آدور اور منافع بخش پھل ہے جس کے ذریعے زیادہ پاکستانی کسانوں کو غربت سے نکالنے میں مدد مل سکتی ہے۔ نوید احمد نے کہا کہ ہمیں لوگوں میں شعور پھیلانا چاہیے اور لوگوں کو کیوی پھل اگانے کی ترغیب دینی چاہیے کیونکہ اس پھل کی مانگ کو دیکھتے ہوئے یہ مستقبل قریب میں سب سے مہنگا پھل ثابت ہو گا۔ پی اے آر سی کے چیئرمین ڈاکٹر غلام محمد علی نے گلگت بلتستان کے کاشتکاروں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی کہ وہ اس سال کیوی پھل کی تحقیق پر توجہ دیں۔ کیوی کا آبائی وطن چین ہے جہاں کیوی کے پودے لگانے کا علاقہ اور پیداوار دنیا میں پہلے نمبر پر ہے۔

کیوی کے پھل کی وجہ سے، بہت سے لوگ غربت سے باہر نکل آئے ہیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-02-03/page-6/detail-4>

February 04, 2023

Daily Times

China-Pak block chain co-op high on agenda: PBI founder

“China is far more advanced than other countries [in the blockchain industry], and Pakistan has a high level of passion to move forward, so we are collaborating on these bases to share knowledge and human resources to develop our own products.”

This was stated by Ahmad Manzoor, founder & CEO of Pakistan Blockchain Institute (PBI) in an interview to China Economic Net (CEN).

To boost cooperation with China in blockchain, PBI signed an agreement in January with the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), a research arm of the Chinese ministry of industry and information technology, to hold online training sessions for Pakistani students and practitioners.

According to Manzoor, the deal is aimed at providing training with Chinese blockchain experts in the blockchain industry, technologies and policies, and building capacity for future blockchain projects.

He noted, the two sides will launch the first basic-level course to help Pakistani youth and professionals understand and adapt to the technology.

It is learned a training certificate will be awarded to trainees after the course, certified and stored digitally on the Blockchain Infrastructure and Facility (BIF), a blockchain & identifiers infrastructure built by CAICT.

To further advance the industry, Manzoor told CEN that PBI will publish a roadmap to deploy blockchain technology in Pakistan. “We want to convert our nation from a project management nation to a product management nation, and both countries will work together on future upcoming technologies.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059324/china-pak-block-chain-co-op-high-on-agenda-pbi-founder/>

China completes export of nuclear power project to Pakistan

The inauguration ceremony for the K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power unit was held in Karachi on Thursday, marking the first time China has officially delivered its self-built third-generation nuclear power technology to a foreign country, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059334/china-completes-export-of-nuclear-power-project-to-pakistan/>

Dawn News

China to invest in nuclear energy

ISLAMABAD: China has expressed its willingness to boost investments in Pakistan’s nuclear energy sector and the two countries are set to hold talks in the near future.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met with a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation, led by Chinese charge d’affaires in Pakistan, Pang Chunxue.

China has shown its willingness to boost Pakistan’s capacity to produce electricity from nuclear energy and delegation-level talks in this regard to formalise deals.

The move came a day after the prime minister requested the Chinese official to hold talks for setting up more nuclear power projects in Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1735241>

The News

Chinese preserves ‘super’ buffalo breed

Islamabad: A Chinese company has successfully preserved the breed of a superior but aged Pakistani buffalo through OPU-IVF-ET technology by obtaining pregnancy from her embryo.

“We obtained eggs from a ‘Nili Ravi’ buffalo, the grandmother of a young buffalo which yielded a world record of 28.3 kilograms of milk during a competition held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad,” Dr Qaisar Shahzad, technical manager of Buffalo Embryo Production at Royal Cell Biotechnology (Pakistan) told Gwadar Pro.

He said that the buffalo had not given birth to an offspring in the last four years due to ageing (20 years). Four eggs were collected from this buffalo using ultrasound-guided OPU and two embryos were produced as a result.

One embryo was transferred to a younger buffalo at Ibrahim Dairy Farm, Faisalabad and pregnancy was obtained.

At this farm, a total of six pregnancies were achieved after transferring the embryos in eight buffaloes, while results from other farms are awaited, Dr Qaisar said.

Commenting on the significance of the results, Dr Qaisar said that they had preserved the breed of a 'super' buffalo. "It will enable us to produce scores of buffaloes with similar super qualities as the donor. Also, a healthy buffalo can give birth to 4-5 offspring in her lifetime.

However, through the OPU-IVF-ET, we are able to reproduce around 15 calves a year. This will increase the population of animals of superior breeds and help in increased milk production," he said.

The fertilisation technique involves obtaining egg cells from a buffalo (or other animals) of superior breed and transferring the embryo into other buffaloes.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=172775>

February 05, 2023

Daily Times

China a potential market for Pakistani potatoes: experts

Pakistan is not only self-sufficient for domestic use of potato and seed development, but also an exporter of this vegetable. China is potentially a big market for Pakistani potatoes, because the price of potatoes in China is higher, especially from January to April every year.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year, overall vegetable exports of Pakistan swelled by 90 percent in quantity and 57pc in value thanks to brisk potato shipments.

Vegetables were exported every year depending on their availability, but potatoes and onions hold a big share. A bumper potato crop has proved highly helpful in offsetting the falling exports of onion, said Waheed Ahmed, Patron in Chief of All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA).

Last year, floods in Sindh and Balochistan's province have devastated onion crops, while Pakistan's potato production soared to 7.937m tonnes in FY22 from 5.873m tonnes in FY21, up by 35pc as floods did not hit Punjab which is a hub of potato production, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

However, the industry is still facing a lot of challenges. Potato is not a crop for poor people because its initial cost of production is high. 35-40% of the cost goes to seeds, said Syed Ijaz ul Hassan, director of Potato Research Institute Sahiwal. Pakistan imports 20,000 tons of potato seeds every year. To change this situation, Potato Research Institute Sahiwal is making efforts to develop local potato varieties. The institute has created the potato varieties

including PRI, Sadaf, Sahiwal, Cosmo, and Ijaz 22. Some of the seeds grown in Sahiwal produce as much as foreign breeds, and some produce even more, added Syed.

Pakistan potato is exported mainly to CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries like Russia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, UAE, Oman, the entire gulf and Singapore, Malaysia in the Far East. "I hope that we can expand our export to more countries in the future, Waheed said. Syed believes that China is a potentially big market for Pakistani potato, because the price of potato in China is higher, especially from January to April every year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059613/china-a-potential-market-for-pakistani-potatoes-experts/>

Khunjerab Pass opened for emergency supplies to Pakistan

The Pak-China border crossing at Khunjerab Pass in Northwest China's Xinjiang region temporarily opened from January 30 to February 10 to facilitate the crossing of important Pakistani supplies from the Chinese side.

At the request of Pakistan and with permission from China's border management authorities, the Khunjerab Pass temporarily opened for the second time this year from January 30 to February 10.

Local authorities in the Kashi Prefecture worked with related departments to overcome unfavorable factors of a lack of oxygen, bad weather and snow storms to ensure the smooth flow of supplies, Global Times reported.

About 5,000 meters above sea level, Khunjerab Pass is a major trade port between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

The port temporarily opened from January 19 to 20 to ensure the passage of a total of 40 cargo units that delivered goods worth more than \$15.99 million.

The Khunjerab Pass is often snow-covered during the winter season and as a consequence is generally closed for heavy vehicles from November 30 to May 1 and for all vehicles from December 30 to April 1.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059611/khunjerab-pass-opened-for-emergency-supplies-to-pakistan/>

Chinese companies help reduce Pakistan's mobile device imports

Chinese companies occupied the top four spots in the list of top ten phone manufacturers in Pakistan in 2022, as per the latest statistics from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Chinese companies have assembled/manufactured a major portion of 21.94 million phones locally produced in Pakistan in 2022. ITEL Mobile Pakistan remained the country's top mobile phone manufacturer for the second consecutive year in 2022 with 3.03 million units.

In 2022, the company locally assembled/manufactured 3.03 million sets whereas the same Chinese company assembled/manufactured 4.40 million units in 2021.

In 2020, the firm was 9th in the list of top ten manufacturers with 0.34 million mobile sets; however, in 2021 it topped the list of local manufacturers and retained its position in 2022.

As per the PTA statistics, China's VGO TEL has retained its second position in the list of ten mobile manufacturers in 2022 with 2.40 million mobile phone sets. VGO TEL had assembled/manufactured 3.17 million mobile phone sets in 2021 while in 2020 the company stood third with 1.63 million sets.

In 2022, China's Vivo jumped to third position pushing Infinix, another Chinese company, from 3rd to 4th position. In 2022, Vivo has assembled/manufactured over 1.72 million mobile phones while Infinix is standing with 172 million (the margin of difference is very little; however, Vivo stands third). In 2021, Infinix was 3rd with 3.00 million phone sets while Vivo had assembled/manufactured 2.76 million phones.

China's Tecno mobile company has slipped from its 5th position in 2021 to 8th position in 2022.

Chinese smartphone giant OPPO has also emerged as the 6th largest mobile phone maker in Pakistan during 2022 by assembling/manufacturing 1.34 million mobile phones. Similarly, Finland's Nokia and South Korea's Samsung rank the 5th and 7th mobile phone brands in the list of top ten mobile phone manufacturers in 2022.

Nokia and Samsung assembled/manufactured 1.46 million and 1.19 million phone sets respectively. OPPO, Nokia, and Samsung were not included in the list of top ten phone manufacturers in 2021.

According to PTA, at least 21.94 million phone sets were assembled/manufactured in Pakistan while 1.53 million mobile phones were commercially imported by the country. In 2021, the number of locally assembled/manufactured phone sets was 24.66 million while the country commercially imported 10.26 million sets.

Due to growing local manufacturing, the number of commercially import sets has drastically come down i.e. in 2020, Pakistan imported 24.51 million phone sets which came down to a mere 1.53 million in 2022.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059609/chinese-companies-help-reduce-pakistans-mobile-device-imports/>

K2 Daily

سی پیک سے ملازمت کے بے پناہ مواقع پیدا ہو گئے، وہیلٹھ پاک

پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کی موجودگی ملک میں نئے آئیڈیاز اور ٹیکنالوجی لائے گی

ہر آہٹ کو بہتر بنانے کیلئے روایتی مینوفیکچرنگ کے عمل کو دلچسپ بنانے کی ضرورت

سی پیک کا اثر یورپ تک پاکستان کیلئے عالمگیریت کی ایک نئی لہر لائے گا، رپورٹ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی پیک کو ریڈ اور فراہم کریں گے، سی پیک کا اثر 2023 میں ایشیا سے اسی کی تھمیل سے پاکستان میں ملازمت کے مواقع پیدا ایشیا، مشرق وسطیٰ اور یورپ تک پاکستان کے لیے ہو گئے۔ پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کی موجودگی ملک عالمگیریت کی ایک نئی لہر لائے گا۔ وہیلٹھ پاک کی میں سے آئیڈیاز اور ٹیکنالوجی لائے گی، روایتی رپورٹ کے مطابق نکلان پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری مینوفیکچرنگ کے عمل کو دلچسپ بنانے کی ضرورت، اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور ترقی کے سے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پاکستانی 2023 اور اسکاتلڈ کی نقل میں عالمگیریت کا اظہار ہے۔ کاروباری برادریوں کو وسیع تر کاروباری مواقع اسلام آباد کے (ہائی سطر 6 بجے نمبر 21)



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-02-05

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-05

February 06, 2023

Business Recorder

MPs characterise CPEC as ‘guarantor of Pakistan’s better tomorrow’

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians visiting CPEC projects in Sindh termed Thar as ‘bulwark of Pakistan’s future energy security’.

The delegation was organized by Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in cooperation with Power China in Port Qasim and Shanghai Electric and Sind Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC) in Thar.

The delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman, Senate Defence Committee and PCI. During the 3-day visit, the delegation first visited the Power China project at Port Qasim, which generates 1320 megawatts of electricity. Power China CEO Guo welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the project.

The Port Qasim power plant, an Early Harvest project of CPEC, provides electricity to over 4 million homes through clean energy, and it emits environment-friendly white smoke, using supercritical technology. The project has generated jobs, provided revenue to Pakistan worth over \$ 600 million in taxes and duties, and contributed to resolving Pakistan’s chronic energy

shortage.

Then on day two of the Sind CPEC projects tour, the delegation flew to Thar where it first toured the Sind Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC), which is a joint private-public partnership with support of the Sind government and China, witnessing the driving of dumper trucks by Thari women, in a living example of Women's empowerment. The delegation also visited the newly established 1320 megawatts power plant established with investment from Shanghai Electric. China's total investment has been \$ 26 billion, generating 85,000 jobs, including 12,000 in Thar, plus 28,000 Pakistani students now study in China, resulting in a huge socio-economic transformation of the country, thanks to CPEC. Over 5000 megawatts of electricity have been added to the national grid and some 700 kilometers of road infrastructure have knit the Federation of Pakistan closer together facilitating easier and faster travel.

Speaking to the workers of CPEC projects in Port Qasim and Thar, Senator Mushahid Hussain termed CPEC as 'single most transformative initiative for economic development in the last 30 years, as it provided a basis for energy security, employment, and changing lives and livelihoods of the people of Pakistan'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said that 'Pakistan huge natural resources, including mineral wealth, natural gas and maritime wealth which needs to be exploited for the blue economy. Thar alone has 175 billion tons of coal reserves, more than the oil reserves of Iran and Saudi Arabia put together. Thanks to CPEC, this 'black gold' is now contributing to the national economy. The natural gas reserves in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are several times higher than these reserves in Sui'. The Senator added, 'if we truly exploit and utilize our mineral wealth, natural gas, and offshore blue economy, cumulatively worth almost a trillion dollars, Pakistan can bid goodbye to the IMF handouts, which we have received for 23 times, without bringing about quality change'. He urged the need to change national economic priorities instead of policies that undermine national sovereignty and people's dignity.

Parliamentarians belonging to different political parties lauded CPEC as a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan and thanked China, as a trusted 'all weather friend', for reposing such confidence in the future of Pakistan by investing in CPEC projects in Pakistan. They also lauded the role of these companies in promoting people-centric development through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The parliamentary delegation included Mahesh Mailani, MNA, and Minister of State for Health, Senator Dr Zarqa Suhrwardhy, Qaiser Sheikh, MNA, Chairman of National Assembly Finance Committee, Senator Qurratul Ain Marri, Muhammad Abu-Bakr, MNA, Chairman of NA Parliamentary Affairs Committee and Senator Muhammad Akram Baloch.

"It was an eye-opening experience to see the impact of CPEC on the local communities and the progress being made on these projects," stated Senator Qurrat ul Ain Marri.

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Melani, Minister of State for Health, added, "The visit gave us a deeper understanding of the benefits and opportunities created by CPEC for the people of Pakistan. The projects are transforming lives and providing a brighter future for all."

Senator Muhammad Akram stated, “I am proud to be part of a delegation that is witnessing the progress and success of CPEC first hand. It is a testament to the strong relationship between Pakistan and China and the commitment to building a better future for both our nations.”

Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur remarked, “The delegation visit was a unique opportunity to see the positive impact of the projects on the local communities, particularly for women. It was inspiring to see women driving dumper trucks in the Thar coal mines.”

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, MNA, said, “CPEC is a game-changer for Pakistan and our visit to the projects provided a firsthand account of the progress being made. It is exciting to see the opportunities being created for the people of Pakistan.”

Muhammad Abu-Bakr, MNA, added, “The delegation visit was a significant event in highlighting the success of the projects under CPEC. I am happy to be part of a delegation that is witnessing the positive impact of these projects on our people”.

The visit was coordinated by PCI Executive Director, Mustafa Hyder Syed, who said the purpose was to ‘provide first-hand look at the CPEC success story through witnessing the transformation brought by CPEC in far-flung areas, as seeing is believing’.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/06/4-page/954318-news.html>

Daily Times

10 years of BRI: lawmakers visit Port Qasim Power Project

The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) hosted a two-day delegation visit to CPEC projects such as the Port Qasim Power Project and the Thar Coal Mines at Sindh Electric Coal Mining Company, according to Gwadar Pro.

The delegation, led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, included renowned parliamentarians from various political parties. Guo Guangling, CEO of Port Qasim Electric Power Company, hosted and welcomed the delegation on the first day and briefed them on the project’s unique operation.

The delegation was briefed on the most recent developments in CPEC’s energy sector, CPEC’ contribution to the Pakistani economy and the opportunities for interaction between Chinese investors and delegates.

The Port Qasim Power Project uses Super Critical Technology, which emits white smoke that is environmentally friendly. It is currently operational and connected to the national grid.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed thanked Power China and the people of China for trusting and investing in Pakistan, especially when Pakistan was facing the most deadly wave of terrorism. “By constructing an economic corridor that promotes connection, construction, exploration of investments, and people-to-people contacts for connectivity, CPEC is aiming to better the lives of the people of Pakistan and China,” he added.

According to the data provided by PCI, 12 energy projects have been completed under CPEC in the last 10 years. In total, there are 36 active projects with an estimated cost of \$27.5 billion. It is expected that many of these projects will be completed by 2023.

As per the data, the completed energy projects include the 1320MW Sahiwal Coal-fired power plant, 1320 MW Coal-fired power plant at Port Qasim, Karachi, 1320 MW China Hub Coal Power Project, Hub Balochistan, 660 MW Engro Thar Coal Power Project, 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project, AJK/Punjab, 100MW UEP wind farm Jhimpir, Thatta, 50 MW Sachal wind farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, 100 MW Three Gorges second and third Wind power project, 1000 MW Quaid-e-Azam solar park Bahawalpur, 50 MW Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm Ghara, Thatta, Matiari to Lahore 660 KV HVDC transmission line project, 4000 MW evacuation capacity, and 330 MW HUBCO Thar coal power project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1059922/10-years-of-bri-lawmakers-visit-port-qasim-power-project/>

Dawn News

Mushahid calls CPEC panacea for economic woes

KARACHI: Senator Mushahid Hussain has said if the true potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is exploited, Pakistan will not need bailouts from the International Monetary Fund to sustain its economy.

He made these remarks during a visit to various energy projects in Sindh being built as part of the CPEC.

According to a press release, Mr Hussain called CPEC the “single most transformative initiative for economic development in the last 30 years”.

“Pakistan has huge natural resources, including mineral wealth, natural gas and maritime wealth which needs to be exploited for the blue economy,” he said.

He added that Thar alone has 175 billion tonnes of coal reserves and now thanks to CPEC, this “black gold” was contributing to the national economy.

The delegation visited the Power China project at Port Qasim and the newly-established power plant in Thar.

The delegation was told that the Port Qasim power plant had contributed over \$600 million in taxes and duties and the power plant in Thar generated over 12,000 jobs for locals.

The senator lauded the CPEC and called it a ‘guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan’.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1735558>

The Express Tribune

Opening up Thar coal to non-power sectors

Cement sector, which depends on imported coal, can be a sizable market for Thar coal

ISLAMABAD: Thar coal has come a long way. Two blocks are functional with installed power generation capacity of 2,000 megawatts.

Power sector has helped open up Thar coal, which was lying dormant after its discovery in the 1980s. Several attempts were made to make a breakthrough but failed. Solving federal vs provincial control issue took a period of five years.

On the other side of the border, India also has the same continuation of Thar Desert, which the neighbour started exploiting in the 1970s and is about to consume all in less than a few decades more. With SECMC's third phase, Thar coal production would reach 12.2 million tons per annum (mtpa) and fortunately at a viably low cost of \$30 per ton as opposed to twice the current price.

Combined with Sino-SSRL production, total Thar coal production would be around 20 mtpa, enough to fire 3,000MW of power capacity.

There are two problems, however, with Thar coal; high moisture content (40-50%) and low calorific value (50% of the normal sub-bituminous coal). It has to be dried and may be processed before transportation, both for safety and economic reasons. This adds to cost.

It is conventionally priced lower at \$25-30 per ton as opposed to \$80-100 per ton for the conventional thermal coal. Current Thar coal costs of \$65 per ton might have been another constraint in its wider use. As mentioned elsewhere, these costs/ prices may come down to \$27-30 per ton in the near future in one of the blocks. Northern parts of Pakistan may suffer from higher costs due to transportation.

Unfortunately, we installed three coal power plants on imported coal. One can be wise in hindsight. At that time, there was power capacity crisis. And now we have fuel availability and pricing problem. Imported coal prices went up to \$300 per ton, almost thrice the normal level, which made operations at these plants unfeasible for some time. Fortunately, international coal prices have come down to \$150-200 per ton, which is still high but workable temporarily.

The three coal power plants consume 12 mtpa, costing \$1.8 billion per year at \$150 per ton. Efforts are being made to switch these plants to Thar coal, initially at 10-20% level. Had Chinese been in the circumstances we are in, they would have done it 100%.

But why should they have been? There are technical issues complicated by contractual and legal complexities.

Although there is a potential of 100,000MW or more power production from Thar coal, practical limits put an upper ceiling of 8,000MW, say 10,000MW, due to resource constraints such as water constraints. Furthermore, as we are starting with Thar coal, world has turned against it. Coal power plants are the focus of world opposition.

International financing is required for installing power plants, which may become expensive and difficult. No new Thar coal-based power plants are being planned is a good enough indicator. There are other opportunities of converting coal to gas, fertiliser, diesel and even hydrogen. Being capital intensive, there may be same reluctance as it may be in the case of coal power plants. Chinese companies have done preliminary studies in this respect but they could not be developed into firm projects yet.

While there may be sufficient power plants capacity, the industrial sector is suffering from pricing and availability issues of thermal energy in the form of gas or LNG. While local gas production is depleting, spot market LNG prices have gone up and infact not available at any price.

Fortunately, we have long-term LNG contracts with Qatar, which have partly saved from a catastrophe. Fortunately, our cement sector had already converted to coal, although to imported coal. This conversion trend was almost worldwide in the cement industry. But other sectors are still gas dependent. In Gujarat and adjoining areas in India, which is a textile hub of India, lignite is being used, making India competitive in that sector, while our textile industry is dependent on energy subsidies. Our industry is converting to expensive furnace oil to fire their boilers.

Cement is a big sector in Pakistan with installed capacity of 70 mtpa, which may go up to 100 mtpa in the next 10 years or earlier. It also earns foreign exchange through exports to regional countries. Cement sector's coal demand itself is very high as much as 7 mtpa, which is equivalent to Thar coal of 14-15 mtpa. But the cement sector depends on imported coal mostly. This alone can be a sizable market for Thar coal. There is steel sector which can also be converted to Thar coal. It is suffering from the lack of energy supplies and high costs.

Cement and steel combined are major inputs for the construction sector. The latter can give a fillip to the economy or otherwise slow down the economy and the associated employment creation.

The question is why don't these sectors utilise Thar coal. It is local and cheaper and now foreign exchange is not there or is terribly expensive. The answer is that Thar coal has been wedded with the power sector alone. And coal imports were cheaper and easier.

Thar's remoteness and isolation was an issue, which is going to be solved in the near future by laying a railway line connecting Thar to the railway network. There is a policy vacuum relevant to non-captive uses of Thar coal. Existing coal production capacity is constrained from using Thar coal due to legal and financial lacunae, which could have been removed by allowing them to sell at a marginal cost plus a reasonable profit margin.

However, the main issue is opening up of Thar coal to non-power users such as cement, steel, textile and other sectors. Cement sector is a very big and progressive one. It has highly modern and capital-intensive plants. It has organisational and other resources and capability. A coalmine costs the same capex of a few hundred million dollars as one or two cement plants would be. There can be many business models such as competitive mine auction capacity in blocks of 5 mtpa or more.

Cement or steel sector may form a cooperative to reduce risk. Classical IPP model with some changes can be adopted. There can be price control ala pharma industry or unregulated prices. GMDC (Gujarat Mining India) model can be adopted. Possibilities and potential are many. Existing players may also be inducted into this initiative so that invisible resistance and barriers may be reduced. They can participate as mine contactors making good use of their experience. JVs of mine contractors with local parties may be encouraged.

Currently, there is a scope for opening four Thar coalmines of 5 mtpa. It would create a competitive market. This mining activity can be quiet and much less visible and noticeable than coal power plants. These mines may not require international financing as power plants require and can be implemented with ease as other capital-intensive plants like cement ones. Cement, steel and textile sectors put together are a great resource that should be mobilised by the policymakers.

Sindh government may also consider establishing an SME industrial estate in Thar area, which may engage in various coal processing industries like coal drying, briquetting, sales, dispatch, etc for miscellaneous customers.

The writer is former member energy of the Planning Commission and author of several books on the energy sector

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2399544/opening-up-thar-coal-to-non-power-sectors>

The Nation

MPs laud CPEC during tour of Sindh projects

ISLAMABAD - The parliamentarians have lauded CPEC projects in Sindh as they termed Thar ‘bulwark of Pakistan’s future Energy Security.’ A delegation was organised by Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in cooperation with Power China in Port Qasim and Shanghai Electric and Sindh Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC) in Thar. The delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Senate Defence Committee and PCI. During 3-day visit, the delegation first visited the Power China project at Port Qasim, which generates 1320 megawatts of electricity. Power China CEO Guo welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the project.

The Port Qasim power plant, an early harvest project of CPEC, provides electricity to over 4 million homes through clean energy, and it emits environment-friendly white smoke, using supercritical technology. The project has generated jobs, provided revenue to Pakistan worth over \$600 million in taxes and duties, and contributed to resolving Pakistan’s chronic energy shortage.

Then on day two of the Sindh CPEC projects tour, the delegation flew to Thar where it first toured the Sindh Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC), which is a joint private-public partnership with the support of the Sindh government and China, witnessing the driving of dumper trucks by Thari women, in a living example of Women’s empowerment.

The delegation also visited the newly-established 1320 megawatts power plant established with investment from Shanghai Electric. China’s total investment has been \$26 billion, generating 85,000 jobs, including 12,000 in Thar, plus 28,000 Pakistani students now study in China, resulting in a huge socio-economic transformation of the country, thanks to CPEC. Over 5000 megawatts of electricity have been added to the national grid and some 700 kilometres of road infrastructure have knit the federation of Pakistan closer together facilitating easier and faster travel, according to a press release received here on Sunday.

Speaking to the workers of CPEC projects in Port Qasim and Thar, Senator Mushahid Hussain termed CPEC as ‘single most transformative initiative for economic development in

the last 30 years, as it provided a basis for energy security, employment, and changing lives and livelihoods of the people of Pakistan'. Senator Mushahid Hussain said that 'Pakistan's huge natural resources, including mineral wealth, natural gas and maritime wealth which need to be exploited for the blue economy. Thar alone has 175 billion tons of coal reserves, more than the oil reserves of Iran and Saudi Arabia put together. Thanks to CPEC, this 'black gold' is now contributing to the national economy. The natural gas reserves in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are several times higher than these reserves in Sui'. The Senator added, "If we truly exploit and utilise our mineral wealth, natural gas, and offshore blue economy, cumulatively worth almost a trillion dollars, Pakistan can bid goodbye to the International Monetary Fund handouts, which we have received for 23 times, without bringing about quality change."

He urged the need to change national economic priorities instead of policies that undermine national sovereignty and people's dignity. Parliamentarians belonging to different political parties lauded CPEC as a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan and thanked China, as a trusted 'all weather friend', for reposing such confidence in the future of Pakistan by investing in CPEC projects in Pakistan. They also lauded the role of these companies in promoting people-centric development through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The parliamentary delegation included Mahesh Mailani, Minister of State for Health; Senator Dr Zarqa Suhrwardhy; Qaiser Sheikh, MNA, Chairman of National Assembly Finance Committee; Senator Qurratul Ain Marri; Muhammad Abubakar, Chairman NA Parliamentary Affairs Committee; and Senator Muhammad Akram Baloch. "It was an eye-opening experience to see the impact of CPEC on the local communities and the progress being made on these projects," stated Senator Qurratul Ain Marri.

Dr Mahesh Kumar Melani, Minister of State for Health said, "The visit gave us a deeper understanding of the benefits and opportunities created by CPEC for the people of Pakistan. The projects are transforming lives and providing a brighter future for all." Senator Muhammad Akram said, "I am proud to be part of a delegation that is witnessing the progress and success of CPEC first hand. It is a testament to the strong relationship between Pakistan and China and the commitment to building a better future for both our nations."

Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur remarked, "The delegation visit was a unique opportunity to see the positive impact of the projects on the local communities, particularly for women. It was inspiring to see women driving dumper trucks in the Thar coal mines." Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, MNA, said, "CPEC is a game-changer for Pakistan and our visit to the projects provided a firsthand account of the progress being made. It is exciting to see the opportunities being created for the people of Pakistan."

Muhammad Abubakar, MNA, added, "The parliamentarians delegation visit is a significant event in highlighting the success of the projects under the CPEC. I am happy to be part of this delegation that is witnessing the positive impact of these projects on our people".

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-06/page-3/detail-2>

February 07, 2023

Daily Times

Railways signs agreement with two Chinese companies: Saad

The Pakistan Railways on Monday signed an agreement with two Chinese companies – M/s Easyway and M/s Norinco International Cooperation — for launch of Railway Automated Booking and Travel Assistance (RABTA).

Talking to the media at Railways Headquarters here, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique termed the initiative a win-win situation for the department. He said that M/s Easyway Company and M/s Norinco were doing joint venture.

Saad Rafique said the initiative would help passengers plan their journey from their homes. The application would help passengers manage their tickets, seats, booking, food, hotel and taxi related matters, he added. The minister said, “This IT-based solution is not only for passengers’ facilitation but for maintaining Railways income record earned through ticketing.” He said that under the application, parcel booking and tracking facility would be available whereas passengers would also be to access trains operation management system.

Saad Rafique said the initiative was based on revenue sharing. He termed RABTA an important step to modernise railways operation. He said that soon train would be operated on Sibi-Harnai section, which he added would have positive impact on the economy of four districts there. He said a sub office of railways had been opened in Gwadar adding that no port could work efficiently without railways. He said that efforts were being made to minimise or overcome delay in pension and salaries issue.

Kh Saad Rafique said that railways furnace would be operational by the month of April.

Regarding railways shops, he said that policy was being made in this regard, adding that “besides earning revenue, we have to provide employment opportunities as well”. Trains were also being evaluated as their upgradation was needed, he added. About Main Line-1, the minister said that 40 per cent cost cutting of the project would make it viable.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1060364/railways-signs-agreement-with-two-chinese-companies-saad/>

Rashakai SEZ to start operation next month

Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will start operation in March as construction advances, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

According to the report, it a sunny day on the Rashakai SEZ project. With a white helmet on, Engr. Samee Ullah is on his routine inspection of the project site with Chinese colleagues, reviewing daily progress and discussing possible on-site electricity-related issues.

The Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), jointly developed by Chinese and Pakistani companies. A spokesperson from CRBC Pakistan, the Chinese undertaker of the SEZ, told China Economic Net (CEN) that construction work of the first phase of the Rashakai SEZ will be completed in

March. The spokesperson noted an important part of Rashakai SEZ Phase I construction is power transmission and transformation, and that construction work is in full swing.

“The construction work is nearing completion. This is our achievement and a moment of excitement for all project team,” said Engr. Samee Ullah, electrical engineer and external affairs director at the Rashakai SEZ project and recipient of the award for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects 2022.

In his role, Engr. Ullah is mainly responsible for overseeing the construction of a 132kV grid station and 11kV distribution network at the Rashakai Special Economic Zone.

At the initial stage, the power transmission and transformation work hit snags due to inadequate information about the local power grid, causing a delay in the compilation of the System Study Report, which required a detailed plan of project design and construction.

However, Engr. Samee Ullah quickly stepped up to the challenge after joining the project team in May 2021. “I collected and studied a large amount of project data, and actively discussed with the project team on the response plan using my own learning and experience,” Samee Ullah told CEN proudly, “I also worked closely with the local power department to find the best solution and gain official approval.”

During the construction of the SEZ, Ullah was meticulous about details. He carried out various on-site inspections and proposed efficient and effective solutions to any problems that arose. To ensure on-site construction quality and efficiency, the detail-minded engineer would explain the design drawings to the on-site personnel and clarify the design intent.

Samee Ullah told CEN that as the Rashakai SEZ nears completion, the main tasks will be to make standard procedures, rules and regulations for enterprises. “To achieve the above goals, we have to go through a lot of technical, commercial and legal procedures which may take some time, but we are pretty much hopeful and determined for this.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1060331/rashakai-sez-to-start-operation-next-month/>

The Nation

Pak Embassy enters into partnership with Qyer to promote tourism

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani Embassy in Beijing has entered into a strategic partnership with a travel sharing platform, Qyer, to promote the stunning tourism offerings of Pakistan to the world. This collaboration is aimed at maximising the impact of the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges 2023, which promises to be an exceptional showcase of Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty.

The year-long digital campaign will be an in-depth exploration of the diverse aspects of Pakistan, including its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, diverse cuisines, joyful festivals, and treasured heritage. Through Qyer’s vast network of travellers, Pakistan’s tourism potential will be showcased to a wider audience, creating greater awareness and interest among Chinese tourists. China has helped transform Pakistan’s tourism by building road infrastructure under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

This year, with recent policies aimed at resuming outbound tourism for Chinese citizens and promoting Pak-China year of tourism, China is expected to play a crucial role in revitalising Pakistan's confidence in tourism promotion, as the country was once a primary source of tourism for the rest of the world.

Since its establishment in 2004, Qyer has served over 100 million travellers, making it the leading travel sharing platform in the region. With this partnership, the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing and Qyer aim to further elevate the profile of Pakistan as a premier tourism destination for visitors from around the world.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2023/pak-embassy-enters-into-partnership-with-qyer-to-promote-tourism>

The News

China to be asked to reduce cost of ML 1 railway project: Rafique

LAHORE: Pakistan planned to speak with China to reduce the cost of its mega railways project (ML 1) by 40pc since it couldn't afford such a huge loan, said Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique here on Monday. The two nations had agreed to upgrade the 1,163-mile track from Karachi to Peshawar in November.

"How will we repay such a big loan," Saad said while talking to media after an MoU signing ceremony at the Railways Headquarters in Lahore. He said the agreement with Chinese companies was based on the revenue sharing formula. The Sibi-Harnai track is being completed. There are issues with payments of salaries and discussions were going on with the Finance Ministry. The issue would be resolved soon.

The minister said RABTA App was a top solution to all travel needs where passengers could reserve hotel rooms, taxis and food during travelling.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=173765>

KE, Chinese firm ink MoU to collaborate on energy projects

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, K-Electric is all set to go for green energy and to this effect has started working on renewable projects that include solar, hybrid (solar and wind), and hydropower projects to make its electricity basket price affordable.

And to this effect, K-Electric and China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CTGSAIL) here on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on exploring renewable energy including hydro projects across the country, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Both companies will also work to develop a roadmap for the installation of grid-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems into KE's network.

K-Electric CEO Moonis Abdullah Alvi, and CTGSAIL CEO Wang Minsheng signed the MoU. The MoU will help generate renewable energy including hydro generation of 1,000MW (1 GW) at least. K-Electric will transport the cheaper hydel from the said projects after paying wheeling charges (yet to be decided by Nepra and the government) to the National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC).

In addition, the KE is also working on the installation of solar energy in Balochistan and one hybrid project (solar and wind) in Sindh which will help reduce the electricity cost. For its solar plants, the KE has already submitted RFP (request for proposal) with Nepra for approval.

The CTGSAIL is a subsidiary of the China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI), which is the international business platform of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), focusing on clean energy investment, development and operation in more than 40 countries. CTGSAIL has 2.6 gigawatts of generation assets in Pakistan worth over \$6 billion and is actively undertaking investments in hydel, wind, solar and photovoltaic power projects across emerging markets in Asia, Middle East, and North Africa.

“This is a milestone moment for Karachi and its customers, and I am very pleased to be present here today,” stated Moonis Alvi on the occasion. “We are actively working to contribute positively to the country’s ambition to increase share of clean, sustainable, and affordable energy in our mix. It is exciting to be exploring these new frontiers with global giant CTGSAIL as partner. Their global experience will help take our efforts forward by leaps and bounds, and we look forward to working closely with them. Pakistan is no stranger to climate change, and the time for action is today. Induction of renewable energy is crucial to balance affordability for our customers with the impact on the environment.”

Wang Minsheng, while speaking on the occasion, stated that this would be one more step by CTGSAIL for Cleaner Energy, Better Pakistan. The CTGSAIL in line with the philosophy of “Belt and Road Initiative” of innovation, integration, mutual development and inclusion of local expertise has ventured with K-Electric for providing solutions for low-cost, clean energy which is the cornerstone for economic growth in all emerging economies. Green energy not only helps solve the problem of climate change, but also provides competitive advantage to the industrial consumers through cost optimisation.

“Considering recent floods in Pakistan, we strongly believe that the addition of renewable energy sources in the country’s energy mix is becoming a necessity. We hope that this partnership yields great results for both organisations and culminates in the joint implementation of renewable energy projects in Pakistan.”

On the occasion, KE’s Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Sadia Dada, Head of Business Development Mudassir Zuberi were accompanied by Senior Advisor N A Zuberi, Deputy General Manager Project Development Mustafa Umar Riaz from CTGSAIL. Other senior members from both organisations were also present.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=173780>

‘Italian, Chinese show interest for JVs in footwear industry’

LAHORE: Italian and Chinese manufacturers showed interest for technology transfers and joint ventures (JVs) in the footwear industry at the 8th Pakistani Mega Leather Show that concluded in Lahore, a statement said on Monday.

Over 200 exhibitors participated while a large number of visitors attended the three-day expo, Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association (PFMA) said, adding that the association had

offered linking the industry with Italian footwear machinery manufactures for technology transfers in the Pakistan.

“This will be win-win for Italian machinery manufactures and Pakistani footwear industry.” The association also briefed about the special economic zones being established and available for the foreign and local investors, where the government is offering good incentives, including tax holidays and others. “The Italian showed keen interest to establish their machine manufacturing industry there,” the statement added.

PFMA also offered the Italian machine manufacturers for further collaborations with the government authorities in case they will make investment in Pakistan. Next PMLS will be on January 27-29 in 2024.

Furthermore, two technical workshops were organised for the industry with the Italian industry experts. The workshops were conducted by the Italian designers, which was attended by the designers of almost all top local brands designers. The participants of the workshops appreciated the knowledge imparted by the Italians to the locals, according to PFMA.

An international seminar was also conducted in the sidelines of the expo on footwear sustainability and survival, which was largely attended by the small and large industrial players, it added.

It was for first that Expo Riva Schuh, Riva Del Garda, Italy, the world's largest shoe expo delegation led by its chairman/CEO Roberto Pellegrini attended the PMLS and participated in different activities.

Besides, the delegation also visited footwear manufacturing factories in Pakistan and held meetings with the potential exporters of shoes. “The Italian delegation termed Pakistani products a true product for European markets.”

PFMA further informed that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Expo Riva Schuh, which aims a three-year special incentivised package for Pakistani footwear manufacturers to attend leading shoe expos in Italy and display Pakistani products to the European buyers.

“They will ensure visibility of Pakistani footwear industry to the Europe, especially in Italy,” the association said.

In the opening, CEO TDAP Zubair Motiwala assured the leather sector for incentivising the exporters to attend the international expos. Besides, he also vowed release of export development fund for research and development in the leather sector.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=173486>

Express News

پاکستان میں سی بیک کے تحت کونسل سے چلنے والے پاور پلانٹ نے کام شروع کر دیا

سی بیک کے تحت کونسل سے چلنے والے پاور پلانٹ نے باضابطہ طور پر کمرشل آپریشن شروع کر دیا۔ اسلام آباد

کول الیکٹریٹی انٹیگریشن منصوبے کے کونسل سے چلنے والے پاور پلانٹ نے گزشتہ روز باضابطہ طور پر کمرشل آپریشن شروع کر دیا۔ I-سی بیک کے تحت تھر کول بلاک

اس منصوبے کے سربراہ بیٹنگ ڈونگ ہائی نے بتایا کہ 1 ہزار 320 میگاواٹ کی مجموعی پیداواری صلاحیت کا حامل یہ پلانٹ پاکستان کے نیشنل گرڈ کو سالانہ تقریباً 9 ارب کلو واٹ گھنٹے صاف بجلی فراہم کریگا، جس سے ملک میں تقریباً 40 لاکھ مقامی خاندانوں کی توانائی کی طلب کو پورا کیا جائے گا۔

یہ توانائی کی لاگت میں کمی، توانائی کے ڈھانچے کو بہتر بنانے، توانائی کی درآمدات میں بحران کے خاتمے اور پاکستان کی انرجی سیکورٹی کو مضبوط بنانے میں معاون ثابت ہوگا

<https://www.express.pk/story/2438219/6/>

February 08, 2023

Daily Times

4000 sqm China-Pakistan trade centre unveiled in Shenzhen

A centre dedicated to China-Pakistan trade and investment cooperation was unveiled by the Pakistani ambassador in China Moin ul Haque at an unveiling ceremony in Shenzhen, according to China Economic Net (CEN). Located at the Shenzhen Hi-tech Park, the centre “covers an area of 4000 m2 with an investment of RMB 30 million and is estimated to start operation in May,” Jian Peng, Pakistan’s honorary investment counsellor in China told CEN in an interview. Jian noted, the centre will act as a permanent showroom for Pakistan, with multiple functions to promote bilateral collaboration. “It will primarily serve the purposes of Pakistani commodity display, distribution channel development, and commercial liaison establishment,” he added. The honorary investment counsellor added that the platform will also be “a window” to show Pakistani history, culture and art as well as “a bridge” for the people of the two countries to communicate with each other. It is learned that the trade and investment centre will be jointly operated by the commercial sections of the Pakistani embassy in China and the Pakistani consulate in Guangzhou, and Chinese operators.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1060725/4000-sqm-china-pakistan-trade-centre-unveiled-in-shenzhen/>

Pakistan Observer

Moin briefs Chinese enterprises about investment opportunities in Pakistan

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque has held a fruitful meeting with Wang Wenyin, Chairman of Amer International, a top Chinese private mining company, ranking 76th in Fortune 500 in Shenzhen, China and briefed him about investment opportunities in Pakistan.

He also had a roundtable interaction with representatives of key Chinese enterprises and financial institutions based in Shenzhen.

The ambassador was encouraged by their response for business in diverse areas and spirit to enhance China-Pakistan economic ties.

He performed groundbreaking of the China-Pakistan trade, investment and technology cooperation center in Shenzhen, which will be operational soon. With an area of 4000 square meter, it will be an important platform to strengthen our economic ties with China.

Meanwhile, the ambassador held an interaction with Pakistani PhD students in Shenzhen specialising in diverse fields including AI, Biotech, Nanotech, Material Science and Engineering.

He was pleased to learn about the achievements and desire to contribute to the national development of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/moin-briefs-chinese-enterprises-about-investment-opportunities-in-pakistan/>

The Nation

Miftah for boosting exports through CPEC to ease fiscal pressure

ISLAMABAD -As Pakistan's external debt is piling up and foreign exchange reserve is hitting a ten-year low, Miftah Ismail, former finance minister, stressed the importance of boosting exports through CPEC in easing Pakistan's fiscal pressure.

“Under the CPEC framework, we have got power plants and roads that are very much needed in Pakistan. The only problem is that when we doubled the electricity in Pakistan, we did not double our industrial production; we did not double our exports,” he pointed out in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

According to Miftah Ismail, the debt issue has been there for the last twenty to thirty years. In the most recent year, floods have incurred permanent and irreversible losses to Pakistan. Loans are required to recover but will drive the country's debt further up. He told CEN that Pakistan is in debt of Rs50,000 billion. For an average Pakistani, he has a debt of around Rs250,000. Half of this debt is in foreign exchange, most from countries aside from China, a major infrastructure provider of the country.

“The infrastructure that China has worked on is very important for Pakistan and has proved to be very good for Pakistan's economy. In the second phase of CPEC, we wish to see that Chinese companies come to Pakistan and set up their businesses here, and together, we can export goods to other countries and help mitigate the financial deficit in Pakistan,” he said.

He cited the example of Pakistan's first all-steel radial truck/bus tire plant set up jointly by Pakistani and Chinese companies in Nooriabad, where five to ten percent of the products will be sold in Pakistan, and ninety percent will be exported.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-08/page-4/detail-2>

February 09, 2023

Daily Times

Punjab CM seeks Chinese technology to overcome smog across Punjab

Consul General of China Mr. Zhao Shiren met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office today in which matters pertaining to mutual interest, enhancing cooperation in various sectors especially overcoming smog were discussed along with CPEC projects also came under discussion. Caretaker CM while talking with the Chinese Consul General stated that Pakistan-China friendship has always come up to expectations in every

difficult time. Mohsin Naqvi appreciated that China has overcome smog with the help of latest technology adding that the Chinese Air Purified Towers technology proved to be beneficial with regard to controlling smog. Mohsin Naqvi outlined that we want to benefit from the Chinese technology in order to overcome smog across Punjab especially in Lahore.

Caretaker CM stated that the Punjab government would welcome Chinese cooperation so as to cope up with smog hazards. The Chinese Consul General Mr. Zhao Shiren said that China would continue its cooperation with the Punjab government in various sectors adding that we would give complete assistance to the Punjab government with regard to overcoming smog problem. Chinese Consul General extended an invitation to the Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi to visit China and added that we would be pleased if the Caretaker CM visits China. Mohsin Naqvi stated that China is very close to his heart and Insha Allah will visit China at the earliest.

A taskforce for agriculture has been formed on the orders of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. The taskforce will come up with actionable suggestions for increasing agricultural productivity and facilitating market access for agricultural commodities.

Caretaker CM will chair the taskforce while the provincial industries minister, chief secretary, Chairman P&D, secretary agriculture, secretary irrigation, secretary livestock and dairy development, heads of relevant research institutes, Gohar Ijaz, Syed Yawar Ali, Zaka Ashraf and Fawad Mukhtar will be the members of the taskforce.

Caretaker CM said that the taskforce will devise a workable plan to increase agricultural production by consulting stakeholders. Facilitating market access for agricultural commodities and promotion of agricultural research will be encouraged by the government, he said and added that the government will follow the recommendations to solve the problems of farmers and to ensure better compensation for their crops. He concluded that timely decisions will be taken based on the taskforce's recommendations to drive agricultural growth.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in the Karakoram Highway accident. He extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved heirs and prayed for the early recovery of the injured. The provincial government stands in solidarity with the grieving families, he added.

On the notice of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, the police have arrested a rickshaw driver accused of molesting a maid in Hafizabad. The CM emphasized the need for severe punishment for the accused person under the law and expressed his determination to ensure justice for the victim.

Caretaker Minister for Information and Culture Punjab Amir Mir and Punjab Secretary Information and Culture Ali Nawaz Awan visited the National Press Club Islamabad. President PFUJ Afzal Butt, President National Press Club Anwar Raza, In-charge Rawalpindi Press Club Shakila Jalil and other journalists warmly welcomed Amir Mir and Ali Nawaz Awan on their arrival at the National Press Club and presented bouquets of flowers. Officials of PFUJ, RIUJ, National Press Club and other journalist organizations were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Caretaker Minister for Information and Culture Amir Mir said that he will fully cooperate with the National Press Club for the establishment of Media Town Phase Two, Islamabad and will take steps to fulfill this long-standing demand of journalists. He said that caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi is interested in solving the problems of journalists.

Secretary Information and Culture Ali Nawaz Awan said that he will fully cooperate with the National Press Club to identify the land for Media Town Phase Two. He said that we are aware of the problems of the journalist community and the Punjab government will provide all possible support in this regard.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1061175/punjab-cm-seeks-chinese-technology-to-overcome-smog-across-punjab/>

Former Chinese envoy to Pakistan appointed assistant FM

Nong Rong, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, has been appointed assistant minister of foreign affairs, the State Council of China announced. Nong, 56, was appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan in 2020. He held a farewell reception on Jan 16 in Islamabad announcing his departure, China Daily reported on Wednesday. Nong spent the majority of his career in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. He became mayor of Guigang in 2015 and was named head of the regional commission of ethnic and religious affairs in 2019.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1061158/former-chinese-envoy-to-pakistan-appointed-assistant-fm/>

CPEC wind power projects transform Pakistan's energy landscape

CPEC wind power projects are going to transform Pakistan's energy landscape, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday.

On the vast desert of Jhimpir, Sindh, hundreds of wind turbines are running day and night, providing stable and green power to the national grid. Peerzada Zain ul Abideen, O&M manager of PowerChina HDEC Engineering Company Limited Pakistan proudly told CEN that the 12 projects in Jhimpir of his company have generated 1888.29 GWh of electricity so far.

“Locals also find learning and working opportunities here. Most of the engineers, managers, and workers are from nearby areas”, he said, adding, “I myself have also been offered a job that my family and friends are proud of and a good salary”.

Peerzada Zain ul Abideen, recipient of the award in 2022 for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects, coordinated with the project management teams during the engineering and execution of 12 wind power projects.

As renewable energy including wind is getting higher on the Pakistani government's agenda, Chinese power companies have become a significant part of Pakistan's endeavor to realize its wind potential and transform its energy structure.

Hundreds of miles away in Gharo, Sindh, Muhammad Saleem Munshi, Chief Financial Officer of HydroChina Dawood Power (Pvt) Limited and recipient of the 2022 award for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects, is pleased to see that due to the 49.5 MW

Dawood Wind Power Project, a closed school in a nearby village with about 600 families living in it can reopen and provide education to children.

“We were surprised to find that the deserted school was used as a poultry storage house. To convince villagers that we could reconstruct and renovate the school, that our project can change their lives, we hired over 30 villagers as security guards for our project”. He told CEN reporter that the wind speed in the area is up to 7 meters per second. If properly developed, it can meet 5%-10% of the nation’s power demand.

“The demand is there, and more fund is being attracted to the wind power sector”, he said. With the increasing renewable energy mix mandate by the government and improvements in wind energy technology, this emerging sector is pooling not only investment, but also talents. Muhammad Waqas, Director Finance of the UEP 100MW wind farm in Jhampir and also recipient the 2022 award for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects says the most worthwhile thing he ever did was to choose wind power as his career while he also holds certificates in computer programming, teaching, and accountant.

“I can learn state-of-the-art technologies of one of the most promising sectors. Chinese brothers are transferring the advanced mechanism to Pakistan”, he said, adding, “Before the pandemic, I went to China every year to learn about power-related technologies and business know-how”. He said, relying on wind power alone, Pakistan can produce twice the amount of electricity needed in the country. With the passage of time, the project development, construction and operations cost are reducing, which will ultimately reduce power tariff, which is connected with high economic activities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1061401/cpec-wind-power-projects-transform-pakistans-energy-landscape/>

The Nation

Pak-China Trade, Investment Centre to enhance access of Pak products to Chinese markets

BEIJING-Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque participated in the groundbreaking of a dedicated Pakistan-China Trade, Investment and Technology Cooperation Centre in Shenzhen, China.

The centre is another addition to the ongoing efforts by the embassy to establish both online and offline national pavilions in China to enhance the access of Pakistani products to the Chinese markets.

With a total area of 4,000 sqm, the centre would be an important platform for commodity display, distribution channels development and commercial liaison, as well as serve as a window to showcase Pakistan’s rich history, landscapes and cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the strong all-weather ties between Pakistan and China. He highlighted Pakistan’s export potential and the key sectors that could be further promoted in the Chinese market.

Appreciating the role of the Chinese partners in conceiving, designing and implementing this key initiative, the ambassador expressed the hope that the centre would serve as a unique model and benchmark of win-win cooperation and mutually beneficial exchanges and would be replicated in other key provinces of China.

After the groundbreaking ceremony, Ambassador Haque had a round table interaction with representatives of Chinese enterprises belonging to diverse sectors, chambers of commerce and investment funds.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-09/page-8/detail-2>

PR, two Chinese companies to launch app in Gwadar

GWADAR - Pakistan Railways, a state-owned department, has established offices in Gwadar, and it has been assigned the task of increasing relations with Chinese companies working in Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar Development Authority, Gwadar Port and Free Zones.

According to Gwadar Pro, Pakistan Railways and two Chinese tech companies NORINCO International Cooperation, Easyway have signed an MoU to launch an app named 'Railway Automated Booking & Travel Assistance (RABTA)' to modernise the operations of the department.

Talking to media after the MoU signing ceremony at the Railway Headquarters in Lahore on Monday, Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique said the RABTA app was one top solution for all travel needs where passengers can reserve hotel rooms, taxis and plan their food during traveling.

The minister said the agreement with the Chinese companies was totally based on the revenue sharing formula. He further added while admitting the importance of Gwadar Port that there is enough land of Pakistan Railways in Gwadar, they have opened their sub office there and assigned the officers and staff from it. "Apart from this, we will set up the railway for the future together with Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar Development Authority and other companies that are working." He said that Pakistan Railways will build its strong system in Gwadar to take full advantage of the upcoming economic boom, which will stabilise the financial condition of the railways.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-09/page-13/detail-3>

Chinese Charge d' Affaires praises Pakistani, Chinese scientists

ISLAMABAD - Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy to Pakistan, Pang Chunxue yesterday praised the Pakistani and Chinese scientists for their services and cooperation. She said the cooperation in Science and Technology (S&T) was an important part of the China-Pakistan bilateral relations and both countries had jointly funded more than 475 research projects covering agriculture, aerospace, and chemical industry.

Speaking at a ceremony held here to celebrate China-Pakistan Space Science & Technology Cooperation, the envoy said remarkable results had been achieved since the two countries signed an intergovernmental S&T cooperation agreement in 1976. Moreover, many projects

were also funded between both countries in the field of water resource protection, medical and health care, biotechnology, computer science, environment, energy, meteorology, geology, and technology management, she added. Pang Chunxue said: “We are here to have the handover ceremony of Pakistani medicinal plant seeds after a six-month orbit stay in China Space Station. The Shanzhou XIV manned spacecraft was launched into space to conduct a scientific experiment in June 2022 and returned to the ground safely last December. This is the first ever that Pakistani plants were in the space. The experiment will surely be recorded in the history of China-Pakistan friendship and a landmark of S&T cooperation.

She said the bilateral S&T cooperation had also been included under the framework of China-Pakistan Corridor which will surely provide strong support to the high quality and sustainable development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

China’s international S&T cooperation was committed to being open shared and inclusive. Space exploration was a common cause of mankind. China insists on conducting cooperation in space exploration based on equality mutual benefit, peaceful use, and inclusive development, she added.

Charge d’ Affairs also thanked the scientists of both sides for their joint efforts. She also appreciated the officials of the ministry of science and technology of Pakistan, COMSTECH, and Pakistan Science Foundation for their contributions and Ambassadors and representatives of COMSTECH member countries for joining us to witness this special occasion.

Charge d’ affairs of the Chinese Embassy, also highlight that three months ago, when meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing, Chinese president Xi Jinping expressed that China will further deepen synergy between its development strategies and those of Pakistan and solidly promote cooperation in areas such as agriculture, science and technology and people’s livelihood.

This event is another vivid example of implementing the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. Both countries are committed to building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, she maintained.

She emphasized that China-Pakistan friendships needs to be passed on from generation to generation and we are delighted to witness that Pakistan teenagers have interacted with Chinese astronauts by writing letters to them, with a Chinese astronaut responding via video. We firmly believe that this communication will surely help to light up the teenager’s space dreams.”

Earlier the Ministry of Science and Technology with support of Embassy of the People’s republic of China in Pakistan, COMSTECH, International Center for Chemical and Biological center held a ceremony to celebrate the landmark of China-Pakistan Space Science and technology cooperation on the eve of the return of Pakistani seeds from Chinese space, at COMSTECH auditorium Islamabad.

The ceremony was attended by the political leadership, diplomats, scientists, technologists, professionals and senior officers of ministry and its attached organizations.

Addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that the “Seeds in Space project” is a milestone in collaborations between scientists of both countries. The project provides a platform for researchers to share knowledge and resources leading to economic growth. This project is a cornerstone in advancing space science, herbal medicine and research.

Federal Minister for Planning further said that continuity of policies and political stability plays vital role in progress of any country as it was seen in China while approach of polarization sudden change in governments, left the country behind in today’s world. Space technology today was very critical for human development, life on earth and protection of environment, he added. He also hoped that soon Pakistan astronauts would join the China in space mission.

The Seed sent to the space include *Trigonella foenum-graecum* (Methi), *Lawsonia inermis* (Mehni) *Moringa Olefera* (Sohanjna), *Withania somnifera* (ashwagandha), *Tribulus Terrestris* (Gokhroo), *Gossypium arboretum* (Mughal punta dana) and *Caesalpinia bonducella* (kuranjwa).

The scientists who contributed to the project include Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Professor Dr Atia tul Wahab, Dr. Yan Wang, Dr Shakeel Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Ahsana Dar Tariq and Prof Dr. Ghazala, H Rizwani.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-09/page-13/detail-3>

February 10, 2023

Business Recorder

KCR, other CPEC projects come under govt focus

ISLAMABAD: Federal government reviewed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects including ML-1 Railways and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) projects.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiates Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the ongoing CPEC projects here in Islamabad on Thursday. Project Director CPEC Dr Nadeem Javed, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, line ministries, Board of Investment, Embassy of Pakistan - Beijing, National Highways Authority, Government of Sind, Government of Punjab, LESCO, CPPAG, KPEZDMC, Peshawar attended the meeting.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing briefed the participants on the status of ML-1 and KCR projects.

It was decided that the concerned authorities and departments from China and Pakistan would actively pursue their part furnishing all needful ensuring there is no further delay to cause a slowdown. The meeting was also briefed about the current status of the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai, Bostan, and Dhabeji SEZs and Gwadar Port Authority and Gwadar Free Zone.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the Balochistan government apprised the participants on the water supply schemes, precision training complex, and situation of Electricity supply, Gwadar University, maintenance dredging and 3,000 solar system installation in Gwadar.

Talking to the participants, the federal minister stated that China and Pakistan are strongly committed to reviving the CPEC in letter and spirit. He said that the cooperation will be further expanded to more sectors. The minister maintained that Gwadar and its inhabitants have been the top priority among the entire portfolio of the CPEC and even today, the government is committed to solving the problems this city and its citizens are facing. He instructed the concerned authorities to make sure no further delays are witnessed in completing the water supply schemes and the projects related to energy and education.

He believed that Gwadar had the potential to emerge as one of the world's top port cities duly equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, a modernised and technologically-advanced port with enhanced capacity and all necessary ingredients of socioeconomic well-being. To avoid the overlapping of courses and skills offered at three vocational training institutes in Gwadar, Ahsan Iqbal directed the concerned stakeholders to chalk out a comprehensive plan where the roles and offered skills at these institutes are clearly defined and eventually link them to the Gwadar authority. To ensure this non-overlapping of offered skills, an integrated plan was directed by the minister planning for enhanced productivity.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed the concerned departments to convene meetings of the Joint Working Groups on Energy and Infrastructure so that the work on projects related to these domains might be expedited.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/10/1-page/954672-news.html>

Daily Times

Delegation from China's Ningbo University visits IIUI

A delegation from Ningbo University, China visited International Islamic University, Islamabad on Thursday where it called on the university President Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and also held meeting with the dean and scientists of the Faculty of Sciences.

Both sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of natural Sciences and vowed to work together on the joint projects. It was decided that follow up MoU and Frame-work will be established between both universities, says a press release.

During the meeting with the delegation, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi said the collaborations and partnership is a precious opportunity for both Universities. He added that IIUI is a leading international university and especially, hosting hundreds of Chinese students which is also another opportunity for expansion. He offered his full support to joint initiative and appreciated the ongoing progress between both universities.

On the occasion, Xinmin Liu and Professor Liu Yu from Ningbo University stressed for further expanding the joint academic teaching, research, projects, researcher and faculty exchanges between the two renowned universities. Professor Liu said he found immense pleasure for this opportunity for shared teaching, research supervision, project and exchanges.

Professor Dr. Ahmed Shuja Ahmed Syed, Vice President (R&E), IIU encouraged this initiative with his full support.

The Chinese delegation was headed by Professor Dr. Xinmin Liu (Professor at Institute of Drug Discovery and Technology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and WHO Expert on Herbal Medicines). It was also accompanied by Associate Professor Dr. Xiang Ning, Associate Professor Dr. Yan Wang and Professor Dr. Atia-ul-Wahab.

This high-level academic visit was organized with the efforts of the joint research project of Professor Dr. Muhammad Riaz from CIRBS, IIUI, Professor Dr. Earlier, Professor Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, IIUI gave the welcome briefing which was followed by the presentation of Professor Dr. Xinmin Liu. Then Professor Dr. Muhammad Riaz presented the focused areas of collaborations and partnership. Briefly, shared courses and teaching, joint research supervisions, joint R&D projects, and researchers exchanges between universities starting with the area of medicinal chemistry and industrial biotechnology with CIRBS and joint project with CAEPE.

At the end, the president presented a shield to Professor Dr. Xinmin Liu.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1061659/delegation-from-chinas-ningbo-university-visits-iiui/>

CPEC's 10 years: Gwadar Transforming

Yaseer Khan

Over the last 10 years since the CPEC set foot in 2013, Gwadar's outlook is changing gradually and constructively gotten over daunting challenges especially poverty, civic issues, water, electricity, employability, market-based skills, trade, infrastructure, greenery, agriculture and top of them, blue economy. In the near past, Gwadar was in shamble and disarray. Later, Gwadar started making headway toward progress in a sustainable manner. Many development projects have been completed so far that include Gwadar Port, Gwadar Free Zone South (Phase I), Eastbay Expressway, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, Fiber Optic, E-Custom system (WeBOC), Plant Tissue Culture Lab & Green House, livestock, women-led garment factory, Gwadar University and GDA-Indus Hospital.

Gwadar is expected to attract a significant amount of foreign investment and economic activity.

On the back of these successes, more than twenty new game-changing projects are on the way to completion in 2023 and onward years as per their scheduled timeframes. These projects entail the desalination potable water plant, Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase 11), the Gwadar Safe City Project, the New Gwadar International Airport, three electricity projects, the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, the Gwadar Tourism Project, the New management model of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), State of Art Shipyard Project, Oil Refinery project, Green Gwadar Project, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, fisher community projects, Gwadar Port dredging project, Export-oriented projects, Fish industry, Warehouse industry, and Gwadar Huafa Exhibition and Trading Center. The city's strategic location at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, coupled with its deep-sea port and modern

infrastructure, makes it a hub for trade, transportation, and investment. As a result, Gwadar is expected to attract a significant amount of foreign investment and economic activity in the coming years, emerging as a major contributor to Pakistan's economic growth.

1.2 MGD WATER DESALINATION PLANT

One of the most significant of these projects is the 1.2 Million Gallon Per Day (MGD) desalination plant, expected to be fully operational by April 2023. This plant will provide a reliable source of clean drinking water to the residents of Gwadar, who have long struggled with water scarcity and poor water quality. The water desalination plant was completed with the cooperation of the Gwadar Port Authority and China Harbor Engineering Company.

THREE ELECTRICITY PROJECTS

In 2023, more than 4 lakh people of Gwadar are going to get rid of painful power woes as three electricity projects will power up Gwadar. The first project is about 100 MW of Iranian electricity from Gabd-Remdan (Pak-Iran border) to Jiwani Grid Station to Gwadar which will come in March. The second project is another 100 MW from Iran-Pangjur-Turban-Pasni to Gwadar going to be completed in the current year. Third Project is from Quetta, Nag-Besima section to Pangjur and then Turbat-Pasni to Gwadar. Meanwhile, a 5 MW power supply will be available to Gwadar Free Zones North (Phase II). If all goes well, in the second step 12 MW power supply will be ensured for Gwadar Free Zone South (phase I) and Gwadar Port in the coming months. Finally, govt also approved a 300 MW coal-fired power project for Gwadar.

GWADAR FREE ZONE NORTH (PHASE II)

Another major development project that is expected to pick more pace in 2023 is the development of the Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase II) spreading over 2221 acres of land. Currently, export-based Chinese companies are very near to the building and run their factories in a few months. Gwadar Free Zone North is designed to provide a wide range of trade facilities and business services for investors and enterprises looking to tap into the potential of Gwadar offering thousands of new jobs for the local population and helping to boost the city's economy likely to grow \$30 billion annually.

FISHERMEN LIVING STANDARDS PROJECTS

The year 2023 has also brought many fortunes for Gwadar's fishermen regarding their livelihood to new housing schemes. Balochistan Government has approved 200 acres of land for new fishermen housing colonies for low-income fishermen of Gwadar. Around Rs 300 million has been allocated. Around 3,291 poor fishermen of Gwadar are going to get free-of-cost boat engines as the government has allocated funds of Rs. 823 million. As part of corporate social responsibility, the management of China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) and the Pakistan Army also distributed fishing nets to the poor fishermen in Gwadar.

NEW GWADAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The construction of the New Gwadar International Airport being constructed with a Chinese grant \$230 million is all set to start its first test flight in March 2023. Completion is likely in

September this year. The airport will have the capacity to handle large aircrafts, making it possible for international flights to land in Gwadar. This will greatly enhance the connectivity of Gwadar with the rest of the world and will also boost the trade and tourism industry in the city. The airport will also provide new business and job opportunities for the locals.

GWADAR SMART PORT CITY MASTER PLAN

In 2023, the Balochistan government in collaboration with GDA and GPA will unleash step-by-step spiral components of the Gwadar Master Plan ranging from high-tech industries, mega shopping malls, luxury resorts, central business districts, commercial entities, high-paid jobs, tax-free environment, the infrastructure of airway, highways and seaways allowing Gwadar to become the 3rd largest city in Pakistan by economic output. The Master plan will guide the city's development over the next several years and will include the development of infrastructure, housing, and other facilities. It will also focus on preserving the city's natural resources and ecosystem while promoting sustainable development. As part of the Master plan, a special emphasis will be placed on tourism development in Gwadar.

GWADAR SECURITY PROJECTS

Two Gwadar Safe City Projects are all set to be executed in a couple of weeks in Gwadar. To help give officials of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), investors, traders, and locals a profound sense of satisfaction, the government has started two massive security projects in Gwadar. These projects aim to surround the port and its surroundings with contemporary security systems and cutting-edge safety mechanisms. One of the projects aims to install as many as 675 CCTV cameras in various parts of Gwadar to secure the area. Another demand of locals is expected to be met in 2023 as the Commander of XII Corps Lt Gen Asif Ghafoor has said that the security of Gwadar would be completely given to the police and Levies Force in the next three to four months.

GREEN GWADAR

As Pakistan and China gear up to execute the recently announced Green Corridor initiative under CPEC, Chinese and Pakistani scientists are attempting to green the sands of Gwadar. To turn Gwadar, the "shining pearl" of CPEC, from a desert to a green oasis, scientists from China and Pakistan are producing a variety of plants that may adapt to the local environment. According to the Belt and Road Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest, which was jointly established by Central South University of Forestry and Technology, China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, and Yulin Holdings in 2018, nearly 100,000 seedlings of bananas, dates, orchids, and figs have so far been grown there.

TECHNICAL TRAINING & EDUCATION

The Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute, which was established in 2021, is expected to bore more fruits in 2023. A signing ceremony for the joint operating agreement of the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), built under CPEC, was recently held in the presentation hall of the China Business Centre in Gwadar Free Zone. The institute is providing technical and vocational education to the youth of Gwadar, which will help to create a skilled workforce in the region.

In 2023, the Faqeer Colony School of Gwadar is expected to provide improved educational facilities. This school is part of a Chinese-funded initiative aimed at developing a high-quality educational system in the area. Zong 4G has partnered with the China-Pakistan Gwadar Middle School, offering digital support to the school's computer labs to empower the school's female students.

GWADAR'S \$4.5 BILLION OIL REFINERY, SHIPYARD & DREDGING

To materialize the \$4.5 b oil refinery project in Gwadar, a five-member delegation of the Chinese Company "East Sea Group Limited (ESGL)" visited Gwadar a few weeks ago. Initially, ESGL will install a 5 million tons capacity oil refinery in Gwadar. Later ESGL will upgrade it with an annual oil processing capacity of 8 million tons in Gwadar.

In addition, other important projects include the construction of a 4.5 billion dollar oil refinery, the dredging of Gwadar port to accommodate large vessels, and the construction of a shipyard project to enhance the shipbuilding industry. A new initiative is underway to allot the most suitable land for the establishment of a 'New Modern Shipyard' in Gwadar, to spur economic growth, create jobs, and encourage commercial shipbuilding.

WEB-BASED ONE CUSTOM CLEARANCE SYSTEM

In a significant development, the Web-Based One Custom Clearance System (WeBOC) system's first cargo was cleared from the Gwadar Free Zone during the last quarter of 2022. Under Pakistan Single Window, WeBOC in the Gwadar Free Zone will assist with the automation, standardisation, and harmonisation of all trade processes and logistical services about land, air, and sea routes (PSW). The WeBOC system is expected to be further strengthened in 2023.

HEALTH SECTOR

In addition to the announcement of the Health corridor under CPEC, the Chinese government is also supporting the development of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, a state-of-the-art medical facility for the population of Gwadar. The hospital will be erected on 68 acres of land and is expected to start operations this year. In addition to that, many other health facilities are under construction to serve the local community.

Overall, from 2013 to 2023, Gwadar is undergoing a significant transformation, with a wide range of new infrastructure, facilities, and services in place to support the city's economic and social development. After the completion of all projects, Gwadar will be positioned as a key economic hub in the region, with the potential to serve as a gateway to the Arabian Sea and the rest of the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1061605/cpecs-10-years-gwadar-transforming/>

Dawn News

Punjab cabinet approves rules for corporate farming under CPEC

LAHORE: The provincial interim cabinet on Thursday approved rules and regulations for corporate farming under the CPEC project.

Under the plan, 127,000 acres of land would be made available for farming in five selected districts.

“Corporate farming will help in agricultural research, food security, and forest and livestock research. Land can be given for a maximum of 30 years for corporate farming and those who get land for farming will not get ownership rights,” the CM said.

Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over the cabinet meeting which was also attended by IG Police Dr Usman Anwar and Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman.

Flour made part of essential commodities

It decided to include flour in the schedule of the Punjab Prevention of Speculation for Essential Commodity Act, 2021 to make it a part of the essential commodities.

The CM ordered the formation of a committee with a task to recommend a foolproof method of targeted flour subsidy. The cabinet also approved procuring wheat from Passco [Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation. The cabinet approved a reconstituted board of governors of the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute while the CM asked the ministers to conduct visits to resolve the artificial shortage and hoarding of petroleum products.

The meeting said recruitment should be made through the Punjab Public Service Commission to ensure merit in the food department.

The meeting further decided to constitute a new search committee for the appointment of vice-chancellors of government universities.

Extension of the contract period of staff of the Provincial Quality Control Board in Punjab and de-notification of political appointments in departments and autonomous bodies affiliated with the P&D Board was approved as well.

Approval was given to restore the lapsed funds for the payment of honorarium to the Afternoon School Programme staff for the academic year 2020-21. The meeting also reviewed the postponement of the recruitment process in new administrative units in Punjab.

The huddle approved Rs1 billion for the assistance of police martyrs’ heirs.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1736268>

Pakistan Observer

China’s warming economy new impetus to global growth

Well begun is half done Off to a good start in 2023, China’s economy is seeing a faster-than-expected recovery, which is boosting confidence and nurturing new impetus both domestically and abroad.

The robust tourism and consumption boom during the Spring Festival, as well as other indicators, serve as evidence suggesting a promising year.

During the seven-day holiday, China saw nearly 2.9 million cross border trips, up 120.5 percent year on year, and 308 million domestic trips, up 23.1 percent compared with 2022.

In January, the purchasing managers' index for China's manufacturing sector came in at 50.1, returning to expansion territory after three consecutive months of contraction.

With eased epidemic controls and the start of a new policy cycle, China's economy is expected to open new horizons in 2023, while pragmatic policies to stabilize growth and boost development will further shore up confidence, said Yu Xiangrong, China chief economist of Citigroup.

Encouraging figures are the result of coordinated central and local planning, which echoed a Chinese saying that a year's plan starts with spring.

Promoting consumption and expanding domestic demand is a priority task in China in 2023.

The Ministry of Commerce recently said that it will focus on areas such as automobiles and household supplies, and coordinate national promotional activities aimed at boosting consumption.

The ministry will also continue with the construction of international consumption center cities, and maintain emphasis on developing county-level businesses.

The National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planner, said multiple measures will be implemented to increase confidence in consumption.

The Ministry of Finance will coordinate policy tools to exert more efforts on attracting special bond investment and improving preferential policies concerning taxes and fees.

China's central bank will guide financial institutions to increase support for green development, and will continue to apply monetary policy tools to ensure carbon emission reductions, clean and efficient use of coal, and efficient logistics.— Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-warming-economy-new-impetus-to-global-growth/>

China, Pakistan strongly committed to reviving CPEC in letters, spirit:

Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiates Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that China and Pakistan are strongly committed to reviving the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in letters and spirit.

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress of the ongoing CPEC projects, said a press release issued here.

Project Director CPEC Dr Nadeem Javed, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, line ministries, Board of Investment, Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, National Highway Authority, provincial governments of Sindh and Punjab, LESCO, CPPAG, and KPEZDMC, Peshawar attended the meeting.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing briefed the participants on the status of ML-1 and KCR projects. It was decided that the concerned authorities and departments from China and Pakistan would actively pursue their part furnishing all needful to ensure there is no further delay to cause a slowdown.

The meeting was also briefed about the current status of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai, Bostan, and Dhabeji SEZs and Gwadar Port Authority, and Gwadar Free Zone.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the Balochistan government apprised the participants of the water supply schemes, precision training complex, and situation of electricity supply, Gwadar University, maintenance, dredging, and 3000 solar system installation in Gwadar.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the cooperation would be further expanded to more sectors.

The minister maintained that Gwadar and its inhabitants have been the top priority among the entire portfolio of the CPEC and even today the government is committed to salvaging the problems this city and its citizen are facing.

He instructed the concerned authorities to make sure no further delays are witnessed in completing the water supply schemes and the projects related to energy and education.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-strongly-committed-to-reviving-cpec-in-letters-spirit-ahsan/>

The Nation

20 new projects in Gwadar to be completed in 2023

ISLAMABAD - Twenty new projects are on the way of completion in 2023 and onward years as per their scheduled timeframes, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

These projects entail desalination potable water plant, Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase 11), Gwadar Safe City Project, New Gwadar International Airport, three electricity projects, Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, Gwadar Tourism Project, New management model of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), State of Art Shipyard Project, Oil Refinery project, Green Gwadar Project, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, fisher community projects, Gwadar Port Dredging Project, Export-oriented projects, fishing industry, warehouse industry, and Gwadar Huafa Exhibition and Trading Centre. According to the report, over the last 10 years since CPEC set its foot in 2013, Gwadar outlook is changing gradually and constructively, getting over daunting challenges including poverty, civic issues, water, electricity, employment, infrastructure, agriculture and on top of them blue economy.

Many development projects have been completed so far including Gwadar Port, Gwadar Free Zone South (Phase I), Eastbay Expressway, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, Fiber Optic, E-Custom system (WEBOC), Plant Tissue Culture Lab & Green House, Livestock, Women-Led Garment Factory, Gwadar University and GDA-Indus Hospital.

On the back of these successes, more than 20 new projects are on the way of completion in 2023 and onward years as per their scheduled timeframes.

One of the most significant projects is the 1.2 million gallon per day (MGD) de-salination plant, expected to be fully operational by April 2023. This plant will provide a reliable source of clean drinking water to the residents of Gwadar. In 2023, more than 4 lakhs people of

Gwadar are going to get rid of painful power woes as three electricity projects will power up Gwadar.

The first project is about 100MW Irani electricity from Gabd-Remdan (Pak-Iran border) to Jiwani Grid Station to Gwadar that will come on 1st March.

The second project is another 100MW from Iran-Pangjur-Turban-Pasni to Gwadar that is going to be completed in current year. The third project is from Quetta, Nag-Besima section to Pangjur and then Turbat- Pasni to Gwadar.

The year of 2023 has also brought many fortunes for Gwadar's fishermen regarding their livelihood to new housing schemes. The Balochistan government has approved 200 acres of land for new fishermen housing colony for low-income fishermen of Gwadar.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-10/page-4/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

90 سی پیک منصوبوں میں تیزی کیلئے جو انٹ ورننگ گروپس اجلاس بلائے جائیں: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی اور خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے جمعرات کو سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیتے ہوئے متعلقہ محکموں کو ہدایات جاری کی ہیں کہ توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر پر جو انٹ ورننگ گروپس کے اجلاس کریں تاکہ ان سے متعلق منصوبوں پر کام تیز کیا جاسکے۔ اجلاس میں پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر سی پیک ڈاکٹر ندیم جاوید، وزارت خارجہ، بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ، نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی، حکومت سندھ، حکومت پنجاب، اور دیگر وزارتوں اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔ بیجنگ میں پاکستان کے سفارت خانے نے شرکاء کو ایم ایل ون اور کے سی آر منصوبے پر بریفنگ دی اور یہ فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے متعلقہ حکام اور محکمے اپنی طرف سے تمام ضروری سامان فراہم کرتے ہوئے اس بات کو یقینی بنائیں گے کہ اس منصوبے میں کسی قسم کی مزید تاخیر نہ ہو۔ گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی فری زون کی موجودہ صورتحال کے بارے میں بھی بریفنگ دی گئی۔ وفاقی وزیر کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان سی پیک کو ریڈور کی عمل درآمد کے لیے پرعزم ہیں جبکہ تعاون کو مزید شعبوں میں مزید وسعت دی جائے گی۔ وفاقی وزیر کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری سی پیک کے پورے پورٹ فولیو میں گوادر اور بلوچستان کی عوام اولین ترجیح رہے ہیں انہوں نے متعلقہ حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ اس بات کو یقینی بنائیں کہ وائر سپلائی سکیموں اور توانائی اور تعلیم سے متعلق منصوبوں کی تکمیل میں مزید تاخیر نہ ہو۔ پروفیسر احسن اقبال نے متعلقہ حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ ایک جامع منصوبہ تیار کریں جہاں ان اداروں کے کردار اور پیش کردہ مہارتوں کی واضح طور پر وضاحت کی گئی ہو اور انہیں اس سے منسلک کیا جائے۔

احسن اقبال

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-02-10/page-10/detail-45>

February 11, 2023

Dawn News

Foolproof security ordered for CPEC projects staff in south Punjab

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Foolproof security arrangements have been ordered in south Punjab, especially for the protection of Chinese citizens engaged in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects against any terrorist activity.

South Punjab Additional Inspector General of Police Maqsoodul Hasan gave the orders while reviewing the security arrangements at the residential area and workplace of the Chinese citizens and important installations during his visit to the Multan Industrial Estate.

He directed the police officials deployed there to remain extra alert and perform their duty diligently.

The additional IG said the successful completion of the CPEC project was a priority for the government and it was the responsibility of the security agencies to provide foolproof security to the staff working there, especially the foreigners.

He ordered them to keep a close eye on suspicious elements in the vicinity of the project area in view of the current situation.

Mr Hassan further said the police and other security agencies were making their best efforts to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists and miscreants, and eliminate terrorism.

Officers should be in the field with the personnel to deal with any act of terrorism, he added.

Security will also be beefed up around mosques and other places of worship.

ARDAL ROOM: Regional Police Officer retired Capt Sajjad Hasan Khan held an Ardal Room at the DG Khan Police Lines for the hearing of show-cause notices served to officials on different charges in different districts of the region.

During the hearings 50 cases, the RPO punished six sub-inspectors (SIs) and two assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) with censure and forfeiture of their service for misuse of authority, negligence, carelessness and inadequate investigation.

He also ordered launching of inquiries against six show-cause notices.

Addressing the officials on the occasion, he said they should perform their duties with honesty and integrity to ensure rule of law and delivery of justice on merit.

He said misuse of powers, corruption and negligence in performing duties would not be tolerated.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1736434/foolproof-security-ordered-for-cpec-projects-staff>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese FM holds phone talks with Bilawal

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang held phone conversations with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

He said that China and Pakistan enjoy a special friendship and high-level mutual trust, and the close high-level interactions between the two countries have injected strong impetus into the development of bilateral relations.

China is ready to work with Pakistan to take the important consensus between leaders of the two countries as guidance, continuously deepen their traditional friendship, and join hands to forge an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, he noted.

Qin Gang stressed that as the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching, China pays close attention to the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan, and hoped that Pakistan would continue to take effective security measures.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-fm-holds-phone-talks-with-bilawal/>

BRI and Turkmenistan: A Way of Progress and Prosperity | By Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The West “New Great Game” syndrome has been purposefully disseminating in the Central Asian Region against China which has become the largest trading partner and the biggest investor in which One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) has played an important role.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (April 2017) since 2013, US\$304.9 billion in contracts have been signed between China and the economies along the route.

A substantial FDI has been poured into Turkmenistan, the 2nd largest country of the region in diverse sectors of economy including energy, oil & gas, infrastructure, transport, ICT, IT and last but not the least, industrialization under the flagship project of the BRI.

Now the two countries announced the decision to elevate the China-Turkmenistan relationship to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” in Beijing. Since 2011, China has remained Turkmenistan’s largest trading partner.

According to China Customs statistics (December 2022) from January to August in 2022, bilateral trade between the two sides reached \$6.9 billion, an increase of 52.4 percent year on year, of which Chinese imports were \$6.36 billion, a year-on-year growth of 50.1 percent, and exports of \$540 million, representing an 87.3-percent expansion year on year.

It is good omen that gradually Turkmenistan is progressively opening itself to the outer world with the development of large scale infrastructure projects including transnational energy projects and multimodal regional transport corridors.

Interestingly, Turkmenistan is ideally located between Central Asia, Middle East, South Asia and the Caucasus due to which Turkmenistan would become a major “connecting hub”.

In June 2016, in Tashkent, former Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov met the Chinese President Xi Jinping and had discussed further cooperation with the Belt and Road Initiative.

Turkmenistan is one of the biggest suppliers of natural gas to China and a key country of the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline project.

Till June 2022, the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline has delivered more than 400 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China over the last 12-plus years.

On the one hand, the pipeline helped replace the use of 532 million tonnes of coal during this period, equivalent to the reduction of 8.8 million tonnes of harmful substances and 568 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

On the other hand, the project’s company has provided more than 22,000 jobs and trained some 110,000 local employees in Turkmenistan.

Moreover, China has become the largest trading partner of Turkmenistan. 70% of Turkmen exports, mostly gas transmitted to China while Turkmenistan has become the third largest trading partner of China in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the two countries have been each other's largest cooperative partner in natural gas since 2016.

In addition, Turkmenistan also acts as a corridor for China to reach important import and export markets in South Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and beyond as well as access to the Caspian Sea which lies on the country's western border. Turkmenistan's largest export market is China, which accounted for 76.6 percent of all products in the first quarter of 2022.

China and Turkmenistan established their diplomatic relations in 1992. The early decades of the relationship saw the signing of several bilateral agreements and treaties which included a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in 1992 and a double taxation agreement (DTA) in 2009.

Most recently, the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow was on a state visit to China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping. The visit, scheduled between January 5 and 6, represents Berdimuhamedow's first official visit to Beijing since taking over the presidency.

During the two-day official visit, numerous MOUs were inked which would be a value addition for the further strengthening of bilateral relations and BRI between the two countries in the days to come.

MOUs were signed to promote investment cooperation in the digital economy, green development, "Revival of the Great Silk Road" and "One Belt and One Road"; energy, oil, gas exploration between Türkmengaz (Turkmen Gas) State Concern and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), health, education, tourism, culture, media and last but not least, sports,

Interestingly, before the launch of China's BRI, Turkmenistan had already planned several strategic energy infrastructure projects and corridors.

However, at the time, these initiatives were limited in their scope, resources and participation. Since their involvement in the BRI scheme, these projects have now been able to advance their goal of becoming intercontinental corridors with access to significant transportation networks and energy security

. It includes the Turkmenistan-China Gas Pipeline, the International North-South Transportation Corridor, the Lapis Lazuli International Transit Corridor and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline.

According to statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), in 2020, China's direct investment in Turkmenistan reached US\$211 million.

By the end of 2020, China's accumulated direct investment in Turkmenistan was US\$336 million. In 2020, Chinese enterprises signed 27 new project contracts in Turkmenistan with a total value of US\$457 million and a total turnover of US\$165 million.

Most of the new Chinese projects are contracted and implemented mainly in the fields of natural gas exploration and development and technical services.

To conclude, the two countries' friendship has deepened mutual understanding and learned from each other in terms of culture, tradition and worldview.

The great Silk Road that connects the two countries is a bridge of not only trade but also cultural exchanges.

At present, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Turkmenistan's development strategy to revive the Silk Road are gaining more and more synergy.

The two countries share common interests which make them good partners under such synergy. Both the BRI and Turkmenistan's development strategy to revive the Silk Road inject strong impetus into the economic development of Eurasia.

Both connect the vast region between the Pacific and the Atlantic with interconnected technological chains, industrial chains and industrial belts, which further strengthen greater regional connectivity.

It seems that energy will remain an important direction of Turkmenistan-China future cooperation. Turkmenistan enjoys huge potential in the energy sector.

China's growing demand is spurred by its expanding economy due to which Turkmenistan's government is planning to increase its supply of natural gas to China. Both Turkmenistan and China attach high importance to transport cooperation. Turkmenistan sees China as its most important cooperation partner in the Asia-Pacific region.

On its part, Turkmenistan is now working with its regional and trans-regional partners to build an infrastructure network of transit shipment and logistics.

It seems that it will include transit corridors leading to the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea regions. It is expected to become a perfect channel of transport from Asia Pacific to Europe and the Middle East via Central Asia.

Interestingly, China is also exploring building a spur from Pakistan's territory once the multi-country TAPI natural gas pipeline project begins operating.

Turkmenistan is building the TAPI pipeline to diversify its gas exports which have mostly gone to China.

But the project has suffered lengthy delays due to difficulties obtaining financing and the security risks of building a pipeline through war-torn Afghanistan.

Pakistan-Turkmenistan and China would be a winning iron triangle for the further development of CPEC and BRI in the days to come. In the past, Turkmenistan showed its keen interest in using Pakistani ports for its greater connectivity and diversification of energy and finished products.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-turkmenistan-a-way-of-progress-and-prosperity-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

China's Manifestation of "Geo-economics" & BRI | By S. Liaqat

CHINA, in an unprecedented space of time, has emerged as the second largest economy in the world and is exerting a form of 'geo-economics' influence that is transforming the nature of international relations in the 21st century.

Through this remarkable achievement, China has enticed so much attention in the world and international actors are curious about what Chinese leadership intends to do with its growing power and economic leverage.

China's Belt & Road Initiative is one of the key manifestations of China's goal to re-establish the fabled 'Silk Route' which historically had an important expression in China's long-standing economic significance in Asia.

In the context of long-run economic restructuring, an expanding material geo-economics influence, and the development of a more self-confident and externally oriented policy agenda, it is no coincidence that China's leaders, especially Xi Jinping, have been talking about this possibility which potentially incorporates direct and indirect sources of influence.

BRI is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program and a global initiative aimed at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the historic Silk Road with prime focus on Asia, Eastern Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East – a region of great significance in terms of emerging markets.

The Belt & Road Initiative was unveiled by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 and was initially known as One Belt One Road till 2016.

According to the official data, as of March 2022, 146 countries and 32 international organizations have taken part in the Initiative through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), representing more than a third of the world's GDP and two-thirds of the world's population altogether.

BRI was officially launched to achieve five major goals including policy coordination, infrastructure, trade, financial integration and people-to-people cooperation.

China, via the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, is developing an inclusive, mutually open, balanced and valuable economic cooperation framework aimed at regional integration and connectivity.

In the early years of the BRI, eight whimsical trade routes were central to Beijing's ambitions of trade connectivity: six land-based economic corridors encompassing the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and two maritime trade routes containing the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road".

The Chinese government departments: National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) laid the action plans for these trade routes of BRI in 2015, in the "Vision and Actions" agenda.

The two principal aspects of the BRI constitute the 'Silk Road Economic Belt' (SREB) and the 'Maritime Silk Road' (MSR).

MSR is designed primarily to effectively link and integrate the maritime states of Southeast and South Asia in particular whereas, SREB, on the contrary, intends to re-establish and modernize traditional overland connections with Central and South Asia, connecting them to both China itself and ultimately to Europe.

BRI combines new and old projects, covers an extensive geographic scope and includes efforts to strengthen hard and soft infrastructure, and cultural ties.

It envisages an integrated network of ports, railways and roads, a development that will help consolidate China's place at the centre of economic activity across much of Asia and Europe.

The initial stimulus for BRI was provided by the economic downturn in the face of the Global Financial crisis of 2008 in the West that provided China with a huge opportunity to come to the front and play a leading role in global economic development by bringing more countries into its economic orbit.

Therefore, since BRI's launch in 2013, it has been serving Beijing's geopolitical and geo-economics objectives by expanding China's influence around the globe.

In its early years, Beijing sought to simply strengthen its ties with the governments abroad and gain a foothold as one of their key economic partners using the strategy of offering loans, investment and summitry while avoiding confrontation with the US.

Thus, China engaged diplomatically with the countries where the US was less-invested politically such as countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa and the economic corridors situated at the heart of BRI mainly traverse these regions. The economic corridor of Pakistan serves as the best example, signifying this approach of Beijing.

CPEC, the principal BRI in Pakistan, a mega project worth billions of dollars is not only an economic corridor or transit route for the Chinese market but includes infrastructure and energy projects, construction of modern transportation networks, industrialization and the improvement of Gwadar Port which is the most operational port regarding oil and gas shipping lanes.

Moreover, there is a range of proposed special economic zones that runs about 2700 km along the route from Kashgar, China's westernmost city, through central Pakistan to Gwadar port on Pakistan's southwest coast, with these projects mainly focused on boosting the economic performance of Pakistan making the country a regional economic hub.

Rationally speaking, BRI has the full potential to achieve considerable economic and political gains for China and many of them have been explicitly acknowledged in China's official policy communiqué, for example, the expansion of China's export markets, the reduction of trade frictions such as tariffs and transportation costs and the promotion of the Renminbi (RMB) as an international currency.

China's growing economic stature has enabled it to transit from a grand strategy that merely sought its economic goals to one that benefits it to leverage its growing economic power in achieving unreachable foreign policy goals.

China's economic rise has also given China's leaders generally, and Xi, in particular, much greater potential agency.

Chinese leaders are keen to use it to restore their former dominant status at the forefront of international diplomacy and great power politics and especially in its region which is widely supported by both the leadership of the PRC and by the population more generally.

It cannot be denied that China's enhanced geo-economic influence and rising power are giving it an upper hand to pursue these ambitions much more rapidly which were hardly possible a decade or so ago.

Though the predictable implications and consequences of BRI cannot be fully judged, its possible trajectory is already becoming clear.

China has both the state capacity and the practical experience in making such a project a reality.

It has both the material resource and the key agencies, such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NRDC) that have developed detailed plans for the successful implementation of specific aspects of the BRI.

It is therefore important to emphasize that despite the shift to a more market-oriented economy, Beijing and its developmental agencies continue to play a major role in the overall coordination of economic development while projecting soft power in the form of geo-economics.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-manifestation-of-geo-economics-bri-by-s-liaqat/>

The Nation

'CPEC provides power, connectivity needed for industrialisation'

ISLAMABAD - As a megaproject with a cumulative investment of \$ 65 billion in 2022, the CPEC has created 192,000 jobs, 6,000MW of power supply, 809km of highway, and 886km of transmission line, which laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's socio-economic development.

This was stated by Rana Ihsan Afzal khan, Coordinator to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). Citing an example of a road project under the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor, Rana said, "It used to take almost 24 hours to travel from Islamabad to Gilgit Baltistan.

As soon as the CPEC came in and the road network was improved with travelling time shortened by half, we saw that all of a sudden there was a boom of tourism and economic growth in Gilgit, he added.

According to the official website of the CPEC Authority, five transport projects under the CPEC have been completed, and among them, three are motorway projects, including KKH Phase II, Multan- Sukkur Motorway (M5), and Hakla - D.I Khan Motorway, adding 809 km to the road network of Pakistan and driving economic activities in the cities along the road.

“The network of roads and Gwadar Port has been established. Now we are moving towards the Gwadar new international airport and the ML-1 railway project, which will further improve logistics, the speed of trading, and people-to-people contact,” Rana stated. About BRI, Rana said, it is an initiative of connectivity of not only infrastructure but of economy, trade, and people to people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-11/page-10/detail-4>

The News

‘Pak-China seed cooperation important for food security

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China has helped Pakistan in taking its seven herbal seeds to the Chinese space station for space breeding by exposing them to cosmic radiation and microgravity to mutate their genes. The exercise proved to be useful and scientists of both the countries have expressed satisfaction about the outcome of the effort.

The seeds were launched into outer space carried by Shenzhou-14 spaceship on June 5 2022, and after six months of flight, returned to the earth. A ceremony was held here on Friday to mark the successful return of the seeds under “Celebration of the Return of Pakistani Seeds from Chinese Space Station”. Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal who was chief guest on the occasion said that the new phase of seed cooperation between Pakistan and China was critically important for Pakistan to meet its food security challenge in the future. He said that the South Asian country was in dire need of seed cooperation to meet the climate change challenges. The minister said that Pakistan is very vulnerable to climate change for which we need new varieties of seeds resistant to the new weather challenges. The seeds were launched into outer space carried by Shenzhou-14 spaceship. Atia-tul-Wahab, a professor at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, said her institute proposed the government to send the herbs’ seeds to space. “We sent some grains to the space and kept the same quantity in our laboratory. Now upon their return, we will closely examine them and perform tests at our laboratory. Then both seed varieties will be sowed separately to see the end results,” she said. Atia said her lab was eying for sending food staples including rice, wheat and pulses to space. She said that the herbs sent to space are used in traditional Pakistani medicine, and that it is hoped that the space breeding will enable scientists at her institute to produce medicine for incurable diseases.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=174999>

February 12, 2023

Daily Times

Bulgarian investors keen to take benefit of CPEC project

Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Shaikh on Saturday stressed the need for enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Bulgaria.

In a meeting with Bulgarian Ambassador Irena Gancheva at FPCCI, he said the multi-billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was also offering investment opportunities and called the Bulgarian investors to take benefit from it, said a press release issued here. Pakistan and Bulgaria are enjoying cordial traditional relations based on a high level of understanding in the political and commercial fields and on effective cooperation, however, the existing bilateral trade between both countries is lower than the existing potential. He highlighted various sectors for investment in Pakistan including minerals, mining, oil and gas exploration, tourism, agriculture and energy generation. “This would further strengthen our existing bilateral trade and diplomatic relations and the people of both countries will be mutually benefited.”

The FPCCI head urged the need to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture as the large livestock potential was existing in the country and it was ranked among the top milk-producing countries, adding that Bulgaria has the world’s best expertise in yoghurt production and collaboration in the field of agriculture and dairy development would further promote the output of agri-value added products. He suggested that frequent exchange of trade delegations will establish a business-to-business contact that will lead to joint ventures and experience sharing in different fields including agriculture development, environment, education and tourism. FPCCI Vice President Umar Masood Ur Rehman emphasized that there are a number of opportunities for investments in Pakistan and the commodities which Pakistan exports to other countries are imported by Bulgaria from other countries but both countries do not trade these with each other.

He mentioned various sectors including meat and edible offal, raw hides and skins, leather footwear and other articles of leather as Pakistan has a large livestock sector. The tobacco industry is another booming industry here, manufacturing of tobacco and tobacco substitutes and homogenized or reconstituted are also available in Pakistan, he added. These are some potential items and commodities that may be considered for establishing trade between the two countries, Umar suggested. Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador reiterated her resolve to further cement bilateral trade and diplomatic relations between both countries. She said that a Joint Economic Commission of both countries was also established in 2015 to explore opportunities for enhancing trade and investment between both countries. The ambassador also stressed the need to diversify the trade and investment cooperation in areas of agriculture cooperation and dairy development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1062146/bulgarian-investors-keen-to-take-benefit-of-cpec-project/>

China encourages Pak energy companies for collaboration

Haining city has a number of advanced photovoltaic energy storage and other new energy enterprises, looking forward to strengthening technical exchanges and cooperation with Pakistani and other Belt and Road Initiative countries in the field of commerce and new energy. These views were expressed by Jin Hongxian, Deputy Director of Economic Development Office of Zhouwangmiao, Haining City, Zhejiang province, China in a recent business matchmaking between Haining and Pakistani technology companies. With a GDP of RMB 119.63 billion in 2021, Haining has forged a new energy emerging manufacturing cluster with an industrial output value of RMB 50 billion above scale. Located in the Yangtze

River Delta integrated development core area, Zhouwangmiao is the birthplace of Haining leather, and was once named “China’s No. 1 Leather Town” by the Chinese Ministry of Light Industry. The town’s economy is guided by electronic information, high-end equipment manufacturing, and biomedicine. Jin added that in the past 10 years, as the backbone of the emerging manufacturing industry and the traditional foreign trade strong city, Haining’s foreign trade partners have gradually expanded from North America, Europe, Japan and South Korea to Thailand, Pakistan and other emerging economies such as the Belt and Road countries, and the proportion has been rising year by year. Haining encourages more Pakistani solar and leather companies for win-win cooperation. It is not a hidden secret that China excels in the solar and photovoltaic industry, contributing more than 50 percent of the world’s electricity and photovoltaic power generation, said Sami Iqbal, founder of Nanjing Enfiniti Tech Development Co., Ltd, who is also engaged in solar cell materials research at the School of Materials at Southeast University.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1062136/china-encourages-pak-energy-companies-for-collaboration/>

‘Seeds in Space’ project a milestone for Pak-China sci-tech cooperation

After six months in China’s spacecraft under the first-ever Sino-Pak ‘Seeds in Space’ project, seven kinds of Pakistani medicinal seeds returned to the earth and their motherland.

According to China Economic (CEN), the seeds, three kinds provided by the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi and four by Hamdard University, have made history as the first to aboard the Chinese space station and opened a new chapter for S&T cooperation between China and Pakistan. This is an extraterrestrial way to enhance food production. Space-bred varieties have proved to be able to perform better in terms of production and resistance, and the return of seeds from space is only the start. After Pakistan’s medicinal seeds return to the earth, Pakistan and China will conduct joint research on their genetic stability, material basis, effectiveness and safety by comparing the seeds on board with their mother seeds on the earth to screen out new medicinal materials with higher quality and higher yield, Dr. Jiang Ning, Deputy Secretary-General of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine, National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China, told China Economic Net in an interview.

How is that achieved? Scientific study shows that microgravity, cosmic radiation and very low temperatures outside the space station can induce genetic mutations that could make the plants more productive and resilient to climate fluctuations resulting from climate change. So far, China, the third country in the world after the US and Russia to achieve satellite breeding in space, has cultivated more than 200 new space-bred varieties with an annual planting area of 2-3 million hectares. Among them, wheat variety Luyuan 502 has increased production by 11% more than ordinary varieties and manifested better resistance to drought, diseases and pests.

“There is no way to transform plant seeds in a set direction, but it is possible to achieve our intended outcomes by sending them to space. For medicinal plants, we hope they can grow

better with stronger resistance, survival rate, and efficacy. All can be achieved via genetic mutation in space”, said Dr. Wang Yan, Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi. Aboard China’s Shenzhou 14 manned spacecraft, Pakistan’s medicinal plant seeds have undergone 6 months of scientific experiments.

“[It] represents a landmark in China-Pakistan S&T cooperation and will be recorded in the history of their friendship,” said Pang Chunxue, Charge d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, terming the experiment as a milestone of China-Pakistan scientific and technological cooperation. The bilateral science and technology cooperation has been included under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “The scientific experiment cooperation is a concrete manifestation of China’s willingness to share the fruits of high-tech development with Pakistan,” said Cao Zhouhua, Science Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. He said that China’s space station is an important part of the UN’s “Shared Global Space” initiative and is open to all UN member States.

Scientific and technological cooperation is an important part of China- Pakistan relations. Since the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in 1976, the two sides have jointly funded more than 475 research projects in the fields of agriculture, aerospace, water conservation, chemical industry, medical and health care, biotechnology, computer science, environment, energy and technology management. Sending seeds to the space will never be the end of China-Pakistan cooperation in space. As Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative (PD&SI), put it, “Space technology is one of those technologies which is most critical for human development and security of any nation”, adding that “collaboration with China will open doors of development for us in future”. Take the Sino-Pakistan Seed Orbit Breeding Project as an example. Prof.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1062143/seeds-in-space-project-a-milestone-for-pak-china-sci-tech-cooperation/>

Dawn News

173 Gandhara art pieces from museums in Pakistan loaned to China

Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Archaeology and Museums has loaned one of the largest consignments of masterpieces of Gandhara art to China for an exhibition in Beijing.

Comprising 173 masterpieces of Gandhara art from the Peshawar, Swat, Dir, Hund, Taxila, Karachi and Islamabad museums, these artifacts will go on display on Feb 15 at the Palace Museum Forbidden City. The exhibition will run for three months.

The provincial departments of archaeology in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab had provided active support and loaned some of the best specimens of Gandhara art from their collections for the exhibition.

“Dignitaries and top officials from Pakistan will attend the event. Pakistan Embassy in China, Chinese Embassy in Islamabad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan played a key

role in materialising this important event. The exhibition will open new vistas of cooperation in the fields of museums and cultural heritage between China and Pakistan,” Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology and Museums Dr Mehmood ul Hassan said.

He said the Palace Museum was one the most prestigious and largest institutions of China for promotion and preservation of cultural heritage. “Palace Museum will provide cooperation and assistance to its Pakistani counterparts in the fields of archaeological research, conservation of monuments, documentation, and treatment of museum artifacts and scholarships for young Pakistani professionals,” the official elaborated.

Official says three-month Beijing show to open new vistas of cooperation in museums, cultural heritage between two countries

Joint projects with Palace Museum in these fields would help in capacity building of the institutions to preserve and promote cultural heritage of the nation, he said.

The last time Pakistan loaned such a huge consignment of ancient artifacts was in 2008. As many as 250 historical items were loaned to Germany. These artifacts were also exhibited in Switzerland and France, before returning home in 2011.

The Chinese had also requested for 250 items; however, Lahore Museum was unable to contribute due to administrative reasons.

Besides life size and small statues of Siddhartha and Buddha, which depict his birth, early palace life and the periods after enlightenment, the artifacts also include Greek specimens from the best 2nd century to 5th century AD collection discovered from Swat, Gandhara and Taxila valleys.

Islamabad Museum has also loaned 10 specimens, including a gold Greek 2nd century bowl.

Dr Hassan told Dawn that the exhibition was part of the 70th anniversary of friendly and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. “To ensure befitting participation of Pakistan in the celebrations and to promote its cultural wealth at the international level, the Department of Archaeology and Museums, National Heritage and Culture Division, Islamabad, is arranging this grand exhibition of the Buddhist Art of Gandhara at Palace Museum (Forbidden City), Beijing,” he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1736870/173-gandhara-art-pieces-from-museums-in-pakistan-loaned-to-china>

The Nation

China encourages Pakistani new energy companies for collaboration

BEIJING - Haining city has a number of advanced photovoltaic energy storage and other new energy enterprises, looking forward to strengthening technical exchanges and cooperation with Pakistani and other Belt and Road Initiative countries in the field of commerce and new energy. These views were expressed by Jin Hongxian, Deputy Director of Economic Development Office of Zhouwangmiao, Haining City, Zhejiang province, China in a recent business matchmaking between Haining and Pakistani technology companies. With a GDP of RMB 119.63 billion in 2021, Haining has forged a new energy emerging manufacturing

cluster with an industrial output value of RMB 50 billion above scale. Located in the Yangtze River Delta integrated development core area, Zhouwangmiao is the birthplace of Haining leather, and was once named “China’s No. 1 Leather Town” by the Chinese Ministry of Light Industry. The town’s economy is guided by electronic information, high-end equipment manufacturing, and biomedicine. Jin added that in the past 10 years, as the backbone of the emerging manufacturing industry and the traditional foreign trade strong city, Haining’s foreign trade partners have gradually expanded from North America, Europe, Japan and South Korea to Thailand, Pakistan and other emerging economies such as the Belt and Road countries, and the proportion has been rising year by year. Haining encourages more Pakistani solar and leather companies for win-win cooperation. It is not a hidden secret that China excels in the solar and photovoltaic industry, contributing more than 50 percent of the world’s electricity and photovoltaic power generation, said Sami Iqbal, founder of Nanjing Enfiniti Tech Development Co., Ltd, who is also engaged in solar cell materials research at the School of Materials at Southeast University. He hopes to find companies that understand the demand for solar energy and related equipment manufacturing in developing countries and regions along the Belt and Road.

“Pakistan has enormous advantages and opportunities to develop the photovoltaic industries, including transportation, agriculture, small and medium industry, commercial and public services, etc. We would like to form partnerships with quality PV companies in Haining to enhance the manufacturing and operational maintenance capabilities of the PV industry in Pakistan.” added Sami. On the occasion, Yu Linjie, General Manager of Zhejiang Chuanda New Energy Co., Ltd expressed his interest in working with Pakistani PV companies in the investment plan, after sales services and equipment upgrades.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-12/page-8/detail-3>

February 13, 2023

Daily Times

CHEC to start de-silting operation in Gwadar Port

China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) is all set to start de-silting operations at Gwadar Port to reclaim 14.5 meters of natural and original operational depth of Gwadar Port at a cost of Rs 4.7 billion.

According to Gwadar Pro, it is a high-octane CPEC project that finally makes its headway at a watershed moment of the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a signature venture of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Under the title of “the maintenance dredging of a navigational channel of Gwadar Port”, the project will be completed in 12 months as per the agreement signed between CHEC and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA).

A GPA official told Gwadar Pro that “since earlier we planned to kickstart only one part of the dredging process in two or three phases at Gwadar Port, so around Rs 1 billion was allocated in 2022-2023 budget for partial dredging. Later, it was finalized to do complete dredging in one fell swoop, hence, now the cost of the project stands at Rs 4.7 billion”.

On a query, he said that having gone through the bidding process officially launched by GPA last year, CHEC won the contract of maintenance dredging construction on the forward swing waters, approach channel of the Gwadar Port Terminal to ensure ships' moment in entry channel, facilitating their smooth flow, which is of great significance to the future development of Gwadar Port.

He added that GPA awarded the contract to CHEC after gauging technical assessment based on international experience and the financial worth of all participant companies in a bidding process.

“The multi-million dollars project has a significant impact on Gwadar’s Port’s operations. It will pave the way for the construction of additional berths from the existing 602 meters in length to 1500 meters. Moreover, frequent dredging will help maintain the original depth of the channel, where vessels of any type can dock,” he added.

The total cost of dredging, he said, has been determined as per cubic meter considering the scale of operation and size of the area to be cleared from siltation. Gwadar Port had lost its 14.5 meters natural operational depth and now it has been handling ships with a draught of 11.6 meters. The last time dredging operation got underway in 2015.

CHEC, the award-winner of the dredging operation, is an engineering contractor and a subsidiary of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), providing infrastructure construction, such as marine engineering, dredging and reclamation, road and bridge, railways, airports, and plant construction.

It is the second-largest dredging company in the world, carrying out projects in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1062272/chec-to-start-de-silting-operation-in-gwadar-port/>

The Nation

Rashakai Special Economic Zone to become operational next month

PESHAWAR - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Javed Iqbal Khattak has said that 98 percent of work on infrastructure development in Rashakai prioritised Special Economic Zone (pSEZ) has been completed and will become operational in March 2023. Talking to media here on Sunday, he said that spread over an area of 1,000 acres, PSEZ is a flagship project of the KP government under the industrial cooperation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework that serves as CPEC Special Economic Zone. It is one of the four prioritised SEZs that would be the first SEZ to become operational next month. He said that power transmission and transformation were crucial parts of the project, which are near completion. He said that a special focus of this project is to set up export-oriented industrial units in it. Besides the investment of \$400 million, they are also expecting the generation of 250,000 to 300,000 direct and indirect employment, he said, adding that 80 percent of the labour force in the zone would be local, particularly natives of the area. Regarding investment in the project, the CEO KP-EZDMC said that so far 18 Pakistani and Chinese companies have agreed on making joint ventures in it. The project not only will play a crucial role in the

economic growth of KP, but also in strengthening the national economy, he said and added that a large number of investors have started construction work on their industrial units. He said that the company is giving priority to the establishment of export-oriented manufacturing units in the zone to create alternates to imports. He said that the foreign investment in the zone not only will pave way for the transfer of modern technology to KP, but also bring in expertise and other good practices to Pakistan. “Trainers and master trainers arrive along with these modern machineries will also prove beneficial for our coming generations.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-13/page-9/detail-3>

February 14, 2023

The Nation

3-day art exhibition opens at China Study Centre

Peshawar - China Study Centre, University of Peshawar on Monday launched a three-day art exhibition, themed ‘Pakistan–China All Weather Friendship,’ to highlight the cordial relations between Pakistan and China.

It focuses on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and Chinese art and culture (buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, artifacts, traditions, language, calligraphy, culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity).

The art exhibition attracted students, instructors, and artists from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The organisers chose a total of 50 art pieces for the art competition.

In the presence of a large number of students, academics, academia, and instructors, the exhibition was inaugurated by Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, secretary of Pakistan-China Friendship Association KP. Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director of the China Study Centre, UoP, Dr Fazlur- Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UoP, and Dr Nadir Ali Khan, Assistant Professor, UoP were among those in attendance.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani said that the University of Pakistan’s China Study Centre is crucial in bringing Pakistan and China closer together. “Through these activities, people will learn more about China, its culture, history, and architecture, among other things,” he said, praising the efforts of Prof Dr Zahid Anwar and his team in organising such events.

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar said the China Study Centre arranges several programmes centered on Pakistan- China relations.

He believed that by holding art competition, people would gain a better understanding of the Chinese language, culture, history, traditions, CPEC and BRI, and so on. The top ten artists in the competition will get cash prizes and certificates.

The award ceremony will take place on Wednesday at the China Study Centre’s Conference Hall.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-14/page-10/detail-2>

Chinese embassy temporarily closes Consular Section in Islamabad

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Chinese embassy yesterday announced a temporary closure of the Consular Section in Islamabad from February 13 until further notice. The Chinese Embassy issued a notice of temporary closure of the Consular Section on its website for the general public too until further notice," said the announcement. "Applicants with other questions can also contact us at islamabad@csm.mfa.gov.cn." it added: "In case of emergency, please call 051-8496167 for questions about passport, travel documents, notarization," it said. The Chinese embassy gave no reason for the suspension of the service but growing insecurity could be one of the factors. Earlier, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan directed to take all possible measures to ensure safety of Pakistani and foreign nationals in the country, especially the Chinese nationals.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-14/page-12/detail-1>

K2 Daily



دہلی کو سرچے ہوئے، قومی جہاز ہوا کے
دوڑوں فریقوں کے درمیان ۱۴ مئی سے موسم کے
تعلقات کو بڑھاتے ہوئے ایک ہائیڈرو گرافک
کرنے کی اہمیت پر زور دیا جس سے انہوں نے کئی
راہیں نکلیں گی۔ گوارا پرو کے مطابق پنجاب میں
گنتی سرایا کاری کو آسان اور بہتر بنانے کے حوالے
سے بات چیت ہوئی۔ پنجاب کے بڑے شہروں
میں ماہولاتی مسائل کو بہتر بنانے کے اقدامات پر
پنجاب اور چین کے درمیان کئی تعاون پر بھی تبادلہ
خیالی کیا گیا۔ گوارا پرو کے مطابق بی بی آئی کی کسی
دیہات میں کئی قومی قیادت کے ساتھ
انہوں کے فریقوں کے ذریعے تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے
کے حوالے سے بی بی آئی کی حمایت کی جائے گی۔ گوارا پرو کے
مطابق اس موقع پر قومی جہاز نے وزیر صنعت
اور ٹریڈ کی بی بی آئی اور صنعت کے کئی امور کا ردیاری
رہنماؤں کے ساتھ "گنتی سے مئی 2023"
کو ملنے کے لیے ایک سادہ لیکن متاثر کن ایک
کالے کی تقریب میں شمولیت اختیار کی۔

پنجاب اور چین کے تجارتی روابط کو مضبوط کرنے کے لیے

چینی وفد کی حوصلہ افزائی کر کے پرائیویٹ سیکٹر کو مشترکہ کوششوں میں آگے بڑھنے کی اجازت دی جائے
گوارا پرو صنعت سے چین کے قومی جہاز کی مذاقات، پنجاب میں ماہولاتی مسائل بہتر کرنے سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال
لاہور (آئی این پی) پنجاب کے گھرانے وزیر
برائے صنعت و توانائی ایس ایم نور نے پنجاب بورڈ
آف انویسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ (PBIT) میں عوامی
مطابق انہوں نے پبلیک ٹیڈنگ کی کہ بی بی آئی کی
استہلال کیا اور کہا کہ پنجاب اور چین کے درمیان
بڑے پیمانے پر سرمایہ کاری کے روز
عمر صنعت کے ساتھ سرمایہ کاری کے روز
عمر صنعت کے ساتھ سرمایہ کاری کے روز

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2023-02-14

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-14

February 15, 2023

The Nation

Police arrest 30 suspects near Rashakai Economic Zone

PESHAWAR - The police in Nowshera have conducted a search and strike targeted operation near the Rashakai Economic Zone to suppress anti-social elements and provide a peaceful environment for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

During the operation, 30 suspects were arrested, and five pistols, 1120 grams of hashish, and 50 grams of ice were recovered from their possession.

Under the leadership of Sub-Divisional Police Officer, SDPO Akora Ajab Khan, and SHO Masri Banda, Jamshed Khan, RRF, Ladies Police, CTD, and Special Branch personnel participated in the operation.

The operation saw the blocking of known criminal hideouts and the searching of the houses of criminals, proclaimed offenders, and suspicious individuals.

Two proclaimed offenders and one drug dealer were arrested during the operation. The arrested suspects were investigated at Misri Banda Police Station.

District Police Officer Muhammad Umar Khan emphasised that providing a peaceful and conducive environment for the CPEC project is a top priority for the police and that foolproof security arrangements have been made around the project to ensure its success.

The operation in and around the Rashakai Economic Zone is part of these efforts to suppress anti-social elements and create a safe and secure environment for economic growth and development in the country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-15/page-10/detail-6>

Chinese Newspapers

February 02, 2023

China Daily

Xi extends condolences over deadly Peshawar attack

President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolences on Wednesday to Pakistani President Arif Alvi over a terrorist attack in the country's northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday that killed more than 100 people.

In his message, Xi said he was shocked upon learning of the terrorist attack which caused heavy casualties. On behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, he expressed deep condolences over the deaths and extended his sincere sympathies to the bereaved families.

Xi stressed that China is against all forms of terrorism and strongly condemns the attack. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism, defend national stability and protect people's safety.

He also expressed China's willingness to deepen anti-terrorism cooperation with the Pakistani side and jointly safeguard peace and security in the region and across the world.

Premier Li Keqiang also sent a message of condolences to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Police investigating the bombing said on Tuesday that several people had been arrested, and they could not rule out the possibility that the bomber had internal assistance evading security checks.

The bombing was the most deadly in a decade to hit Peshawar, a northwestern city near the Afghan border, and all but three of those killed were police, making it the largest loss suffered by Pakistan's security forces in a single attack in recent history.

The bomber struck on Monday as hundreds of worshippers gathered for noon prayers in a mosque that was built for the police officers and their families living in a highly fortified area.

"We have found some excellent clues, and based on these clues we have made some major arrests," Peshawar Police Chief Ijaz Khan told Reuters.

"We can't rule out internal assistance but since the investigation is still in progress, I will not be able to share more details."

The city's police chief said the mosque blast was a revenge attack against the police force who are on the front line fighting a resurgence in militancy since the Afghan Taliban came to power across the border.

The most active militant group in the area, the Pakistani Taliban, also called Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, has denied responsibility for the attack, which no group has claimed so far.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/02/WS63da4745a31057c47ebac5de.html>

People's Daily

China helps Pakistan bring economy back on to fast track

By Zamir Ahmed Awan

While Pakistan goes through its worst ever economic crisis, China is assisting it to complete projects of high economic significance to the country. All projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), be they power or infrastructure projects, are aimed at boosting Pakistan's economic takeoff and strengthening its economic base.

The crown of all these projects and the centerpiece of the CPEC is Gwadar, a port city on the southwestern coast of Balochistan. Economic analysts predict that Gwadar will rapidly turn into a major hub of international trade with continuous business and commercial activities, and will have the potential to play a vital role in boosting the economy of Pakistan and the entire region.

Since the beginning, China has played a key role in the development of Gwadar deep sea port, which is already partially operating.

China has assisted Pakistan in the construction of the state-of-the-art New Gwadar International Airport, and preparations are in full swing to put it into operation. Sources said a test flight will be conducted in March on its state-of-the-art runway of the green field of Gwadar International Airport, where large cargo planes from across the world will bring cargo. The new Gwadar International Airport is likely to be completed in June 2023.

To provide 5MW of electricity to Gwadar Free Zone (North), a successful joint feasibility survey has been completed by Quetta Electric Power Supply Company (QEPC) and China

Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), paving the way for the provision of power in 60 days.

A joint feasibility study confirmed that after all physical and operational indicators proved to be smooth and positive, Gwadar Free Zone (North) will get regular and affordable 5MW electricity in the first phase. If all goes well, in the second phase, a 12MW power supply will be ensured for Gwadar Free Zone (South) and Gwadar Port in the coming months.

Currently, the major obstacle to rapid development has been the lack of electricity. Although some electricity was available from Iran, this was neither sustainable nor sufficient for accelerated development.

China is sincerely assisting Pakistan to bring about economic recovery and speed up the execution of all vital projects. The people of Pakistan acknowledge Chinese people's sincerity and will always remain grateful for it.

(Zamir Ahmed Awan is a non-resident fellow with the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) and a sinologist at the National University of Sciences and Technology in Pakistan. E-mail: awanzamir@yahoo.com.)

(Web editor: Chang Sha, Wu Chengliang)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0202/c90000-10202667.html>

Feature: "It's a gift from China to make our travel comfortable," say Pakistani train passengers

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 2 (Xinhua) - Madiha Usman had the best experience of traveling with Pakistan Railways when she took a ride from Islamabad to Lahore in the recently launched coaches in Green Line Express train service.

Talking about the train in which she was traveling with her kids, the mother of four said she had been anxiously waiting for the new coaches since she heard about them on social media.

"I had to visit my sister in Lahore and I purposely delayed it till the induction of these Chinese coaches in the service. I must say that I have never had such a good experience during my years of traveling with the railways, and I will recommend my relatives and friends to choose the comfortable train for their travel," Usman said while curiously checking the LED screen in front of her in the train.

The Green Line Express train halted operation for about five months due to a flood which submerged railway tracks in Sindh province, and the service has resumed with nine Chinese coaches, including the six imported from China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation Tangshan Company in late 2022 and three recently refurbished carriages that were imported from China in 2015.

Zareer Mahmood, station superintendent of the Rawalpindi Railway station, one of the busiest stations in the South Asian country, said that considering that the coaches are the best in the system, the railway department has also provided the best possible facilities to the passengers traveling through it.

"The ticket between Lahore to Karachi is around 8,500 rupees (31.63 U.S. dollars), slightly higher than other trains, but the passengers get good quality meals, free of cost tea, and personal use items at it," he told Xinhua.

Mahmood said that due to positive feedbacks on the coaches, all the tickets have been booked for over 10 days since its launch on Jan. 27.

Speaking from his office at the heavily crowded train station, Mahmood said the new Chinese coaches have not only shortened the distance because of their high speed but also provide comfy travel to passengers because of their advanced breaks which minimize the vibration and discomfort on the train.

Addressing the ceremony of the formal induction of the carriages in the railways, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said the China-imported coaches would uplift the image of Pakistan Railways and help the department increase its revenue by attracting more passengers.

He said the Chinese company has provided coaches to Pakistan with new features including WiFi services, washrooms for disabled people, modern chairs and infotainment facilities.

People from every walk of life are traveling the newly inducted coaches and are calling it the best service provided by the railways,

Imran Qureshi, an Islamabad-based banker, said he frequently visits Lahore due to work engagement, but recently he prefers traveling by train as traveling through road became challenging due to constant road closures because of dense fog.

"I was awestruck when I entered into this train because I was not expecting such modern coaches with features just like a plane, and the first thing which came to mind is that it's a gift of China to make our travel comfortable," Qureshi said.

Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said the remaining coaches from the fleet of 46 coaches imported from China will be used in upgrading other trains running on different routes across Pakistan.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0202/c90000-10202645.html>

China condemns mosque attack in Pakistan

BEIJING, Jan. 31 (Xinhua) -- China is deeply shocked by and strongly condemns a deadly attack at a mosque in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said Tuesday.

"We express our deep condolences for the loss of life in the attack and extend sympathies to the injured and the bereaved families," Mao told a press briefing.

She said China firmly opposes terrorism in any form and firmly supports Pakistan's efforts in fighting terrorism, defending national stability, and protecting people's lives.

According to media reports, the Monday blast has killed at least 59 people and injured 157 others.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0201/c90000-10201733.html>

South China Morning Post

US\$2.7 billion China-designed nuclear plant launched in Pakistan amid energy crisis

It's the second unit at the Karachi power plant to use a Chinese-designed Hualong One reactor –China financed the facility's expansion. The 1,100 megawatts capacity reactor will generate some of Pakistan's cheapest electricity as the country suffers nationwide power outages. Pakistan inaugurated a US\$2.7 billion nuclear reactor, providing some relief as the nation grapples with an energy crisis.

The 1,100 megawatts capacity power plant will generate some of the nation's cheapest electricity, according to data from regulator National Electric Power Regulatory Authority. The facility was connected to the grid last March.

It's the second unit at the Karachi nuclear power plant to use a Chinese-designed Hualong One reactor. China financed the facility's expansion.

Pakistan "badly needs" clean and cheap sources of energy, whether it is nuclear, hydro or other renewables, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at a ceremony at the power plant in Karachi. While the new facility is a welcome addition to Pakistan's stretched grid, it won't do much to curb dependence on expensive fossil fuel imports or solve the nation's chronic energy shortages.

Pakistan suffered nationwide power outages on Monday morning due to a "major breakdown" of the national grid, the power ministry said, with factories, hospitals and schools impacted in all its major cities.

Millions were plunged into a blackout prompted by the failure, dealing another blow to the nation already reeling from surging energy costs. In Peshawar, a city of more than 2.3 million people, some residents said they were unable to get drinking water because the pumps were powered by electricity.

The nation has struggled with power outages for years, including a major incident in January 2021 when a power plant fault collapsed the national grid, prompting calls for an overhaul of ageing electricity transmission infrastructure.

Pakistan is in discussions with the International Monetary Fund to increase its energy tariffs in return for bailout funds. The country's foreign-exchange reserves fell to the lowest in nine years last month, as high fossil fuel costs put pressure on the government's budget.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3208918/us27-billion-china-designed-nuclear-plant-launched-pakistan-amid-energy-crisis>

February 03, 2023

China's third-generation nuclear power technology delivery to foreign country successful

Zheng Xin

China has officially delivered two nuclear power units using its domestically developed third-generation nuclear power technology to a foreign country for the first time on Thursday, with the delivery of the K3 unit to the Karachi nuclear power plant in Pakistan, said its operator China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

The K2 and K3 units of the Karachi nuclear power plant in Karachi of Pakistan form the largest nuclear power plant in the country, it said.

Hualong One is China's third-generation nuclear power technology with full intellectual property rights. It is one of the most widely accepted third-generation nuclear power reactors in the current global market.

By now, the accumulated generated electricity of the Karachi nuclear power plant has reached nearly 20 billion kilowatt-hours, providing power for 2 million local residents, according to CNNC.

The annual nuclear power generated by the K2 and K3 units is equivalent to the power generated by 6.24 million tons of coal. This has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 16.32 million tons, optimizing the energy structure of Pakistan and easing pressure from climate change, it said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/03/WS63dca3b2a31057c47ebacc73.html>

Global Times

China completes export of Hualong No.1 nuclear power project to Pakistan

The inauguration ceremony for the K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power unit was held in Pakistan on Thursday, marking the first time China has officially delivered its self-built third generation nuclear power technology to a foreign country, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) said on Thursday.

The K-2 and K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power units in Pakistani port city Karachi have formed the largest nuclear power plant in the country.

The K-2 nuclear power unit entered commercial service in May 2021, and the K-3 nuclear power unit was delivered in April 2022. By now, the accumulated generated electricity of the nuclear power plant has reached nearly 20 billion kilowatt-hours, providing power for 2 million local residents, according to CNNC.

The annual nuclear power generated by the K-2 and K-3 units is equivalent to the power generated by 6.24 million tons of coal. This has reduced CO2 emissions by 16.32 million tons, optimizing the energy structure of Pakistan and easing pressure from climate change.

In addition, the full construction period of the K-2 and K-3 units has provided over 60,000 jobs for local society as well as contracts and business for local construction firms.

Since China-Pakistan nuclear power cooperation started in 1991, the two sides have jointly built two nuclear power plant bases with six nuclear power units, CNNC mentioned.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284749.shtml>

Khunjerab Pass in NW China's Xinjiang temporarily opens for emergency necessities to Pakistan: embassy

Trucks carrying emergency supplies safely arrived in Pakistan after travelling through the Khunjerab Pass in Northwest China's Xinjiang region as the border port temporarily opened at Pakistan's request, according to a release from Chinese Embassy to Pakistan on Friday.

On January 30 and 31, a total of 34 trucks carrying emergency supplies, including auto spare parts and garments travelled through the Khunjerab Pass and loaded off at the Sost Port in Pakistan.

At the request of Pakistan and with the permission from China's border management authorities, the Khunjerab Pass temporarily opened for the second time this year from January 30 to February 10. Local authorities in the Kashi Prefecture worked with related departments to overcome unfavorable factors of a lack of oxygen, bad weather and snow storms to ensure the smooth flow of supplies, read the release.

About 5,000 meters above sea level, Khunjerab Pass is a major trade port between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. The port temporarily opened from January 19 to 20 to ensure passage of a total of 40 cargo units that delivered goods worth more than \$15.99 million.

The Khunjerab Pass is often snow covered during the winter season and as a consequence is generally closed for heavy vehicles from November 30 to May 1 and for all vehicles from December 30 to April 1.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284769.shtml>

February 04, 2023

China Daily

Nuclear plant delivery in Pakistan signals bright future for Hualong One

ZHENG XIN

The first delivery of China's Hualong One project in the overseas market will further enhance the world's confidence in Chinese nuclear power technology, market observers and analysts said on Friday.

China officially delivered the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant to Pakistan on Thursday, said its operator China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC).

The plant consists of two units — K2 and K3 — that use Hualong One, China's third-generation nuclear power technology with full intellectual property rights. Together, K2 and K3 form the largest nuclear power plant in Pakistan.

Hualong One is also one of the most widely accepted third-generation nuclear power reactors in the current global market, CNNC said.

K2 was put into operation in 2021, followed by K3 in 2022, but both were under CNNC's operational control to ensure smooth operations in the initial phase. On Thursday, the whole plant was handed over to Pakistan.

An analyst said K2 and K3 illustrate the strategic and stable partnership between China and Pakistan for green and low-carbon energy.

Lin Boqiang, head of the China Institute for Studies in Energy Policy at Xiamen University, said China has been moving away from imports of nuclear power technology in recent years to accelerate the development of homegrown technology.

"The delivery of the Karachi project on Thursday will further boost confidence in China's nuclear technology and potentially pave the way for its adoption in not only developing countries but developed ones," he said. "Chances are high that China will further export its nuclear technology in the years to come."

By now, the accumulated generated electricity of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant has reached nearly 20 billion kilowatt-hours, providing power for 2 million local residents, CNNC said.

The annual nuclear power generated by K2 and K3 is equivalent to the power generated by 6.24 million metric tons of coal. This has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 16.32 million tons, optimizing the energy structure of Pakistan and easing pressure from climate change, it said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/04/WS63dd9271a31057c47ebacdca.html>

February 07, 2023

Global Times

Khunjerab Port to play a bigger role as CPEC further develops: Justin Lin Yifu

By Liu Caiyu and Xing Xiaojing in Xinjiang

Khunjerab Port on the China-Pakistan border will play a bigger role in the future as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) further advances and it is expected to play an exemplary role for the entire Belt and Road construction, Counsellor of the State Council and economist Justin Lin Yifu, told the Global Times.

Lin, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, made the remarks to the Global Times when he paid a visit to the Khunjerab Port on Tuesday.

Located at about 5,100 meters above sea level in the Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Khunjerab Port is the highest port in the world and the only land port linking China and Pakistan.

Lin told the Global Times it was the first time that he visited the port and he is more confident toward its future development after learning about the current situation of the port from local officials.

"Khunjerab Port has a good momentum of development in all aspects, including infrastructure, and with the development of China's economy and the further construction of the CPEC, the port can play an increasingly important role," he said.

Because of cold weather and lack of oxygen in the high altitude, Khunjerab Port generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31 of the following year. But to ensure the smooth customs clearance of Pakistan's urgently needed and other supplies, the port has been temporarily opened twice in 2023. Though with difficulties including extremely cold weather, heavy snow and lack of oxygen, the local customs have worked around the clock to ensure the transportation of cargo.

The current temporary opening will last 12 days between January 30 and February 10. The first port opening was between January 19 and 20.

Trucks loaded with materials such as groceries, auto parts, polyester cloth and clothing drove away from the port to Sost Dry Port in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region.

The two temporary opening has facilitated 128 cross-border personnel visits, 328 transportation vehicles' passes, and more than 6,000 tons of goods exported, the Global Times learnt from foreign affairs office of Kashgar prefecture.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285027.shtml>

People's Daily

Pakistani senator sees CPEC as transformative initiative for economic development

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) -- Chairman of Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee Mushahid Hussain Syed said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformative initiative for the economic development and growth of Pakistan.

Briefing the upper house of the country's parliament Monday on the Senate delegation's visit to CPEC projects in southern Sindh province, the senator said that infrastructure and energy projects under CPEC have been bringing about socio-economic growth for the country.

Expressing his gratitude to the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan in developing CPEC projects, he said that CPEC has provided a basis for energy security, employment, and changing the lives of the Pakistanis.

Hussain highlighted that various development projects in Sindh province, especially in Tharparkar, a Hindu-dominated district of the province, are a success story of the South Asian country.

"The world has changed and Tharparkar is leading from the front. The women of Tharparkar are riding dumper trucks under CPEC projects. They are brave and strong. Some 1,000 dumper trucks are operating in the area out of which 100 are ridden by women," he said.

The senator said Tharparkar is producing 5,000 MW of power, generating 12,000 new jobs, and is home to 12.8 billion tons of coal, a black gold that is contributing to the national economy through coal-powered energy projects under CPEC.

CPEC is a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan, he said, adding that as a trusted friend, China has reposed its confidence in the future of Pakistan by investing in CPEC projects.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0207/c90000-10204279.html>

China extends condolences over passing of Pakistan's former president Musharraf

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, Feb. 6 (Xinhua) -- China expressed deep condolences over the passing of Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday.

"We extend our deep condolences over Mr. Musharraf's death and offer our sincere sympathy to his family," Mao told a press briefing. Calling Musharraf an old friend of the Chinese people, Mao noted that the former president had made a significant contribution to the development of China-Pakistan relations.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to advance the iron-clad friendship between the two countries, promote their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, said the spokesperson.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0207/c90000-10204123.html>

Xinhuanet News

Coal power plant under CPEC put into operation in Pakistan

The plant, with a total installed capacity of 1,320 megawatts, is expected to provide about 9 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year to the Pakistani national grid, meeting the energy demand of nearly 4 million local families in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) -- A coal-fired power plant of the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was officially put into commercial operation on Sunday.

The plant, with a total installed capacity of 1,320 megawatts, is expected to provide about 9 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year to the Pakistani national grid, meeting the energy demand of nearly 4 million local families in Pakistan, head of the project Meng Donghai told Xinhua.

It will contribute to bringing down energy costs, improving energy structure, alleviating the crisis in energy imports, and strengthening Pakistan's energy security, Meng said.

Based in the Thar Desert of Sindh province in southern Pakistan, the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project began construction in 2019. It included an open-pit coal mine with an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite and a coal-fired power station with two separate 660-megawatt high-parameter supercritical thermal power generating units.

It is the first large-scale overseas thermal power generation project independently developed, constructed and operated by the Shanghai Electric Group.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

<https://english.news.cn/20230207/d781a778b4e340dfbc7e6d6798985adc/c.html>

February 09, 2023

Global Times

GT on the spot: Khunjerab Port linking China and Pakistan emerges from pandemic, looking forward to greater growth in 2023

By Liu Caiyu and Xing Xiaojing in Khunjerab Port

Driving along the China-Pakistan Friendship Road in the Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in Northwest China's Xinjiang region, a fleet of trucks carrying walnuts, groceries and auto parts slowly pulled out of Khunjerab Port one by one, and entered Pakistan.

It is the second temporary opening of Khunjerab Port this year at Pakistan's request to facilitate customs clearance for supplies. And it's the only land port linking China and Pakistan.

In the three years since COVID-19 erupted in 2020, Khunjerab Port, like all other land crossings in China on the forefront of guarding against imported COVID-19 cases, shut down its passenger pass entirely. The Port opened for occasional emergency cargo transportation.

"But this time, cross-border drivers can drive their truck heading to Pakistan directly, unlike during the epidemic when they had to leave their cargo in designated areas after rounds of disinfection, with the Pakistani side coming to pick them up the following day," Zhang Xiaobo, the customs director at the Khunjerab Port, said.

The customs clearance processes have resumed to pre-COVID settings. As the region's epidemic situation stabilizes, the passenger crossing service is projected to resume when the

port fully opens in April, Zhang noted. China downgraded its management of COVID-19 from Class A to Class B as of January 8.

"I was very happy and relieved when I drove my truck off to Pakistan this time. I don't need to wear masks that make breathing difficult in such high-altitude, and wear protection suits that enveloped my entire body in," said cross-border freight driver Wang Chuanhai.

This year the 54-year-old driver has already twice passed the snow-capped port to Sost Dry Port in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region during temporary openings. The current temporary opening will last 12 days between January 30 and February 10. The first port opening was between January 19 and 20.

The two temporary openings have facilitated 128 cross-border personnel visits, 328 transportation vehicles' passes, and more than 6,000 tons of goods exported.

The freight volume, at a standstill for the past three years, will bottom out and rebound, and the record high of 100,000 tons of freight volume is expected to be achieved this year. Improved momentum lies ahead in the post-epidemic era as China and Pakistan continue to deepen the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Compensatory growth

"We expect to witness a huge compensatory growth of cross-border trade and transportation in this year at the Khunjerab Port," Ye Hailin, deputy director-general at National Institute of International Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), told the Global Times.

The port saw more than 200 vehicles throughout 2021, and in 2022 the port dispatched around 600 vehicles worth of cargo, but in 2023 since the grand reopening, a total of 5,000 vehicles worth of goods are expected to be delivered to neighboring countries through the port, said Wang Shicheng, the general manager of a logistic company in Kashi.

During the two periods of temporary opening, Wang Shicheng sent more than 30 trucks loaded with groceries, auto parts, polyester cloth and clothing from the port into Pakistan.

"We've suffered 30 million yuan (\$4.41 million) in losses over the past three years because of the epidemic, but after China downgraded its COVID-19 management, I'm confident we will win back our losses soon, likely within the next year and a half," said Wang Shicheng, owner of more than 130 cross-border trucks.

Because of cold weather and thin air, Khunjerab Port, seated on mountains of altitudes of 5,000 meters, generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31.

Wang Shicheng declined many phone calls when talking with Global Times reporters. Though there is about two months before Khunjerab Port fully opens in April, logistic orders from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Pakistan have filled up Wang Shicheng's daily schedule. Many of his foreign customers cannot wait to pass the border for trade and business and strike a deal in-person, rather than making orders online as they were doing during the epidemic.

Making Khunjerab Port a year-long operation has been one of the targets for the region in 2023, the Global Times learnt from a foreign affairs office in Kashi prefecture. If the initiative is approved, it is expected to drive cross-border trade and business.

Bigger role ahead

People passing by always would like to pose for a photograph with a huge board reads "Long Live China-Pakistan Friendship" in front of the outpost of exit/entry border checkpoint at the Khunjerab Port.

Doing business with Pakistan is a source of pride for drivers, businessmen and officials from both sides. Driver Wang Chuanhai cannot cover his joy when recalled of how he was welcomed by Pakistani people with milk tea when he drove there.

"Pakistani people are really friendly to Chinese. We don't have to worry about experiencing unexpected emergency there. When we're in difficulty, they always reach out to help. Once Pakistani security forces protected us to deliver the cargo to Karachi, and three patrolling planes watched from the sky." Wang Shicheng said doing business with Pakistan makes him proud.

Wang Shicheng is confident over an increase in his business in the post-epidemic era, especially now that cold-chain warehouses backed with 80 million yuan in investment by Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County are completed.

Now seafood from the Indian Ocean can be imported directly from Pakistan, something unimaginable a few years ago, same as Buffalo embryos, forage grass, and fresh fruits like mango and cheery, Jiang Wenjie, a customs officer said when he talked with Global Times reporters in front of the gateway of China at the port.

The cargo volume between China and Pakistan at Khunjerab Port peaked at 83,000 tons in 2017. Though under the epidemic in 2022, the Khunjerab Port achieved a substantial increase in cargo clearance, a total of 22,600 tons of goods were exported that year, an increase of 358.9 percent over 2021.

The freight volume, at a standstill for three years, will soon rebound, and the record high of 100,000 tons of freight volume is expected to be achieved this year, according to Zhang, the customs director at the Khunjerab Port.

Not only serving as a border for entering and exiting China and Pakistan, the Khunjerab Port also receives travelers from other countries, with generally at least 15,000 people coming from more than 30 countries and regions passing through each year, Jiang noted.

Though being China's westernmost and highest port in the world, the pass is able to deliver cargo from provinces across the country to neighboring countries in hours. Wang Shicheng's trucks are loaded with groceries from East China's Zhejiang Province, agricultural products from Xinjiang, induction heaters from South China's Guangdong Province and mechanical equipment from East China's Jiangsu Province.

"It's role as a gateway linking western China together with South Asian and Central Asian countries could only become bigger in the coming years, Now the China-Pakistan railway is

being planned and Tashkurgan Khunjerab airport - China's westernmost airport and the first Xinjiang airport of ultra-high altitude has officially opened to traffic, I see no reason to stop Khunjerab Port from continuing to open up," Jiang said.

Counsellor of the State Council and economist Justin Lin Yifu, who paid a visit to the Port on Tuesday, holds the same opinion. He told the Global Times that "Khunjerab Port has a good momentum of development in all aspects, including infrastructure, and with the development of China's economy and the further construction of the CPEC, the port can play an increasingly important role."

Khunjerab Port as the only land port between China-Pakistan is irreplaceable as the CPEC continues to deepen, Ye from the CASS noted. But many obstacles lie ahead for the port to realize full potential.

Being extremely cold and located at high altitude is one of apparent natural factors that impede border trade. Neighboring areas of the two countries at the pass are both economically underdeveloped areas and it is very difficult for such places to carry out border port trade, Ye said. Cases of cross-border drivers suffering from altitude sickness are not rare, the Global Times learnt.

The throughput of Suster Port in Pakistan was designed to be as much as 100,000 tons, and the mechanization and automation of cargo handling was low, which resulted in the backlog of vehicles and goods to a certain extent. The cargo clearance capacity at the Port could further improve if the hardware infrastructure construction of the Pakistani side could develop accordingly as the CPEC continues to advance, Jiang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285142.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Pak-China seed cooperation important for Pakistan's food security

The new phase of seed cooperation between Pakistan and China is critically important for Pakistan to meet the food security challenge in the future, a Pakistani minister said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230209/e8e28e7fd3e94cc9a86157ca92ece18d/c.html>

February 10, 2023

Global Times

China joins multinational naval drills in Pakistan, contributing to safeguarding sea lines, CPEC

By Liu Xuanzun in Karachi

China, together with host Pakistan and more than 50 participating countries, kicked off the AMAN-23 multinational maritime exercise in Karachi on Friday. The drills are expected to enhance the participants' interoperability against instabilities and threats in the Indian Ocean region and safeguard vital international sea lines of communication and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A grand opening ceremony for the five-day AMAN-23 exercise was held on Friday morning at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard, in front of the PNS Taimur, a Type 054A/P guided missile frigate that China built for Pakistan. Honor guards raised the participating countries' national flags, while balloons and pigeons representing peace were released into the skies.

Under the motto "Together for Peace", this is the eighth edition of the AMAN exercises since 2007. It is divided into two phases: harbor and sea.

The harbor phase involves seminars, operational discussions, and professional demonstrations among other preparations, and the sea phase includes tactical maneuvers, anti-piracy, counterterrorism, search and rescue, live-fire shooting as well as air defense exercises, and will be followed by an international fleet review.

AMAN is a message of peace and of being together with our friends and partners from all over the world, including China, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, Commander of the Pakistan Fleet, told the Global Times on the sidelines at the opening ceremony.

"We want to build mutual capacities and mutual understandings so that we can all work together to ensure peace and security at sea," he said.

"China has been our greatest friend. There's no doubt that whatever the future holds for us at sea, it would not be possible without China. The China and Pakistan friendship is going to prosper further at sea," said Commodore Sohail Ahmed Azmie, Commander of the Auxiliary and Mine Squadron of the Pakistan Navy.

He told the Global Times at the event that the Pakistan Navy has been operating with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, and in the future, this trend is going to be enhanced.

The participating vessel from China is the Nanning, a Type 052D guided missile destroyer that is part of the PLA Navy's 43rd escort task force to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, which set out from a naval port in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province on January 10.

It is the Nanning's first time participating in such a mission. The domestically developed warship has received an upgraded propulsion system among many other modifications, the PLA Navy said in a press release at the time.

The Nanning arrived at Karachi on Thursday, and was met with a warm welcome from the host country.

Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview prior to the exercise that there are a number of non-traditional threats that prevail in the wider Indian Ocean region such as terrorism, piracy, drug smuggling, and arms trafficking. The vastness of the oceans makes the maritime arena an attractive avenue for illegal activities, and no country has the capability to singlehandedly counter these challenges.

The exercise is conducted with the aim of developing synergy between participating naval units to tackle maritime security challenges by enhancing interoperability between regional and extra-regional navies at different levels of technological prowess, he said.

As a maritime nation, Pakistan has substantial stakes in keeping its seas safe and secure, including the operationalization of the CPEC project and the global energy highway, the Global Times learned at the exercise.

The first edition of the Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) was also launched on Friday in Karachi, concurrently with the AMAM-23 exercise.

Initiated by the Pakistan Navy, PIMEC aims to showcase the potential of Pakistan's maritime sector and draw attention to the contribution that the maritime industry can make to the development of the blue economy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285226.shtml>

GT Voice: Foreign slander against CPEC won't hit China-Pakistan ties

Against the backdrop of severe economic challenges in Pakistan, some Indian and Western media outlets have once again focused their attention on hyping the possible setbacks facing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship cooperation program between China and Pakistan that has seen major achievements in recent years.

A report published by Indian news outlet ANI asserted that "China's CPEC projects in Pakistan face slowdown due to economic crisis," citing a report from Foreign Policy, a magazine. The ANI report further claimed that "the reality is Pakistan has been slow to complete infrastructure projects and China has been slow to fund new ones."

While data about China's financing for Pakistani projects under the CPEC over the past year is not available, it is important to note that the construction of CPEC projects has been proceeding in an orderly manner in accordance with the blueprint. Since the official launch of the CPEC program in 2013, the construction of a series of infrastructure projects have been implemented and gradually completed.

As of September 2021, the 22 prioritized projects under the first phase of the CPEC, which are aimed at addressing two major bottlenecks hindering Pakistan's economic development - energy shortages and lack of transportation infrastructure have been completed. By the end of January 2022, the total capacity of energy projects completed under the CPEC had reached 5.32 million kilowatts, greatly alleviating the shortage of power supply in Pakistan.

Moreover, among the first phase of the CPEC construction, other key infrastructure projects, such as the Gwadar Port, the Lahore rail transit orange line project, the Karakoram Highway Phase II project, and the China-Pakistan cross-border fiber optic cable project, are also of great significance to boosting Pakistan's economic development.

With the gradual completion of these projects that offer a near-term return on investment, the construction of the CPEC program has actually entered a new stage of high-quality development, with the priority focused on how to provide more momentum and support to help Pakistan achieve self-driven economic development. For instance, when it comes to

Pakistan's food shortage problem, beyond Chinese aid, it is essential to help Pakistan establish a self-sufficiency system in agricultural production by sharing relevant agricultural technology and cooperation.

So the new focus of the next phase will gradually shift toward expanding industrial and agricultural cooperation between the two countries, so as to help Pakistan improve its development levels in terms of manufacturing and agriculture and facilitate its ability to participate in the global division of labor.

If anything, this is also a key direction for the future development of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative after years of infrastructure construction. In the case of Pakistan, the next phase of the CPEC development is expected to not only create more jobs in the country, but will also be greatly conducive to improving its economic fundamentals.

Of course, it needs to be acknowledged that Pakistan is facing multifaceted challenges in terms of economic and other uncertainties. The country is struggling to service high levels of external debt, in addition to its foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank falling below \$3 billion. And its key financial bailout talks with the IMF remain stalled. Also, the security situation in Pakistan has become complicated recently amid the worsening economic crisis, according to various media reports.

The difficult situation, which may have inevitably affected the CPEC, once again reveals the importance of economic development to the country. A sound economy is the basis for addressing all types of major social and political issues. It is at such time of crisis that economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan has also become more important and necessary than ever.

The CPEC program represents an important aspect of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, involving huge economic interests. It is never easy to develop such a huge program as the CPEC. Therefore, it certainly requires constant efforts on both sides to overcome obstacles. And the crux is to improve the stability and facilitate economic growth through cooperation.

Above all, external attempts - whether from India or other Western countries - to slander and disrupt CPEC and the broader China-Pakistan ties cannot and will not succeed. China and Pakistan must firmly and steadily carry out cooperation as planned.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285282.shtml>

People's Daily

CPEC provides connectivity and power needed for industrialization: Coordinator to Pakistani PM

By Zhao Xiaopeng

BEIJING, Feb.9 (China Economic Net) - "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an initiative of connectivity of not only infrastructure but of economy, trade, and people to people. When connectivity is improved, so does the accessibility to different economies, and trade and movement of technologies will be enhanced. That is BRI to the world, a catalyst for

economic growth and cultural exchanges," said Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Citing an example of a road project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Rana said, "it used to take almost 24 hours to travel from Islamabad to Gilgit Baltistan. As soon as the CPEC came in and the road network was improved with traveling time shortened by half, we saw that all of a sudden there was a boom of tourism and economic growth in Gilgit."

According to the official website of the CPEC Authority, five transport projects under the CPEC have been completed, and among them, three are motorway projects, including KKH Phase II, Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M5), and Hakla - D.I Khan Motorway, adding 809 km to the road network of Pakistan and driving economic activities in the cities along the road. Meanwhile, the Orange Line Metro train and the Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable lay the foundation for the modernization of Pakistan's transport system.

Motorways are an important part of Pakistan's "National Trade Corridor Project" and CPEC, which aims to link its three Arabian Sea ports (Karachi Port, Port Bin Qasim and Gwadar Port) to the rest of the country through its national highways and motorways network and further north with Afghanistan, Central Asia and China

"The network of roads and Gwadar Port have been established. Now we are moving towards the Gwadar new international airport and the ML-1 railway project, which will further improve logistics, the speed of trading, and people-to-people contact " Rana stated.

"In the past five years, CPEC has improved connectivity within Pakistan and helped us control load-shedding across the country. Pakistan is looking forward for it to be mature and reach its true potential," Rana added.

As a megaproject with a cumulative investment of \$ 65 billion in 2022, the CPEC has created 192,000 jobs, 6,000MW of power supply, 809km of highway, and 886km of transmission line, which laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's socio-economic development.

However, rumors and smears on CPEC from certain western and Indian media never cease.

Dismissive of these noises, Rana said, "no one is forcing any country to be part of BRI. It is by choice. Pakistan and China, for example, are close neighbors. When neighbors are friendly with each other and do business, it is only to benefit the people."

As for challenges occurring in the construction of the CPEC project, Rana said, "definitely if the planning is not properly done as expected, it cannot be blamed on others, we have to look at ourselves."

Indeed, the year 2022 was challenging for world economies, and especially overwhelming for Pakistan, which was hit hard by devastating floods that inundated almost 1/3 of the lands of the country besides facing other universal problems due to currencies devaluation against the U.S. dollar, soaring energy price, and inflation.

"Currently the biggest problem Pakistan is facing is our foreign reserves have fallen to a very low level. The reason behind it is basically that Pakistan has faced a huge trade deficit," Rana

said, adding that last year Pakistan had imports of almost \$82 billion and exports of \$32 billion, leaving a trade gap of around \$50 billion.

“To reduce the trade deficit and the current account deficit, we have to increase our exports and do import substitution, and we are looking up to the Chinese market, which can import \$2.5 to \$3 trillion worth of goods each year,” Rana hinted.

He disclosed that the government has already assigned the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industries and Production to look into where Pakistan has a comparative advantage in terms of exports to China. And “in a general impression, food, fruit and textile products will be the main areas of export.”

According to data from the World Bank, Pakistan’s export to China rose by over 35% from US\$ 2,652 million in 2013, the year BRI was proposed, to US\$ 3,589 million in 2021.

“Thanks to the CPEC project, a lot of private Chinese investors have come to Pakistan. For example, A Chinese tyre company has established a manufacturing factory in one of our industrial zones, and they are quite pleased with their products produced here,” Rana said.

There are expectations in Pakistan that as China is moving into high-value-added industries, low-skilled industries can move to the country. Rana holds the same view. “There is huge potential for it. We have a young population that can be utilized in areas where there are more requirement of human resource or labor intensive industries.”

Not only China, but Pakistan also envisages more business with other countries as the CPEC goes deeper and wider. Gwadar port gives access to China via Pakistan to extend trade with Middle and West Asia and Europe and shortens the distance of business connection from a logistical point of view.

“We should take a step forward to utilize the route from Gwadar Port, which links the maritime silk road, to Gilgit, where the land border with China is located. More and more trade will be done through this line under the BRI umbrella and we will benefit from it,” Rana concluded.

(Source: CE.cn) (Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0210/c90000-10205863.html>

February 15, 2023

People’s Daily

Pakistani officials give credit for overcoming energy crisis to CPEC

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 15 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani officials gave the credit for ending hours-long power outages to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which enabled it to overcome the energy crisis, the country's ministry of planning, development, and special initiatives said here.

In an interaction with officials from Kuwait during a conference, "Effective Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Systems: Preparing for the Future in Rapidly Changing Environment," taking place in Abu Dhabi, the officials also discussed opportunities offered by the CPEC for the investors, a Tuesday night statement by the ministry said.

Ahsan Iqbal, the planning minister, who is representing Pakistan at the conference, discussed enhancing access to the Kuwaiti market for Pakistani products as well as the labor force during the interaction.

Kuwait's Minister for Finance Abdul Wahab Al-Rasheed said at the meeting that there is a lot of room for expanding the economic cooperation between both countries and proposed follow-up meetings to implement the ideas which were discussed during the meeting.

"It is hoped that the meeting will help expand the ambit of Pak-Kuwait relations by tapping the potential that both markets have presented," the statement said.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0215/c90000-10208086.html>