



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

August 01-15, 2024



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August 01, 2024

Dawn News

**CPEC transformed Pakistan into attractive investment destination:
minister**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said Pakistan would have been on the brink of collapse had it not been for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which turned it into an attractive investment destination.

He was speaking at a seminar titled, 'CPEC 2.0: Prospects and Challenges' organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The event focused on CPEC, its second phase as well as the emerging opportunities.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese embassy Yang Nuo, economist Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, diplomats, academicians and researchers also attended the seminar.

Mr Iqbal said the strong bond of trust and shared vision that existed between China and Pakistan enabled them to overcome initial challenges.

"Now as we enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity and socioeconomic development," he said.

The minister went on to say that peace, political stability, continuity of policies and "unity as one nation and one team" were necessary for the success of CPEC.

"CPEC 2.0 aims to enhance technologies, create job opportunities and ensure food security through agricultural mechanisation," he said, adding that "as we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come".

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said the centre of power was shifting from the West to the East.

China is becoming a scientific superpower, contributing 40pc of research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and establishing top-ranking universities, he said.

Senator Syed said China's diplomacy and role in the world had also broadened, adding that Beijing viewed its relationship with Islamabad as a strategic long-term partnership based on mutual trust and cooperation. He also spoke about attempts made by hostile elements who wanted to sabotage CPEC. Yang Nuo said the second phase of CPEC was poised to generate new momentum for Pakistan's development, building on the project's success over the past 11 years, which had attracted \$25 billion in investments and transformed the country's economic and social landscape. "Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders have reached a consensus on advancing integration and enhancing Pakistan's economic and social development through the second phase of CPEC," Yang Nuo said.

“Joint efforts would focus on developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), accelerating project implementation and increasing Pakistan’s agricultural exports to China,” he added. This, he said, would contribute to both China’s modernisation and Pakistan’s growth.

Principal and Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities at Nust Dr Ashfaque Hassan Khan said CPEC was a comprehensive project that aimed at promoting connectivity, regional cooperation and integration.

“Its success is reflected through the participation of over 150 countries and 40 international institutions, underscoring its potential as a regional initiative,” Dr Khan said.

An academician from Fudan University, Prof Zhang Jiadong, emphasised on the importance of dispelling propaganda regarding Chinese companies and focusing on frameworks to create more jobs and business opportunities.

Associate Professor at Bahria University Dr Hasan Daud Butt said urban-rural synergy was crucial for the success of CPEC Phase 2.0, citing the example of Hakla-D.I. Khan Road as an illustration of this synergy. Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future Khalid Taimur Akram said Pakistan should explore other regional corridors and their integration with CPEC to promote regional connectivity and leverage its role as a regional hub for trade and connections, aligning with the 5Es framework of development. Earlier, in his welcome remarks, IRS President Ambassador Jauhar Saleem said the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China had reached new heights with the launch of CPEC 2.0, which focused on high-quality development, technological innovation and sustainable growth. “CPEC 2.0 offers great opportunities for job creation, youth empowerment and economic growth, provided security and institutional challenges were addressed to ensure productive investments,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1849340>

Pakistan Observer

China to empower Balochistan youth, provide health kits

The Embassy of China on Wednesday announced to donate 20,000 health kits for the schoolgirls in Balochistan with an aim to ensure their well-being. Under the inspiring theme of ‘She Power’, the noble initiative aims to significantly promote the use of essential hygiene products, and foster a culture of health awareness. The launching ceremony, held here at the Chinese embassy was graced by distinguished guests, including Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong. Senator Saleem Mandviwala was also present in the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq commended the embassy’s initiative, which he said, would have a profound and far-reaching impact on the health of women. He also mentioned the generosity of the Chinese government in donating a solar system to the parliament and implementing various other initiatives.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-empower-balochistan-youth-provide-health-kits/>

August 02, 2024

Daily Times

Why Pakistan must follow the Chinese development model?

Amir Mir

Just two years after the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the neighboring country of China gained independence in 1949. But over the past four decades, China has achieved astonishing levels of development, a feat from which Pakistan can learn valuable lessons. Recently, a delegation of Pakistani journalists which was sent to Beijing, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou by the Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Mr Zhao Sherin, witnessed China's unprecedented development firsthand.

A study of China's remarkable development reveals that the primary reason for its rapid progress is economic reforms, which have propelled it to become the world's second-largest economic power in just four decades. Analysts believe that China has now reached the position of the world's strongest economic power, awaiting only an official declaration.

It is worth noting that in the early 1980s, China implemented significant changes in its state policy and economic system. The focus of these major reforms was China's economic system, which was largely isolated from the rest of the world. Chinese leaders realized that economic progress would be difficult to achieve in isolation, prompting them to devise policies that would integrate China into the global economic system. As China embarked on these revolutionary reforms, its economic indicators rapidly improved. As a result, China emerged as the world's second-largest economy in a remarkably short time. Some economists believe that China is on the verge of becoming the world's largest economy, a development that concerns the United States.

Analysts attribute China's remarkable progress primarily to the foresight of its political leadership. They note the wisdom and vision of Chinese leaders in managing regional and international relations with other countries. Despite political disputes and longstanding cold relations with many countries, China has maintained and even expanded trade and economic ties with them. For example, despite border disputes with India leading to military skirmishes, trade between the two nations continues to grow. China also manages its political rivalries and disagreements with other countries with foresight, prudence, and caution, prioritizing economic relations above all. This economic focus is seen as the key to China's benefits and success.

Another significant factor in China's success is its complete eradication of poverty. China's swift elimination of extreme poverty has not only set an example for the world but also established a successful model. China is perhaps the only country in modern history to announce the eradication of extreme poverty within four decades. This achievement has helped reduce global poverty by 70%, lifting 770 million people out of poverty and significantly contributing to global poverty reduction. China's fight against poverty is considered a milestone in human history, made possible by consistent policies that set broad economic goals, created economic opportunities, and raised average incomes. China first

focused on developing its most backward areas and then concentrated on people living below the poverty line. The key to this success was the consistent implementation of these policies. Agriculture played a crucial role in China's poverty alleviation efforts, with a focus on the development of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas.

Analysts also credit China's exemplary development to its governance system, largely driven by the Communist Party of China. The party is committed to reforms and overall development, assisting in preparing recommendations for various institutions and implementing them. The Chinese constitution protects the role of the Communist Party, ensuring political stability. China's governance model relies on effective performance, with continuous reforms enhancing the government's capabilities. Despite criticism from some global observers, many acknowledge the Communist Party's significant role in China's extraordinary progress. Chinese leaders and party officials understand that governance failures would reflect poorly on the party, affecting its credibility and legitimacy. China's governance system is a unique model of collaboration between the party and state institutions, known as the party-government system. Political and economic stability in China is attributed to policy continuity and an effective governance system, fostering public trust in the state and its systems.

Therefore, if Pakistan's political leadership aims for rapid development of the country, it must follow the Chinese development model. Decision-makers in Pakistan need to understand how China's political leadership defined its vision and objectives and developed clear strategies to achieve them. Pakistani leaders must also recognize how Chinese leadership made timely decisions and completed major projects swiftly. Observing how China's leadership, once politically isolated, transformed the country into a nation sought after by the world for political, diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations is essential. If willing to learn, Pakistani political leadership can gain insights from the hard work, dedication, and wisdom of Chinese leadership, backed by thousands of years of experience.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1213717/why-pakistan-must-follow-the-chinese-development-model/>

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 33.67%

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 33.67 percent during the twelve months of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$2.707 billion during July-June (2023-24) against exports of US \$2.025 billion during July-June (2022-23), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 12.59 percent from \$136.546 million in June 2023, against the exports of \$153.745 million in June 2024.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 27.61 percent during June 2024 as compared to the exports of \$212.392 million in May 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 11.53 percent in FY 2023-24, from US \$27.875 billion to US \$31.090 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the period under review were recorded at US \$13.506 billion against US \$9.662 billion last year, showing an increase of 39.78 percent in July-June (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 117.54 percent from US \$623.832 million in June 2023, against the imports of US \$1357.098 million in June 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country witnessed a decrease of 9.58 percent during June 2024, as compared to the imports of US \$1501.005 million during May 2024, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed an increase of 0.89 percent, from \$52.695 billion to US \$53.167 billion, according to the data.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1213814/pakistans-exports-to-china-increase-by-33-67/>

CPEC is bigger than Marshall Plan: Expert

Prominent scholar and expert in Pakistan-China relations Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal advocate that CPEC hold importance greater than Marshall Plan of the Europe in terms of investment and importance.

In an interview, he said "the Marshall Plan was a monumental initiative by the United States to aid in the economic recovery of Europe after World War II."

He commented that it involved substantial financial assistance, but it was primarily focused on a specific region. In contrast, CPEC represents a broader and more complex investment strategy.

He also added that CPEC is not only about financial investment but also includes infrastructure development, energy projects, and trade facilitation. The scale of investment and the range of projects under CPEC are unprecedented.

For instance, the Chinese commitment to CPEC spans multiple sectors, including roads, railways, and energy, which collectively promise to transform Pakistan's economy. The sheer scale of this investment exceeds that of the Marshall Plan in terms of direct financial commitment and its potential impact on the regional economy. Responding to a question asked by anchor Mr. Abdul Ghani, Dr Jaspal who is expert in Pak-China Relations, said that there have been various concerns about security risks, but it's important to note that the Chinese government has expressed a strong commitment to ensuring the safety and security of CPEC projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1213805/cpec-is-bigger-than-marshall-plan-expert/>

The Nation

PM vows to revamp Pak economy by emulating Chinese model

Shehbaz believes Pak-China joint ventures and cooperation will create a win-win situation. Pakistan willing to work with Commonwealth for youth empowerment, good governance and climate change.

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating China's model, with the objective of achieving similar economic success on a smaller scale.

Speaking to a 12-member Chinese delegation led by Wang Fukang, the prime minister said that during his recent visit to China,

he requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan. "The goal is to model Pakistan's economy after China's. Today, these experts are here, and we're confident that progress will follow soon."

Welcoming the delegation by emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no bounds,

he emphasized that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan.

He believes that joint ventures and cooperation would create a win-win situation.

He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan.

He anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China.

He noted that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones.

He also suggested relocating certain industries to Pakistan due to China's shift towards more advanced and sophisticated industrial ventures.

He stated that the federal cabinet has decided to offer free visas to Chinese citizens starting August 14, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment.

He emphasized that Sino-Pak relations were higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

The delegation, comprising representatives from 10 different Chinese ministries, was visiting Pakistan to enhance cooperation across various sectors.

They will provide input on Chinese investment, the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and boosting Pakistani exports. Additionally, they will review

and offer recommendations on IT, agriculture, industry, investment, energy, minerals, special economic zones, and communication.

He stated that Pakistan has implemented robust measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal overseeing these efforts. The government was committed to maintaining stringent security and preventing any breaches. Those responsible for any harmful acts will be held accountable.

Additionally, he conveyed deep sorrow on behalf of his government and people for the loss of Chinese citizens in Bisham a few months ago. The Prime Minister stated that those responsible for the killings of Chinese citizens have been arrested and will get exemplary punishment.

He mentioned that he has held several meetings with law enforcement agencies, the Interior Secretary, and NECTA.

Speaking on the occasion, delegation head, Wang Fukang stated that technical cooperation would further strengthen Pak-China strategic relations and expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its hospitality.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatmi, Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ahsan Afzam, and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, along with other senior officials.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here.

During the meeting, the PM reaffirmed the government's desire to work with the Commonwealth on issues of common interest, particularly on youth empowerment, good governance and climate change.

The prime minister welcomed Secretary-General Scotland on her first official visit to Pakistan. Appreciating the Commonwealth's consistent support for Pakistan's socio-economic and democratic institutions,

Noting that young people below the age of 30 accounted for two-thirds of Pakistan's population, the Prime Minister said providing modern education and technical training to the youth was one of the Government's highest priorities.

He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and reiterated the Government's commitment to working with the Commonwealth to help Pakistan's youth by enhancing access and opportunities for them in today's high-tech global economy.

Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and said that the Prime Minister's leadership and direct supervision of this Programme was reflective of

his personal interest and commitment to youth empowerment initiatives. In order to further improve the performance of government departments and know progress in real time, Ms Patricia offered the Commonwealth's Performance Management System. She also invited Pakistan to join the Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC).

The PM expressed keen desire to evaluate the Commonwealth Performance Management System for further improving governance and transparency in Pakistan's public sector.

He also welcomed the invitation to join CAIC where Pakistan's youth will have opportunities for training and could benefit from global innovations such as cloud computing and generative

AI and shall be more empowered to play their role in sustainable economic development.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also described combating climate change as a common priority for both Pakistan and the Commonwealth.

He appreciated the Secretary-General's climate advocacy for Pakistan, following the devastating 2022 floods.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan wanted to work with the Commonwealth in helping mobilize more international support for climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan at the forthcoming COP29 in Baku.

Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Government's efforts for post-flood reconstruction and hoped that the international community would provide more support in building Pakistan's climate resilience.

Looking forward towards the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa later this year, the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Secretary-General discussed ways in which the two sides could coordinate on building consensus on key issues of mutual interest and chart a roadmap for the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, while chairing a meeting of parliamentarians from the ruling allies here, strongly denounced the attack that led to martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, in Tehran, terming it a barbaric act that was a flagrant violation of international laws and rules.

The extraterritorial assassination, he said, had sparked widespread condemnation across the world including Pakistan, Turkiye, Russia, Iran, China and Malaysia which had denounced the attack in the strongest words.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the bloodshed in Palestine continued for last nine months claiming lives of many innocent Palestinians every day.

Over 40,000 Palestinians including thousands of children had been martyred till date.

"The world is silent over this barbarism," he said. "Such terrorism and extremism is highly condemnable."

The prime minister said Netanyahu was out to destroy Palestine. Despite clear verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and resolutions of the United Nations, Israel could not be stopped from its barbaric acts.

He expressed gratitude to the countries from the West such as Ireland and Spain who had openly supported the Palestinian cause and its two-state resolution.

They also decided that the nation would observe a day of mourning across the country today in solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and to condemn the Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine.

The participants of the meeting strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli brutalities in Palestine for last nine months, and expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters.

They also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

They were of the view that the Hamas leader's assassination incident was a conspiracy to sabotage the efforts to get stopped the ongoing Israeli atrocities on the Palestinians and establish peace in the region.

The meeting demanded to ensure immediate provision of humanitarian aid to the unarmed Palestinians.

It was decided that Pakistan would continue to provide relief goods, besides taking effective measures for the medical assistance of the oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters.

It was further decided that the injured Palestinians would be brought to Pakistan for treatment.

The meeting also decided that Palestinian medical students would be admitted to medical colleges in Pakistan with financial support to continue their education

The participants were of the view that with the ongoing genocide and state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine, Israel was violating the resolutions of the United Nations, the decisions of the International Court of Justice and international laws, while the world community remained a silent spectator.

They asked the international community to adopt a clear stand against the Israeli brutalities, as otherwise it would be a question mark against viability of international laws and institutions for future generations.

The meeting also urged the international community, including the United Nations to break their silence and immediately get stopped the ongoing genocide of the oppressed Palestinians by the Zionist forces and bring Israel to justice for war crimes.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Aug-2024/pm-vows-to-revamp-pak-economy-by-emulating-chinese-model>

The News

‘CPEC-2 attractive investment destination’

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformative force for Pakistan's economy, shifting it from the brink of collapse to an attractive investment destination.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on “CPEC 2: prospects and challenges” organised by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Mr Iqbal highlighted the strong bond of trust and shared vision between China and Pakistan enabling them to overcome initial challenges. Now, as they enter the second phase, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity and socioeconomic development.

He asserted that for CPEC to be successful, it is crucial to establish peace, political stability and continuity of policies while demonstrating a continuous commitment to reforms. CPEC 2 aims at enhancing technologies, creating job opportunities and ensuring food security through agricultural mechanisation. As we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come, the Minister said adding that we must unite as one nation and one team to ensure the success of CPEC 2.

Yang Nuo, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of People's Republic of China delivered special remarks on CPEC. He stated that the second phase of CPEC is poised to generate new momentum for Pakistan's development, building on the project's success over the past 11 years which attracted \$25 billion in investments and transformed the country's economic and social landscape. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders reached a consensus on advancing integration and enhancing Pakistan's economic and social development through the second phase of CPEC. The joint efforts will focus on developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), accelerating project implementation and increasing Pakistan's agricultural exports to China thereby contributing to both China's modernisation and Pakistan's growth.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that the centre of power is shifting from the West to the East. China is becoming a scientific super power contributing 40 percent of research on AI and established top ranking universities. China's diplomacy and role in the world has also broadened, he added. He stressed that there is a broad national consensus on CPEC in Pakistan, demonstrated by all parties unity on June 21 during a meeting with the visiting member of the Communist Party Central Committee Liu Jianchao which reaffirmed strong support to CPEC.

Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan, Dean of Social Sciences, NUST, emphasised that making CPEC a regional initiative involves more than just infrastructure development. He noted that CPEC is a comprehensive project aimed at promoting connectivity, regional cooperation and integration. Its success is reflected in the participation of over 150 countries and 40 international institutions, underscoring its potential as a regional initiative.

Prof Zhang Jiadong, Fudan University, said that Pakistan and China are good friends, and good friends help each other. He emphasised the importance of dispelling propaganda regarding Chinese companies and focusing on frameworks to create more jobs and business

opportunities. Additionally, he highlighted the need to avoid mistrust and address security issues. Dr Hasan Daud Butt, Bahria University, underscored the importance of transitioning from a G2G to a B2B model of development in CPEC Phase 2. He also emphasised that urban-rural synergy is crucial for the success of CPEC Phase 2, citing the example of the Hakla-DI Khan Road as an illustration of this synergy. Khalid Taimur Akram Executive Director, Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with a Shared Future, and Jauhar Saleem, President, IRS, also spoke on the occasion.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=329232>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی ایکسپورٹ کی اجازت نہ دینے پر خیبر پٹی کے حکومت کیخلاف پشاور ہائیکورٹ میں درخواست دائر

پشاور (آئی این پی) چینی ایکسپورٹ کرنے کی اجازت نہ دینے پر خیبر پٹی کے حکومت کے خلاف عدالت میں درخواست دائر کر دی گئی۔ شوگر ملز کی جانب سے چینی ایکسپورٹ کرنے کی اجازت نہ دینے کے خلاف دائر درخواست پر سماعت پشاور ہائی کورٹ میں ہوئی، عدالت نے صوبائی حکومت کو نوٹس جاری کرتے ہوئے جواب طلب کر لیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-02/page-6/detail-15>

K2 Daily

چینی ایکسپورٹ اجازت نہ ملنے پر کے پی حکومت کیخلاف درخواست
 ایکسپورٹ کی اجازت نہ دینے پر خیبر پٹی کے حکومت کے خلاف عدالت میں درخواست دائر کر دی گئی۔ شوگر ملز کی جانب سے چینی ایکسپورٹ کرنے کی اجازت نہ دینے کے خلاف دائر درخواست پر سماعت پشاور ہائی کورٹ میں ہوئی، عدالت نے صوبائی حکومت کو نوٹس جاری کرتے ہوئے جواب طلب کر لیا۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-08-02

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-08-02



https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Front_Page&Date=2024-08-02

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-08-02

August 03, 2024

Business Recorder

Experts underscore need for learning from Chinese experience

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese delegation comprising experts from diverse fields is to visit Pakistan aiming at providing invaluable insights into the Chinese economic model, emphasising lessons that Pakistan can leverage for its own growth.

This was stated by a senior Chinese official while addressing a seminar titled, “Pakistan Economy & Growth: Learning from Chinese Experience,” organised by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), here on Friday.

The seminar was attended by a high-level Chinese expert delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, the lead Chinese expert elaborated on China’s strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and education, demonstrating how similar initiatives could yield significant benefits for Pakistan.

The event was aimed at marking a significant step towards enhancing economic collaboration between China and Pakistan.

By learning from China, Pakistan can develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth. The seminar at PIDE provided a platform for discussing these lessons and adapting them to Pakistan’s context, paving the way for a prosperous future. The expert highlighted that China’s economic rise from a developing nation to the world’s second-largest economy offers crucial lessons in various areas, including economic policies, infrastructure development, industrialisation, education, innovation, and governance.

By strategically investing in these sectors, Pakistan can replicate China’s success and drive its

own economic growth, he said and added that in this context, a Chinese delegation comprising experts from economy, industry, agriculture, technology, healthcare, education, environmental science, urban planning, and more, will be visiting Pakistan. These experts bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from their respective domains, aiming to foster deeper collaboration and mutual growth. Their insights and recommendations are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the next phase of Pakistan's development under the CPEC framework.

Effective governance and institutional reforms, including streamlined bureaucracy and anti-corruption measures, were critical to China's development. Pakistan can adopt these reforms to improve governance, strengthen institutions, and enhance transparency. Emulating China's policies, infrastructure investments, SEZs, human capital development, technological innovation, export promotion, and governance reforms can pave the way for Pakistan's prosperity.

Representatives from all leading think tanks from all provinces of Pakistan participated in the seminar and emphasised the importance of skill development, industrial linkages, and technology transfer between China and Pakistan. Indeed, it is a great initiative by PIDE which aims to establish thought connectivity with China. We need more research collaborations and the sharing of ideas. China has much to teach us about policies and reforms. CPEC-II should include a component for shared and collaborative research.

During the event, the Chinese delegation engaged in meaningful discussions with representatives from Pakistani academia and think tanks. The discussions covered a broad range of topics, including economic policy, industrial development, and sustainable growth. The event provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing economic challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, PIDE's Pro Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr Durre Nayab emphasised the importance of such interactions in fostering growth and development. She highlighted the need for adopting strategies that have propelled China to economic success, tailored to Pakistan's unique context.

VC PIDE Dr Nadeemul Haque, discussed the critical need for policy reforms, investment in human capital, and fostering an innovation-driven economy.

Haque noted that the event aimed to explore lessons Pakistan can learn from China's economic transformation, which provides insights into growth strategies, infrastructure development, industrialisation, and policy reforms applicable to Pakistan.

Haque emphasised that Pakistan is poised for a new era of economic growth and regional connectivity through the dynamic framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He highlighted that with a young, burgeoning population and a rapidly expanding middle class, Pakistan presents a compelling case for significant investment and development. Pakistan's demographic profile, with a median age of just 20.6 years and a labour force expanding by over three million annually, is a cornerstone of its growth potential. Haque noted that the projected growth rate of 7-8 per cent per annum is within reach with strategic reforms, positioning Pakistan as a future market leader. By 2030, Pakistan is expected to become the 7th largest consumer market globally, underscoring its vast potential.

He further stated that CPEC is not just an infrastructure project but a framework for regional

connectivity. It aims to enhance geographical linkages through people-to-people contact, academic and cultural exchanges, and robust trade and business flows. The initiative promises to transform Pakistan into a logistical hub, driving industrial, agricultural, and financial cooperation, along with human resource development and tourism.

He pointed out that Pakistan is undergoing significant reforms to create a more investment-friendly environment. Moving from a permission-based to a rule-based economy, the government is addressing regulatory challenges that have historically hampered growth. The implementation of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) and the reduction of excessive permissions are crucial steps towards this transformation.

Haque noted that beyond infrastructure, CPEC opens up diverse opportunities for investment. Leading global corporations such as Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, General Electric, and Procter and Gamble have already established a strong presence in Pakistan, collectively investing over \$1.5 billion and generating \$3 billion in revenues. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC offer further prospects for investment, particularly in the technology and manufacturing sectors.

He highlighted that Pakistan's burgeoning market for electric vehicles (EVs) represents a significant growth area. With over 50 per cent of households owning motorbikes and a growing demand for cars, the market for 2- and 4-wheel EVs is set to expand rapidly. Initiatives to promote EVs and public transport in Islamabad are already underway, positioning Pakistan strategically as a hub for EV production for both local and export markets.

By learning from China, Pakistan can develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/03/2-page/1001666-news.html>

Daily Times

PM writes to China for debt reprofiling

* 'Says Chinese president had shown 'keen interest in his idea' of using local coal to cut down imports

* Pakistan decides to exempt Chinese citizens from visa fees

* Cabinet okays signing of MoU with China to enhance trade cooperation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that he had written a letter to the Chinese government requesting debt reprofiling for Pakistan in an apparent bid to secure the International Monetary Fund's approval for a \$7 billion economic bailout by next month.

Earlier this week, it was reported that Pakistan had sought the reprofiling of more than \$27 billion in debt and liabilities with friendly nations – China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE – to secure a 37-month International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package and ease energy sector foreign exchange outflows and consumer tariffs.

This is on top of Islamabad's request to Beijing to convert imported coal-based projects to local coal and reprofile more than \$15bn in energy sector liabilities to create fiscal space amid difficulties in timely repayments.

“I have written a letter to China, it’s a matter of public domain now, for [debt] reprofiling,” the PM said while addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet before the National Assembly (NA) session today.

According to the World Bank, debt reprofiling refers to “modifications of the aggregate schedule of future country repayments through refinancing, debt substitution, or renegotiations.”

The process can help a country if it’s facing simultaneous maturity of multiple loans or experiencing exposure issues, such as in the currency composition of its liabilities. It can also help a country mitigate currency risk, which frequently exacerbates debt sustainability issues.

PM Shehbaz informed members of the cabinet that Chinese President Xi Jinping had shown “keen interest in his idea” of using local coal to cut down imports.

“I told the president that Thar coal could help the country cut down on imports and save \$1 billion in foreign exchange,” the PM said.

He also pointed out that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had “very good meetings” in China during his recent visit, noting that efforts were underway to implement structural reforms for reducing circular debt.

“Whether consumers are industrial or household, the government of Pakistan is fully struggling day and night to extend relief,” he said, “This is the joint voice of all parties and the nation.”

Earlier, he had commended friendly ties with China.

“Nobody was ready to invest in our energy sector at the time, but China stepped in and began CPEC, it was the only country to intervene,” he had said, crediting ex-premier and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif’s government for signing the agreements for the infrastructure. Moreover, he said that the medium-term measures for the government included addressing loans and capacity charges. According to state-owned Radio Pakistan, PM Shehbaz, while talking to a high-level Chinese delegation, informed them of the federal cabinet’s decision to exempt Chinese citizens from visa fees with effect from August 14.

The premier also said that joint ventures between the two countries in the fields of mines and minerals, information technology, export zones, industrial zones, and relocation of industry from China will further strengthen the local economy. Meanwhile, the federal cabinet on Friday approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade Promotion Cooperation to enhance trade between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting that decided on the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce. The MoU was aimed at boosting bilateral trade with a focus on several key areas such as smartphone production, new energy vehicles, textiles, agricultural product processing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and information technology.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214019/pm-writes-to-china-for-debt-reprofiling/>

Boosting Economic Growth: Pakistan, China experts share insights

Experts from Pakistani think-tanks and China on Friday participated in a seminar to discuss potential ways to enhance collaboration between the two countries in multiple fields, particularly economic growth and connectivity.

The event, titled “Pakistan Economy & Growth: Learning from Chinese Experience,” was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), marking a significant step towards strengthening economic ties between China and Pakistan.

The seminar was aimed at facilitating an exchange of knowledge and optimum practices between the two nations, according to a news release.

In her opening remarks, PIDE’s Pro VC Dr Durre Nayab emphasized the importance of such interactions in fostering growth and development. She highlighted the need to adopt strategies that have contributed to China’s economic success, tailored to Pakistan’s unique context.

The event featured a detailed presentation by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of PIDE, who discussed the critical need for policy reforms, investment in human capital, and fostering an innovation-driven economy.

He advocated for learning from China’s economic transformation, which provides insights into growth strategies, infrastructure development, industrialization, and policy reforms applicable to Pakistan.

Dr Haque said Pakistan was poised for a new era of economic growth and regional connectivity through the dynamic framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He noted that with a young, burgeoning population and a rapidly expanding middle class, Pakistan presented a compelling case for significant investment and development.

Pakistan’s demographic profile, with a median age of just 20.6 years and a labor force expanding by over 3 million annually, was a cornerstone of its growth potential.

Dr Haque projected that a growth rate of 7-8% per annum was achievable with strategic reforms, positioning Pakistan as a future market leader. “By 2030, Pakistan is expected to become the 7th largest consumer market globally, underscoring its vast potential.”

He asserted that CPEC was not merely an infrastructure project but a framework for regional connectivity. “It aims to enhance geographical linkages through people-to-people contact, academic and cultural exchanges, and robust trade and business flows.”

The initiative promises to transform Pakistan into a logistical hub, driving industrial, agricultural, and financial cooperation, along with human resource development and tourism.

Dr Haque also pointed out that Pakistan was undergoing significant reforms to create a more investment-friendly environment. Moving from a permission-based to a rule-based economy, the government was addressing regulatory challenges that have historically hampered growth.

Beyond infrastructure, he said CPEC opened up diverse opportunities for investment, under which leading global corporations have already established a strong presence in Pakistan, collectively investing over \$1.5 billion and generating \$3 billion in revenues.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC offer further prospects for investment, particularly in the technology and manufacturing sectors.

D. Haque highlighted that Pakistan's burgeoning market for electric vehicles (EVs) represents a significant growth area. With over 50% of households owning motorbikes and a growing demand for cars, the market for 2- and 4-wheel EVs is set to expand rapidly. "Initiatives to promote EVs and public transport in Islamabad are already underway, positioning Pakistan strategically as a hub for EV production for both local and export markets."

By learning from China, Dr Haque said Pakistan could develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth.

The lead expert from the Chinese delegation provided invaluable insights into the Chinese economic model, emphasizing lessons that Pakistan could leverage for its own growth.

He elaborated on China's strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and education, demonstrating how similar initiatives could yield significant benefits for Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214101/boosting-economic-growth-pakistan-china-experts-share-insights/>

Traders' protest brings Pakistan-China border trade to a grinding halt

The high-altitude Khunjerab Pass connecting Pakistan and China remained suspended for trade for the seventh consecutive day on Thursday as traders in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region accused the federal government of collect taxes on imports from China despite a GB court order forbidding it from doing so.

On June 22, the legislative assembly in GB, a semi-autonomous region administered by Pakistan, unanimously approved a resolution demanding the federal government stop collecting taxes on goods imported from China that arrive through the Khunjerab Pass. On July 20, the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court declared as illegal the collection of income tax, sales tax and additional sales tax by Pakistani revenue authorities on goods imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass.

Scores of traders have been holding a sit-in at the Sost dry port near the Khunjerab Pass since July 26, accusing authorities of not implementing the GB Chief Court's order. The protest has disrupted immigration procedures and suspended trade activities at the border.

"We have been protesting and staging a sit-in for the last week in front of the NLC (National Logistics Cell) office," Javed Hussain, a former member of the GB Assembly and a businessman, told Arab News. "Our sole demand is that we want exemption of sale tax and income tax because of the honorable GB court's decision and the GB Assembly's resolution, and we will not end the sit-in unless our demands are met."

Khunjerab Pass is the highest paved international border at more than 4,600 meters (15,000 feet) above sea level, linking Pakistan's GB to China's Xinjiang province.

Imran Ali, president of the GB Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said traders had tried to negotiate a solution with officials many times over the past month but to no avail.

"Now, after symbolic protest for a month, we are here staging sit-ins for the last seven days," Ali told Arab News. "GB and Kashmir have special status and the government cannot collect taxes from GB on goods imported from China."

Bakhtiar Muhammad, a spokesperson for Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), said the GB court had issued an interim order on last Saturday without hearing the FBR to allow the release of goods of importers without charging sales tax and income tax as these taxes were not leviable in GB.

"The federal government's view is that the GB court has no legal jurisdiction on federal levies. Besides, these goods are not for consumption in GB, rather these are transported to other areas of Pakistan, where both these laws are applicable," he told Arab News. "A request for urgent hearing had already been filed with GB court but due to holidays, it shall be heard on 5th Aug." The FBR has called a meeting of its lawyers and officials on Monday to decide whether to implement the GB court's decision or to challenge it in the Islamabad High Court, according to Muhammad.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214105/traders-protest-brings-pakistan-china-border-trade-to-a-grinding-halt/>

Pakistan Observer

Emulating Chinese model

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating China's model, with the objective of achieving similar economic success on a smaller scale. Speaking to a 12-member Chinese delegation led by Wang Fukang, he expressed the confidence that the visit would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. He noted that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones. He also suggested relocating certain industries to Pakistan due to China's shift towards more advanced and sophisticated industrial ventures.

The visit of the delegation of experts is yet another manifestation of the desire of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to achieve accelerated economic growth and commitment of China to the betterment of Pakistan. This is because during his visit to China, the Prime Minister requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan and now the delegation comprising representatives of ten ministries is here to provide input on Chinese investment, the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and boosting Pakistani exports. It will also review and offer recommendations on IT, agriculture, industry, investment, energy, minerals, special economic zones and communication. Its recommendations would necessarily be based on the Chinese experience of growth and

development in various fields and hopefully Pakistani authorities would emulate them with necessary adjustments as per ground realities. The desire of the Prime Minister to follow the Chinese development model is not without a reason as China has been the fastest growing economy in the world and now become the world's second largest economy after the USA. According to the IMF, China's strong productivity growth, spurred by the 1978 market-oriented reforms, is the leading cause of China's unprecedented economic performance. China placed equal emphasis on industrialization and agricultural growth to achieve an enviable position in terms of economic development. Experts also point out that China owes its monumental success to its policy of gradual institutional reform, selective and cautious borrowing of foreign ideas and a trial-and-error approach to policy making and reform. We hope that the Government of Pakistan will also remove bottlenecks in the way of industrial and agricultural growth and modernization with focus on local research and development and finding ways and means to reduce the cost of inputs and cost of doing business.

<https://pakobserver.net/emulating-chinese-model/>

3rd plenum and China's strategic national security

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA has a "unique" national security model which is based on the principle of "deterrence" and development and does not have "hidden" agenda of military misadventure(s) against any country. It has an open and transparent principle of engagement and cooperation and does not believe in conspiracies and confrontations. Despite newly formed military partnerships among the US, Japan and South Korea, deployment of modern missile systems, dawn of nuclear submarines geopolitics, reactivation of Quad, AUKUS, constant arms supply & sale to Taiwan, building of military bases in Asia-Pacific and flaring up of the South China Sea, China remained peaceful and did not adopt any counter military option which vividly reflected its wisdom to resolve conflicts through meaningful dialogue, diplomacy and development.

The communiqué of 3rd Plenum showcased China's strong resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests disseminating a clear signalling to all the regional forces in Asia Pacific and their international masters not to interfere in the domestic affairs pertaining to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang. It precisely called for a proper response to external risks and challenges, striving to play a leading role in global governance, and actively working to foster a favourable external environment. The communiqué rightly chalked out a new blueprint for maintaining the CPC's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces and fully implementing the strategy of strengthening the military through reform to provide a strong guarantee for realizing the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2027 and achieving basic modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

The communiqué rightly pinpointed that integration of public security governance mechanisms, the social governance system, and the mechanisms of peaceful foreign affairs is pivotal for improving the national security system. Moreover, further deepening of reforms in people's armed forces and further reform joint operations systems and deepening military-

civilian reforms has a futuristic orientation. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) celebrates its 97th founding anniversary on August 1. The PLA successfully defended core vested interests of development, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and social fabric amid deteriorating security situations in the world and tensions in Asia Pacific.

While chairing a leadership group study session prior to the country's Army Day the Chinese President Xi Jinping termed modernization of the country's border, coastal and air defense vital for the country. Xi upheld that since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee institutionalized numerous reforms and led a series of key border, air and sea defense actions which spiritedly safeguarded China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, as well as upheld the strategic initiative of national security and development.

Xi rightly called for intensified efforts to boost infrastructure connectivity and joint development to forge a border, coastal and air defense that is conducive to both national security and economic and social development. The Chinese leader also underlined the importance of improving air traffic management, boosting the sound growth of the low-altitude economy, and optimizing the civil air defense model. It seems that the PLA's further modernization, enhanced training and equipment development and last but not least, improved national defense is crucial for achieving its centennial goals in 2027.

Despite emerging conflicting security situations during 2023, mainly in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea, China remained focused and avoided any military conflict. The PLA's resolute and powerful moves deterred potential conflicts, defended national sovereignty, security, and interests, and safeguarded regional peace and stability, which are commendable. The Joint Sword-2024A exercise was held around the island of Taiwan from May 23 to 24, featuring the army, navy, air force, and rocket force affiliated with the PLA Eastern Theatre Command. This exercise showcased the PLA's joint aerial and maritime combat readiness patrols, joint seizure of comprehensive control of the battlefield, and joint strikes at key targets. It aimed to punish Taiwan independence secessionist forces and send a warning to external interference forces following Taiwan regional leader Lai Ching-te's separatist inaugural speech on May 20.

The PLA organized a series of joint patrols and joint exercises in January in the South China Sea, forcing the US and the Philippines to stay away from the region. The PLA conducted several combat-oriented exercises in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea, involving advanced warships and warplanes, including the aircraft carrier Shandong, Type 055 large destroyers, and Type 052D destroyers. These exercises systematically practiced not only in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea but also in the West Pacific, clearly illustrating their high intensity and true professionalism in safeguarding Chinese territories, security, and maritime rights during 2023.

The PLA also conducted friendly visits, exchanges as well as holding joint patrols and exercises with militaries of many other countries. It also held regular escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia as well as UN peacekeeping missions contributed to

global peace and stability. In summary, the PLA's involvement in China-Russia joint aerial strategic patrol over the Bering Sea, China-Russia joint naval patrols in the West Pacific and the South China Sea, the China-Belarus Eagle Assault-2024 joint army training in Belarus and the China-Laos Friendship Shield-2024 joint drill in Laos all indicated its professional manoeuvrability, superior tactical capabilities and strong commitment to positively contribute for regional peace and stability.

Furthermore, the PLA's international military interactions boosted friendships, understandings and pragmatic cooperation. It also stressed counter-terrorism, peacekeeping and regional security issues, rather than bloc confrontation of the West. The split of the Strategic Support Force (SSF) into the information support force, the aerospace force and the cyberspace force was a giant step towards integrated and collaborative modernization increasing further its strategic orientation and deterrence capabilities. Cyber security, Artificial Intelligence and aerospace force have great significance to strengthening the capacity of PLA which should be initiated and further developed as soon as possible. Further enforcement of China's aircrafts and electromagnetic catapult carrier is the need of the hour. Further development of a stealth fighter jet, a fixed-wing early warning aircraft and a trainer jet would be value addition in the coming year.

<https://pakobserver.net/3rd-plenum-and-chinas-strategic-national-security/>

The News

Pakistan to offer free visas to Chinese nationals from August 14

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to offer free visas to Chinese citizens starting August 14, showing Islamabad's commitment to Beijing, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday. The premier's statement came during his meeting with a 12-member high-level Chinese delegation led by Minister Wang Fukang who called on him. Speaking to the delegation, the prime minister said that during his recent visit to China, he requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan. "The goal is to model Pakistan's economy after China's. Today, these experts are here, and we're confident that progress will follow soon." Welcoming the delegation by emphasising that China and Pakistan are eternal friends, with a friendship that know no bounds, he emphasised that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. The premier said he believes that joint ventures and cooperation would create a win-win situation. He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan. Shehbaz, who has come into power for the second time, anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. He added that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones. "The Sino-Pak relations are higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans," the premier said. Pakistan regards its relationship with China as crucial for its national interests. <https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=329696>

Chinese experts share economic growth secrets

KARACHI: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a high-level Chinese delegation on Friday to discuss strategies for boosting Pakistan's economy.

The event, titled 'Pakistan Economy & Growth: Learning from Chinese Experience', aimed to share insights on China's economic success story. PIDE Vice Chancellor Dr Nadeemul Haque emphasized Pakistan's potential for rapid growth, citing its young population and expanding middle class. He highlighted the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in driving economic development and regional connectivity. A Chinese delegation of experts from various fields shared their country's experience in infrastructure development, technology, education, and governance. They stressed the importance of effective policies, institutional reforms, and investment in human capital for achieving sustained economic growth. He noted that the projected growth rate of 7-8 per cent per annum is within reach with strategic reforms, positioning Pakistan as a future market leader. He pointed out that Pakistan is undergoing significant reforms to create a more investment-friendly environment. Moving from a permission-based to a rule-based economy, the government is addressing regulatory challenges that have historically hampered growth. The implementation of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) and the reduction of excessive permissions are crucial steps towards this transformation. He highlighted that Pakistan's burgeoning market for electric vehicles (EVs) represents a significant growth area. With over 50 per cent of households owning motorbikes and a growing demand for cars, the market for 2- and 4-wheel EVs is set to expand rapidly. Initiatives to promote EVs and public transport in Islamabad are already underway, positioning Pakistan strategically as a hub for EV production for both local and export markets. In her introductory remarks, PIDE's Pro VC Dr Durre Nayab emphasized the importance of such interactions in fostering growth and development. She highlighted the need for adopting strategies that have propelled China to economic success, tailored to Pakistan's unique context. In this context, a Chinese delegation comprising experts from diverse fields will be visiting Pakistan. These experts bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from their respective domains, aiming to foster deeper collaboration and mutual growth. Their insights and recommendations are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the next phase of Pakistan's development under the CPEC framework. Chinese lead experts lauded PIDE for its exceptional efforts in identifying and addressing the critical challenges facing Pakistan. Effective governance and institutional reforms, including streamlined bureaucracy and anti-corruption measures, were critical to China's development. Pakistan can adopt these reforms to improve governance, strengthen institutions, and enhance transparency. Emulating China's policies, infrastructure investments, SEZs, human capital development, technological innovation, export promotion, and governance reforms can pave the way for Pakistan's prosperity. Participants from Pakistani think tanks emphasized the need for skill development, industrial linkages, and technology transfer with China. The event concluded with both sides expressing commitment to further collaboration and knowledge sharing.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=329456>

August 04, 2024

Daily Times

SEZs to cement Pak-China economic partnership: Expert

Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director of the Pak-China Institute, shared insightful perspectives on the evolving relationship between Pakistan and China.

Syed underscored the strategic significance of CPEC, noting that it has not only cemented the long-standing friendship between the two nations but has also created numerous opportunities for economic collaboration and growth. He remarked that the ongoing projects under CPEC are instrumental in enhancing connectivity and driving economic development across Pakistan.

Furthermore, Syed pointed out the crucial role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in this context. He argued that SEZs are vital for the economic upliftment of Pakistan, providing a framework for industrial growth, job creation, and increased foreign investment.

The establishment and successful operation of these zones are expected to significantly boost Pakistan's economy, he said.

However, Syed also addressed the need for enhanced security measures for Chinese personnel and investments in Pakistan. He stressed that ensuring the safety of Chinese stakeholders is essential for sustaining and expanding the collaborative projects under CPEC.

Increased security will help in maintaining investor confidence and facilitating the smooth execution of ongoing and future initiatives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214362/sezs-to-cement-pak-china-economic-partnership-expert/>

Pakistan Observer

China's African investments raising western eyebrows

Sultan M Hali

While the rest of the world, especially the Occident is engaged in supporting one or the other protagonist in various armed clashes, China, besides offering its good offices for mediation, is making inroads globally, promoting investment and infrastructure building. Besides Asia, Europe and Latin America, China has made overwhelming ingress in Africa. Chinese investment in the second largest continent commenced in 2000 and currently Beijing funds one in every five projects comprising dams, power generation units, ports, railway networks and roads. The Chinese plan to launch pro-grams of infrastructure development, agricultural modernization, supporting manufacturing, diversifying the economies of African nations and creating jobs.

China's investment in Africa is multifaceted and extensive, largely in the realm of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). They include Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), focusing on sectors like oil, mining, infrastructure building, manufacturing, telecommunications, and agriculture.

Chinese investments comprise substantial development loans to various African nations while seeking access to natural resources.

Under the umbrella of BRI, China has established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for the promotion of trade and economic cooperation and boosting industrial and economic growth. Beijing also envisages investment in natural resource extraction, such as oil, gas, minerals and metals. In a bid to share its own rich experience in the field of agriculture with Africa, China has laid down broad based investment strategies to enhance food security and boost local economies. Resultantly, this investment has helped spur economic growth and infrastructure development in numerous African countries, making China the continent's largest trading partner and a major source of FDI.

In retrospect, China's investment in Africa brings both significant benefits as well as notable challenges. The boons of Chinese investment comprise the construction of roads, railways, ports and airports, improving connectivity and boosting economic activities. There are visible fruits to be reaped through the increased FDI, which has stimulated economic growth in many African countries, creating jobs and enhancing local industries.

One of the primary advantages of the investment is that Chinese companies often bring advanced technologies and expertise, which they are eager to share with their partners and help modernize African industries. Simultaneously, China's demand for African commodities has expanded trade, benefiting African economies. As mentioned earlier, SEZs and industrial parks established by China have promoted industrialization and economic diversification.

Chinese investment has given rise to some challenges although they have been blown out of proportion by Beijing's detractors yet many African countries have accumulated significant debt due to Chinese loans, raising concerns about debt sustainability.

China's critics target a few Chinese projects, criticizing them for their alleged environmental impact, including deforestation and pollution. Some human rights groups find it opportune to disparage China for its supposed poor labour practices and limited employment opportunities for local workers in Chinese-run projects. Another apparent cause of concern is that the focus on resource extraction can lead to economic imbalances, with countries becoming overly dependent on a few commodities. Foreign powers that had kept different African nations under their hegemonic influence for centuries and some even exploited the rich resources from Africa are now wary of what they perceive as China's growing influence in Africa, raising alarm bells for what they term challenges to African concerns about political and economic sovereignty. The inhabitants of Africa were kidnapped and transported to the newly established colonies in the USA under appalling conditions to work as slaves for centuries. African origin citizens in the US and Europe continue to face racial prejudice.

Contrarily, China's investment has brought substantial benefits to Africa, the challenges need to be managed carefully to ensure sustainable and equitable development. Interestingly, the US and Europe that subjugated Africans to slavery and manipulation now have mixed views on China's investment in Africa, reflecting both concerns and strategic interests.

The US views China's investment as part of a broader strategic competition. Perhaps out of strategic rivalry, the US has openly expressed its concerns that China's influence in Africa could under-mine US interests and lead to a shift in geopolitical alliances.

Washington DC has also expressed worries regarding the debt burden on African countries, arising due to Chinese loans, fearing it could lead to loss of sovereignty and economic dependency. Beijing has dispelled such fears.

US has also raised criticisms pertaining to the transparency and governance standards of Chinese projects, with concerns about alleged corruption and lack of accountability.

Most of Europe comprises former colonial powers that ruled over different parts of Africa, milking them dry of rich resources and even after the liberation of different African states, many of them continued to meddle in their internal affairs and at times staging or backing coup d'état to usher in leaderships which would grant concessions to the former colonial powers. The same European states now perceive China's investment as economic competition, particularly in sectors like infra-structure and natural resources.

Europe echoes US concerns, emphasizing the need for sustain-able development and adherence to environmental and labour standards in avenues of Chinese investment.

The silver lining in the cloud is that despite the competition, there are also opportunities for collaboration. Some European countries are exploring ways to collaborate with China on joint projects that align with their development goals in Africa.

Overall, while both the US and Europe recognize the economic benefits of China's investment in Africa, they are also cautious about the long-term implications for governance, debt sustainability and geopolitical balance.

It should be noted that Africa is no longer colonized by imperialists, who vanquished and conquered different regions.

The different nations comprising Africa won their independence after bloody struggles and sacrifices.

They not only cherish their hard-earned independence but are also capable of taking rational decisions regarding their development and progress.

Climate change causing droughts, famine, pandemics and other challenges affects Africa too but its leadership is fully cognizant and qualified to take decisions in their best interest and they must be aware of the pitfalls and traps of bad decisions.

If they have opted for and welcomed Chinese investment, it must be respected and not criticized baselessly.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-african-investments-raising-western-eyebrows/>

The Express Tribune

New Gwadar International Airport expected to become operational on August 14

Airport is pivotal project under CPEC and represents a significant milestone in collaboration between China, Pakistan

ISLAMBAD: The New Gwadar International Airport is expected to become operational on August 14, with all preparations nearly complete.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to oversee the soft launch of this significant project.

A special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight from Karachi is scheduled to be the first to land at the New Gwadar International Airport, marking a historic moment for the region.

Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs54.98 billion, the airport features runways built to international standards, capable of accommodating large aircraft such as the Airbus A380.

The Gwadar International Airport is a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and represents a significant milestone in the collaboration between China and Pakistan. According to sources, the Civil Aviation Authority has constructed the airport in partnership with Chinese experts.

Currently, only four per cent of the operational section remains incomplete. Other development projects related to the airport are expected to be finished by December 2025.

The New Gwadar International Airport is set to boost the region's connectivity and economic development, acting as a vital infrastructure project for Pakistan's growing aviation industry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2485490/new-gwadar-international-airport-expected-to-become-operational-on-august-14>

Express News

چین کے ساتھ تعلقات پر سیاست کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں، وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چین کے ساتھ معاشی شراکت داری کے منصوبوں پر تیزی سے عمل درآمد کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چین جیسے دیرینہ دوست: لاہور کے ساتھ تعلقات پر سیاست کی کسی قسم کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں ہے۔

لاہور میں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے چین کے سرکاری ادارے "چائنا پبلک ڈیولپمنٹ ایسوسی ایشن" کی دعوت پر چین کے سرکاری دورے سے واپس آنے والے صحافیوں کے ساتھ رکنی وفد نے آج لاہور میں ملاقات کی۔

وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا دیرینہ دوست ہے، جس نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کی مدد کی، پاک-چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) جیسے قومی نوعیت کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز کو سیاست کو بالائے طاق رکھتے ہوئے کام کرنا چاہیے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اللہ رب العزت نے جب بھی اس قوم کی خدمت کا موقع دیا، خود سے یہ عہد کیا کہ ملکی ترقی پر اپنی تمام توانائیاں مرکوز کروں اور حالیہ دورے میں چینی قیادت اور عوام کی جانب سے مثالی مہمان نوازی پر ان کے مشکور ہیں۔

شہباز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ حالیہ دورہ چین کے بعد مفاہمتی یادداشتوں اور معاہدوں پر پیش رفت کی خود نگرانی کر رہا ہوں، پاکستان میں چینی باشندوں کی سیکورٹی کے لیے تمام اقدامات یقینی بنائے جا رہے ہیں۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین جیسے دیرینہ دوست کے ساتھ تعلقات پر سیاست کی کسی بھی قسم کی گنجائش نہیں ہے۔

وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے پر تیزی سے عمل درآمد جاری ہے، چینی ماہرین کے پاکستان کے حالیہ دورے میں مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے مزید فروغ پر مثبت پیش رفت ہوئی ہے۔

چین کا دورہ کرنے والے صحافیوں کے وفد کی وزیراعظم شہباز شریف سے ملاقات کے موقع پر وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات عطا اللہ تارڑ بھی موجود تھے، صحافیوں کے وفد میں سلمان غنی، عامر میر، شیراز حسن، خضر حیات، خالد حسین، اعظم ملک اور مطیع الرحمان شامل تھے۔

صحافیوں کے وفد کے ارکان نے وزیراعظم کو اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران تجربات اور پاک-چین تعلقات کے حوالے سے اپنے خیالات سے آگاہ کیا، وفد نے اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران ہونے والی ملاقاتوں کی بنیاد پر وزیراعظم کو آگاہ کیا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنے برادرانہ تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے۔

وفد کے اراکین نے وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کو چینی قیادت اور چینی عوام کے حکومت پاکستان کے بارے تاثرات سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری بالخصوص سی پیک پر کام کی موجودہ رفتار اور منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں حکومتی اقدامات پر اطمینان کا تاثر پایا جاتا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی عہدیداران نے شہباز اسپڈ کا بارہا ذکر کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم کے اصلاحاتی اقدامات کی بھی تعریف کی۔

صحافیوں کے وفد نے مزید بتایا کہ ان کے حالیہ دورے کے موقع پر چینی عہدیداران سے ملاقات میں چین پاکستان معاشی شراکت داری کے بارے میں عمومی اور سی پیک پر خصوصی گرم جوشی کا تاثر ملا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2679678/1/>

August 05, 2024

Business Recorder

2nd phase of CPEC: PM says fast-paced work in progress

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said that work was progressing fast on the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and there was positive momentum on further promotion of cooperation with China in different fields during visit of Chinese experts to Pakistan.

The prime minister was speaking during a meeting here with a seven member delegation of journalists who returned from an official visit to China undertaken on the invitation of government institution China Public Diplomacy Association.

He said that China was sincere friend which helped Pakistan on every difficult occasion.

He urged that all stakeholders should rise above politics to work together on the national development projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The PM said whenever Allah Almighty gave him an opportunity to serve the country, he pledged to himself to focus all his energies on progress of the country.

He said he was thankful to the Chinese leadership and people on the exemplary hospitality shown during his recent visit to China. He told that he himself was monitoring the progress on the memorandums of understanding and agreements after the visit to China.

The prime minister assured that Pakistan was ensuring all steps for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

There is no place for politics of any kind on relations with a close friend like China, he remarked.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was present in the meeting.

The delegation of journalists included Salman Ghani of Dunya News, Amir Mir, Shiraz Hussain of Hum News, Khizar Hayat of Daily Jang, Khalid Hasnain from Dawn News, Azam Malik of Geo News and Matiur Rehman of Pakistan Television.

The members of the delegation told the prime minister about their experiences during the visit and expressed views about Pakistan China relations. The delegation informed the prime minister about the meetings that took place during the visit and said that China greatly valued its brotherly ties with Pakistan.

The delegation paid tribute to the prime minister on business and investor friendly policies of the government.

While apprising the prime minister about the views of the Chinese leadership and people about the government of Pakistan, they said China had an impression of satisfaction on the government steps taken under the leadership of prime minister Shehbaz Sharif for Chinese investment particularly on the pace of work on projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chinese officials on different occasions mentioned “Shehbaz Speed” and appreciated the reform agenda of the prime minister, the members of the delegation told. They further said that during meetings with the Chinese officials, they witnessed special enthusiasm for Pakistan-China economic cooperation particularly, the CPEC.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/05/3-page/1001830-news.html>

Visiting Chinese experts, CM KPK meet at Rashakai SEZ, discuss security

PESHAWAR: KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur assured a Chinese delegation that the provincial government would take good care of the security needs of foreign investors working in the province and would ensure foolproof security of the foreign investor.

He was talking to a visiting delegation of the Chinese experts at Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Nowshera. Matters of mutual interest especially investment opportunities in the province and prospects to further enhance mutual collaboration in various fields including industries, Agriculture and Energy & Power came under discussion.

Besides Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Industries and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed

Imtiaz Hussain Shah, high ups of Industries department and Federal Board of Investment were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister cordially welcomed the Chinese delegates to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and expressed the hope that their visit to Pakistan would be beneficial for both the countries with regard to enhancement of Chinese investment in Pakistan. Ali Amin Gandapur remarked that there was huge potential of foreign investment in Hydel Power, Industries, Agriculture and many other sectors of the province adding that the incumbent provincial government was investing in these potential sectors, and it would also welcome foreign investment in these sectors.

The chief minister stated that creating maximum employment opportunities and increasing revenue of the province by effectively utilizing the available resources and by boosting the potential sectors was one of the priority areas of his government, and steps were being taken to this end under a well-conceived strategy, adding that the provincial government would not only encourage Chinese investment in potential sectors of the province but would also facilitate the investor under its Ease of Doing Business policy.

The Chief Minister said that the provincial government is effectively tapping the hydel power potential of the province to provide its own generated power to the local industries on cheaper rates with the aim to boost the industrial sector, and added his government had established a Grid and Transmission Company of its own to provide cheap electricity to the local industries. He said that his government would appreciate and welcome foreign investment in grid and transmission sector.

The CM highlighted the importance of exchanging such expert delegation between the two countries in future as well so that maximum opportunities of mutual collaboration and involvement could be explored to the benefits of both the countries.

The CM also visited various newly established industrial in the Special Economic Zone where he was briefed by the high ups of Industries Department about the industrial units.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/05/11-page/1001907-news.html>

Daily times

Why Pakistan needs to address Chinese security concerns?

Amir Mir

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a cornerstone of the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan, promising significant economic benefits for both the iron brothers. However, the safety and security of the Chinese workers and engineers involved in CPEC projects in Pakistan have become a pressing concern due to a spate of targeted terrorist attacks from Baloch separatists and their allied militant groups especially the Taliban. Therefore, catalysts believe that addressing these concerns is crucial to ensure the continuity and success of the CPEC as well as the friendly ties of the two neighbours.

The Importance of CPEC, which is a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aims to enhance connectivity and cooperation between China and Pakistan through a

network of infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, and energy pipelines. With an investment of \$62 billion, CPEC is expected to boost Pakistan's economy by creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and fostering regional integration. But despite the economic promise, CPEC has faced significant security challenges. Terrorist groups, particularly the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), have targeted Chinese nationals working on these projects in Pakistan. High-profile terror attacks from Karachi to Gwadar have underscored the vulnerability of Chinese nationals. The BLA has demanded that China close down the CPEC and quit Balochistan. The group has repeatedly warned Beijing against signing more CPEC deals with Islamabad, besides decrying the Chinese involvement in the Gwadar seaport project.

According to security analysts, most insurgent attacks on Chinese interests in recent months have dealt a severe blow to the myth of foolproof security having been provided to Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. These attacks further aggravate security concerns for Beijing, which is the largest foreign investor in the country. On the other hand, Pakistan blamed "foreign elements" for the terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens, which it says are aimed at harming the Pak-China relationship and damaging the CPEC.

These terrorist attacks in the highly secured Pakistani areas have not only resulted in tragic loss of lives but have also shaken the confidence of Chinese investors in Pakistan's ability to provide a safe and secure working environment. This has caused rumours that China is no more enthusiastic about forging ahead with new CPEC schemes. Some media reports have even claimed that little of substance was achieved during the Pakistani prime minister's recent tour of China, particularly where the CPEC file was concerned. But the official statements from both sides reflected an air of normalcy. In his meeting with Premier Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping expressed the hope that Pakistan would "create a safe, stable and predictable business environment" that would "guarantee the safety of Chinese" personnel and projects. On the other hand, a senior official from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has maintained that the terrorist activities targeting Chinese workers involved in the CPEC projects are part of a broader conspiracy against CPEC. During a recent meeting with a delegation of Pakistani journalists, Shen Wei, Deputy Director of the Department of Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, reiterated that the exemplary friendship between China and Pakistan will thwart the nefarious designs of those conspiring against the CPEC project. He said the Pakistani leadership has assured Chinese leadership that those responsible for such actions will face strict accountability, and their networks will be dismantled to ensure their elimination. The Chinese official strongly refuted any notion that either Pakistan or China is considering limiting or withdrawing from the scope of the CPEC project. Political analysts believe that given the sensitivity of the situation, Chinese concerns should not be taken lightly, especially at a time when Pakistan needs as much as foreign investment it can get. Therefore, ensuring the safety of Chinese workers is essential for a smooth completion of the CPEC projects, which are vital for Pakistan's economic growth. Even otherwise, China is Pakistan's closest ally, and addressing their security concerns is crucial for maintaining strong diplomatic and economic ties. By addressing these concerns through enhanced security measures, intelligence sharing, community engagement, and technological solutions, Pakistani authorities can ensure the continued progress of CPEC

projects besides strengthen the brotherly bond between the two nations. On the other hand, Pakistani security officials claim that stringent measures are being taken under a comprehensive policy to eliminate terrorists involved in attacks against Chinese citizens. In this regard, intelligence sharing with Chinese authorities is also ongoing. These officials claim that not only BLA and TTP militants are involved in targeting Chinese citizens in Pakistan, but a militant group of Uighur separatists from China's Muslim majority Xinjiang province, is also contributing to these acts. Founded by Hasan Mahsum, East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) seeks to establish an independent state in Xinjiang. Hundreds of its militants migrated to the bordering North Waziristan almost two decades ago, where they developed a deep connection with the Taliban elements that persists to this day. According to Pakistani officials, after the killing of Hasan Mahsum in 2003 by the Army, a good number of ETIM militants had been arrested and handed over to China. They subsequently shifted their jihadi network to Afghanistan from where they are operating now. However, it is also a bitter reality that the series of attacks on Chinese citizens in Pakistan has not stopped. Therefore, it is essential to take robust measures and uproot the network of terrorists involved in these attacks to save both Pak-China relations and the CPEC project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214651/why-pakistan-needs-to-address-chinese-security-concerns/>

The Nation

Pakistani, Chinese experts discuss enhanced economic growth, connectivity

LAHORE - The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) acting President Zaki Aijaz emphasised that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. He stressed that by learning from China, Pakistan can develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth. He expressed these views while meeting with a high-level Chinese delegation comprising experts from diverse fields here on Sunday. The Chinese delegation visit aiming at providing invaluable insights into the Chinese economic model, emphasising lessons that Pakistan can leverage for its own growth. Welcoming the delegation Zaki Aijaz emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no bounds, he said that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan. He anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. During the event, the Chinese delegation engaged in meaningful discussions with representatives from Pakistani industrialists and think tanks. The discussions covered a broad range of topics, including technology transfer, industrialisation, economic policy, industrial development, and sustainable growth. The interaction provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing economic challenges.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Aug-2024/pakistani-chinese-experts-discuss-enhanced-economic-growth-connectivity>

The News

How SIFC can deliver?

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Pakistan established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to fast-track and actualise investment. The Council took on the job and created dedicated chapters for Gulf countries, investors and CPEC to capitalise on the available opportunities. Now, many regions and countries are willing to build economic linkages with Pakistan.

Pakistan's geographical location and geo-economic importance make Pakistan an attractive destination. Successful completion of first phase of CPEC has further enhanced the significance of Pakistani market. After the completion of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, Central Asian States are actively exploring options for joining the CPEC.

Moreover, Gulf countries are keen to build partnerships for food security, agriculture and other sectors. Pakistan's market size and locality, which are quite significant, have also attracted the ASEAN region to invest in Pakistan.

Despite all the hype, efforts and available opportunities, SIFC could not deliver according to the planned goals or objectives. Now, despite the huge potential and interest of countries, the question is why Pakistan could not actualise investment opportunities.

There are many reasons, like ease of doing business, tax structure, changing policies, etc. However, capacity, lack of chain of command and elite abuse are the most important reasons that hampered the efforts to attract investment in Pakistan. The argument can be verified by the fact that despite recent improvements in ease of doing business, Pakistan could not attract investment. Therefore, the country needs to understand the relevance and importance of these challenges and come up with solutions.

Capacity is a very serious issue challenging the overall performance of State and its institutions. The gravity of the challenge can be understood from Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's recent statement. He has stated some countries and investors are interested in investing in Pakistan. But, country's inability to present a bankable feasibility study has been a significant obstacle in attracting these potential investors. That means SIFC has not been able to deliver a bankable feasibility since its creation. Why? SIFC did not have the capacity and, more importantly, focus on capacity development according to the need of time.

Unfortunately, instead of fixing the problem, the State has shifted its responsibility for policy formulation and execution plans to the donors. There is a trend to hire consultants for every job. The worst part of the story is for recruiting consultants, State institutions need consultants to lead the recruitment process. They do not give weightage to indigenous wisdom and university professors. Moreover, the nexus of on-service and retired government servants has further complicated the problem, and emerged as a major facilitator of donor—and consultant-driven governance.

The elite have fractured the country's whole system. Their attitude, behaviour and practice have created multifaceted problems. They make policies that suit them, help them exploit

national resources. The most prominent examples on this front are the Power Policy 1994 and the Privatisation Policy. The Power Policy has systematically shaken the national economic and social fabric. It led to de-industrialisation, worse inflation and a financial crisis in Pakistan.

The chain of command in Pakistan has been significantly weakened over time. The 18th Amendment has further exacerbated its status. No one is ready to talk about the most important element of power devolution, the local government. The absence of local government shows the elite are only interested in a weak system with a loss of chain of command. They exploit the system in their favour.

The potential investors ask if security situation in Pakistan is good, why the top-notch bureaucrats and other high officials prefer to stay outside the country after retirement. Owing to these factors, the investment process stops with signing of MoUs. Therefore, if Pakistan wants the SIFC to deliver, it will have to take some wise steps to tackle the real issues and answer the investors' questions.

To tackle the capacity issue, the SIFC must build itself according to international standards of investment agencies. Immediate steps should be taken to fill the SIFC with professionals. By professionals, we do not mean consultants or personnel imported from other countries. Universities and institutions in Pakistan have many talented and dedicated people. They have the potential to turn around the fate of the country. Maybe they are not good at English, but excellent at their work. They only need the opportunity to show their talent and perform.

A strong chain of command is needed. For that purpose, SIFC must be given the authority to make and implement decisions. The investors must be entertained at one point, and do not have to run after government and departments at different levels.

The people concerned must understand that run-of-the-mill statements or rhetoric cannot satisfy foreign investors. They also need to show and ensure the system is fair. Build confidence of foreign investors that Pakistan is a secure and fair country. Otherwise, investment process will stop with signing of MoUs.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=330323>

Chinese shoots fellow countryman in G-13

Shakeel Anjum

Islamabad: A Chinese resident of Islamabad shot and severely injured a fellow Chinese national before fleeing under the cover of darkness. However, the police swiftly apprehended the suspect overnight and have initiated an investigation into the incident.

According to the police, the incident occurred in Sector G/13-3, within the jurisdiction of the Sumbal Police Station. They received an alert from the Safe City project regarding gunfire at a flat where Chinese nationals reside.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Saddar Zone, Hakim Khan, confirmed the incident. He praised the police for their prompt and responsible action in arresting the foreign suspect within hours of the sensitive incident. SP Hakim Khan stated that preliminary investigations suggest the

shooting was motivated by rivalry. However, the true facts will only emerge after the injured party provides a statement, which is currently not possible due to his critical condition from a gunshot wound to the head.

Chinese national Yao Di, an eyewitness to the incident, provided a statement to the police. She stated that the victim, Xue Xinliang, is her friend and resides with her in the upper portion of a flat in G/13-3. On the night of August 3, at around 7 PM, they heard the sound of breaking glass and gunfire. When they went downstairs, they saw their friend Yan Guoxuan, who lives in the lower flat, standing with a gun. Upon seeing Xue, Yan began shooting, causing Xue to fall on the stairs. Yao Di managed to transport Xue to the hospital in a private vehicle. The police are continuing their investigation to uncover the motive behind the shooting and to gather more details from the witnesses and the suspect.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=330146>

Chinese Consul General opens exhibition

LAHORE: Lahore Museum on Sunday organised a pictorial exhibition of Lahore's historical monuments.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Consul General of China in Lahore, Zhao Shiren. This seven-day exhibition consisted of more than 150 pictures of Lahore's historical landmarks. Addressing the media, the Consul General of China appreciated the role of Lahore Museum in preservation of Lahore's heritage.

He also declared Lahore Museum the guardian of the thousands years of this region's history, and considered that this museum deserves immense appreciation for the educational and cultural activities being held here on regular basis. On this occasion, the Director Lahore Museum Ms Nabila Irfan commended the efforts of museum administration, particularly the Museum Educators in the promotion of cultural heritage.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=330317>

Nawaiwaqt News

مہنگائی، بجلی مسائل سے واقف، دن رات محنت کریں گے، چین سے تعلقات پر سیاست کی گنجائش نہیں: وزیراعظم

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا دیرینہ دوست ہے جس نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کی مدد کی۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) جیسے قومی نوعیت کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز کو سیاست کو بالائے طاق رکھتے ہوئے کام کرنا چاہئے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے صحافیوں کے وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف سے چین کے سرکاری ادارے چائنا پبلک ڈپلومیسی ایسوسی ایشن کی دعوت پر چین کے سرکاری دورے سے واپس آنے والے صحافیوں کے ساتھ رکنی وفد نے اتوار کو لاہور میں ملاقات کی۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اپنے حالیہ دورہ چین میں چینی قیادت اور چینی عوام کی جانب سے مثالی مہمان نوازی پر ان کے مشکور ہیں، حالیہ دورہ چین کے بعد مفاہمتی یادداشتوں اور معاہدوں پر پیش رفت کی خود نگرانی کر رہا ہوں۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں چینی باشندوں کی سکیورٹی کیلئے تمام تر اقدامات یقینی بنائے جا رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین جیسے دیرینہ دوست کے ساتھ تعلقات پر سیاست کی کسی بھی قسم کی گنجائش نہیں، سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے پر تیزی سے عملدرآمد جاری ہے۔ چینی ماہرین کے پاکستان کے حالیہ دورے میں مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے مزید فروع پر مثبت پیش رفت ہوئی ہے۔ ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات عطاء اللہ تارڑ بھی موجود تھے۔ وفد میں سلمان غنی،

عامر میر، شیراز حسن، خضر حیات، خالد حسنین، اعظم ملک اور مطیع الرحمان شامل تھے۔ وفد کے ارکان نے وزیر اعظم کو اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران تجربات اور پاک چین تعلقات کے حوالے سے اپنے خیالات سے آگاہ کیا۔ وفد نے اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران ہونے والی ملاقاتوں کی بنیاد پر وزیر اعظم کو آگاہ کیا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنے برادرانہ تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے۔ وفد نے وزیر اعظم کی قیادت میں حکومت کی کاروبار و سرمایہ کار دوست پالیسیوں پر انہیں خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔ وفد نے وزیر اعظم کو چینی قیادت اور چینی عوام کے حکومت پاکستان کے بارے میں تاثرات سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری بالخصوص چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پر کام کی موجودہ رفتار اور منصوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں حکومتی اقدامات پر اطمینان کا تاثر پایا جاتا ہے۔ چینی عہدیداران نے شہباز سپیڈ کار باہر کر کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم کے اصلاحاتی اقدامات کی بھی تعریف کی۔ وفد کے شرکاء نے مزید بتایا کہ ان کے حالیہ دورے کے دوران چینی عہدیداران سے ملاقات میں چین پاکستان معاشی شراکت داری کے بارے میں عمومی اور سی بی کے خصوصی گرم جوشی کا تاثر ملا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں نوائے وقت رپورٹ کے مطابق وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ مہنگائی اور بجلی کے مسائل سے بخوبی واقف ہوں۔

آئی پی پی کے حوالے سے ترجیحات کا جائزہ لے رہے ہیں۔ 200 یونٹس والوں کو ریلیف دیا ہے۔ اگلے کچھ عرصہ میں متعدد چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کریں گی۔ دریں اثنا، وزیر اعظم کی زیر صدارت ماڈل ٹاؤن میں اہم مشاورتی اجلاس ہوا۔ جس میں وفاقی وزراء نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں ملک کی موجودہ معاشی اور سیاسی صورتحال پر اہم مشاورت کی گئی۔ شہباز شریف سے سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک احمد خان نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم سے رانا مشہود، شیزا فاطمہ اور اسد الرحمان گیلانی بھی ملے۔ خبرنگار خصوصی کے مطابق وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے معاشی ٹیم کو ایف بی آر کی ٹرانسفارمیشن کی رفتار کو تیز کرنے کا ہدف دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مکمل ڈیجیٹائزیشن اور جدید تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ ری سٹرکچرنگ ایف بی آر کے ٹرانسفارمیشن پلان کا حصہ ہیں، پاکستان کے ٹیکس نظام کی بہتری کیلئے ایف بی آر میں اصلاحات بہت ضروری ہیں، ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس سسٹم کے حوالے سے خرابیوں و بے ضابطیوں کے ذمہ داران کے خلاف فوری کارروائی کی جائے۔ یہ ہدایات وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس کے حوالے سے جائزہ اجلاس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے جاری کیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ مکمل ڈیجیٹائزیشن اور جدید تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ ری سٹرکچرنگ ایف بی آر کے ٹرانسفارمیشن پلان کا حصہ ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ کو ایف بی آر ٹرانسفارمیشن منصوبے کی نگرانی کی ذمہ داری سونپی۔ اجلاس کے دوران وزیر اعظم کو ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس کے حوالے سے تفصیلی رپورٹ پیش کی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم نے ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس سسٹم کے حوالے سے خرابیوں و بے ضابطیوں کے ذمہ داران کے خلاف فوری کارروائی کی ہدایت کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ٹیکس نظام کی بہتری کیلئے ایف بی آر کی اصلاحات بہت ضروری ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے غریب عوام کی ایک پائی پچانے کیلئے دن رات محنت کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ایف بی آر کی ڈیجیٹائزیشن حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے، ایف بی آر کی ڈیجیٹائزیشن میں کسی قسم کا تعطل قبول نہیں۔ اجلاس میں وفاقی وزراء محمد اورنگزیب، احد خان چیمہ، وزیر مملکت علی پرویز ملک، وزیر اعظم کے کوآرڈینیٹر انا احسان افضل اور متعلقہ اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس کو ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس سسٹم کے حوالے سے رپورٹ پیش کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ ایف بی آر کی ڈیجیٹائزیشن پر پیش رفت سے بھی آگاہ کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے ایف بی آر کی ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس کے مکمل نفاذ میں غفلت کے ذمہ داران کو کیفر کردار تک پہنچانے کیلئے تمام اقدامات پر جلد عملدرآمد کی ہدایت کر دی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-05/page-1/detail-2>

August 06, 2024

Daily Times

China's textile hub showcases opportunity for Pakistani businesses

Suzhou, China's traditional textile hub has showcases opportunity for Pakistani businesses, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

Once known as a city of textile in ancient China, Suzhou today has established itself as an industrial hub in China's economic landscape.

This transformative image was featured during the recent Pakistan Investment and Trade Conference held jointly by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and local authorities and enterprises in Suzhou last Thursday, underscoring the city's potential for Pakistan-China collaboration across various sectors.

Shehzad Ahmad Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, said Suzhou, a historic treasure nestled beside Shanghai, has emerged as a beacon of modern development and a key hub for international collaboration.

“My initial encounter with Suzhou was impressive – it stands as a testament to China's rapid urbanization and economic strides,” remarked the Consul General.

“Suzhou's position as a manufacturing epicenter is undeniable, and the seamless flow of human resources between Shanghai and Suzhou underscores its strategic significance.”

According to recent statistics released by the Suzhou Statistics Bureau, the city's economy continued to thrive in the first half of 2024, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of RMB 1.2059 trillion, a significant increase of 6.2% year-on-year. The city's manufacturing prowess is also evident: in the first half of 2024, Suzhou achieved a total industrial output value of RMB 2.2253 trillion, up 5.5% year-on-year.

The Consul General further emphasized the strong synergies between Suzhou and Pakistani counterparts, particularly in the fields of textiles, renewable energy, electric vehicles and medical devices.

“We see immense potential for cooperation, whether through industry relocation, joint ventures, or foreign direct investment from China to Pakistan,” he said, adding that the existing ties between the two nations are rooted in their shared history of silk and textile production. The Consul General further emphasized the growing importance of Pakistan as a gateway to the European Union for exports, while noting its vast market for consumer products.

The Conference culminated with a series of B2B networking sessions and individual meetings, presenting a golden opportunity for enterprises from both countries to delve into potential partnerships and discuss avenues for collaboration.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1214942/chinas-textile-hub-showcases-opportunity-for-pakistani-businesses/>

The News

Pakistan, China agree to shift coal plants to local fuel amid energy crisis

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move aimed at enhancing energy cooperation and economic stability, Pakistani Power Minister Muhammad Leghari announced on Monday that China and Pakistan have agreed to convert their coal plants to use local coal. Leghari highlighted that China has taken the issue of ‘debt profiling’ seriously, which is a crucial aspect of this transition. The announcement comes amid ongoing challenges in Pakistan’s energy sector, particularly the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) saga. Since 2018, the country has struggled with the financial burden of capacity payments to IPPs, which are made regardless of whether the electricity is consumed. This has been a major strain on the national economy, exacerbated by a depreciating rupee and rising interest rates. The shift to local coal is expected to alleviate some of these financial pressures and support broader reforms aimed at reducing electricity prices and improving energy efficiency. Leghari said this following a meeting with the MQM delegation led by MNA Mustafa Kamal regarding Karachi’s electricity issues. He stated that expensive power plants would be retired, and imported coal-based plants would be converted to use local coal. “Our government intends to lower electricity prices. We are working practically rather than holding sit-ins or press conferences,” he said. He added that he had been briefed on MQM’s concerns but did not want to go into details due to legal complexities. Responding to statements made by the former prime minister, Leghari said, “Yesterday, the former prime minister said that Gohar Ejaz cannot explain the issue of capacity rates, and I say that even if Gohar Ejaz forms his own Supreme Court, no one will understand him.” Mustafa Kamal, leading the MQM delegation, emphasized that IPP agreements have consistently harmed the economy. Capacity payments are a major issue for the national economy, and every era’s IPP agreements have harmed the economy. Kamal further said, “The government has prioritized the issue of expensive electricity, and we should not cause discomfort to anyone to convey our message to the government.” He further mentioned that after this budget, a new series of taxes has begun, and capacity payment agreements are bleeding the economy. Capacity payments are the biggest wound inflicted on the economy. He also noted that there are power outages of up to 18 hours in Karachi. He suggested, “They [government and local IPPs] can be made to understand that a reduction in their profits will save the country,” noting when the dollar rises, capacity payments automatically increase.

The MQM leader assured that the public would hear good news in the coming days. “We have discussed industrialization with the government;” adding that “Karachi is the best place for industrialization.”

He also mentioned that political and administrative discussions are ongoing to address the IPPs issue. He also urged for ending the monopoly of Distribution Companies (Discos) across the country, suggesting, “The market for Discos should be liberalised.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=330632>

August 07, 2024

Daily Times

Chinese doctor treats patients in Pakistan with acupuncture for 30 years

Dr. Jielian La, a Chinese doctor that has been providing acupuncture treatments to Pakistani patients for approximately 33 years, is promoting the philosophy of China Traditional Medicine in Pakistan.

The Chinese Acupuncture Center and Chinese Clinical Lab, under his leadership, have been offering their services in Pakistan since 1991.

In an interview with Gwadar Pro, Dr. Jielian shared his experience in Pakistan. He initially came to Pakistan with his medical team as part of a China- Pakistan cultural exchange program, aiming to establish a small clinic to introduce traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture to Pakistani friends. Dr. Jielian explained that the acupuncture treatments they offer are primarily for pain relief and nervous disorders such as frozen shoulder, sciatica, and acute headaches. These treatments are also effective for conditions like tension, depression, and insomnia. The cost per session for local patients in Pakistan is Rs2500.

Acupuncture involves inserting very thin needles into the skin at strategic points on the body. It is a key component of traditional Chinese medicine and is most commonly used to treat pain.

However, it is increasingly being used for overall wellness, including stress management.

In traditional acupuncture, the points to be treated are determined by observing and questioning the patient to make a diagnosis according to traditional methods.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the four diagnostic methods used are inspection, auscultation and olfaction, inquiring, and palpation.

This involves examining the face, tongue, eyes, and pulse rate to diagnose and decide the treatment. Dr. Jielian emphasized their goal of promoting this treatment in Pakistan.

He advised Chinese practitioners interested in working in Pakistan to promote such treatments, ensuring that traditional treatments available in China should also be introduced to our Pakistani brothers.

For training purposes, they have cooperated with Pakistan's Health Services Academy and jointly trained around 15 doctors and medical professionals, including physiotherapists. Their second training course is scheduled to start in October 2024.

They are making efforts to train Pakistani medical specialists in acupuncture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1215145/chinese-doctor-treats-patients-in-pakistan-with-acupuncture-for-30-years/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC's Impact: Revitalizing Pakistan's Railways

Iftikhar Ahmed

Since its initiation in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a game-changer for socio-economic development in Pakistan. This landmark initiative has brought substantial investment into various sectors, with railway infrastructure being one of the major beneficiaries. The revitalization of Pakistan's railway system under CPEC is set to usher in an era of modernity, efficiency and economic growth, addressing decades of infrastructural stagnation and paving the way for a more connected and prosperous future.

Historically, Pakistan's railway network, established by the British, was once a symbol of robust infrastructure and operational excellence. However, over the decades, the system has grappled with a range of issues, including inefficiencies, outdated technology and insufficient investment. The result has been a railway network struggling to meet the demands of a growing economy and population. Despite covering a substantial 7,791 route-kilometers as of June 2024, with 7,346 kilometers of broad gauge and 445 kilometers of meter gauge, the network has faced significant challenges. This includes a decline in both passenger and freight services, compounded by the absence of new routes since 1982 and the removal of less trafficked branch lines since the 1980s.

The need for modernization is evident. The current railway infrastructure has suffered from deterioration, leading to frequent derailments and safety concerns. Passenger trains operate at an average speed of 50 to 70 km/h, which falls short of global standards and impacts travel efficiency. Freight services also suffer from inefficiencies, as road transport, despite its higher costs, remains a more attractive option due to the slow speed of the trains.

The Main Line-1 (ML-1) project, a flagship component of CPEC, represents a transformative leap forward in addressing these challenges. This ambitious project aims to overhaul Pakistan's primary railway route, stretching 1,726 kilometers from Karachi to Peshawar. Divided into four phases—Karachi-Multan, Multan-Lahore, Lahore-Lalamusa and Lalamusa-Peshawar—the ML-1 project is designed to enhance both passenger and freight services significantly. The upgraded tracks are expected to support speeds of up to 140 km/h, with the potential for further speed increases to 160 km/h once additional upgrades, including fencing, are completed.

The project encompasses several key improvements:

Up-Gradation and Doubling of ML-1: The project will double the existing Main Line-1 from Karachi to Peshawar, covering a distance of 1,733 kilometers and extend to Taxila-Havelian, significantly enhancing the route's capacity and efficiency.

New Track Construction: A new track with an improved subgrade will be laid to support speeds of up to 160 km/h, which will help reduce travel times and increase overall efficiency.

Speed Enhancement: The upgrade will increase train speeds from the current 65-105 km/h to a new range of 120-160 km/h, aligning with international standards and enhancing service reliability.

Bridge Rehabilitation: Major bridges along the route will be rehabilitated or constructed anew, ensuring structural integrity and safety.

Modern Signaling & Telecom Systems: The implementation of advanced signaling and communication systems will improve operational coordination and safety.

Safety Enhancements: Level crossings will be converted into underpasses or flyovers, reducing the risk of accidents and improving traffic flow.

Track Fencing: Fencing will be installed along the tracks to prevent accidents and enhance security.

Dry Port Establishment: A new dry port near Havelian will facilitate improved logistics and trade efficiency.

Training and Development: The Walton Training Academy will be upgraded to provide advanced training and skill development for the railway workforce.

Financed through a Chinese Government Concessional Loan (GCL), the ML-1 project is not just an infrastructure upgrade but a significant economic stimulus.

It is anticipated to create around 20,000 direct jobs during the construction phase, with an additional 150,000 indirect jobs.

This job creation will be complemented by training programs and skill development initiatives that will strengthen the railway sector's workforce.

The Planning Commission of Pakistan projects that the ML-1 upgrade could boost GDP growth by 2-3% through enhanced trade and industrial activity facilitated by improved railway logistics.

The economic benefits of the project are substantial, with an expected annual contribution of around \$10 billion.

This benefit will stem from reduced travel times, lower logistics costs, and increased trade opportunities, reinforcing the positive impact of CPEC on Pakistan's economy.

In conclusion, the revitalization of Pakistan's railway infrastructure through CPEC represents a major milestone in the country's development journey.

The ML-1 project is set to transform the railway sector, making it more efficient, reliable and capable of supporting Pakistan's economic ambitions.

This modernization effort is a testament to the potential of international partnerships in driving national progress and creating a brighter, more connected future for Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-impact-revitalizing-pakistans-railways/>

CPEC and Western Debt Trap Syndrome: A Way Out

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Having a special agenda to tarnish Pakistan, Pak-Sino friendship and, of course, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Western media and lobby are once again geared up with a new series of propagating articles and conspiracy theories. The latest edition is Germany's Deutsche Welle article titled "How Chinese Loans Trapped Pakistan's Economy," written by Haroon Janjua and published on August 2, 2024. This article seems to purposefully twist the facts and try to establish CPEC as the mother of all debts, inflicting damage on Pakistan's economy and repayment capacity. However, reports from the SBP, Finance Ministry, Planning Commission and SECP all contradict this view.

The timing of this false propaganda is significant because Pakistan is about to hold final negotiations with the IMF for a further US\$7 billion loan. An interview-based article appears to sabotage these negotiations through a sponsored agenda, leveraging borrowed wisdom from national pseudo-intellectuals and so-called experts. These Western-aligned egomaniacs have dubbed CPEC as a debt trap for Pakistan, which is totally untrue and based on fallacies rather than facts.

Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives' CPEC Secretariat reaffirmed that the country joined CPEC due to "favourable financing arrangements" and that China has "stepped forward to support Pakistan's development at a time when foreign investment had dried up."

According to DW, Pakistani Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif allegedly stated that the government requested debt re-profiling from the Chinese government. However, there is no concrete documented evidence to support this claim, making such conspiracy theories seem like wild fantasies.

Additionally, Azeem Khalid, an expert on Chinese investment in Pakistan, told DW that the China-funded power plant development has exacerbated Pakistan's economic difficulties. In reality, Pakistan's poor absorption capacity and inability to progress on projects according to schedule are major factors in its economic challenges, rather than Chinese investment.

The Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan reported that Pakistan's total foreign debt exceeds US\$120 billion, with Chinese loans accounting for only 10 to 11 percent of this total. The remaining 89-90 percent comes from other sources, including the IMF, Paris Club and other Western organizations. CPEC-related government loans have an interest rate of only two percent, contrary to DW's claim of 3.7 percent, and have a repayment period of 20-25 years. Thus, repayment can be managed easily in the future. CPEC does not impose an immediate burden concerning loan repayment and energy sector outflows; rather, the benefits of this investment will outweigh the debt-related outflows.

Leading rating agency Moody's and international audit and consulting agency Deloitte have stated that CPEC will contribute up to 2.5 percentage points to the country's growth rate, highlighting the strategic importance of CPEC's investment and projects in Pakistan.

Objectively, Pakistan's prevailing debt crisis can be attributed to various external factors, including the ongoing Ukraine conflict, the United States Federal Reserve's high interest rates, fears of a severe economic recession in the US, the US-China trade war, US unilateral sanctions and the Middle East crisis. These factors have already exacerbated Pakistan's economic problems. Pakistan's external borrowing is necessary to bridge the trade deficit, import essential goods and fund significant infrastructure projects.

Political polarization, a surge in terrorism, poor safety and security for the Chinese, politically-motivated national vested interests, a weak judicial system and bureaucratic impediments have also affected the efficacy and productivity of CPEC, which is not a favourable sign for the country. Further analysis of SBP's data reveals that loans from multilateral development partners (including the IMF) and bilateral countries constitute 53 percent and 22 percent, respectively. CPEC has helped build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan, focusing on energy, education, and the economy as key pillars. China has invested US\$25.4 billion in direct projects in Pakistan creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity and building 510 kilometres of highways and 886 kilometres of the national electricity grid. Additionally, about 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in China and more than 20,000 Pakistanis are learning Chinese. National experts view CPEC as a blessing and a guarantor of Pakistan's future socio-economic prosperity and poverty eradication. It is estimated that the country's GDP will increase by 6.43 percent by 2030 due to infrastructure investment. According to a World Bank report (2019-2020), social welfare development from CPEC Phase-II would increase by 10.51 percent, potentially lifting 1.1 million people out of extreme poverty and creating up to four million new jobs. Trade is also expected to increase by 9.8 percent if Pakistan implements CPEC and supports it with the required reforms. CPEC has already created 75,000 new jobs in Pakistan, benefiting 75,000 families and helping them combat extreme poverty. Furthermore, CPEC has contributed to managing load-shedding which has helped control the annual loss of \$4 to 5 billion. The contribution of CPEC to the national GDP was nearly two percent, allowing Pakistan to surpass the 5.8 percent GDP growth rate in 2018. However, political instability has undermined economic stability and its sustainability. In summary, Pakistan needs political stability, a drastic reduction in terrorism, resolution of IPP capacity payments, utility cost reductions, price stability, a broader tax network, export diversification and improved transparency and international cooperation to overcome economic recession. Dynamic economic diplomacy, a balanced foreign policy, a focus on East Asia and Central Asia, regional economic and transport connectivity and effective operationalization of domestic banking funds and pension system solutions are vital. Ensuring safety and security for Chinese investments and CPEC projects should be prioritized.

Moreover, incorporating blue and green hydrogen power generation technology, lithium batteries, solar and wind panels, technological agricultural production and hybrid varieties of crops into CPEC Phase-II is essential. Revising the national narrative towards CPEC and China, as well as improving the selection of journalists and experts, is crucial for addressing hybrid 5th generation warfare effectively. The focus should be on experts and loyalists, rather than mere loyalists or superficial observers. <https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-western-debt-trap-syndrome-a-way-out/>

The Express Tribune

China, KSA, UAE roll over \$12b Pak debt for one year

IMF Executive Board expected to approve \$7b EEF this month

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that three bilateral creditors had agreed to roll over the \$12 billion debt for one year, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to approve Pakistan's \$7 billion bailout package on the 28th of this month.

There was no delay in the IMF Executive Board meeting, which is going to take place by the end of this month to approve the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility, Aurangzeb said, while talking to reporters after a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance.

The Executive Board is scheduled to meet on August 28th to approve the \$7 billion package, according to government officials.

The development marks an end to the uncertainty over the timing of the Executive Board meeting, which was contingent upon the rollover of debts by Pakistan's three traditional creditors.

Aurangzeb said that the \$12 billion cash deposits by China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would be rolled over for one year, like last time.

Earlier, he had said that the IMF had asked for the rollover for three to five years before the Executive Board meeting.

However, he clarified on Tuesday that the requirement was to secure the rollover for one year but the government was trying to have these rollovers for three to five years.

He added that the three bilateral creditors had agreed to roll the loans over on the existing terms and conditions.

The IMF had announced a staff-level agreement for the \$7 billion last month subject to the approval of the Executive Board and securing financing commitments from the bilateral and multilateral creditors.

The finance minister said that there was no point in asking for an increase in the interest rates on these loans when the country's foreign exchange reserves had strengthened compared to a year ago.

The IMF, he added, had identified only a \$3-5 billion financing gap over the three-year programme period, which was quite manageable.

"Pakistan has also received an offer from a foreign commercial bank but we are waiting for the IMF Board approval to ask the lender to cut the offered interest rates," said Aurangzeb. The offer had come from a non-Gulf and non-Chinese commercial bank, he added, without disclosing the name.

A finance ministry official said that Standard Chartered Bank had offered a less than \$400 million loan but it was asking for a double-digit interest rate that the government could not afford to pay.

Aurangzeb said that the government would wait for the IMF Board approval to get the commercial bank to cut its offered interest rates.

The finance minister said that two important developments had taken place in the last few days which showed that Pakistan was well on its way to achieving macroeconomic stability.

He described Fitch rating agency's decision to improve Pakistan's credit rating by one notch and the central bank's decision to cut the interest rates by 1% as "very critical elements for achieving macroeconomic stability".

When asked as to why Standard and Poor's had not improved Pakistan's CCC+ rating, the minister stated that raising a CCC+ rating to a B negative one would have been a big jump.

He hoped that the three rating agencies would improve Pakistan's standing to B negative by the end of this year grade where it can venture into the international capital markets to float sovereign bonds at relatively lower rates than offered at the current CCC+ ratings.

The three international credit rating agencies have given below investment grade to Pakistani bonds due to its weak economic position and huge external financing requirements.

However, Fitch last week improved the rating by one notch – from CCC to CCC+ – which was still below the investment grade.

The finance minister said that the government was trying to issue the Panda bond in the Chinese markets and had engaged a Chinese financial adviser firm to complete the transaction either by the end of this calendar year or in early 2025.

The minister said that the government was also contemplating hiring another Chinese financial adviser for securing the energy debt rollover.

He said that Pakistan had requested up to a five-year extension in the energy debt but it would take time before any agreement was reached.

He said that even the conversion of the Chinese power plants from imported to local coal would take at least two to three years.

Domestic Agenda

The finance minister said that, in order to cut expenditures, the government had undertaken the privatisation programme and an exercise was ongoing to close ministries or merge them in line with the 18th Constitutional amendment.

"It is about time to right-size the federal government," he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2486113/china-ksa-uae-roll-over-12b-pak-debt-for-one-year>

The News

E&P firms ask for CPEC force-like security

ISLAMABAD: The Exploration and Production (E&P) companies have asked for a separate security arrangement on the lines of CPEC force for petroleum exploration and development activities in frontier regions.

The E&P companies Tuesday submitted recommendations to a 20-member committee headed by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar for solutions to major oil and gas-related issues.

The E&P firms, under its forum of Pakistan Petroleum Exploration & Production Companies Association (PPEPCA), proposed to the committee a way forward to resolve the issue of circular debt of Rs2,900 billion in the gas sector.

The Sui gas companies owe Rs1,500 billion to the E&P companies. The PPEPCA also stressed the availability of troops on multiple projects in Balochistan and KP, proposing the cost of security from LEAs be rationalised.

“One-window facility needs to be established at the federal level, which should undertake all coordination with LEAs, provincial governments and the civil administration,” it suggested.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=330866>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین، سعودی عرب، امارات کا پاکستانی قرضہ سال کیلئے مؤخر کرنے کا وعدہ: بلومبرگ

لندن (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) بلومبرگ کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چین، سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات نے پاکستان سے قرضوں کی ادائیگی ایک سال کیلئے مؤخر کرنے کا وعدہ کر لیا ہے جو عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے سات ارب ڈالر کے قرض پروگرام کی حتمی منظوری کی منتظر حکومت کیلئے ایک سکھ کا سانس ہے۔ رپورٹ کے حوالے سے کہا کہ پاکستان کا ان تینوں ممالک کے ساتھ تجارتی قرضوں اور سیف ڈپازٹس کی شکل میں مخصوص مالیاتی انتظام ہے جو ہر سال رول اوور کیا جاتا ہے اور بیرونی مالیاتی ضروریات کے لحاظ سے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کا ایک بڑا حصہ بنتا ہے۔

پاکستان نے اب درخواست کی ہے کہ چین سے پانچ ارب ڈالر، سعودی عرب سے چار ارب ڈالر اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے تین ارب ڈالر قرضوں کی ادائیگی مدت کو کم از

کم تین سال تک بڑھایا جائے جس سے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کے تحت زیادہ بہتر پیش گوئی کی جاسکے گی۔

بلومبرگ کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے پارلیمانی کمیٹی کے اجلاس کے بعد اسلام آباد میں صحافیوں کو بتایا کہ رول اوور کا حجم پچھلے سال جیسا ہی ہو گا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ملک کے پاس دو طرفہ قرضوں کی مد میں 12 ارب ڈالر ہیں جن میں گزشتہ چند سالوں سے توسیع کی جاتی رہی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-07/page-1/detail-13>

چین کے اعلیٰ سطح وفد کا دورہ گوادر، صوبائی وزیر خزانہ نے استقبال کیا

گوادر (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد نے گوادر کا دورہ کیا، دورے میں دورے میں مستقبل میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع، ترقیاتی پروگراموں اور نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ سمیت موجودہ منصوبوں کی پیش رفت پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے مسٹر ونگ فوکانگ کی سربراہی میں چینی وفد اور گوادر پورٹ فیڈرل کے منصوبے پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر خزانہ بلوچستان ٹھہور (CPEC) اتھارٹی کے حکام کے درمیان ملاقات ہوئی جس میں چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری بلیدی نے تمام شرکاء کو خوش آمدید کہا جس کے بعد بریفنگ میں گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین پاسند خان بلیدی نے گوادر پورٹ کی کامیابی کے لیے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری نے بھی فورم کو تجارت کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے قیمتی تجاویز سے COPHC راہداری کی اہمیت بیان کی۔ مسٹر یو بو کے چیئرمین۔ چائے اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ کمپنی آگاہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-07/page-8/detail-32>

August 08, 2024

Daily Times

China-Pak e-commerce platform join hands to make industrial upgrading

China-Pak e-commerce platform has joined hands to make industrial upgrading, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Recently, Beijing-based high-quality industrial Internet enterprises IBI and the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan officially established strategic cooperation relations.

Beijing Toodudu E-commerce Co., Ltd., a core subsidiary of IBI, signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Pakistani company Michael & Parker.

“It is a vital stride taken by IBI to actively respond to China’s Belt and Road Initiative, as well as promote regional economic cooperation and development,” an official introduced.

“IBI will join hands with the Pakistani government to tailor global one-stop full-chain services for various industrial chains in Pakistan backed by its superior advantages in digital economy, industrial Internet, cross-border presence of industrial belts and other aspects, thus spurring the collaborative and innovative development of industrial and supply chains.”

Shaza Fatima Khwaja, Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan, fully affirmed the achievements made by IBI in digital economy, industrial Internet, cross-border industrial belts, and elaborated in detail the difficulties and challenges currently faced by Pakistan in these fields.

She expressed the hope that IBI could deeply participate in Pakistan’s economic construction.

According to mutual agreement, IBI will partner with local core enterprises to supports its businesses in Pakistan by giving full play to its mature resources in digital economy and robust digital technology advantages.

It will work together with the Pakistani government to advance cooperation in cross-border integrated service platform, supply chain collaboration platform, cross-border barter platform, cloud factory program, enterprise promotion and talent exchange, thus promoting the global presence of more enterprises based in both China and Pakistan.

Guests attending the signing ceremony included Shaza Fatima Khwaja, Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications of Pakistan, Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistani Embassy, Erfa Iqbal from the Prime Minister's Office of Pakistan, Liu Junzhai, Director and Senior Vice President of IBI, and Danyal, Vice President and General Manager of Cross-border E-commerce of Toodudu.

So far, cross-border e-commerce has become a bellwether in China's economic growth against the trend while facing a global downturn.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1215629/china-pak-e-commerce-platform-join-hands-to-make-industrial-upgrading/>

Pakistan Observer

China peace diplomacy

Yasir Habib Khan

CHINA peace diplomacy is taking a centre stage on international arena in the backdrop of Beijing's strenuous endeavours to restore lasting peace and stability in Asia, Middle East and different parts of the world. Reconciliation pact among 14 different Palestinian factions in resolving Israel-Palestine conflict, brokering historical Saudi-Iran peace deal, toiling hard to resolve Ukraine-Russia war and accelerating diplomatic efforts in Afghanistan progress and stability showcase China's peace footprints around the globe. Owing to beneficial to all with the spirit of equity, justice and rule of law, China peace diplomacy is winning the hearts. Reason is that it solely centres on honouring the sovereignty of others, pursuing the policy of non-interference, shunning bloc-politics, neutralizing zero-sum games, upholding the supremacy of multi-polar world, enhancing globalization and promoting the doctrine of shared destiny to mankind.

China's impartial stance, free from selfish motives or interests, has garnered increasing trust from the international community. As a value system and methodology that China offers for global peace, the Global Security Initiative unveiled by President Xi Jinping transcends geopolitical and ideological differences, and is the greatest common denominator for all parties seeking peace and reconciliation. If have a look at image of global players in adopting the strategy of "olive branch", China stands out in conspicuous manner. Beijing Declaration signed to end division and strengthening unity by 14 Palestinian factions, in Beijing, capital of China on July 23, 2024 has put China as focal point of global diplomacy.

The Israel-Palestine conflict and internal Palestinian divisions involve extremely complex backgrounds and interests. It is expected that Beijing Declaration will lead to ease out Israel-Palestine conflict. Mustafa Barghouti, secretary-general of the Palestinian National Initiative, stated that the Beijing Declaration goes "much further" than any other reached in recent years. The scene of representatives from 14 factions signing the declaration marks an important

historical moment in the Palestinian liberation movement and brings valuable hope to the long-suffering Palestinian people. The Beijing Declaration is a crucial step toward resolving the Palestinian issue and achieving peace and stability in the Middle East. It is also the first time that an internal Palestinian reconciliation document has been organized by a country outside the Arab world. When asked why this conflict can only be resolved in Beijing rather than elsewhere in the world, Mustafa Barghouti said it is because China is “very decent and honest.” The sincere efforts made by China to support the rights of the Palestinian people, end division and unify the Palestinian stance have been highly praised by all factions in the Beijing Declaration, which is well-deserved.

In Ukraine-Russia conflict, China’s affable and trust-winning diplomacy has made some inroads to ease out crisis. Russia has already put a weight behind the China’s diplomatic arduousness. While last week, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba began his visit to China, marking the first visit by a Ukrainian foreign minister since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Parties from two of the world’s most significant conflict regions simultaneously seek political solutions in China, forming a “diplomatic resonance.” Besides discussing China-Ukraine bilateral relations, a key focus of Kuleba’s visit to China is seeking ways to end the Ukrainian crisis in discussions with China. Before his trip, Kuleba recorded a video for Chinese netizens, expressing his hope for “real and just peace” and for Ukraine to “restore stable development and prosperity, and security for the people.” Promoting a peaceful resolution to the Ukrainian crisis is a consistent stance of China, which has also made significant efforts toward this goal. The door to peace remains open, and for the international community, it is crucial to work toward encouraging peace talks rather than the opposite.

The China-brokered Saudi-Iran agreement has been widely welcomed around the globe as a victory for peace and dialogue. Analysts and media praised China for its role as a peace broker and efforts to facilitate dialogue. Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016 in response to the attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran after the kingdom executed a Shiite cleric. A landmark agreement is helping de-escalate tensions and restore peace in the Middle East as well as inject stability into a volatile geopolitical landscape. This also showed that China’s diplomatic philosophy that aims to promote peace and development is much more appealing than some countries’ tactics of fueling confrontation to expand their own political domain in the Gulf region.

Experts pointed out that this is also one of the best practices under the Global Security Initiative (GSI) that China proposed and it could have a far-reaching implications and demonstrative effect on other regions that face similar problems of confrontation and conflict. Experts believe that an important reason for Saudi Arabia and Iran to agree to resume ties is that both sides trust China. “They believe that what China does is not for the selfish interests or hegemony, but for the good of regional stability.” Experts pointed out that the way China handled this issue is different from the US which tends to fuel flames and sow discord for selfish gains. “There has been a question hanging in the process of global governance -- is it better to form coalitions and seek proxies to fight wars or to promote peace talks and direct

dialogue between the two sides to find a solution that suits both sides? China will not seek a proxy,” Experts said.

China’s peace diplomatic role resigned supreme when the US left Afghanistan in chaos after 20 years stay in Kabul. In order to let peace a chance to prevail, China endorsed Taliban interim government hoping that the Afghan Taliban can unite with other political parties and with all ethnic groups and build a political framework in keeping with national conditions that is broadly inclusive and will lay the foundation for enduring peace. As a close neighbour and sincere friend to Afghanistan, China hopes for peace and stability in Afghanistan more than any other country. China has built platforms, created conditions, and contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, earning unanimous praise from the Afghan people and the international community. Together with the Afghan people, China will continuously consolidate the foundation of popular support for friendly relations between the two countries and work hand in hand to build a China-Afghanistan community of shared future.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-peace-diplomacy/>

August 09, 2024

Daily Times

CTD arrests militant leader for attacks on Rangers, Chinese workers

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Pakistan’s southeastern province of Sindh announced the arrest of a local militant leader on Thursday, saying he was involved in violent activities targeting paramilitary personnel, Chinese workers and a prominent religio-political party in the country.

Muhammad Hanif, a member of the banned separatist outfit Sindh Revolutionary Army (SRA), was arrested in Shaheed Benazirabad district, previously known as Nawabshah, along with a significant quantity of explosives and detonators, according to an official statement.

The SRA is known for its violent activities aimed at promoting Sindhi independence, including attacks on law enforcement and government targets.

The group has also launched attacks against Chinese nationals working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, reflecting its opposition to foreign investment in the region.

“The suspect was found in possession of 460 grams of explosive material, one hand grenade, and seven detonators along with a battery and adapter,” the CTD said in its statement.

“The suspect was on the railway track, planning to carry out an explosion on a train traveling from Sindh to Punjab to spread terror,” it continued. “He was apprehended during an intelligence-based operation, thanks to timely and effective information received from sensitive agencies, before he could carry out any potential terrorist act.”

The CTD also shared a list of militant activities allegedly confessed by Hanif during the investigation following his arrest, including two separate attacks in 2019 on Rangers in Sindh, in which six paramilitary personnel were killed.

The statement said he admitted to attempting to detonate a vehicle used by Chinese workers using a magnetic explosive device in 2020, though his plan could not succeed.

The same year, he opened fire on Chinese nationals in Karachi, injuring one of them.

The CTD said the SRA suspect targeted a 2020 Jamaat-e-Islami rally, resulting in six deaths and 20 injuries.

The official statement informed Hanif admitted to receiving militant training in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he traveled twice and learned to use various weapons and make improvised explosive devices.

It added that charges had been framed against him under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1215722/ctd-arrests-militant-leader-for-attacks-on-rangers-chinese-workers/>

Chinese involvement fuels Pakistan's mobile boom

Pakistan's mobile phone industry thrives with Chinese company involvement and Local Assembly/Manufactured now top 10 mobile brands in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

Since the launch of the Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy 2020 (MDMP-2020), Pakistan has significantly advanced its local mobile phone manufacturing industry.

As a result, since July 2020, the share of locally assembled/manufactured mobile phones has sharply risen, with the vast majority of the mobile phones sold in the country now being "made in Pakistan".

"The share of locally manufactured mobile phones has sharply risen and currently almost 95% of all mobile phones sold in Pakistan are "made in Pakistan", Aamir Allawala, Vice-Chairman of the Pakistan Mobile Phone Manufacturers Association (PMPMA), during an exclusive interview, told Gwadar Pro.

He said that most of the global big brands such as Xiaomi, Oppo, Samsung, ZTE, Vivo, Tecno, Infinix, iTel, Nokia, Realme, etc are being produced in the country.

According to Mr. Allawala, the reason for this transformation from import to local production is the 15% gap in duties and taxes between complete mobile phones vs their parts/components.

"However, the industry is disturbed that this gap is now below 10%, due to which the import of complete mobile phones will start increasing this year," he said. As per the MDMP-2020, "Chinese investors are looking for an alternate manufacturing base—Pakistan can become a hub for Chinese manufacturers if an attractive policy and predictability are ensured for at least five years."

So the MDMP policy was envisaged with goals such as technology acquisition and localization of mobile devices through local investment, joint ventures, partnerships, and to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). It also aimed to create multiple direct and indirect jobs and reduce prices for consumers.

According to Aamir Allawala, over the past four years, a total of 40,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created, and the “industry is looking up to the prospects of relocating the Chinese mobile phone industry to Pakistan for export of mobile phones.”

As per Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)’s latest statistics, Pakistan locally assembled and manufactured a total of 17.34 million mobile phone sets in the first half of 2024 while during the same period, the country merely imported 0.84 million smartphones.

The PTA’s statistics show that of the 17.34 million mobile phones manufactured in Pakistan, 11.15 million were smartphones while 6.19 million were Second Generation Mobile (2G)/GSM phones.

The data highlights a significant shift towards smartphones from GSM phones in 2024. In comparison, in 2023, Pakistan locally manufactured or assembled a total of 21.8 million phones, which included 13 million 2G phones and 6.19 million smartphones. In the first six months of 2024 alone, the country produced 11.15 million smartphones, nearly doubling the total smartphone production of the entire previous year.

Chinese companies continue to spearhead the mobile phone manufacturing sector in Pakistan. From January to June 2024, several Chinese brands led the market. Infinix manufactured/assembled 2.49 million smart phones, TECNO 1.89 million phones, iTel 1.83 million phones, VGO TEL 1.80 million phones, VIVO 1.68 million phones, Redmi (Xiaomi) 1.59 million phones and Realme 1 million phones.

The Finnish’s Nokia assembled 0.81 million phones, while Chinese brands Oppo and G’FIVE manufactured 0.61 million and 0.56 million phones, respectively, securing the ninth and tenth positions among the top phone producers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1215885/chinese-involvement-fuels-pakistans-mobile-boom/>

Suki Kinari completes key process

Back feeding process of Suki Kinari Hydropower Station on Thursday successfully completed. Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project within the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor(CPEC)” under China’s Belt and Road Initiative, said a press release.

It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China.

Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, an investment and construction project of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. (Energy China, marked the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station.

HE Xiongfei, the Chairman and General Manager of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, commented on the Back Feeding process: “The Back Feeding is a critical test of the

operational condition of the high-voltage equipment at the 500KV switching station of SK Hydropower Station under full voltage. The entire power transmission process strictly adhered to the operating procedures for Back Feeding. Following the power transmission, the equipment across the entire line operated stably, and all indicators met the design requirements, successfully achieving the established targets.”

The SK Hydropower Station is nearing its Commercial Operation Date (COD) and is projected to generate an average of 3.212 billion KWH annually once operational. This will provide affordable and clean power to over one million Pakistani households, significantly impacting Pakistan’s power and energy structure. The project aims to alleviate the supply-demand imbalance and promote infrastructure transformation and economic development in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1215877/suki-kinari-completes-key-process/>

August 11, 2024

Daily Times

China and Pakistan explore new frontiers in agricultural cooperation

Pakistan-China trade Conference at FoodAg 2024 highlighted agricultural collaboration and investment opportunities between the two countries.

The Pakistan-China Agro Trade Conference, held as part of the three-day FoodAg 2024 expo at the Karachi Expo Centre, was marked by strong commitments to deepen agricultural trade and investment between the two nations, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of leveraging Pakistan’s agricultural potential through strengthened ties with China. During his address, the minister highlighted the long-standing and robust relationship between Pakistan and China, which extends beyond trade and commerce.

He pointed out that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a cornerstone of their shared vision for economic growth, with agricultural cooperation being a critical area of focus.

“Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan’s economy,” stated the minister, adding, “With China’s expertise in agricultural innovation and technology, there is immense potential to transform Pakistan’s agro-based sector, boosting productivity, quality, and exports.”

The minister outlined several key initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural collaboration including the establishment of the Pak-China Agricultural Cooperation Center, the development of CPEC Agricultural Demonstration Zones, and investments in cold chain logistics to reduce post-harvest losses. The minister also invited Chinese investors to explore opportunities in agro-processing, value addition, and the development of modern infrastructure in Pakistan.

The conference featured discussions on sustainable agricultural practices, market access, and trade facilitation.

The minister stressed the importance of adopting eco-friendly farming techniques and improving water management to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. He also called for joint research initiatives and training programs to enhance the skills of Pakistani farmers and agronomists.

Bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has seen significant growth, reaching \$18 billion in 2023, with agricultural products playing a crucial role, he maintained. The minister expressed optimism that the conference and B2B interactions would further strengthen these ties, leading to new projects and collaborations. Concluding his address, the minister expressed confidence that the outcomes of the Pak-China Agro Trade Conference would pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future for both nations' agricultural sectors. "Together, we can harness the full potential of our agricultural partnership," he remarked.

The conference was attended by high-level delegations from China, including business leaders, investors, and government officials, all of whom expressed keen interest in expanding trade and investment with Pakistan in the agro-sector.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday toured the stalls at FoodAg 2024. The Minister engaged with sellers and buyers, and expressed satisfaction with the participation of both national and international businesses, said a press release issued here. He also attended the Global Cuisine Show 2024 Pakistan, where he sampled various dishes and enjoyed cultural performances, highlighting the rich diversity and culinary heritage on display.

The minister appreciated the vibrant atmosphere and the potential for further enhancing Pakistan's trade and cultural ties globally.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1216389/china-and-pakistan-explore-new-frontiers-in-agricultural-cooperation/>

K2 Daily



https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-08-11

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-08-11

The Nation

Pak-China trade conference highlights agricultural, investment collaboration

Participation of 75 countries in FoodAg 2024 evinces trust in Pakistan: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI - Pakistan-China trade Conference at FoodAg 2024 highlighted agricultural collaboration and investment opportunities between the two countries. The Pakistan-China Agro Trade Conference, held as part of the three-day FoodAg 2024 expo at the Karachi Expo Centre, was marked by strong commitments to deepen agricultural trade and investment between the two nations, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of leveraging Pakistan's agricultural potential through strengthened ties with China. During his address, the minister highlighted the long-standing and robust relationship between Pakistan and China, which extends beyond trade and commerce. He pointed out that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a cornerstone of their shared vision for economic growth, with agricultural cooperation being a critical area of focus. "Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy," stated the minister, adding, "With China's expertise in agricultural innovation and technology, there is immense potential to transform Pakistan's agro-based sector, boosting productivity, quality, and exports."

The minister outlined several key initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural collaboration including the establishment of the Pak-China Agricultural Cooperation Center, the development of CPEC Agricultural Demonstration Zones, and investments in cold chain logistics to reduce post-harvest losses. The minister also invited Chinese investors to explore opportunities in agro-processing, value addition, and the development of modern infrastructure in Pakistan. The conference featured discussions on sustainable agricultural practices, market access, and trade facilitation. The minister stressed the importance of adopting eco-friendly farming techniques and improving water management to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. He also called for joint research initiatives and training programs to enhance the skills of Pakistani farmers and agronomists. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has seen significant growth, reaching \$18 billion in 2023, with agricultural products playing a crucial role, he maintained. The minister expressed optimism that the conference and B2B interactions would further strengthen these ties, leading to new projects and collaborations.

Concluding his address, the minister expressed confidence that the outcomes of the Pak-China Agro Trade Conference would pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future for both nations' agricultural sectors. "Together, we can harness the full potential of our agricultural partnership," he remarked. The conference was attended by high-level delegations from China, including business leaders, investors, and government officials, all of whom expressed keen interest in expanding trade and investment with Pakistan in the agro-sector. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has said the second edition of International Food and Agriculture Exhibition 2024 was participated by hundreds of delegations and companies from 75 countries which evinces their trust in Pakistan. He

commended participation of women especially from Balochistan in the expo. While addressing a press conference during the FoodAg at Expo Centre on Saturday, he said that the exhibition of such level had been held for the first time in the history of the country.

Jam Kamal Khan said that the representatives from European Union, African countries, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and others had been participating in the three days exhibition. He said that along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Turkish ministers were also present in the opening ceremony. The visitors in the exhibition had not come from only one region but 800 delegations had come from 75 countries, he added. The commerce minister said that they would also organize exhibitions in other cities of the country. The minister said that this expo would help improve agriculture and exports related to it. He said that it would also have a positive effect on the farmers and the country's economy. He said that the success of the exhibition was due to hard-work of the Ministry of Commerce and missions posted in different countries. Jam Kamal said that the world was interested in doing business with Pakistan. He said that it was a fact that the country was facing challenges and problems. He further said that in spite of these challenges the economy had stabilized and the inflation had decreased. The minister said that there were many opportunities in food and agriculture sector and big groups from other sectors of the country also wanted to come to this sector, which would also benefit the farmers.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Aug-2024/pak-china-trade-conference-highlights-agricultural-investment-collaboration>

August 12, 2024

Business Rcorider

Pakistani, Chinese cos to launch new electric motorcycle with swappable batteries

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development towards sustainable transportation, Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have collaborated to introduce an electric motorcycle with swappable batteries.

This agreement is expected to pave the way for further advancements in the electric vehicle (EV) industry between the two countries, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Hammad Khalid, a business consultant announced the exciting collaboration between Super Asia Motors Pvt Ltd of Pakistan and China's EGO New Green Energy Technology Limited.

Together, they are introducing an innovative Electric Motorcycle with swappable batteries. This motorcycle is designed to cater to both commercial and domestic customers.

Additionally, their plans extend to introducing this technology to the 3-wheeler commercial market.

Hammad said the swappable battery allows you to swap your empty battery for a fully charged one within 10 seconds.

You can continue your trip without interruption, extending your range, and making it possible to bring your battery inside to charge. During long rides you can bring an extra battery with you which can be swapped at home or at the office.

The newly introduced bike will boast several other key features including a top speed of 90 km/h, a range of 200 km with two batteries, swappable solar-powered batteries conveniently available at petrol stations, and the ability to save up to 70% per kilometre.

Additionally, it offers strong, dependable, durable, and cost-saving pollution-free travel.

“This cutting-edge project brings state-of-the-art technology to Pakistan, with a focus on locally developing components and parts. It also reflects our unwavering commitment to clean energy and job creation in Pakistan,” hammad added.

In recent years, Pakistan and China have been working together to introduce electric motorcycles in Pakistan, with the goal of promoting eco-friendly transportation and reducing carbon emissions.

Numerous Chinese companies, in partnership with local Pakistani enterprises, are expanding Pakistan’s electric vehicle industry.

The introduction of these electric motorcycles is anticipated to significantly lower travel costs for consumers while contributing to a greener future by minimizing environmental impact.—
INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/12/10-page/1002861-news.html>

Daily Times

PFC chief for adopting Chinese model for economic growth

Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that Pakistan, grappling with economic challenges, could learn from China’s experience by prioritizing quality over quantity in its growth strategies. Talking to a delegation of leading architects led by Mohsin Ali Mughal here, he added that investing in human capital, enhancing technological capabilities, and promoting industrial modernization were crucial steps. He said strengthening governance and implementing effective regulatory frameworks could attract foreign investment and foster a business-friendly environment. Pakistan could benefit from adopting sustainable practices in its energy and infrastructure sectors, mirroring China’s green growth initiatives. By focusing on innovation, education, and sustainable development, Pakistan could create a resilient economy capable of withstanding global challenges, he maintained. Collaboration with China through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could further accelerate Pakistan’s economic transformation, helping it reach new heights in economic growth and development. On this occasion, Mohsin Ali Mughal said China’s shift to a quality growth model offers valuable lessons for Pakistan as it seeks to elevate its economy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1216581/pfc-chief-for-adopting-chinese-model-for-economic-growth-2/>

The Nation

SK Hydropower Station completes back feeding process

ISLAMABAD - The Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station successfully completed the back feeding process, marking the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station. Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China.

He Xiongfei, the chairman and general manager of SK Hydropower Station, told Gwadar Pro that “The back feeding is a critical test of the operational condition of the high-voltage equipment at the 500KV switching station of SK Hydropower Station under full voltage.

The entire power transmission process strictly adhered to the operating procedures for Back Feeding. Following the power transmission, the equipment across the entire line operated stably, and all indicators met the design requirements, successfully achieving the established targets.” As the SK Hydropower Station nears its Commercial Operation Date (COD), it is projected to generate an average of 3.212 billion KWH annually once operational. This will provide affordable and clean power to over one million Pakistani households, significantly impacting Pakistan’s power and energy structure.

The project aims to alleviate the supply-demand imbalance and promote infrastructure transformation and economic development in the country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Aug-2024/sk-hydropower-station-completes-back-feeding-process>

August 14, 2024

Daily Times

Chinese scholarship program for University of Sargodha launched

The Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Lahore has launched a new scholarship program for students at the University of Sargodha.

Gwadar Pro reported it on Tuesday quoting a statement from the university. The “Consular General Scholarships” were announced by Zhao Shiren, the Chinese Consul General, during a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas. To mark the program’s commencement, Mr. Zhao presented a cheque for Rs. 1 million. The scholarships are designed to support both merit-based and financially disadvantaged students, according to the university.

The initiative aims to alleviate financial burdens, enabling students to pursue their academic ambitions without hindrance. Vice-Chancellor Abbas expressed deep gratitude for the generous contribution, noting its significant impact on the educational experiences of the recipients. The announcement is seen as a testament to the strong educational ties between

China and Pakistan and reflects a shared commitment to fostering academic excellence. The “Consular General Scholarship” is part of a broader effort by China to support education in Pakistan.

Moreover, under the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Program, the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad has extended similar support to various universities across the country. These scholarships are awarded on a merit-cum-need basis, with 50% allocated specifically for female students to help bridge the gender gap in higher education.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1217136/chinese-scholarship-program-for-university-of-sargodha-launched/>

Jang News

چین: یوم آزادی پر پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پرچم لہرایا گیا

پاکستان کے 77 ویں یوم آزادی کے موقع پر بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کی جانب سے تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔

چین کے دار الحکومت بیجنگ میں قائم پاکستانی سفارت خانے میں منعقدہ تقریب کے دوران تلاوت کلام پاک کے بعد پاکستان کے سفیر خلیل ہاشمی نے پرچم کشائی کی۔

تقریب میں سفارت خانے کے حکام، اہل خانہ اور چین میں مقیم پاکستانی کمیونٹی کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔

تقریب کے دوران پاکستان کے صدر آصف علی زرداری اور وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے تہنیتی پیغامات بھی پڑھ کر سنائے گئے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1380176>

August 15, 2024

Daily Times

China and Pakistan join hands in flaxseed to reduce oil imports

China and Pakistan have joined hands to enhance production of flaxseed that will help reducing oil imports, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Recently, the newly-unveiled Flax Study Research and Innovation Hub between China and Pakistan by Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) and Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam (SAU) is expanding the horizons of agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides are working together on variety selection and breeding, planting technology improvement, etc., aiming to reduce both countries' dependence on imports when it comes to edible oil.

“Pakistan is one of the largest importers of edible oil across the globe, and the insufficiency of edible oil in the country keeps expanding.

At present, although China is the world's major flaxseed processor with an annual processing capacity of about 1 million tons, about 60% of flaxseeds are imported.

So China and Pakistan face the same challenge in increasing domestic flaxseed production,” Zhao Wei, research fellow at Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences told CEN.

China and Pakistan are highly complementary in flaxseed production and processing. Pakistan is blessed with abundant flax resources, and most of the local resources represented by yellow flax are scarce in China.

However, less developed planting technology and lack of farming machinery and improved varieties are hampering Pakistan’s flaxseed production.

Gansu is a main producing region of flaxseeds in China, and the Crop Research Institute of GAAS leads the way in flaxseed breeding and production technology domestically and even internationally.

The collaboration between GAAS and SAU is bringing win-win outcomes for both countries.

The cooperation between GAAS and SAU dated from 2020. Up till now, they have solved many problems encountered in flax cultivation in cold and arid areas, and improved stress-resistance especially salt-tolerance of flax to some extent.

“Three Chinese flax varieties were brought to Pakistan by Dr. Abdul Ghaffar despite the COVID-19 pandemic and have been planted on a trial basis in Pakistan successfully.

Seven flax varieties introduced from Pakistan have been bred in China, and two more Pakistani flax varieties arrived in China this July by Prof. Allah Wadhayo Gandahi from SAU,” Zhao Wei said.

In the future, in the Flax Study Research and Innovation Hub between China and Pakistan, new variety selection and breeding of dryland crops in cold areas, planting technology, plant nutrition, and agricultural machinery will be the main emphasis of their work.

Simultaneously, academic meetings, training seminars, teacher and student exchange and visits will be arranged by the two sides.

Revealed by Zhao Wei, the research in the Hub will be not only limited to flax and flaxseed, but also include forage sorghum, cotton, rape and small grains.

Sharing similarities in geography, environment, ecology, climate, etc., the agricultural cooperation between northwest Chinese province Gansu and Pakistan is mushrooming, exhibiting greater potential to grow as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) progresses.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1217457/china-and-pakistan-join-hands-in-flaxseed-to-reduce-oil-imports/>

Chinese Newspapers

August 01, 2024

Global Times

Pakistan: Ambassador visits Fudan University

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi visited Fudan University in Shanghai on July 30. In an interaction session with the lecturers and students majoring in International Relations and China-Pakistan Relations, the ambassador lauded the work of the Pakistan Study Centre at Fudan University (PSC Fudan).

PSC Fudan was co-established in 2009 and co-led by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and Fudan University. It is one of the major research institutions for Pakistan studies in China, one of the initiators of China-Pakistan Joint Think Tank, and one of the organizers for the Pak-China Business Forum in Shanghai area.

Since its establishment, PSC Fudan has been committed to building a think tank for in-depth study of Pakistan and China-Pakistan relations, a platform for various exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan, a base for cultivation of professionals, and a window for fully understanding bilateral friendship.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317244.shtml>

People's Daily

CPEC to write new chapter of development in Pakistan's history: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- Speaker of Pakistan's national assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the perks of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have reached the people of Pakistan, hoping that its second phase will write a new chapter of development in the country's history.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Chinese embassy here on Wednesday to distribute 20,000 hygiene kits to underprivileged school girls of the country's southwest Balochistan province, Sadiq said China had always supported Pakistani people in times of need and the latest initiative will bring positive change in the lives of Balochi women.

The initiative called "She Power" seeks to enhance health awareness and encourage the use of hygiene products among young girls who do not have access to personal hygiene products, resulting in them suffering from various diseases.

Speaking at the event, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that women can make great contributions to national development, social progress and family happiness, and women of both China and Pakistan are hardworking, brave and eager to learn.

The Chinese envoy said China is ready to work with Pakistan to firmly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, consolidate existing

cooperation projects, deepen and expand cooperation areas, and accelerate the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

"We are willing to make positive contributions to the development of women in Pakistan and bring more benefits to the Pakistani people," he added.

Talking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the event, teachers from Balochistan who attended the ceremony at the invitation of the embassy, said that it is the first time when "someone thought about providing awareness to the young girls about the issue due to which many women in Balochistan are having health issues."

Talking about the significance of the initiative, the teachers noted that such awareness programs are crucial for improving the overall health and well-being of women in the region, adding that educating young girls on health issues not only empowers them but also has a ripple effect on their families and communities.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0801/c90000-20201087.html>

Xinhua News

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<https://english.news.cn/20240801/c257a13dbe0b45fabbd861fb456398cc/c.html>

August 04, 2024

Xinhua News

**China's reform policy opens up opportunities for global investment:
Pakistani experts**

China's reforms have not only lifted millions of people out of poverty but also created unprecedented opportunities for global trade, investment, and cooperation, the Focal Person on the Development Projects of the Government of Pakistan, Asim Khan said.

by Misbah Saba Malik

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani officials and experts said on Friday that China's transformative economic journey has a global impact, and over the years, the country has not only eradicated poverty for millions but also opened up vast opportunities for international trade and investment.

Addressing an event titled "Global Opportunities in Deepening China's Reforms in the New Era," the Focal Person on the Development Projects of the Government of Pakistan, Asim Khan, said that China has made a remarkable journey of economic reforms, which have transformed the country into a global powerhouse.

He said that China's reforms have not only lifted millions of people out of poverty but also created unprecedented opportunities for global trade, investment, and cooperation.

China's growing influence in international affairs is undeniable and its contributions to global governance, climate change, and development financing have been noteworthy, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in particular, has the potential to reshape regional development and connectivity, he added.

"From Pakistan's perspective, we view China's BRI as a game-changer, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the BRI, has transformed Pakistan's profile from a perceived safe haven for terrorism to an attractive destination for Chinese and global investment," he noted.

He hoped that Pakistan would attract more investments by relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan as there are tremendous opportunities for both countries to deepen their economic ties.

In his address, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad, said that China has been an engine of global growth for decades and will continue to be a key player in international development in the years to come.

China's steady economic progress and substantial potential in trade and investment are not only major positives for the current global economy, but also for the future, he added.

"China's ongoing reforms constantly shape new momentum and advantages for development, promote a new leap in productivity, and sustain the continuous high-quality growth of China's economy, bringing new opportunities to countries around the world, particularly to the iron-clad friend Pakistan," the expert said.

Speaking at the event, Liaqat Ali Khan, head of policy in the Center of Excellence for CPEC in the country's Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, said that Pakistan can benefit from the second phase of CPEC as it provides the country with an opportunity to attract the labor-intensive and light engineering industries that are relocating due to the reform process in China.

He said that the participating countries of BRI should learn to understand the reform policies of China that lead to the country's economic transformation from the coastal regions to the inland and Western areas to ensure balanced development across the country.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<https://english.news.cn/20240804/833a2d2c842f4176996032b94d64a9c3/c.html>

August 07, 2024

People's Daily

**CPEC to promote development, prosperity in Pakistan's Balochistan:
experts**

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 7 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani officials and experts in the capital city Quetta of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a huge potential to promote growth in various sectors in the province.

Addressing a seminar titled "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Assessing the Transformation of Vision into Reality with a Focus on Regional Connectivity, Innovation, and Security in Balochistan," the officials on Tuesday called for enhanced cooperation and inclusive growth in the next phase of CPEC.

In her remarks, Meena Majeed Baloch, a member of the Balochistan provincial assembly, said that CPEC is a great hope for the youth of Balochistan, who will get employment and business opportunities through it.

She stated that to harness CPEC's potential, the provincial government has announced 30,000 vacancies to train youth in various skills, enabling them to participate in future CPEC projects.

"CPEC project holds great significance for both Balochistan and Pakistan. The development of Gwadar port, along with the donation of the New Gwadar International Airport by the government and people of China, will play a major role in transforming the future of Balochistan and uplifting its underprivileged population."

Calling CPEC a cornerstone initiative for regional cooperation and economic development, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Quetta, Sajida Noreen, emphasized that academia can play a significant role in ensuring the success of the second phase of CPEC in the province.

Noreen added that she would explore opportunities and mobilize the academic community to participate actively in the project.

Addressing the seminar, Aetzaz Ahmed Goraya, deputy inspector general of the counter-terrorism department in Balochistan, said that a stable and secure Balochistan is of utmost importance for the success of Pakistan and CPEC. In this regard, they are making the best of their efforts to control insurgency and ensure foolproof security for Chinese nationals.

"Road connectivity has been improved in Balochistan. We cannot allow anyone to sabotage this project, which has the potential to create economic development and prosperity," he added.

In his address, Irfan Ashraf, director general of the Centre for Development and Stability, a Quetta-based thinktank that organized the event, said that the projects in the second phase of CPEC, including green infrastructure, renewable energy, etc., will significantly contribute to the region's development and stability.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, and expands to the fields of agriculture and livelihood in the new phase.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0807/c90000-20203041.html>

Xinhua News

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<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20240807/852ba8a8a1fd4c348a8334603767b31b/c.html>

August 08, 2024

Global Times

Pathway to Prosperity: GT survey in 13 countries highlights BRI's significant role in green development, poverty reduction, and cultural exchanges

The year 2024 ushers in the second golden decade of the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) after the initiative has already yielded many fruitful results worldwide. Looking forward to the new stage of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation over the coming 10 years, the Global Times Institute (GTI) recently conducted a public awareness survey of the BRI in 13 countries around the world to understand how people overseas view the BRI in relation to global affairs, their own country, and themselves, and to understand the future expectations of the overseas public for the Belt and Road cooperation.

The survey covered 12 Belt and Road partner countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania, as well as one BRICS member state - Brazil, totaling 13 countries, and was conducted in 12 languages including English, Arabic, Russian, Kazakh, and Turkish.

The survey was conducted from May 27 to June 21, using online surveys, telephone interviews, face-to-face interviews, and other methods to collect data. Approximately 11,000 valid questionnaires in total were collected and the sample subjects were residents over 18 years old in each country.

In the annals of world history, the famous Silk Road once connected countries in Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and China. This route not only facilitated trade between the countries along its path but also promoted cultural exchanges and mutual learning of civilizations among different countries and regions.

Today, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China is promoting joint development and prosperity among the countries along the Eurasian and African routes. This initiative is allowing people from various countries to share a harmonious, peaceful, and prosperous life, continuing the legacy of connectivity and cooperation that the Silk Road symbolized centuries ago.

The latest survey conducted by the Global Times Institute (GTI) found out that a significant number of respondents had heard of the BRI. Compared with plans or initiatives proposed by other countries or international organizations, more respondents expressed optimism about the role that the BRI plays in the world across different countries and regions, ranking above the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor proposed by the US and the Global Gateway strategy proposed by the European Union.

Vietnamese respondents had the highest awareness of the BRI, with 87 percent knowing about it. Respondents from Laos and Indonesia generally have higher rates of agreement with the main concepts or practices of the BRI.

Laotian respondents have the highest positive agreements on the initiative actively sharing poverty alleviation experiences and emphasizing green development (both at 95 percent),

while Indonesian respondents were most in agreement with the BRI increasing technological investment to improve resource efficiency (91 percent).

Pakistan also has the highest agreement rate for actively sharing poverty alleviation experiences; respondents from Saudi Arabia and Turkey are most in agreement with emphasizing green development; and Kenyan respondents also have a 90 percent agreement rate for increasing technological investment to improve resource efficiency.

Muhammad Zamir Assadi, editor at the Internews Pakistan, told the Global Times on Sunday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), one of the flagship projects under the BRI, has changed the overall economic landscape of Pakistan as it has successfully attracted the attention of other international community in addition to attracting foreign investment to the country.

"We have witnessed the interest of middle eastern countries to who have shown their intent to invest under the framework of CPEC that will again bring more positive impact to Pakistani economy in various fields," he said.

He told the Global Times that the BRI also had enormous impact on his personal career. Back in 2016, he was given his first opportunity to visit China under one of the BRI projects that opened new avenues for him to learn about China and the visit strengthened his professional skills and enabled him to get important position in Pakistan's news industry.

"I feel a pride for me to lead a dedicated team on China affairs and to act as a media guide for disseminating information on China affairs in Pakistan in various languages," he told the Global Times.

Respondents have confidence in China's future efforts to achieve greater success in promoting the BRI, and being part of the BRI and deepening cooperation receive strong support overall, the survey found.

The joint construction of the BRI will become one of the most important ways for China to fulfill its responsibilities as a major country in the international community, experts said.

A majority of respondents are happy to see more countries join the BRI, and look forward to its positive effects on promoting global development and narrowing the gap between rich and poor countries. Nearly half of the respondents would be pleased to see the US participate in the BRI.

The survey also showed that nearly 70 percent of Brazilian respondents support their country joining the BRI.

The long-term sustainability of Belt and Road projects is a priority for most respondents, with cooperation in infrastructure construction being the most anticipated in many countries.

In a new phase of the cooperation under the BRI, respondents are most looking forward to prioritizing cooperation on infrastructure construction, with 52 percent specifically mentioning this point; the proportion of those looking forward to cooperation in ecological

environment protection, public health, daily life, and education fields is also around 40 percent.

Assadi told the Global Times that Pakistan has prioritized its development needs as per the local requirements of the local people based on the national conditions aligning with their national interests.

"Pakistan is looking forward to the cooperation from China in the field of agriculture, industrialization, upgradation of the railway infrastructure as this is significant for the socio-economic development of Pakistan, investment in improvement of medical and education sector, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, internet of things, big data, the auto sector, science and technology, space sciences, logistics, aviation, oil and gas resources, and natural gas hydrate and others," he said.

Public benefits

The key to sound relations between countries lies in the affinity between their peoples. China announced at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October 2023 that it will carry out practical cooperation under the BRI, promoting both signature projects and "small yet smart" quality of life programs, including 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects.

When asked whether they look forward to and are willing to participate in future BRI projects related to their own quality of life, over 70 percent of respondents in the 13 countries surveyed provided a positive response, with over half expressing a willingness to participate.

In Kenya, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the proportion of respondents looking forward to such projects was close to or exceeded 90 percent, with at least 70 percent willing to participate.

Under the BRI cooperation framework, more than half of the respondents were willing to work for Chinese enterprises/institutions/projects established locally, while over 30 percent was open to the idea.

The primary reason cited was the opportunity to learn more professional skills, which was mentioned by nearly 60 percent of respondents on average across the 13 countries. Many respondents also cited higher income, better career development opportunities, and a more stable labor market and social benefits.

Cui Hongjian, a professor from the Country and Area Studies Academy with Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times that BRI projects have delivered tangible benefits to local areas, most notably by helping to solve employment issues.

Regarding cultural exchanges and cooperation under the BRI, respondents were more willing to participate in cross-border tourism/festival activities, followed by experiencing or learning about traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) cultural projects. Applying for Chinese scholarships, education funds, and participating in university/student exchange programs were also popular.

He Wenping, a research fellow from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times that "cultural exchanges

should go hand in hand with infrastructure construction; wherever infrastructure projects go, cultural exchanges should follow."

Recently, "China Travel" has become a hot topic on overseas social media, with foreign YouTubers frequently visiting China. Not only have they gained views, but the realistic portrayals in their videos have also broken the longstanding information cocoon about China among foreign people.

Survey data shows that over 80 percent of respondents in the 13 countries were willing to visit China in the future, with 60 percent expressing a desire to travel to China, and over 20 percent willing to work, go on business trips, or study in China.

High hopes

Regarding the positive impacts the BRI can bring to the world, more than half of the respondents in the 13 countries expect the initiative to promote global development and narrow the international wealth gap.

Nearly half of the respondents hope that the BRI will unite countries, enhance mutual understanding and tolerance among people of different countries, promote cultural exchanges and integration, and foster a fairer world order.

Regarding media criticisms that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is "neocolonialism" and creates a "debt trap," 72 percent of respondents have a clear stance on this issue. Among them, an average of 13 percent of respondents across 13 countries believe these accusations are baseless attacks, 24 percent consider them misunderstandings, and 21 percent think they represent bias. Additionally, 28 percent view these claims as risk warnings.

When asked about the possibility of more countries joining the BRI in the future, 61 percent of respondents said they would welcome it, with particularly high proportions in Kenya (77 percent) and Brazil (73 percent).

Wang Youming, director of the Institute of Developing Countries at the China Institute of International Studies in Beijing, believed that the public confidence in the BRI stems from the tangible, visible, and substantial achievements made over the past 11 years.

"These achievements have taken root in the participating countries, bringing benefits to local economic development, employment improvement, and people's livelihoods," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317652.shtml>

August 11, 2024

Xinhua News

Pakistan to strengthen economic ties with China with focus on agriculture, technology

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and China are working to further strengthen economic ties, particularly in the fields

of agriculture, information technology, mining, and infrastructure, according to a statement by Prime Minister's Office.

Speaking on Friday to the representatives of foreign companies operating in Pakistan, including those from China, in the country's southern port city of Karachi, Sharif said that economic ties between the two countries will further expand during the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sharif said that during his official visit to China in June, he toured an agricultural university and a research center spanning hundreds of acres of land in China's Shaanxi province, emphasizing that if Pakistani graduates receive training from the institutions, they could help revolutionize the agricultural sector in Pakistan.

"Pakistan is an agricultural country, 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas, and we need to increase our agricultural production," he said, adding that last year Pakistan's agricultural exports increased by 3 billion U.S. dollars in value, and are planned to rise by 7 billion U.S. dollars this year.

Pakistan needs to adopt modern technology and methods to increase agricultural production and China can be an important partner for Pakistan in achieving these goals, the prime minister said.

He added that Pakistan and China will start joint ventures in the textile industry and agricultural production during CPEC's second phase, and these products will be exported to other countries.

Pakistan and China will develop a joint modus operandi in this regard, which will be equally beneficial for both countries, Sharif said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. It is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The project highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, and in the second phase expands to the fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<https://english.news.cn/20240811/953b396bab8245bbbe01cc53f3e60b97/c.html>

China's Global Civilization Initiative key pillar for community with shared future, say experts

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) -- The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) is a key pillar in China's vision for a community with a shared future for mankind and would be significant in fostering global peace, cooperation, and mutual respect and dialogue among civilizations, Pakistani experts have said.

The experts shared these views on Friday during a seminar on GCI here at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think-think.

Addressing the seminar, Sohail Mahmood, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and director general of the ISSI, said that the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security

Initiative (GSI), and GCI represented an alternative vision for global governance and human progress.

Inspired by Chinese wisdom and principles of peaceful coexistence, the GCI focuses on respect for diversity, mutual learning, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges.

Additionally, Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former Ambassador to China, reflected on China's integrated approach to global governance through the three initiatives.

He stressed that these initiatives offer strategic guidance for building a global community with a shared future, embracing changes, and addressing challenges faced by humanity.

Khalid emphasized Pakistan's steadfast support for the Chinese initiatives, acknowledging the deep-rooted and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.

<https://english.news.cn/20240811/97719d577cfb4ea6b0543d83911e16f7/c.html>

August 12, 2024

People's Daily

China's Global Civilization Initiative key pillar for community with shared future, say experts

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0812/c90000-20204806.html>

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0812/c90000-20204810.html>

August 15, 2024

Global Times

Embassy of Pakistan in China celebrates 78th Independence Day of Pakistan

Dong Feng

Embassy of Pakistan in China celebrated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan in Beijing on Wednesday. Activities were hosted at the embassy. The friendship between China and Pakistan was also celebrated at an award ceremony.

Early in the morning, officials and Pakistani community participated in a flag hoisting ceremony to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. Holding their national flags, Pakistani children smiled in the morning sunshine.

Messages from President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, as well as Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif were extended to the audience.

In his keynote speech, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi said, "This day marks a celebration of our nation's enduring spirit, a testament to the sacrifices and unwavering resolve of our founding fathers, who paved the path for our freedom. As we unfurl our national flag today, let us reflect on the progress we have made and renew our commitment toward a prosperous and peaceful country."

The ambassador also stressed the friendship between Pakistan and China.

"Here in China, we are privileged to witness the blossoming of a friendship that has grown alongside our nation's journey. The bond between Pakistan and China, characterized by mutual respect and a shared vision, is unparalleled in inter-state relations," he said.

He also urged the attendees to contribute more to strengthen bilateral relations.

"We are resolved to further solidify this friendship. I call upon the Pakistani community in China to continue playing its vital role in strengthening this unique relationship," the ambassador noted.

Pakistani cuisine was served after the flag hoisting ceremony.

Moreover, the Embassy of Pakistan in China hosted a Pakistan Civil Award Investiture Ceremony. Two representatives who contributed to the bilateral ties – Sha Zukang, former permanent representative of China to the UN and president of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, and Nong Rong, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the CPC Central Committee and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and former ambassador of China to Pakistan – were awarded.

Ambassador Hashmi, on behalf of the president of Pakistan, conferred the prestigious "Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam" award.

In his remarks, the ambassador extended heartfelt congratulations and paid a rich tribute to the contributions made by the two dignitaries. He highlighted the significant impact of their efforts in bilateral relations and beyond.

“I have the honor to witness and personally engage myself in the promotion of China-Pakistan friendship,” Sha said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1318069.shtml>