



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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July 16, 2024

Business Recorder

‘Fund speak’ for ‘chinese debt trap’?

Former SBP (State Bank of Pakistan) governor Murtaza Syed’s warning that the fine print in the new IMF (International Monetary Fund) deal implies “Fund speak for securing secret debt relief from China” should be investigated and explained immediately. He noted that the EFF (Extended Fund Facility) will provide much needed relief to Pakistan, but for the SLA (Staff-Level Agreement) to become official, “the country requires financing assurances from its developmental and bilateral partners”. He reads this particular clause as “wrong, incomplete and dangerous” because “Pakistan’s debt problem is not a Chinese debt trap”.

Pakistan’s debt is no doubt unsustainable, as he duly pointed out, but its foreign creditors are fairly diversified, and the country does indeed “owe more to multilateral development banks like World Bank, IMF and the Paris Club than to China”. It remains to be seen whether Murtaza Syed’s claim is correct, of course, but it’s a fair point that the IMF is now globally considered an extension of the US State and Treasury departments, and is often employed for leverage, depending on overriding political conditions in Washington.

There’s also no doubt that the American government is dead against the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) not just because China’s BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) was initiated just a few years before its own Pivot to Asia – when the Obama Administration identified Asia-Pacific as the region of highest concern – but also because of China’s growing dominance in international geopolitics. And while China’s fiscal outreach to the rest of Asia and parts of Africa has created debt-related complications, the charges of “predatory lending” and “Chinese debt trap” have been creations of the usually savage American media.

So, if the former SBP governor’s fears are true, then Pakistan is really caught in a very fragile situation. China is our best friend, largest foreign investor, and strongest pillar of support, no doubt, but we’re sure to default within a fiscal or two if we break from the IMF at this point, which means we’re also forced to toe US interests just when the Sino-American rivalry is heating up. In fact, another Trump White House – an increasingly likely scenario – will lead to immediate trade, tariff and currency wars between the world’s biggest and second-biggest economies, which will play out in different ways in countries that are caught in the middle, just like Pakistan.

It’s best if the finance ministry clears this point before going any further. The honest people of Pakistan are about to be put under the tax knife just because the country’s leaders destroyed the economy, after all, so they should know if their government has still only got them half a bailout programme that has disastrous financial implications for them and ominous political costs for the country as well.

Surely, the Chinese would also want to know. For a country that they help so much to go ahead and endorse the chorus of Chinese debt trap would not go down very nicely in Beijing. The government should answer these questions before doubts begin to grow.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/16/4-page/999572-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

China firm to support Pakistan

CHINESE Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, who is instrumental in promoting bilateral cooperation in diverse fields, has reiterated his country's firm support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In an interview, he emphasized President Xi's personal commitment to advancing China-Pakistan relations, especially through major projects like the Main Line-1 railways, the Karakoram Highway, year-round operation of the Khunjerab Pass and development of Gwadar Port.

There can be no two opinions that the claims about support for sovereignty and territorial integrity are not hollow slogans as a cursory glance on the history of Sino-Pak relations clearly shows Beijing's steadfast position on bilateral issues. This is evident from the strong diplomatic and political support that Pakistan has received from China on all issues of its interest in all regional and global forums; robust defence cooperation; record investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy especially development of an international standard infrastructure, which is a must for socio-economic progress; and timely financial support to avert major crises. It is also a reality that the Chinese invested in several gigantic projects for which no one else was ready to offer assistance. People of Pakistan cannot forget the valuable cooperation of China in defence production and development of the country's nuclear energy sector. It is because of all this that all Pakistanis are proud of the friendship with China and aspire to take this strategic partnership to new heights in times to come. The future of this relationship is quite bright as has also been highlighted by the Chinese Ambassador, who said the two countries, during the last visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, agreed upon specific areas of cooperation for future including development of offshore oil and gas resources, clean energy, mining, artificial intelligence, science and technology, finance and space cooperation. These initiatives, he noted, will inject new momentum into practical cooperation between China and Pakistan. It is encouraging that the two countries are also working closely to improve the security environment for Chinese citizens in Pakistan and this would, hopefully, help accelerate the pace of economic cooperation and implementation of various projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-firm-to-support-pakistan/>

Biodiversity challenges and China's role

Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen

CHINA has emerged as one of the major powers on the world stage. Its economy is the second largest and its technological achievements have placed it in a leading position globally. Yet, Beijing has projected itself as an important partner within South-South cooperation, as reflected in its multi-pronged development strategies. Given the existential climate change challenges the world is facing, China has focused on playing its part in mitigating climate and environmental risks. One such area is arresting and reversing the erosion of biodiversity. It is important to realize fully that the earth's resources are not unlimited. Therefore, conservation has to be an important tool for creating harmony between

human beings and nature. Building an ecological civilization, with its emphasis on a shared future for all and sustainability, is an important pillar for promoting balanced coexistence between nature and mankind. Excessive exploitation of nature has posed serious vulnerabilities, especially for those who have little or no resources for meeting the challenges of mitigation, adaptation and transition. From the climate and environment perspective, the entire world lives in a circular pattern. Hence, serious disruptions in one part of the world have effects in different regions of the world. Climate change and environmental hazards must be treated as pivotal earth commons, demanding collaborative actions and cooperation. Biodiversity challenges range from impacts on agriculture and food security, to health issues due to poor soil quality from the use of pesticides and fertilizers, to fisheries and other essential aspects. The link between climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and sustainable development cannot be overlooked. Biodiversity has a critical role in promoting sustainable development. Seen through the prism of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), biodiversity is an important component in the process of achieving sustainable development. These goals are significant because they are universal and indivisible. Biodiversity and ecosystems are prominently highlighted as areas essential for contributing to human well-being and development. SDG-15 includes efforts to “protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt land degradation and biodiversity loss.” This goal was built on the Rio+20 Conference document “The Future We Want,” held in 2012, which reemphasized the “intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems.” China has played a leading role in the process leading to the conclusion of the Biodiversity Convention. It holds the presidency of Conference of Parties 15 (COP 15) and, together with Canada, led the way towards the finalization of The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first phase of COP 15 was held in Kunming, China, through video link. Because of the continued COVID restrictions, at China’s request, Canada hosted the second phase in December 2022, which led to the conclusion of the Biodiversity Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the leaders’ summit of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), which is published in his book titled “The Governance of China IV” in a chapter titled “Protect the Earth for Sustainable Development.” In his COP 15 statements, he put forward China’s proposal to strengthen global biodiversity conservation and announced the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (also contained in the Kunming Declaration of 2021). At the second phase of COP 15, important goals and targets were adopted. The four goals set forth are: Maintaining connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems, halting human-induced extinction of known threatened species by 2050, and preserving genetic diversity of species. Ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity, and the restoration of ecosystems and affiliated aspects by 2050. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and associated aspects. Provision of adequate means of implementation: financial, capacity building, technical know-how, and other means. Among the 23 targets, the most prominent is Target 2, which requires that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of degraded areas are restored.

Labelled as 30 by 30, the expectations are high, and China's commitment as co-host of COP 15 is firm. China has demonstrated its commitment to combating climate change, especially biodiversity vulnerabilities, through several strategic interventions and policy guidelines. The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) is dedicated to National Economic and Social Development and includes long-term objectives focused on slashing carbon intensity. The tone was set by President Xi, who stated in 2020 that China would "aim for its emissions to reach their highest peak by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060." Taken internationally as China's national position, this has been welcomed as a significant policy pronouncement in terms of its impact on global emissions. China cannot overlook the needs of its 1.4 billion population and regional unbalanced development. The energy needs, which are dependent on the use of coal and the gradual transition to solar, nuclear, and other renewable resources for energy and industrial growth, require time. It is expected that by 2050, 90 percent of power will be nuclear-based, with the propagation of green technologies and more. The world is looking with favourable expectations at China's commitments to reduce carbon emissions and transition to a green economy, which will have a salutary impact on biodiversity commitments. China needs a domestic environment where climate-induced risks are minimized, and its development trajectory builds a sustainable environment for its people. Moreover, China's image as a proponent of South-South cooperation for development will receive a boost if green methods, models, and technologies are shared with the developing world. Transitioning to green technologies is an important link in the cycle of mitigation and adaptation. The devastating impact of climate-induced disasters, such as the 2022 floods in Pakistan, has grave consequences for biodiversity, including the erosion of soil, agriculture, forests, and other natural resources. Therefore, it is imperative for the countries of the South, led by China, to promote regional outlooks, approaches, and ways to halt, restore, and improve biodiversity. Equally important is to emphasize a triangular cooperation framework that includes the North. At the next COP 16 in Colombia, this idea could be further explored.

<https://pakobserver.net/biodiversity-challenges-and-chinas-role/>

The Nation

Pakistani mud crab exporters eye expansion in China

Pakistan now ranked as third-largest exporter of mud crabs globally

BEIJING - Pakistan's vibrant seafood industry has made significant strides in recent years, with mud crabs emerging as a star export product. As Pakistani exporters continue to tap into the global market, they are increasingly focusing on China as a key destination for their high-quality mud crabs, renowned for their rich flavor and succulent meat. According to Volza's Pakistan Export data, mud crab export shipments from Pakistan stood at 5.5K, exported by 46 Pakistan exporters to 122 buyers.

Notably, China has emerged as the largest market for Pakistani mud crabs, with exports to the country surpassing those to other destinations such as the United Arab Emirates and the United States. Pakistan is now ranked as the third-largest exporter of mud crabs globally, highlighting the country's strong position in the international seafood market, Chinese media reported on Tuesday. The surge in Pakistani mud crab exports to China can be attributed to

the country's commitment to quality and the optimization of supply chains. Pakistani exporters have capitalized on the rising demand for high-quality seafood in China, where mud crabs are highly valued for their culinary appeal and nutritional benefits.

“Our average weight per box net weight of 16kg. We exported about 3,000 tons of live mud crabs to China over the last 3 years” said Tehseen Patel, CEO of Areeba Enterprises, a leading Pakistani mud crab exporter. Areeba Enterprises, which started exporting Pakistani mud crabs internationally in 2016, has seen success in the Chinese market, driven by the company's focus on quality control and sustainable fishing practices.

According to China's customs statistics, the import of live, fresh, or cold mud crabs (Chinese Customs code 030633) from Pakistan has increased significantly in recent years. In 2023, China imported live, fresh or cold crabs from Pakistan (Chinese Customs code 030633) for \$42,594,065, up 141% from \$17,658,045 in 2020. This trend highlights the growing demand for Pakistani mud crabs in China and the potential for further expansion in the market. Driven by the robust appetite for seafood in China, Areeba Enterprises has established a robust supply chain, shipping live mud crabs directly to major cities like Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, and Kunming. The journey from Pakistan's shores to China's bustling markets typically takes between 24 to 48 hours, ensuring the freshness and vitality of the crabs upon arrival. As the Pakistani exporter continues to tap into the global market, Tehseen Patel is investing in modernization and sustainability to meet the evolving needs of international buyers. Areeba has embarked on a mission to train local fishermen in best practices, invest in state-of-the-art hatcheries and conditioning facilities, and integrate sustainable practices throughout its supply chain.

The Chinese seafood market is a vibrant landscape with a wide array of products in high demand. In the Chinese market, there is high demand for shrimps, fresh and frozen fish (ribbonfish, croaker, and mackerel), crabs, lobsters, scallops, and squid. In addition to mud crabs, Areeba Enterprises also exports a diverse range of seafood products, including shrimps (white-leg shrimp and tiger shrimp), live lobsters, etc. The company has ambitious plans to further expand its footprint in the Chinese seafood market. “We are committed to diversifying our product range and forging closer strategic partnerships with local distributors, retailers, and e-commerce platforms. By doing so, we aim to not only satisfy the ever-growing demands of the Chinese market but also contribute to the sustainable development of Pakistan's seafood industry, Tehseen Patel concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Jul-2024/pakistani-mud-crab-exporters-eye-expansion-in-china#:~:text=According%20to%20China's%20customs%20statistics,141%25%20from%20%2417%2C658%2C045%20in%202020.>

July 17, 2024

Daily Times

China tries to hit more birds with one stone in property rescue push

After Beijing ordered Chinese cities to buy newly-completed apartments and turn them into affordable housing, the first steps they took were to unveil plans to broaden eligibility for subsidies and fix other economic headaches in the process.

Chinese leaders issued the directive in May, aiming to alleviate a protracted property crisis, which has led to bloated inventories of unsold apartments that have crippled developers' cash flows and weighed heavily on home prices, consumer confidence and economic activity.

The property downturn and sluggish consumer demand pulled growth below forecasts in the second quarter.

Some analysts saw authorities' new approach on social housing as a rare consumer-oriented move in China that promises to transfer resources from local governments to households, which many have long called for as a means to boost domestic demand.

But an analysis of public statements from 20 Chinese cities shows that local officials are thinking bigger than that.

Most have distributed questionnaires to doctors, teachers and other groups beyond the usual low-income demographic targets to gauge demand for subsidised rents and apartment purchases. Some have called on migrant factory workers from rural areas or even scientific researchers to express interest.

Economists say these announcements show that the cities are seizing on the new housing policy in ways that try to address brain drain and net population outflows to mega-cities such as Shanghai or Shenzhen.

Easing labour shortages in factories and strengthening healthcare and education could help reduce some of economic and social pressures in smaller population centres by boosting activity and broadening the tax base. "Smaller cities are more motivated to develop affordable housing," Hwabao Trust economist Nie Wen said.

"Through affordable rents they can attract more migrant workers and reduce the net outflow of people. Affordable housing can also be sold to police, doctors, teachers, and help retain talent." Cities across China have only just started to release statements on their efforts to implement the May directive, with details of the targeted population groups emerging for the first time.

Ten of 20 statements reviewed by Reuters announced surveys of medical staff, teachers and other public sector employees. The eastern cities of Yantai and Longkou also said migrant workers are eligible to buy and rent affordable homes.

Hangzhou and Jinhua in the wealthier Zhejiang province want scientists. Tangshan in the Hebei province, near Beijing, offers housing to new citizens and people younger than 35.

Kunming in the southwest is targeting unspecified “talent groups that the city needs,” it said in a statement.

Duan, in the heavily indebted, poorer Guangxi region, offers discounted apartments to “families who don’t own housing, or whose per-capita home area is below 15 square metres.”

Analysts expect these surveys to return strong interest. But many would-be renters or buyers might change their minds if the apartments that authorities purchase for the scheme are in poor condition or in inconvenient locations. “We don’t know yet what the quality of these apartments is,” said Ma Hong, senior analyst at GDDCE Research Institution.

‘SO POOR’: Beijing is facilitating 500 billion yuan (\$69 billion) in funding for the scheme nationwide, and many analysts expect it to increase funding in the future.

Few cities have indicated the size of the planned subsidies.

Yantai and Longkou offer monthly rent discounts of 400 yuan for university graduates and 300 yuan for others. A further 50 yuan applies for each additional household member.

That amounts to subsidies of at least 20% in both cities, according to Yantai Daily and an online rental platform.

Hangzhou, home to tech giant Alibaba Group, says renting a 50 square metre (538 square feet) apartment would only cost around 500 yuan per month.

Residents in the southwestern city of Leshan and the southern city of Yongzhou who have returned the official forms indicated flats of up to 110 sqm could be bought for about two-thirds of the market price.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209374/china-tries-to-hit-more-birds-with-one-stone-in-property-rescue-push/>

Pakistan, China hold productive meeting to boost cooperation

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, held a productive meeting with Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, at NDRC headquarters to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting underscored the mutual commitment of Pakistan and China to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, according to an official statement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which continues to be a cornerstone of bilateral relations, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. During the meeting in Beijing, both sides reviewed the progress of CPEC with an emphasis on ensuring the timely completion of projects and launching an upgraded version of CPEC as per the agreement reached at the leadership level.

Both sides highlighted significance of CPEC projects in enhancing connectivity, trade, and socio-economic development in the region. It was agreed to fast-track the work on the ML-I project, KKH realignment, for which both sides signed the framework agreement last month,

and, the Sukkur- Hyderabad motorway which is the only missing link within the Karachi-Peshawar motorway network. Discussions were also held on expanding the scope of cooperation to new areas such as technology, innovation, education, connectivity, and renewable energy.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to revitalizing CPEC in its next phase through the operationalization of the five corridors of growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development, and inclusivity.

The vision of five corridors is well aligned with Pakistan's 5Es Framework (exports, e-Pakistan, environment, equity, energy, and education), said the minister.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized Pakistan's interest in learning from China's experiences in these sectors to drive sustainable development. NDRC may consider organizing a high-level workshop in Beijing to discuss ways to operationalize the five corridors in alignment with Pakistan's 5Es framework. "Our experts can develop an agenda and share concept notes ahead of this workshop. If necessary, online preparatory meetings can be held," he added. He also discussed ways to bring more predictability in convening meetings of the JWG and JCC mechanisms.

Zhao Chenxin highlighted the potential for increased Chinese investment in Pakistan, particularly in the Special Economic Zones being developed under CPEC. Zhao reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan's development initiatives and expressed confidence in the continued success of the partnership between the two countries. The meeting concluded with both leaders expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-China relations and their shared vision of prosperity and development for their people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209392/pakistan-china-hold-productive-meeting-to-boost-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

BRI & Kazakhstan: A Befitting Proposition

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is the origin country of the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) thus it has strategic relevance to it. It was launched during Chinese President Xi Jinping's September 2013 visit to Astana, highlighting Kazakhstan's critical transit role in China's pivot to the world and especially Europe.

Undoubtedly, BRI projects are spreading economic feel good gestures and sentiments in the Central Asia Region and look highly promising, in terms of increased connectivity, expanded regional trade and modernize their obsolete transport infrastructure. Thus BRI has been increasing their potential of trade and commerce, integration of socio-economic development and last but not the least eradication of poverty.

Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country and the 9th largest in the world. It shares a border to the east with China, and borders Russia to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to

the south, and Iran. Its ideal geographical location facilitates connectivity between China and the West via key routes under the BRI flagship.

Today two of the six economic corridors of BRI pass through Kazakhstan connecting China with Europe, Iran and Western Asia. Mainly the New Eurasian Land Bridge and the China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor pass through it.

It is good omen that the BRI comprises 51 mega projects of US\$35 billion in Kazakhstan, in which US\$3.5 billion is invested in the International Centre for Border Cooperation Khorgos and a dry port on the eastern border with China. Its investments include the Shalkar-Beyneu Railways, the Zhezkazgan-Suksanl Railways, the Kuryl Seaport, the Unified System of Management “NOMAD” and Almaty-Sha Railway Line, Almaty bypass railways etc. Thus Kazakhstan is the “jewel” of BRI in Central Asia and beyond.

Moreover, Kuryk Seaport has direct access to railway tracks which has already enhanced its “strategic” value. The port is well located at the intersection of the East-West and North-South trade corridors (Iran, India and Russia) creating one of the fastest multinational routes for cargo delivery. It is meant to perform multi tasks mainly to increase Kazakhstan’s trade activities with Caspian Sea Region (CSR) and transit potential of the Caspian Sea.

The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Astana on July 3-4. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the summit which marked his fifth trip to Kazakhstan, following previous visits in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2022.

For over 30 years since Kazakhstan’s independence, China and Kazakhstan have transitioned from bilateral cooperation to broader multilateral engagements within the frameworks of the SCO and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Their mutual support and shared achievements have charted an extraordinary path of cooperation, setting a benchmark for pragmatic collaboration under the BRI.

With the passage of time China and Kazakhstan have developed their pragmatic cooperation and further enhanced their status of comprehensive strategic partners. Their bilateral trade volume was around US\$370 million in 1992. By 2023, this figure had surged to over US\$41 billion, a more than 100-fold increase, accounting for 28.3 percent of Kazakhstan’s total trade volume. This achievement surpasses the \$40 billion trade target for 2030 set by the leaders of both nations.

Moreover, between 2005 and 2023, China invested \$25.3 billion in Kazakhstan, solidifying Kazakhstan’s position as China’s largest trading partner in Central Asia and one of its most important economic partners, bringing tangible benefits to both countries.

Critical analysis reveals that within the SCO framework, China and Kazakhstan have aligned their positions on international and regional issues, providing each other with steadfast mutual support.

It is pertinent to mention that jointly they have played a constructive role in the development and expansion of the SCO, fostering cooperation in areas such as institutional building, counter-terrorism, combating crime, regional security, economy, trade, agriculture, energy,

science and technology, finance, culture, information, education, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection.

It augurs well that both sides are committed to maintaining regional peace, security and stability, and promoting a new, democratic, just, and rational international political and economic order, thereby contributing to a more representative, democratic, just, and multipolar world order.

Kazakhstan has been an active participant in the BRI since its inception, creatively proposing the integration of the Silk Road Economic Belt with its “Bright Road” economic policy which

offers a new path for collaborative development between China and BRI-participating countries and regions. The China-Kazakhstan production capacity cooperation has pioneered a new model of pragmatic collaboration under the BRI, providing a template for industrial upgrading and enhancing local employment and poverty alleviation.

It seems that the China-Kazakhstan (Lianyungang) logistics cooperation base has opened a maritime route to the Pacific for Kazakhstan, transforming it from a landlocked to a land-linked country, and expanding the geographical scope of international cooperation for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian nations, significantly altering the geopolitical and economic landscape of Eurasia. Interestingly, China and Kazakhstan are building a digital Silk Road, a green Silk Road, and a Silk Road of health, setting an example for building a global community of shared future.

In summary, China and Kazakhstan are embarking on a new golden 30 years of bilateral cooperation, advancing into the next vibrant 20 years of the SCO from its youth to maturity, and opening another decade filled with opportunities and hope under the BRI. Hopefully, the future promises even deeper mutual trust and assistance, enhanced bilateral pragmatic cooperation and a more influential SCO.

China and Kazakhstan will further contribute positivity and productivity in the regional as well as international affairs and play their constructive role in greater regional connectivity, security, development, digitalization, e-commerce, socio-economic integration, infrastructure development, poverty eradication, generation of new jobs, climate change, green transformation, rail and transport connectivity, smart living, agricultural cooperation and last but not least, human capital in the days to come.

There is great potential for mutual cooperation in renewables, solar, wind, lithium battery, EVs, metals & mining, SMEs, services, and qualitative industrialization which must be jointly tapped and pursued.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-kazakhstan-a-befitting-proposition/>

CPEC & Solarized Pakistan: Prospects & Constraints

Z.H. Khan

Undoubtedly, the CPEC has significantly contributed to sustainable development in Pakistan by enhancing infrastructure, boosting energy production and creating economic opportunities. However, many untapped sectors still need to be jointly explored under the flagship project of the CPEC in the country.

The development of new highways and railways under CPEC has improved connectivity, facilitating trade and economic growth. Additionally, CPEC projects in renewable energy, such as wind and solar power plants, have increased Pakistan's energy capacity while promoting cleaner, sustainable energy sources. According to a published report of the Global Energy Monitor (GEM), China has 180 gigawatts (GW) of utility-scale solar power under construction and 159GW of wind power. This brings the total of wind and solar power under construction to 339GW, well ahead of the 40GW under construction in the US.

The researchers only looked at solar farms with a capacity of 20MW or more, which feed directly into the grid. This means that the total volume of solar power in China could be much higher, as small-scale solar farms account for about 40 percent of China's solar capacity. The findings underscore China's leading position in global renewable energy production at a time when the US is increasingly worried about Chinese overcapacity and dumping, particularly in the solar industry.

China has experienced a renewables boom due to strong government support, with President Xi Jinping emphasizing "new quality productive forces," including green manufacturing. Between March 2023 and March 2024, China installed more solar capacity than in the previous three years combined and more than the rest of the world for 2023. China is on track to reach 1,200GW of installed wind and solar capacity by the end of 2024, six years ahead of its target.

Hopefully, the constructive wave of construction guarantees that China will continue leading in wind and solar installation in the near future, far ahead of the rest of the world. It is a good omen that the Chinese company expressed its willingness to provide Road King with technical support, product optimization, and marketing assistance for solar e-bikes in the country. Thus, it will jointly create high-quality transportation products that meet local market needs.

Optimistically, it will actively promote cooperation with the Chinese side and introduce solar e-bikes to the Pakistani market. The environmental friendliness and high-efficiency performance of solar e-bikes perfectly align with Pakistan's current demand for green transportation. Moreover, Road King, a leading electric scooter brand in Pakistan, and AGAO Solar Mobility, a China-based startup specializing in solar-powered scooters, recently reached a preliminary cooperation agreement to introduce eco-friendly solar e-bikes to Pakistan.

Solar scooters are eco-friendly electric scooters equipped with solar panels. These panels harness solar energy to charge the scooter's battery, reducing the need for traditional charging. The combination of solar energy and scooters is dedicated to short-distance travel

with zero carbon emissions. During the meeting, both sides engaged in detailed discussions on Pakistan's local transportation market demand, product development trends, and specific cooperation modalities.

The Chinese company expressed its willingness to provide Road King with technical support, product optimization and marketing assistance for solar e-bikes. The goal is to jointly create high-quality transportation products that meet local market needs. Eventually, it will actively promote cooperation with the Chinese side and introduce solar e-bikes to the Pakistani market, stated the delegation from Road King, noting that the environmental friendliness and high-efficiency performance of solar e-bikes perfectly align with Pakistan's current demand for green transportation.

Interestingly, a delegation of a Chinese private sector investment group called on Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and discussed with him matters related to investment in different sectors of the province. The delegation expressed its willingness to invest in the industrial and mineral sectors of the province, saying that the company will submit its viable proposals very soon.

The Chief Minister directed the relevant officials to closely examine the proposals to be submitted by the company and come up with an action plan for further progress. While highlighting the extensive investment opportunities in different potential sectors of the province, CM Gandapur invited them to invest in agriculture, livestock, solar energy and other important sectors, adding that the government will not only encourage foreign investment but also provide all possible facilities to them. He said that the provincial government plans to utilize China's advanced technology for the sustainable development of the agriculture sector and looks forward to cooperation in this regard.

In summary, the policymakers of Pakistan should follow the recommendations of Pakistan's National Electricity Policy 2021, which pledges that a "sustainable renewable energy market shall be developed, with a progressively increasing share in power generation as per the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) based on the least cost principle." As per the World Bank's "Variable Renewable Energy Integration and Planning Study," the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates the theoretical potential for wind generation in Pakistan at 340GW, mainly in Sindh and Balochistan, vividly reflecting the rich potential of renewables in the country.

Unfortunately, no solar or wind projects have been installed in Balochistan despite the immense solar and wind integration potential of 1050MW and 1850MW, respectively, at interconnection-ready sites requiring no grid strengthening and no capacity additions. According to the World Bank study, Balochistan's realizable solar and wind potential when grid strengthening measures are in place could be as high as 3.5GW and 6GW, respectively, by 2030.

Focusing on hydropower and conventional power sources limits renewable energy opportunities in Sindh and Balochistan. Urgent action is needed to utilize the renewables potential in these provinces, including grid upgrades and strategic placement of solar and wind power near substations and transmission lines. Policymakers in Pakistan must revisit

their renewables policy to ensure a balanced and inclusive energy and economic development approach. This would enable Sindh and Balochistan to harness their renewable energy potential, driving regional development and contributing significantly to Pakistan's overall energy landscape.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-solarized-pakistan-prospects-constraints/>

The Nation

Federal govt to establish Gwadar Blue Economy Centre

Rs1.5 billion have been allocated for project in PSDP 2024-25

ISLAMABAD - The federal government will establish Gwadar Blue Economy Centre to explore and exploit marine resources and blue economy including port & shipping management which is directly and indirectly associated to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). An amount of Rs1.5 billion has been allocated for the project of establishment of Gwadar Blue Economy Centre in the PSDP 2024-25, and it is sponsored/executed by Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Gwadar Port Authority, official documents available with The Nation revealed.

In pursuit of optimal utilization of wealthy resources Pakistan is gifted with, there is a need for establishing a 'Center for Blue Economy' (CBE) that could be helpful in identifying, developing, implementing, and managing marine resources within a holistic framework that also prioritize sustainability while ensuring measures to conserve marine as well as coastal ecosystem, official documents revealed. According the documents, CBE would also aim at integrating economic and human development, minimizing environmental degradation, and building resilience while fostering mitigation opportunities.

Under the project, a dedicated and well-equipped policy cell would be established within the Center for Blue Economy comprising relevant high/mid/lower-level experts to provide a platform for investment and business friendly policy formulation in the areas relevant to blue economy and its promotion. Under Gwadar Blue Economy Centre, model shrimp hatchery/farms would be set up at Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara, Jiwani, Pishikan, Surbandar Gunz for the production of disease free seed and promotion of shrimp culture in Pakistan.

The prime objectives of the centre will be to develop at least seven model shrimp hatcheries, the pathogen free shrimp seed from using artificial breeding from wild shrimp for shrimp culture development, to establish algal and artemia culture for shrimp feed using modern techniques, to enhance growth and reproductive rate of shrimp using algal und artemia feed, and to supply shrimp seed to public-private sector for the development of shrimp culture. The project is aligned with the objectives set under longterm development plan and government sectoral priorities and the 14th SDG goals, life below water & blue economy.

Effective and efficient development can only be ensured to people of Pakistan by enhancing the institutional and technical capability and capacity of the ocean and blue economy of Pakistan, which in fact is not possible without the well established and elaborate research & study centers in the field of blue economy which has a huge potential in Balochistan and particularly Gwadar. The potential of blue economy in Pakistan is certainly a source of

enormous wealth for Pakistan. Pakistan's coastline of more than 1000 kilometers and an exclusive economic zone of 290,000 kilometers is rich with oceanic wealth and natural resources.

In pursuit of optimal utilization of wealthy resources Pakistan is gifted with, there is a need for establishing a state of the art Gwadar Blue Economy Centre that could be helpful in identifying, developing, implementing, and managing and preserving marine resources within a holistic framework that also prioritize sustainability while ensuring measures to conserve marine as well as coastal ecosystem. In addition, Gwadar Blue Economy Centre would also aim at integrating economic and human development, minimizing environmental degradation, and building resilience while fostering mitigation opportunities. This could assist in easing the economic pressure and could support creation of new business and job opportunities that could potentially attract huge local and international investments.

Pakistan has great potential for sustainable development, socio-economic growth, business and job opportunities, and addition in its value chain only if it prioritizes blue economy and optimally utilises its resources. It is projected that the return on investment in blue economy can yield Pakistan minimum of five fold return on investment. In order to develop a human resource pool in the field of blue economy and marine resources, the project includes a component for provision of scholarships to the highly talented individuals. These scholarships will be for one- and two-years degree programmes in the specialized fields of blue economy and marine resources, the documents revealed. The merit based scholarships will be fully funded and will be offered to individuals of the Gwadar & Lasbela Districts who pursue their degree programmes in the renowned western universities.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/federal-govt-to-establish-gwadar-blue-economy-centre>

Pakistan, China hold productive meeting to boost cooperation

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, held a productive meeting with Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, at NDRC headquarters to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting underscored the mutual commitment of Pakistan and China to further strengthening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, according to an official statement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which continues to be a cornerstone of bilateral relations, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. During the meeting in Beijing, both sides reviewed the progress of CPEC with an emphasis on ensuring timely completion of projects and launching an upgraded version of CPEC as per the agreement reached at the leadership level.

Both sides highlighted significance of CPEC projects in enhancing connectivity, trade, and socio-economic development in the region. It was agreed to fast-track the work on the ML-I project, KKH realignment, for which both sides signed the framework agreement last month,

and, the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway which is the only missing link within the Karachi-Peshawar motorway network.

Discussions were also held on expanding the scope of cooperation to new areas such as technology, innovation, education, connectivity, and renewable energy.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to revitalising CPEC in its next phase through the operationalisation of the five corridors of growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development, and inclusivity.

The vision of five corridors is well aligned with Pakistan's 5Es Framework (exports, e-Pakistan, environment, equity, energy, and education), said the minister.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasised Pakistan's interest in learning from China's experiences in these sectors to drive sustainable development. NDRC may consider organising a high-level workshop in Beijing to discuss ways to operationalise the five corridors in alignment with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

"Our experts can develop an agenda and share concept notes ahead of this workshop. If necessary, online preparatory meetings can be held," he added. He also discussed ways to bring more predictability in convening meetings of the JWG and JCC mechanisms.

Zhao Chenxin highlighted the potential for increased Chinese investment in Pakistan, particularly in the Special Economic Zones being developed under CPEC.

Zhao reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan's development initiatives and expressed confidence in the continued success of the partnership between the two countries. The meeting concluded with both leaders expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-China relations and their shared vision of prosperity and development for their people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/pakistan-china-hold-productive-meeting-to-boost-cooperation>

China-Laos Railway facilitates fruit transport

KUNMING - The China-Laos Railway has transported more than 100,000 tonnes of fruits this year as of Thursday, an increase of around 120 percent year on year, local railway authorities said. On Thursday, a batch of 108 tonnes of durians from Thailand transported via the China-Laos Railway was unloaded at Kunming Hongyun international logistics port, surpassing the 100,000-tonne mark. It took only 29 hours for this batch of goods to reach the unloading area in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, from the Vientiane south railway station, said China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co., Ltd. Thanks to streamlined customs clearance measures, tropical fruits from South Asia and Southeast Asia are continuously transported to China via this railway. Currently, the railway's cross-border customs clearance time has been reduced to no more than five hours, facilitating the transportation of fruits and vegetables, flowers and other goods that require swift transit, said the company. The China-Laos Railway, a landmark project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, began operations in December 2021. The 1,035-km railway connects Kunming in China with Vientiane in Laos. <https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/china-laos-railway-facilitates-fruit-transport>

The News

3rd session of China 20th Central Committee: what to expect?

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is preparing to organise third plenary session of 20th Central Committee. The world is watching it closely, as being the centre of global trade and economy, decisions at the session will have implications for the global economy, trade and development.

The world expects major decisions that will set the tune of Chinese economy, society and international economic and diplomatic engagements. It is anticipated modernisation will be the main focus along with governance and deepening reforms as key enablers. The agenda of the meeting can be divided into two categories: long-term goal of modernisation and acceleration of enablers of "governance and reforms".

Modernisation has been identified as the main instrument of national rejuvenation and sharing prosperity with the world. The present-day Chinese modernisation drive has roots in President Xi Jinping's Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

While delivering a report at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi deliberated on the path to modernisation, required actions and China's capacities and capabilities. He highlighted China has "self-confidence in the path, self-confidence in theory, self-confidence in the institutions and cultural self-confidence to construct modern socialism and socialist society with Chinese characteristics".

Jiang Shigong, a Chinese scholar, argued no doubt modern implementation of modernisation has roots in President Xi's thoughts. But the conceptual journey of modernisation started with Chairman Mao's Ten Great Relationships and kept evolving. Prime Minister Zhou Enlai's four modernisation goals can further strengthen the argument.

While speaking at the Conference on Scientific and Technological Work held in Shanghai in January 1963, he urged scientific community to work towards modernising agriculture, industry, defence, science and technology. Later on, the goals were formally adopted by Deng Xiaoping and became the cornerstone of reform era. The Cultural Revolution made it more radical. But reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping brought China back on the path of modernisation. President Xi is leading the drive towards modernising socialism and the country.

It is appropriate to clarify here the path of Chinese modernisation and its philosophy differs from that of West. It has been defined by learning from Chinese civilisation, Marxism, Western civilisation, Muslim civilisation and others. China is not saying its civilisation is superior to others or that it does not need to learn.

President Xi reiterated the same message while speaking at the 20th National Congress. He said Chinese modernisation had adopted some unique features in accordance with ground realities of China, guiding the philosophy of society with Chinese characteristics and China's commitment to global development and peace. Thus, Chinese modernisation is different from that of West. It has five distinctive characteristics which make it unique:

China strives to serve a huge population (1.4 billion), more than total population of developed world. No other country has experienced modernising of such a population. The success of this drive is expected to change the global dynamics. It will positively impact global production, consumption and trade systems. The spillover effects will also introduce changes in other countries and accelerate growth and development there. It will also push for innovation, as the world will have to produce more high-quality commodities and products to satisfy the needs of people.

Common prosperity would be the core goal of Chinese modernisation drive. It will focus on bringing positive change in the lives of common people and building a prosperous society. It is the cornerstone of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To achieve this objective, China is working to address regional divides, disparities between urban and rural areas and the gap in income distribution. China promotes social fairness and justice, works towards common prosperity for everyone and stands firmly against polarisation between rich and poor.

The most prominent example on this front is the Chinese commitment to developing the western region, with a special focus on Uygur Muslims and the community. China also wants to take this drive to the global level and contribute to global development and prosperity. Global Development Initiative, Belt and Road Initiative and Global Civilisations Initiative are a few examples to explain China's commitment to global prosperity.

China will be pursuing a balanced model of modernisation. In President Xi's words, "Modernisation balances material and cultural-ethical progress. It upholds the core socialist values, strengthens education on ideals and convictions, spreads splendid traditional culture, boosts people's moral strength and fosters material abundance and well-rounded development of all".

China will go for harmonious modernisation. It will stick to the philosophy of harmony between humans and nature and among the humans. President XI said, "When we modernise our country, we strive to synergise material and eco-environmental progress and follow a path of sound development that ensures growth, better lives and a good environment. Otherwise, pressure on resources and environment will become unbearable. It is in line with the philosophy and vision of Ecological Civilisation".

Chinese modernisation follows a path of peaceful development. Some old capitalist countries pursued modernisation through violent exploitation of colonies and at the cost of other countries' development. In contrast, China modernisation emphasises mutual benefit with other countries, strives for a global community of shared future and works to deliver peace and development to humanity.

It is entirely different from the Western model of modernisation. The West colonised countries and committed crimes against humanity. They killed or enslaved locals and exploited their resources. President Xi and the CPC leadership are convinced modernisation cannot be achieved without reforms and modernising governance system and capacity.

Therefore, the leadership will deliberate on modernising governance system and capacity and deepening the reforms. Modernisation of governance and reforms are highly dependent on each other. There is a need to build a quality modern system of governance and modernise the capacity of governance. To achieve this objective, the reform process would need to be expedited.

President Xi is convinced deepening reforms will remain an illusion without modernising governance system, capabilities and capacities. He launched a comprehensive programme and campaign to modernise governance and accelerate reforms. The third plenary session is expected to accelerate reform process and modernise governance system and capacity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325000>

‘Pak response to CPEC should be multifaceted’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad:Renowned columnist Zahid Hussain has said that Pakistan needs to respond to Chinese economic expectations regarding CPEC with an effective and consistent policy.

Mr Hussain was speaking at a discussion on “CPEC: an appraisal” organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Emphasising the importance of nurturing existing synergy between the two nations, Mr Hussain highlighted the need for upgrading the skills of the Pakistani workforce to advance high-quality development in the second phase of the CPEC. He added that the recent signing of 27 new projects related to the development of Special Industrial Zones (SIZs), agriculture, tourism and other mutually beneficial initiatives was poised to significantly build on the commercial ties between China and Pakistan, leading to a new era of cooperation within the South Asian region.

In elaborating on the development of Phase 1, he admitted the slow pace but highlighted the instrumental role of several infrastructure projects initiated in the first phase in spurring economic growth of Pakistan. He also underscored the need to address shortcomings of Phase 1 to fully leverage the potential of Phase 2. Speaking on the occasion, Jauhar Saleem, President, IRS, underlined the critical importance of timely completion of CPEC projects, asserting that this would greatly enhance the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

He stressed the multi-dimensional cooperation facilitated by CPEC for enhancing trade, industrial collaboration and connectivity within the region and called upon the need for a fresh approach to capitalise on China's fast-growing economy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325055>

Express News

چینی کمپنی یوٹونگ کا کراچی میں بس مینوفیکچرنگ پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق سندھ کے سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن کی جانب سے عوام کے لیے بہت بڑی خوش خبری سامنے آئی ہے، دنیا کی سب سے بڑی بس ساز کمپنی یوٹونگ مشرق وسطیٰ کے سی ای او اور دیگر حکام نے کراچی میں سندھ کے سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن سے ملاقات کی۔

سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن کی جانب سے جولائی 2022ء میں دی گئی دعوت پر یوٹونگ کمپنی نے کراچی میں پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

شرجیل انعام میمن نے اس حوالے سے بتایا ہے کہ یوٹونگ کی جانب سے کراچی میں پلانٹ لگانے کا کام تین ماہ کے اندر شروع ہو جائے گا، پلانٹ کا کام اگلے سال مکمل ہو جائے گا، یوٹونگ کی انٹراسٹی اور الیکٹریک بسز اب کراچی میں بنیں گی، پلانٹ میں ای وی بسز اور ہائبرڈ ڈیزل بسز تیار کی جائیں گی۔

صوبائی وزیر کے مطابق پلانٹ لگنے سے صنعتوں کو فروغ ملے گا، روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، کراچی میں بسز کی تیاری سے پاکستان کا زرمبادلہ بھی بچے گا، بسوں کی ایکسپورٹ سے پاکستان کو بھی فائدہ ہو گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2669827/1/>

July 19, 2024

Business Recorder

Up-gradation of ML-1 to be completed in phases under CPEC: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the upgradation of the Pakistan Railway ML-1 Project would be completed in phases under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chairing a meeting regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the P-Block Secretariat on Thursday, he said both Pakistan and China are in agreement for early commencement of work on the Pakistan Railway ML-1 Project.

The minister asked the Ministry of Railways to complete all the documents and necessary steps to start the project at the earliest. He said that the governments of China and Pakistan have agreed to start work on the ML-1 project soon. He said that both sides have agreed to convene an early meeting of the Joint Financing Committee for the ML-1 project. He said the duration of the project and the stages of completion will be determined in the meeting of the Joint Financing Committee. He said we have to demonstrate seriousness for the completion of projects included in the second phase of CPEC.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said that there is a complete agreement between the leaderships of China and Pakistan on the second phase of CPEC. He said that his visit to China last week was also in continuation of the prime minister's visit to China. He said that due to the geographical position of Pakistan, the CPEC project is still of great importance and in view of its distinctive position, there are ample opportunities for development for us. "In order to take advantage of the growth opportunities, we have to be serious about completing the projects included in Phase-2," he said.

During the meeting, the minister directed the Railway Ministry and the National Highways Authority (NHA) officials to prepare a master plan for the corridor across the region, which will show how CPEC and Pakistan can effectively connect the entire region and become an engine of global economic growth.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/19/3-page/999723-news.html>

President PCJCCI for cancelling agreements with IPPs

LAHORE: President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) urged to cancel all agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and start procuring electricity from cheaper sources without any capacity charges.

The consensus was established in a think tank session of the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) held here on Thursday at Chamber Secretariat. Despite vast potential for solar energy, Pakistan has only scratched the surface of its capabilities. The

country is blessed with abundant sunshine, making it an ideal location for solar power generation. In other countries solar is available in 4 cents but in ours the government is selling 13 cents, so we should come together and think about this.

Pakistan's government, recognizing the importance of renewable energy, has introduced favorable policies and incentives to promote solar energy development. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also played a crucial role in fostering solar energy cooperation between the two countries.

Moazzam Ghurki President PCJCCI highlighted that the pending Rs2 trillion capacity payments to IPPs have paralyzed the country's economic activities, urging the government to take decisive action before the prevailing desperation leads to total economic collapse.

Fang Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI highlighted that China is large-scale development of solar power, coupled with continuous innovation and a complete industrial chain, is driving down production costs and making new energy products more affordable globally. This shift benefits the global community, whose current solar capacity still falls short of quantities needed to achieve decarbonization goals. Developing nations in particular require more advanced solar capacity to make electricity more accessible and cost-effective for both households and businesses.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI added that the recent surge in electricity rates would trigger civil unrest and discontent among the business community if no timely action is taken by the government. He supported S.M Tanveer's request for a comprehensive review of IPP agreements, price re-evaluation within legal bounds, and improved oversight to prevent over-invoicing.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI added that China, with its abundant resources, innovative technology, and extensive global relationships, could significantly contribute to achieving Pakistan's solarization target.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/19/3-page/999730-news.html>

Daily Times

WAVES positioned as ideal partner for Chinese joint ventures

In a pivotal development for Pakistan's economic landscape, WAVES Home Appliances, distinguished by its iconic brand "Naam He Kaafi Hai" carrying 50 years old legacy of WAVES and 100 years old legacy of SINGER Pakistan, is set to lead the charge in revitalizing the country's home appliance sector for inviting fresh foreign investment in the country. As the sole company in Pakistan solely dedicated to appliances, WAVESAPP's market positioning and production capacity signifies a significant stride towards economic resurgence.

While economic challenges posed hurdles until early 2024, a renewed wave of optimism has emerged WAVESAPP's with robust capabilities to meet both local demands and international export requirements. WAVESAPP has garnered attention from Chinese Investors for its ability to maintain high-quality standards. Its certification by international bottlers as well as local and foreign food companies brings to light its commitment to meeting stringent international benchmarks.

As the only large company solely focused on home appliances, WAVES Home Appliances offers specialized expertise and a streamlined approach with its unmatched expertise and infrastructure ” noted Company’s spokesperson. “This positions us as the preferred JV partner for international collaborations and reinforces our capability to cater to diverse market needs, especially for Chinese companies seeking to establish joint ventures in Pakistan.”

Industry analysts highlight WAVESAPP’s strategic advantages, making it a prime candidate for Chinese home appliance manufacturers looking to optimize production and expand export capabilities from Pakistan.

“As interest from Chinese investors renews, WAVESAPP’s role in Pakistan’s economic narrative grows increasingly prominent,” remarked [industry analyst]. “Investors are keenly watching WAVES Home Appliances as a potential catalyst for sectoral growth and market transformation.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209627/waves-positioned-as-ideal-partner-for-chinese-joint-ventures/>

Pakistani jeweler eyes bigger role in China-ASEAN trade

Pakistani jeweler eyes bigger role in China-ASEAN trade event, held in Nanning, the provincial capital of Guangxi, China.

According to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday, in an effort to bolster the global footprint of Pakistani jewelry, Pakistani jeweler Aqeel Chaudhry attended the event and made a bigger show to promote the Pakistani jewellery.

He highlighted his commitment to the Chinese market and exploring new horizons for business expansion within the ASEAN region. The event, which attracted 110 international companies and investment promotion agencies in attendance, including 73 Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders, served as a platform for fostering international business collaborations and unlocking new market opportunities.

Chaudhry’s presence underlined his keen interest in Guangxi’s strategic position as a gateway to ASEAN countries, thereby expanding the reach of Pakistani jewelry.

“Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has emerged as a vital link, fostering closer trade ties and communication between China and ASEAN,” the jeweler noted.

“For us, Guangxi represents not just a gateway but a bridge, enabling seamless B2B and B2C market access.

This event presents unparalleled opportunities for us to expand our horizons and deepen our connections within the region.” The event served as a precursor to the upcoming 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled to take place in Shanghai from November 5 to 10, 2024, where Chaudhry’s jewelry brand will once again be a prominent participant for the 7th consecutive year.

“Participating in CIIE has always been a milestone for us,” he stated. “This year, we aim to further strengthen our international presence by showcasing an array of innovative products.

We believe that by offering an interactive and experiential display, visitors will be able to personally appreciate the unique charm and craftsmanship of our jewelry.”

Chaudhry’s plans for the upcoming CIIE go beyond mere product showcases. He intends to leverage the expo’s global reach to expand the network of international buyers for Pakistani jewelry brands and explore potential partnerships that could open new avenues for growth.

“We are excited about the prospect of connecting with like-minded businesses and investors from around the world. Our ultimate goal is to establish a leading brand in the international jewelry market, and CIIE provides us with the perfect stage to achieve this,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209630/pakistani-jeweler-eyes-bigger-role-in-china-asean-trade/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China reaffirm strong military ties at PLA’s 97th anniversary celebrated at GHQ

RAWALPINDI – Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir hailed Sino-Pak ties, calling them exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other’s support.

A statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations ISPR said Chief of Army Staff expressed these remarks on the 97th anniversary of the founding of PLA commemorated at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Pakistan Mr. Jiang Zaidong was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Major General Wang Zhong, Defence Attaché, Chinese Embassy officials & Officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event.

Army Chief congratulated PLA and praised its contribution to Chinese defence, security and nation development. “Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other’s support”, COAS said.

COAS said ties between Pakistan Army and Peoples Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron clad brotherhood between the two countries.

Chinese Ambassador also thanked Gen Asim Munir for hosting the event for the 97th anniversary of the founding of the PLA. “Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region”, Chinese ambassador said.

He also reiterated to stand and work with Pakistan to combat terrorism and firmly believe that no force can destroy the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan and the brotherhood between the two militaries.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-reaffirm-strong-military-ties-at-plas-97th-anniversary-celebrated-at-ghq/>

Ahsan reviews implementation status of CPEC-related decisions

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal presided over a meeting on Thursday to review the implementation status of the decisions regarding CPEC projects, especially those made during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China.

"There is complete agreement between the leaderships of China and Pakistan on the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, also known as CPEC 2.0," he said while chairing the meeting.

The minister said his visit to China last week was a continuation of the PM's discussions with the Chinese President and Prime Minister, which focused on the strategic implementation of these decisions to ensure the success of CPEC 2.0.

Mentioning the global interest in China's economic development model, he said world leaders were keen to benefit from China's innovative approach. "As of 2018, Pakistan was the biggest beneficiary of China's economic model and open market due to CPEC," he remarked.

However, he said, progress slowed down after 2018, leaving Pakistan behind while other regional corridors completed their projects.

Despite these setbacks, Ahsan Iqbal stressed the continued importance of CPEC due to Pakistan's strategic geographical position. He urged the Ministry of Railways to expedite the documentation and preparatory steps for the ML1 project.

"During my recent visit to China, we agreed to convene an early meeting of the Joint Financing Committee for the ML1 project, which will take place within a month," he announced.

He stressed the need for full preparation by the Ministry of Railways and other concerned departments for this critical meeting. "Given CPEC's unique status, there are ample growth opportunities. To capitalize on these opportunities, we must be serious about completing the projects included in Phase 2.0," he added.

The minister also called for a collaborative effort from all relevant ministries and institutions to ensure the timely completion of CPEC projects. "The governments of China and Pakistan have agreed to start work on the ML1 project soon. The duration and stages of completion will be determined in the upcoming meeting of the Joint Financing Committee."

Additionally, he urged the Railway and National Highway Authority to prepare a comprehensive master plan for road construction across the region. "The master plan should outline how CPEC and Pakistan can play a pivotal role in connecting the entire region and serve as an engine of global economic growth," he stressed.

<https://pakobserver.net/ahsan-reviews-implementation-status-of-cpec-related-decisions/>

President Zardari pushes Eastern nations to lead in Sustainable Development with China's GDI

ISLAMABAD – President Asif Ali Zardari stressed collaborative efforts among Eastern nations to ensure sustainable development and shared prosperity through China's Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Sharing his thoughts at 2nd High-level Meeting of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) in Beijing, President Zardari mentioned GDI's potential to shape global futures positively.

He also urged developing countries to take leading role in global development, emphasising a perspective aligned with Eastern challenges and opportunities.

He expressed eagerness for President Xi Jinping and China to lead GDI, supporting UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

China aims to enhance Global Development Initiative through global partnerships, resource mobilization, and capacity building, with specific areas covered under a recent MoU with Pakistan ranging from poverty reduction to cultural exchanges and human resource development.

<https://pakobserver.net/president-zardari-pushes-eastern-nations-to-lead-in-sustainable-development-with-chinas-gdi/>

The Nation

Pak-China relations are exceptional: COAS

General Syed Asim Munir attends PLA's 97th founding anniversary hosted at GHQ. Says Pak Army, PLA continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation. Chinese ambassador says no force can destroy Pak-China iron-clad friendship. Pakistani military has made great sacrifices for stability of Pakistan, region: Jiang Zaidong.

ISLAMABAD - The 97th anniversary of the founding of People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China was hosted at GHQ in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

Jiang Zaidong Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Major General Wang Zhong, Defence Attaché, Chinese Embassy officials and officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event.

According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) while welcoming the Chinese guests, congratulated the PLA and praised PLA's contribution to Chinese defence, security and nation development.

He further added that "Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other's support".

“Relations between Pakistan Army and Peoples Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron clad brotherhood between the two countries”, COAS concluded.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador thanked COAS for hosting the event for the 97th anniversary of the founding of the PLA.

“Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region”, Chinese ambassador remarked.

“We stand ready to work with our brethren to combat terrorism and firmly believe that no force can destroy the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan and the brotherhood between the two militaries”, Chinese ambassador said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Jul-2024/pak-china-relations-are-exceptional-coas>

Thar Foundation imparts local girls mining education

ISLAMABAD - In a groundbreaking initiative for women empowerment in rural Sindh, Thar Foundation has begun providing education to local girls to become mining professionals. The foundation has enrolled 13 female students in its Diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) in Mining Program at the Government Polytechnic Institute (GPI) Mithi. “For the first time, 13 girls are among the 50 students now enrolled in our DAE Mining program at GPI - Mithi. According to Gwadar Pro, this initiative is a testament to our dedication to empowering women and nurturing local talent,” announced Thar Foundation on May 15, coinciding with World Youth Skills Day. The official statement highlighted, “By fostering quality education and gender equality, we’re building a stronger, more sustainable community aligned with UN SDG goals 4 and 5.” Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) and Engro Powergen Thar Limited (EPTL), through the Thar Foundation, are committed to enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of the Tharparkar community. Their focus includes sustainable interventions in health, safe drinking water, education, women’s empowerment, and livelihoods, aimed at improving local living standards. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has significantly benefited the Tharparkar region, particularly through the Thar Coal project. With initiatives spearheaded by SECMC, the area has seen substantial socioeconomic improvements, attracting people from other regions due to the large-scale potential livelihood opportunities available. As a result, Tharparkar is thriving, and its residents are experiencing an enhanced quality of life.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Jul-2024/thar-foundation-imparts-local-girls-mining-education#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%20%2D%20In%20a%20groundbreaking%20initiative,girls%20to%20become%20mining%20professionals.>

‘Chinese Bridge’ summer camp held in Ganzhou for Pak students

ISLAMABAD - The 2024 “Chinese Bridge” Summer Camp for Pakistani students kicked off at the Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST) in Ganzhou, marking the beginning of a two-week immersive experience for 20 Pakistani educators and students.

It was part of an effort to further strengthen the friendship and cultural exchange between China and Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported.

Representing institutions including the Punjab University (PU), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), and the Aitchison College in Lahore, the participants gathered in Jiangxi to embark on a journey of language learning and cultural discovery.

The summer camp, a program under the auspices of the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and supported by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) of the Ministry of Education, China, offers a unique opportunity for the Pakistani students and teachers to learn Mandarin Chinese, decipher the intricacies of Chinese characters, and delve deep into the rich tapestry of Chinese culture.

The two-week program is designed to be a comprehensive experience, blending intensive language classes with cultural workshops, traditional Chinese art classes, and excursions to iconic historical sites across China, and providing participants with firsthand experiences of China's heritage.

Additionally, the camp facilitates a two-way cultural exchange: Participants will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the daily life of the Chinese people and they are encouraged to share their own rich culture and heritage.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Jul-2024/chinese-bridge-summer-camp-held-in-ganzhou-for-pak-students>

The News

Ministers to head to China to try to get \$15.4bn IPPs debt rescheduled

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Mohammad Aurangzeb and Minister for Power Awais Leghari are all set to depart for China by the end of next week to explore possibility of rescheduling of Chinese IPPs debt of \$15.4 billion.

On the other hand, China and Pakistan have kick-started the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Both sides have agreed to hold a financing committee meeting to finalize the construction of Mainline (ML-1) in a phased manner.

The ML-1 could not be started since the inception of CPEC in 2014-15. Now it will be a challenge for Pakistan to seek foreign funding of over \$3 billion from China and simultaneously pursue the IMF programme of \$7 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

“Ministers for Finance and Power will depart for China next week to make a request to China to reschedule Chinese IPPs debt by extending the tenure of the amount by five years, from 2036 to 2041,” top official sources confirmed while talking to The News here on Thursday.

Pakistan's total outstanding repayment to Chinese IPPs will be standing at \$15.4 billion till 2036; Islamabad is required to pay back \$2.23 billion in 2024, \$2.13 billion in 2025, \$2.03 billion in 2026, \$1.89 billion in 2027, \$1.57 billion in 2028, \$1.3 billion in 2029 and \$1.01

billion in 2030. After 2030, the Chinese IPPs repayment will start reducing and will be standing at \$0.96 billion in 2031, \$0.78 billion in 2032, \$0.57 billion in 2033, \$0.5 billion in 2034, \$0.37 billion in 2035 and \$0.02 billion in 2036 under the existing arrangement.

Pakistan now desires to extend the tenor of five years for Chinese IPPs repayments and if agreed by the Chinese side, the repayment schedule would witness staggering in repayment obligations. “It’s hard to convince the Chinese side but there is need to make a formal endeavour in this regard,” said a senior official.

Official estimates worked out by Pakistani side that might be presented to the Chinese side show that Pakistan would be making a request to stagger the outstanding amount of Chinese IPPs and if granted extension of five years, then the outstanding liability would go up to \$1.63 billion in 2024, \$1.55 billion in 2025, \$1.48 billion in 2026, \$1.41 billion in 2027, \$1.34 billion in 2028, \$1.28 billion in 2029, \$1.22 billion in 2030, \$1.16 billion in 2031, \$1.09 billion in 2032, \$0.94 billion in 2033, \$0.81 billion in 2034, \$0.65 billion in 2035, \$0.62 billion in 2036, \$0.51 billion in 2037, \$0.47 billion in 2038, \$0.33 billion in 2039, \$0.25 billion in 2040 and \$0.01 billion in 2041.

With this staggering in tenor of repayments, the overall repayment will be increased from \$15.4 billion to \$16.62 billion with an extension of five years from 2036 to 2041.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325428>

Chinese bus maker to set up plant in Karachi: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Yutong, the world’s largest bus manufacturer, has decided to set up a manufacturing plant for intra-city and electric buses in Karachi.

Provincial Minister for Information and Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon said this on Thursday after Yutong Middle East Chief Executive Officer Robin and other officials called on him. During the meeting, Yutong decided to set up a plant in Karachi on Sharjeel’s invitation.

Memon said the installation of plant would commence within three months. The project is expected to be completed next year. He said EV buses and hybrid diesel buses would be manufactured at the plant, promoting industries and creating new employment opportunities.

The production of buses in Karachi will save foreign exchange and export of these buses will also benefit the country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325435>

Sino-Pak relations are exceptional: COAS

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir has said Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other’s support.

پاک چین مثالی تعلقات کی اہمیت

جی اچھے کیے راہ لپٹھی میں چین کی پیٹریز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی 97 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات پانچ دہائیوں سے دو سرے کی حمایت کے لیے جبر جبرول پتین پتین ہیں۔ بنگریب کے مہمان خصوصی پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیائیک زینگ ونگ تھے۔ جبکہ چین کے دفاعی اتالیقی ممبر جنرل وانگ وانگ، چینی سفارتخانے کے حکام اور چینی سٹخ افواج کے اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔ آرمی چیف نے چینی مہمانوں کو اپنی اہلی اہلی کی سالگرہ کی مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ پیٹریز لبریشن آرمی نے چین کے دفاع، سلامتی اور ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک فوج اور پیٹریز لبریشن آرمی کے تعلقات سے حد متوسط ہیں، جبکہ دونوں ملکوں کی سٹخ افواج کے درمیان فوجی تعاون بھلی بھائی چارے کی واضح مثال ہے۔ چین کے سفیر نے پیٹریز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی سالگرہ کی تقریب کی مبارکباد دینے پر آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک فوج نے ہمیشہ آزاد و دہشت گردی کے حوالے سے آگے بڑھ کر کردار ادا کیا ہے اور خطے میں قیام امن اور استحکام کے حوالے سے ہمیشہ قدم چرایا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کے شانہ بہ شانہ کھڑا ہے۔ پانچ دہائیوں سے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان فوجی تعاون آرمی عوامی جیسے ہے۔ چین اور چین کی کیڈٹ پارٹی کی سٹخ افواج ہیں۔ اس کی پانچ پانچ دہائیوں سے چکر چکر ٹورس، بکریز، نفاذیہ، مارکٹ ٹورس اور سٹیٹ سٹیٹ ٹورس پر مشتمل ہے۔ یہ دنیا کی سب سے بڑی فوج ہے۔ ستمبر 2015 میں میان چین جنگ، چین کی کیڈٹ پارٹی کے جنرل ٹیکریزی اور اپنی اہلی اہلی اسے کے کمانڈر ان چیف نے فوجی اہلکاروں کی تعداد میں 300000 کی تعداد میں اضافہ کیا۔ یہ اپنی اہلی اہلی اسے کا نشانہ ایک سرخ ستارہ جو کیم ایکس 1927 کی تان جنگ بھارت کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے ایک چینی رسم الخط میں لکھے آٹھ کے بعد سے پر مشتمل ہے۔ اپنی اہلی اہلی چین کی کیڈٹ پارٹی کی مرکزی فوجی چین کے ماتحت ہے۔ فوج کے سربراہیہ طور پر اس کے اصول کے تحت مرکزی فوجی چین کا کمانڈر ان چیف کا طور پر چین کی کیڈٹ پارٹی کا جنرل ٹیکریزی ہوتا ہے۔ وزارت قومی دفاع جو ریڈیو کولمب کے ماتحت ہے۔ اپنی اہلی اہلی اسے پر کوئی اختیار نہیں اور مرکزی فوجی چین کی نسبت کم طاقتور ہے۔ وزارت دفاع کا بنیادی کردار ایک کا کمانڈر فوجی کی بھانے تیرنگی افواج کے ساتھ ایک رابطہ قس کا ہے، جبکہ سیاسی اہلکار جو کیڈٹ پارٹی کی فوج کے اندر سربراہی سٹخ افواج پر پارٹی افواجی طاقی ہے۔ سیاسی اور فوجی قیادت سنبھال کر اپنی اہلی اہلی اسے کو ایک پیشہ ورانہ قوت حاصل کی فوجی کوشش کی ہے جس کی ذمہ داری قومی دفاعی و فوجی میسج کی تعمیر اور جنگی ریلایف میں معاونت کی فرامی تک محدود ہیں۔ اس طرح اور ہدیہ اس طرح کے والے خصوصی افسروں کو آگے لگانے اور فوجی اس کے کردار کا تصور ہے۔ فوجی پتیس تک بھر کے پانچ فیڈوں اور چین سے ڈاک فوجی اصلاح میں ترقی پتیس کی جاتی ہیں۔ فوجی سروس لازمی قانون ہے۔ تاہم چین میں لازمی فوجی سروس چین کی آبادی سے منہا کار فوج میں بھرتی ہونے والوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد کی وجہ سے نافذ نہیں کی گئی۔ فوجی افسر چینی کے زمانے میں سٹخ اور پیٹریز لبریشن آرمی کے لیے اور جاپانی فوج کے طور پر اپنی اہلی اہلی اسے کے لیے کام کرتی ہیں۔ اگرچہ پاکستان کی حکومت پاک چین دوستانہ تعلقات میں آئے والے فوجی کوشش کی مسلسل ترقی کو گہری ہے لیکن اس سوال کا جواب سامنے نہیں آتا کہ چینی حکام نے خاموشی کے ساتھ حکومت تک اپنے تعلقات پہنچانے کی اپنی اپنی روایت کے برخلاف حکم کھلا اپنے خدشات کا اظہار کرتے شروع کر دیا ہے۔ چین افواجی تعلقات کے مابین تاتے ہیں کہ چین کا فوجی کاروبار اپنا طریقہ ہے۔ ایک چینی وزیر لیبو جان چا کی اس تقریب نے ممبروں کو حیرت زدہ کر دیا جس میں انہوں نے سیاسی جماعتوں کے نمائندوں کے

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Editorial&Date=2024-07-19

July 20, 2024

Daily Times

Chinese Embassy celebrates 97th anniversary of PLA establishment

The Chinese Embassy here on Friday evening celebrated the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) by hosting a grand reception.

Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee Gen. Sahir Shamsahd Mirza, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and Chinese Defense Attaché were among the larger number of public representatives, Civil, Military officials who attended the reception.

Political Leader Maulana Fazalur Rehman and Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

Besides General Shamshad Mirza, Chinese Defense Attache Major General Wang Zhong addressed the reception and spoke high about the existing decades' old friendship and Military-to-Military relations between the two countries.

It was noted that since its foundation on Aug. 1, 1927, the PLA has grown into a modernized and professional multiple-services armed force with world fame as a civilized and peaceful military force that is playing its leading role for world peace. Brotherly relationship between the two armed forces of China and Pakistan "has always served as the pillar to their bilateral relationship, particularly for promoting peace and stability in the region. The trustworthy friendship and pragmatic collaboration between the two armed forces have expanded in the field of joint exercises, personal exchanges, training, equipment as well as counter terrorism.

In his speech as a Chief Guest General Shamshad Mirza, on behalf of people of Pakistan and of all ranks of Pakistani army congratulated the PLA on the occasion of the celebrations of the 97th anniversary of the PLA establishment. Pakistan army and people of Pakistan take great pride in their deep-rooted brotherly relationship with China," he said.

He added, "Relations between Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron-clad brotherhood between the two countries." Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other's support," said General Shamshad Mirza.

He added, relations between Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron-clad brotherhood between the two countries. General Shamshad Mirza highlighted the significance of CPEC and said, it has laid strong foundation of their socio-economic partnership. Pakistan's economic development is incomplete without China, he remarked. He reassured that all possible measures will be taken for the safety of Chinese nationals who are engaged in Pakistan's economic development. Our friendship with China is truly special and time-tested, he added. About China's fast economic growth, he said China has entered into a new era of progress and peaceful development under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. China has developed itself as a great modern and socialist country, he noted.

He also lauded China's leading role at the global level for social stability and peaceful development.

He thanked China for its support to Pakistan's stand on Kashmir and other regional issues. Friendship with China will remain cornerstone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy, he assured. Chinese Defence Attaché Major General Wang Zhong expressed gratitude to the Pakistani side "The Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region," he remarked.

He further stated, we stand ready to work with our brethren to combat terrorism and promoting peace and development at regional and global level.

He also mentioned the growing interaction between the two militaries over the years. They had joined each other on various occasions, he added.

Analysts and representatives of think tanks present at the reception hailed China's defense policy and its role to maintain peace and stability in the region and beyond.

A cake was also cut on the occasion to mark the PLA's anniversary.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209837/chinese-embassy-celebrates-97th-anniversary-of-pla-establishment/>

Pakistani trainees complete training at Liaoning Petrochemical College

The closing ceremony for the Overseas Training of Pakistani Trainees of Shandong Zhongyang Group was held at Longping Hall, Qiushi Building, Binhai Campus of Liaoning Petrochemical College (LNPC).

Wang Xianhong, General Manager of the International Petrochemical Industry Park of Shandong Zhongyang Group; Zhang Zhenguo, Vice President of TANG International Education Group; Muhammad Bilal Tahir, Deputy Dean of the Natural and Applied Science School of Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology; Fu Haihua, Chief Engineer of Jinzhou Fenghan Industrial Co., Ltd.; Yu Zhongdang, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and President of LNPC; Yu Li, Secretary of Committee for Discipline Inspection of LNPC; Yang Liancheng, Vice President of LNPC; attended the ceremony. Hao Wanxin, Vice President of LNPC, presided over the ceremony held last month.

Yu Zhongdang, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and President of LNPC, expressed his gratitude to the full support from the Embassy of Pakistan in China and the Educational Department of Liaoning Province, the trust from Shandong Zhongyang Group, and the assistance from TANG International Education Group.

Besides, he extended his congratulations to the trainees on their successful training. According to him, the training lasted three months.

During the period, the team of outstanding teachers from the departments including the Petrochemical Department conducted skills training of natural gas-based methyl alcohol production process by relying on the virtual simulation platform as per the production demands of relevant enterprises.

The training contents include chemical engineering units, instrument control, and equipment emergency. In the meantime, Chinese cultural courses, such as elementary Chinese, overview of China, Chinese sports, cultural experiences, music appreciation, and psychological development, were offered as well. The overseas trainees participated in all events actively. After the three-month training, their practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and Chinese proficiency saw a qualitative leap. The "Belt and Road" Initiative of China has strengthened the relations between China and relevant countries. We do hope that all the trainees cherish the great opportunity to conduct more actual exchanges and cooperation.

According to Yu, based on the training, LNPC will adhere to its positioning of "engaging in petrochemical industry, highlight chemical characteristics, serving Chinese enterprises,

demonstrating vocational education features”; it will establish the “going global” model of vocational education integrating production and teaching by cooperating with enterprises to cultivate the builders knowing Chinese, cultures, skills for the “Belt and Road” Initiative, spread China’s vocational education stories, and deliver the latest concepts of China’s vocational education through projects including academic education, order-oriented training, internship training, and employee skills training.

Hao Wanxin, Vice President of LNPC, presided over the ceremony. Wang Xianhong, General Manager of the International Petrochemical Industry Park of Shandong Zhongyang Group, expressed his sincere gratitude and lofty respect to the teachers of LNPC for their careful teaching and painstaking efforts. He highly praised the training effects for the Pakistani trainees and hoped that the group and LNPC can strengthen cooperating with each other, consistently promote subsequent trainings to cultivate more high-caliber talents with required skills. According to Muhammad Bilal Tahir, Deputy Dean of the Natural and Applied Science School of Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, LNPC has a long history, in-depth cultural deposits, and first-rate teaching quality. The professional skills of the trainees have been improved greatly after the training. He hoped that both of the schools can complement their advantages and strengthen cooperation to jointly establish international educational features and brands.

Zhang Zhenguo, Vice President of TANG International Education Group, pointed out that LNPC attached great importance to the training. The college organized the experts and teachers of various fields including international Chinese education and vocational skill education, focused on the model of “Chinese + vocational skills”, established a team of high-caliber teachers with solid expertise and strong language proficiency, innovated the management system of “combining teaching and training managed by LNPC and enterprises”, and established an effective talent training community for the maximized training effects. Liaoning Petrochemical College, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, and TANG International Education Group jointly signed a memorandum of cooperation. Yang Liancheng, Vice President of LNPC, announced the Decision of Liaoning Petrochemical College on the Approval of Training Completion of Pakistani Trainees of Shandong Zhongyang Group. The Party Committee members of LNPC, including Jiang Guoxin, Wang Lizhi, Zi Wei and Li Yingjun, the heads of relevant departments, Mohammad Kashif Ashraf from Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Wen Deguo, Zhu Yongjian, and Yang Peiying, Deputy General Managers of the International Petrochemical Industry Park of Shandong Zhongyang Group, Zhang Qian, Regional Director of China Business Center of Tang International Education Group, representative teachers, and Pakistani employees from the International Petrochemical Industry Park of Shandong Zhongyang Group attended the ceremony.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209812/pakistani-trainees-complete-training-at-liaoning-petrochemical-college/>

Pakistan Observer

Progress on CPEC-2

MINISTER for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has declared that there is complete agreement between leadership of Pakistan and China on the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, known as CPEC-2. Chairing a meeting to review progress on implementation of CPEC related projects, the minister said his visit to China last week was a continuation of the PM's discussions with the Chinese president and prime minister, which focused on the strategic implementation of these decisions to ensure the success of CPEC 2.0.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Minister, who played a pivotal role from concept to implementation stages of the CPEC, is once again instrumental to revive the lost momentum of the historic initiative. Ahsan Iqbal is a personality imbued with the spirit of doing something special for Pakistan and therefore, he is doing at his level best to remove irritants in the way of smooth implementation of all CPEC-related projects. The remarks he made during the review meeting show the Minister was mindful of the fact that several years were lost after change of government in the wake of 2018 elections when progress on CPEC slowed under foreign pressure. During the five day visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, both countries committed to "forging an upgraded version" of the multi-billion-dollar CPEC, by boosting construction, mining and exploration, and industrial cooperation. They also signed 23 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, or MOUs, in a myriad of fields including cooperation on agriculture, infrastructure, industrial cooperation, inter-governmental development assistance, market regulation, surveying and mapping, media, and film. The Planning Minister, who is coordinating all CPEC-related activities, is now in touch with different ministries and departments to ensure follow up of the visit. He has urged the Ministry of Railways to expedite the documentation and preparatory steps for the ML1 project and hopefully an early meeting of the Joint Financing Committee of Pakistan and China would pave the way for implementation of this much-delayed project of national importance. Pakistan Railway and National Highway Authority (NHA) have also been asked to prepare a comprehensive master plan for road construction across the region, outlining how CPEC and Pakistan can play a pivotal role in connecting the entire region and serve as an engine of global economic growth. Hopefully, tangible progress on the CPEC front would be visible in months to come, especially when China is more than ready to cooperate.

<https://pakobserver.net/progress-on-cpec-2/>

The CPC's communique: An expert opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

MOST recently, the Third Plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee was held in Beijing. Prominent economists remain optimistic about achieving the China's annual social and economic development targets with incentives from the third plenum and anticipated policy introductions, which will greatly release China's growth potential. China's economic growth rate in the first half of the year will still be faster than that of major economies such as the

US, the Eurozone, and Japan. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP reached around 61.68 trillion yuan (about US\$8.65 trillion), and grew 5 percent year on year in the first half of 2024. In the second quarter, the country's GDP expanded by 4.7 percent year on year.

The Communiqué of the Third Plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee announced new strategic road map for China's deepening forms and modernization in the days to come. It seems that effective implementation of macro policies, strive to expand domestic demand, develop new quality productive forces in light of local conditions, move faster to foster new drivers of foreign trade, take solid steps toward green and low-carbon development, ensure and improve the people's wellbeing, and consolidate and build upon achievements in poverty alleviation will be carried out to achieve further stability and sustainability of the macro-economy.

It is a holistic and comprehensive policy supporting structural reforms to further strengthening and diversification of macro-economy, opening-up, high Chinese socialism qualitative development, liberalization of market, good governance, innovation and last but not least integrated and balanced development of rural and urban areas which has stimulated the message of consistency and continuity in China's short & long term policies which is good omen for the regional as well as global economies to achieve to desired goals of socio-economic prosperity, financial integration, greater connectivity and qualitative industrialization.

It sets 2035 as building a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized national system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization which is achievable and functional. One of the strategic priorities of this Communiqué is further liberalization of market through a fairer and more dynamic environment through efficient and productive resources allocation and effective regulation will be institutionalized to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures.

Additionally, achieving of high-quality development will be secured through deepening supply-side structural reform, improving incentive and constraint mechanisms along with development, and creating of new drivers and strengths for realizing growth which is indeed a right policy in right direction. Easy and smooth integration of the real and digital economy will be achieved through fostering of new quality productive, developing the service sector, for modernizing infrastructure, and for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains which is a giant step towards further digitalization and e-commerce.

Securing all around innovation through deep comprehensive reforms in education, structural scientific and technological reform, and institutional reforms for talent development is need of the hour which would be new bunch mark of qualitative human capital. The final report rightly suggests improving the macroeconomic governance through pursuing coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and enhancing the consistency of macro policy orientation, with the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms. Securing of the integration of urban and rural development promotion of equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between the cities and the countryside is

a right approach narrowing the disparities promoting their common prosperity and development.

Further opening-up and modernization have become strategic priorities of New China in which deepening of the foreign trade structural reform, further reform the management systems for domestic and FDI, improve planning for regional opening up, and refine the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative would play vital role. Thus Communiqué vividly reflects China's strong commitments towards further international cooperation, economic globalization, consolidation of the Global South, cooperation on qualitative industrialization in which Xi's Global Initiatives of development, security and civilizational would be supplementary in the days to come.

It would further stimulate China's high-quality development and high-level opening-up through institutionalization of qualitative industrialization, persuasion of green technologies and digitalization. Additionally, it epitomizes a new historical period of China's structural reform and opening-up. It also vividly reflects China's determination to overcome difficulties with greater strength and more specific policies, systematic plans, promoting the country's comprehensive development and further opening-up to the outside world. It stands for further liberalization of the economy, policy guidance, and governance, which ultimately foster more development, social productivity, and mutual trust.

It guarantees social justice and equality, and always supports people's centric policies which show its uniqueness, diversity and dynamic. Thus it conveys the message of constructive politics, further opening-up and international cooperation. Hopefully, the Communiqué will further integrate structural reforms and advance Chinese modernization through further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization. It will give China's development direction a high degree of certainty, coherence, and continuity. Last but not least, it is anti-protectionism and promotes opening-up.

It is anti-hegemony and spreads the spirit of greater harmony. Thus it promotes the construction of an open world economy for the benefit of all countries. Definitely, it will bring more good news to encourage innovation, stimulate market vitality, and optimize the business environment. In summary, the communiqué pinpoints and addresses the major issues China is facing and anticipates the logjams in future economic and social development, and proposes integrated measures to address these challenges.

Introduction of stronger policies to stabilize economic growth, stabilize the property market, boost the stock market, support the development of the private economy, and improve the employment rate and income level of residents is the need of hour. Moreover, consumption tax, central and local fiscal reforms, social security, a unified national market and technological innovation should also be institutionalized. A constructive system of innovation will be supplemental to achieve upgraded industrial structure and technological revolution which must be integrated.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-cpcs-communicue-an-expert-opinion/>

CJCSC Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza lauds PLA's role in regional peace at Founding Day Ceremony

RAWALPINDI – Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza attended commemoration ceremony of 97th founding day of People's Liberation Army of People's Republic of China as a Chief Guest on Friday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations, the Chairman JCSC congratulated the people, civilians and military leadership, and all ranks of People's Liberation Army, and praised the role of People's Liberation Army in China's development and its rapid modernisation to become an important force for regional peace and stability.

While addressing the audience, Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza highlighted close and fraternal "All Weather Friendship" between China and Pakistan and reaffirmed commitments to further expand and deepen the relationship.

During the speech, he also underscored Pakistan's firm commitment to work closely with China on CPEC, defence cooperation and regional peace and stability.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of civilians and military officers, journalists, businessmen and members of the civil society.

<https://pakobserver.net/cjcs-gen-sahir-shamshad-mirza-lauds-plas-role-in-regional-peace-at-founding-day-ceremony/>

The Nation

Xi's Vision of Harmony

The only way to be profitably national is to be generously universal.

Let's focus on the essence of humanity and our shared happiness. Regardless of one's origin, caste, creed, religion, or lack thereof, whether from Asia, Africa, Europe, or even a remote island, what truly matters is that we are all human beings. It is our collective responsibility to work towards ensuring that every individual enjoys the basic human rights of a standard lifestyle, adequate food, health, development, and prosperity. This shared future of humanity requires global cooperation and respect for each other's boundaries.

This is precisely the spirit encapsulated in Chinese President Xi Jinping's address on June 28, 2024, during the conference marking the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. His speech laid out China's strategic vision for a harmonious world.

These Five Principles—mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence—were crafted to foster harmonious international relations. Globally, these principles have gained traction, influencing international norms and bolstering China's stature as a proponent of peaceful rise and a shared human future.

President Xi's speech is a powerful reaffirmation of the relevance of these principles. Amid geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainties, and climate change threats, his call to uphold these values is more than symbolic; it's a necessary return to core principles. These values

resonate with the United Nations Charter, which prioritizes peace, mutual respect, and cooperation over conflict and unilateralism.

A pivotal aspect of Xi's address is his emphasis on sovereign equality. In an era where power dynamics often overshadow the sovereignty of smaller nations, President Xi's insistence on the equality of all nations, regardless of size or power, is a strong rejection of hegemonic practices. It advocates for a more inclusive and equitable international order where the rights and interests of all nations are respected.

Furthermore, Xi's speech underscores the importance of mutual respect and non-interference. In a world increasingly marked by interventionist policies and the imposition of will, these principles are a crucial reminder of the need for a respectful and non-coercive approach to international relations. They advocate for honoring diverse historical and cultural traditions, development paths, and governance systems, fostering tolerance and understanding in an ideologically divided world.

China's vision of a community with a shared future for mankind extends the spirit of the Five Principles. Rooted in traditional Chinese values of harmony and mutual benefit, this vision aligns with global aspirations for sustainable development and peace. It presents a new model of equality and coexistence in international relations, responding to global trends of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win solutions. It also addresses intertwined challenges of development and security, inspiring innovative approaches to global issues.

We must uphold the principle of sovereign equality, strengthen the foundation of mutual respect, and transform the vision of peace and security into reality. By uniting all forces towards prosperity, committing to justice and fairness, and embracing an open and inclusive mindset, we can achieve a harmonious global community. Just as a common person desires a peaceful and beautiful home without external interference, China's approach embodies this common-sense principle on the global stage, offering contributions and opportunities to all states.

As a Latin American saying aptly puts it, "The only way to be profitably national is to be generously universal." China understands this profound truth and is dedicated to making the vision for peace and security a reality, committed to fairness, and embracing an inclusive global outlook.

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

The writer is a journalist specializing in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Jul-2024/xi-s-vision-of-harmony>

Jang News

پاک چین دوستی

چیف آرمی اسٹاف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے پاکستان اور چین کے گہرے اور پرتپاک تعلقات کے حوالے سے درست نشان دہی کی ہے کہ دونوں دوست ممالک نے ہمیشہ باہمی اعتماد اور ایک دوسرے کی حمایت میں غیر متزلزل یقین کے ساتھ اسٹریٹجک ماحول کے اتار چڑھاؤ کا مقابلہ کیا ہے۔ وہ جی ایچ کیور اولپنڈی میں چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی 97 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے تھے پاکستان میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ اس تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ انہوں نے اس موقع پر جہاں پی ایل اے سالگرہ تقریب کی میزبانی پر آرمی چیف کا شکریہ ادا کیا وہاں دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاک فوج کے نمایاں ترین کردار کی تعریف کی۔ چینی سفیر نے واضح لفظوں میں اعتراف کیا کہ پاک فوج نے اپنے ملک اور خطے کے امن و استحکام کیلئے بڑی قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ ان کا یہ بیان، کہ دہشت گردی سے نمٹنے کیلئے ہم اپنے بھائیوں کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کیلئے تیار ہیں، جہاں پاکستانیوں کیلئے حوصلہ افزا ہے وہاں عالمی برادری کیلئے بھی پیغام ہے اس بات کا کہ دہشت گردی کے سدباب کی کاوشوں کو زیادہ مربوط بنایا جانا چاہئے۔ اس باب میں خطے کے ملکوں نے اگرچہ کئی فورم بنا بھی رکھے ہیں تاہم معلومات کے تبادلے سمیت دہشت گردی سے نمٹنے کے دیگر طریقوں پر تعاون زیادہ بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ جہاں تک چین اور پاکستان کا تعلق ہے ان کا تعاون متعدد شعبوں میں جاری ہے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری اس کی ایک مثال ہے جو بیجنگ اور اسلام آباد کیلئے ہی نہیں پورے خطے کیلئے گم چینیجر ثابت ہو سکتی ہے۔ پاک چین تعاون یقیناً غربت کے خاتمے کی تدابیر سمیت کئی اور شعبوں میں بھی کارآمد ہو گا۔ توقع کی جانی چاہئے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان جن منصوبوں پر تعاون جاری ہے وہ مقررہ وقت میں پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچ جائیں گے اور دونوں ممالک اور خطے کی ترقی میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں گے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/722660>

چین چائنا جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو 23 جولائی کو شروع ہوگی، خورشید برلاس

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) ملک کی ٹاپ انڈسٹریز کا 25 رکنی وفد خورشید برلاس کی قیادت میں چین میں ہونیوالی 8 ویں چائنا، جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو کن منگ میں 23 سے 28 جولائی میں شرکت کریگا۔ چھ روزہ تقریب میں تقریباً 80 ممالک خطوں اور بین الاقوامی تنظیموں سے وابستہ افراد شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ چائنا جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو کی جانب سے پاکستان ایسوسی آف ایگزیشن انڈسٹری کے بانی چیئرمین خورشید برلاس کو وفد کے ہمراہ نمائش میں خصوصی شرکت کی دعوت دی گئی ہے۔ نمائش میں شرکت کیلئے چیئرمین خورشید برلاس 25 رکنی وفد کے ہمراہ 23 سے 28 جولائی کو نمائش میں شرکت کریں گے۔ دوران گفتگو خورشید برلاس نے بتایا کہ وفد میں سیاحت، تعلیم، پرائیویٹ ڈویلپمنٹ سمیت دیگر شعبوں سے وابستہ شخصیات کو ساتھ لے کر جائینگے۔ چین میں مختلف سیکٹرز سے وابستہ شخصیات سے ملاقاتوں کا شیڈول طے کیا گیا ہے اور پاکستانی وفد کو لائٹ انجینئرنگ، ٹیکسٹائل، فارماسوٹیکلز، سولر سے وابستہ جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے لیس اداروں کا دورہ بھی کروایا جائے گا چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے ساتھ مشترکہ کانفرنسوں اور ایم او یو پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے۔ جو کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان معیشت کو مضبوط بنانے میں اہم ثابت ہوگی۔ گزشتہ روز وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین میں پاک چائنا تعلقات دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سائنسی اور ٹیکنیکی تعاون نے پاکستان کی سائنسی، سیاحت اور ٹیکنیکی ترقی کو فروغ ملا۔ ملٹی مشن کیونیکیشن سٹیٹسٹس سے پاکستان کا موجودہ ڈیجیٹل ماحول تبدیل ہونے کی توقع ہے، پورے ملک کے لیے تیز رفتار انٹرنیٹ سہولیات فراہم ہوں گی، لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوگا۔ 8 ویں چائنا جنوبی ایشیا نمائش کن منگ نمائش کا مقصد ماحول ایشیائی اور یورپی ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور تعاون کے وسیع امکانات اور باہمی تعاون کو مضبوط کرنا ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/722548>

July 21, 2024

Business Recorder

Transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan

Comprehensive roadmap presented to PM

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been presented with a comprehensive roadmap regarding transfer of Chinese industries in Pakistan on Saturday.

While presiding over a review meeting regarding the progress of the agreements and Pakistan-China cooperation during his visit to China, the prime minister was informed that a collaboration would be made with Chinese companies in order to transfer Chinese textile, medical and surgical equipment as well as plastic and leather industries to Pakistan.

The meeting was further told that 78 Pakistani companies have initially expressed interest in cooperation for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan.

The Board of Investment (BOI) presented a comprehensive report on the progress and action plan in this regard. The prime minister directed the relevant institutions and officers to provide all kinds of facilities to Pakistani companies in collaboration with Chinese companies.

The prime minister said that no delay will be tolerated in the implementation of memorandums of understanding on cooperation agreements with China.

He added that China a long-time friend has always helped Pakistan in difficult time and the Chinese top leadership is determined to further increase investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister further stated that the transfer of Chinese industry to Pakistan will improve the country's economy, create new employment opportunities and increase Pakistan's exports.

Sharif was briefed regarding various projects and the Minister for Planning informed the meeting about his recent visit to China.

The meeting was informed that Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway will be completed through Public Private Partnership and plan to send 1,000 students to China at government expenses to gain modern agricultural vocational training has been completed and the first batch would be sent to China at the beginning of the academic year. The next batch will be sent to modern agricultural universities in China after learning Chinese language in Pakistan and the planning in this regard has been done, the meeting was further informed. The meeting was also informed that plan is at final stage to shift the power plants operation on imported coal to local coal. The meeting was also informed that a road show is being organised in Beijing with the cooperation of China regarding business and investment opportunities in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/21/1-page/999958-news.html>

JVs strategy evolved

Chinese cos will be invited to invest in 7 major sectors

ISLAMABAD: Strategy for joint ventures among various companies and business organisations of China and Pakistan has been evolved, and according to details, Chinese companies will be invited here to invest in seven major and important sectors of Pakistan.

Moreover, 78 business organisations from China and 167 from Pakistan will participate in this gigantic session which is expected to make great progress in the investment sector.

This was expressed in the briefing of the joint meeting of the Board of Investment headed by federal ministers, Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan.

Federal Minister of Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that it is possible to increase the trade volume of Pakistan by one billion dollars with the cooperation of Chinese companies.

He said that there is no doubt that the ground realities and current conditions as compared to Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and other countries in the region, Pakistan is a more attractive and important country for China in terms of investment. Aleem Khan directed the high-up's of Board of Investment to immediately finalise details with companies who have to go in "Joint Ventures" for mutual investment.

He added that for this purpose Pakistani Embassy in Beijing should also be taken on board so that companies in China could be facilitated as much as possible. Aleem Khan said that the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Industry and Production, Food Security and Maritime should also be taken in the loop for ensuring maximum coordinated efforts for investment.

Aleem Khan said that new industries should be established in industrial free zones or in the areas where maximum electrical supply is possible. Aleem Khan also asked the relevant authorities to submit the details for Pakistan-China trade road map to the prime minister and get directions for further progress in this regard.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also expressed in the briefing session regarding the investment of Chinese companies and said that the Ministry of Commerce has been instructed to fully coordinate and cooperate with the Board of Investment.

Federal Secretary for Board of Investment, while giving a briefing, said that the seven major sectors of Pakistan include medical and surgical equipments, plastics, clothing, leather industry, edible meat, fruits and vegetables and waste and fodder sectors are included.

He told that the Board of Investment is fully prepared to invite Chinese companies and associate them with Pakistani counterparts while initial homework has also been completed. He also presented a comparative review of various sectors during the briefing.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/21/1-page/999957-news.html>

Daily Times

PM orders speedy implementation of bilateral deals with China

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the concerned authorities to expedite process of implementing the agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) made with the Chinese government and companies, saying that delay in implementation of the agreements would not be tolerated.

China is a time tested friend of Pakistan who helped Pakistan in every hour of need, the prime minister said while chairing a review meeting regarding Pak-China cooperation here at PM House. He said the Chinese leadership was determined to further expand investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister pointed out that the transfer of the Chinese industry to Pakistan would help improving the country's overall economy, increasing Pakistan's exports, and creating new employment opportunities. During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on progress of different projects that were launched with the Chinese cooperation.

The prime minister was told that Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway would be completed through Public Private Partnership. It was informed that the plan to send 1,000 students for modern agricultural vocational training at government expense had been completed.

The first batch of students was being sent to China at the beginning of this academic year while the the next batch would be sent to the Chinese modern agricultural universities after learning Chinese in Pakistan.

Furthermore, the meeting was informed that the plan to transfer the power plants running on imported coal to local coal was also in the final stages.

As regards business and investment opportunities in Pakistan, a road show was being organized in Beijing with the cooperation of China. A comprehensive road map was presented to the meeting regarding the transfer of Chinese industries in Pakistan.

It was informed in the meeting that the Chinese textile, medical and surgical equipment, plastic and leather industries will be partnered with Chinese companies to move to Pakistan. "78 Pakistani companies have initially expressed deep interest in cooperation for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan," the meeting was informed.

In this regard, the Board of Investment (BoI) presented a comprehensive report on the progress and action plan. The prime minister appreciated the steps and recommendations of BoI in this regard. He directed the relevant departments and officers to provide all kinds of facilities to Pakistani companies in collaborating with Chinese companies.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the project team of Islamabad Technology Park and the Information Technology Ministry to complete the project within current calendar year instead of the scheduled completion date of June 2025.

The prime minister, during his visit to the under-construction site of the country's largest Islamabad Technology Park, said that the project was launched in 2022 during the coalition

government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and the contract was awarded to a South Korean company.

He said the project was being completed at a cost of Rs 25 billion out of which \$70 million (soft loan) was being provided by the South Korean government.

“Soon after taking charge of my office, I issued directions to continue work on the project round the clock,” he said adding that he as Chief Minister Punjab had introduced the system of 24 hours work on the development projects.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of the project, PM Shehbaz Sharif asked the project management to try their best to complete the project by September or October this year.

He said after completion of the project, some 120 offices of different companies would be established in the Park.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1210316/pm-orders-speedy-implementation-of-bilateral-deals-with-china/>

The News

Strategy to boost Chinese investment in 7 key sectors unveiled

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has introduced a new strategy to facilitate joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani companies to attract Chinese investment in seven key sectors of its economy.

Chinese companies will be invited to invest in Pakistan, with 78 Chinese business organisations and 167 Pakistani companies set to participate in this initiative. The effort is expected to significantly enhance the investment sector and strengthen economic ties between the two nations.

The targeted sectors for investment are medical and surgical equipment, plastics, clothing, the leather industry, edible meat, fruits and vegetables, and the waste and fodder sectors.

This was announced during a briefing at the joint meeting of the Board of Investment (BoI), chaired by federal ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan.

The Board of Investment is prepared to invite Chinese companies to partner with Pakistani counterparts, having completed the groundwork and presented a comparative sector review during the briefing.

Abdul Aleem Khan noted that there is potential to increase Pakistan’s trade volume by \$1 billion through cooperation with Chinese companies.

Officials believe this strategy will strengthen economic ties between the two countries and enhance Pakistan’s industrial capabilities. The initiative is part of a broader effort to boost economic collaboration under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The strategy outlines specific opportunities and incentives for Chinese firms to invest and establish joint ventures with Pakistani companies, fostering technology transfer and job creation.

Aleem Khan directed the BoI to finalise details with the companies involved in joint ventures and recommended involving the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing to facilitate Chinese companies. He emphasised the importance of collaboration with the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Industry and Production, Food Security, and Maritime to ensure coordinated investment efforts.

Khan also highlighted the need to establish new industries in industrial-free zones or areas with adequate electrical supply. He instructed authorities to submit a detailed Pakistan-China trade roadmap to the Prime Minister for further guidance.

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan underscored the Ministry of Commerce's role in supporting the Board of Investment. The federal secretary for the BoI identified the seven major sectors targeted for investment: medical and surgical equipment, plastics, clothing, the leather industry, edible meat, fruits and vegetables, and waste and fodder. The Board of Investment is fully prepared to invite Chinese companies and match them with Pakistani counterparts, with preliminary groundwork already completed. The secretary also presented a comparative review of various sectors during the briefing.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=326078>

Chinese embassy celebrates 97th anniversary of PLA establishment

Islamabad : The Chinese Embassy here on Friday evening celebrated the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) by hosting a grand reception.

Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee Gen. Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and Chinese Defence Attaché were among the larger number of public representatives, Civil, Military officials who attended the reception. Political leader Maulana Fazalur Rehman and Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

Besides General Shamshad Mirza, Chinese Defence Attache Major General Wang Zhong addressed the reception and spoke high about the existing decades' old friendship and Military-to-Military relations between the two countries. It was noted that since its foundation on Aug. 1, 1927, the PLA has grown into a modernised and professional multiple-services armed force with world fame as a civilised and peaceful military force that is playing its leading role for world peace. Brotherly relationship between the two armed forces of China and Pakistan has always served as the pillar to their bilateral relationship, particularly for promoting peace and stability in the region. The trustworthy friendship and pragmatic collaboration between the two armed forces have expanded in the field of joint exercises, personal exchanges, training, equipment as well as counter terrorism.

In his speech as a chief guest General Shamshad Mirza, on behalf of people of Pakistan and of all ranks of Pakistani army congratulated the PLA on the occasion of the celebrations of the 97th anniversary of the PLA establishment. Pakistan army and people of Pakistan take great pride in their deep-rooted brotherly relationship with China," he said.

He added, "Relations between Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron-clad brotherhood between the two countries." Pakistan-China relations are exceptional

and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other's support," said General Shamshad Mirza. He added, relations between Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron-clad brotherhood between the two countries. General Shamshad Mirza highlighted the significance of CPEC and said, it has laid strong foundation of their socio-economic partnership. Pakistan's economic development is incomplete without China, he remarked. He reassured that all possible measures will be taken for the safety of Chinese nationals who are engaged in Pakistan's economic development.

Our friendship with China is truly special and time-tested, he added. About China's fast economic growth, he said China has entered into a new era of progress and peaceful development under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. China has developed itself as a great modern and socialist country, he noted.

He also lauded China's leading role at the global level for social stability and peaceful development.

He thanked China for its support to Pakistan's stand on Kashmir and other regional issues. Friendship with China will remain cornerstone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy, he assured.

Chinese Defence Attaché Major General Wang Zhong expressed gratitude to the Pakistani side, "The Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region," he remarked.

He further stated, we stand ready to work with our brethren to combat terrorism and promoting peace and development at regional and global level. He also mentioned the growing interaction between the two militaries over the years. They had joined each other on various occasions, he added. Analysts and representatives of think tanks present at the reception hailed China's defence policy and its role to maintain peace and stability in the region and beyond. A cake was also cut on the occasion to mark the PLA's anniversary.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325828>

Express News

چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی سالگرہ پر پاکستان نے دوستی پر گاناریلیز کر دیا

“گانے کے بول کچھ یوں ہیں کہ ”اے ہمالیہ تیری چوٹیاں، سامنے جس کی چھوٹی لگے سامنے جس کی گہرائیاں، کم سمندر کی ہوتی لگے ہیں۔

واضح رہے کہ پاک چین دوستی ایک لازوال سفر پر محیط ہے، پاکستان اور چین وہ مثالی دوست ہیں جن کی دوستی ہمالیہ سے زیادہ بلند اور مضبوط، شہد سے میٹھی اور سمندر سے گہری ہے۔

چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کا درد رکھنے والی قومیں ہیں اور دونوں ممالک نے ہر دکھ سکھ میں ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا ہے

دشمن چاہے جتنے جتن کر لے اس لازوال دوستی کو کبھی زک نہیں پہنچا سکتا، پاک چین دوستی اور باہمی محبت کا یہ سفر ہمیشہ قائم و دائم رہے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2671278/1/>

Jang News

چین سے معاہدوں پر عملدرآمد میں تعطل برداشت نہیں کیا جائیگا، وزیراعظم

اسلام آباد (نیوز پورٹر) 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 سے تعاون کے معاہدوں اور مفابہتی یادداشتوں پر عملدرآمد میں کسی بھی قسم کا تعطل برداشت نہیں کیا جائے گا۔ ہفتہ کو وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف کی زیر صدارت دورہ چین میں ہوئے معاہدوں پر پیش رفت اور پاک چین تعاون کے حوالے سے جائزہ اجلاس منعقد ہوا، اجلاس میں وزیراعظم کو مختلف منصوبوں کے حوالے سے بریفنگ دی گئی۔ بریفنگ میں بتایا گیا کہ سکھر حیدرآباد موٹروے کو پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ کے ذریعے مکمل کیا جائے گا، چین میں ایک ہزار طلباء کو سرکاری خرچ پر جدید زرعی پیشہ ورانہ تربیت کیلئے بھیجے کیلئے لائحہ عمل مکمل ہو چکا ہے، رواں تعلیمی سال کے آغاز پر طلباء کی پہلی کھیپ چین بھیجی جا رہی ہے، آئندہ کھیپ پاکستان میں چینی زبان سیکھنے کے بعد چین کی جدید زرعی یونیورسٹیوں میں بھیجی جائے گی جسکی منصوبہ بندی ہو چکی ہے۔ درآمدی کوئلے پر چلنے والے بجلی گھروں کو مقامی کوئلے پر منتقل کرنے کے حوالے سے لائحہ عمل بھی حتمی مراحل میں ہے، پاکستان میں کاروباری و سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع کے حوالے سے جلد بیجنگ میں چین کے تعاون سے ایک روڈ شو منعقد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی صنعتوں کی منتقلی کیلئے اجلاس کو ایک جامع روڈ میپ پیش کیا گیا۔ چینی ٹیکسٹائل، طبی و جراحی کے آلات، پلاسٹک اور چمچے کی صنعتوں کو پاکستان میں منتقل کرنے کیلئے چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ اشتراک کیا جائے گا، 78 پاکستانی کمپنیوں نے ابتدائی طور پر چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان میں منتقلی کیلئے اشتراک میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے اس حوالے سے پیش رفت اور لائحہ عمل پر جامع رپورٹ پیش کی۔ وزیراعظم نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے اس حوالے سے اقدامات اور سفارشات کی تعریف کی۔ وزیراعظم نے متعلقہ اداروں و افسران کو پاکستانی کمپنیوں کو چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ اشتراک میں ہر قسم کی سہولت فراہم کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ دریں اثنا وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے ہدایت کی ہے کہ اسلام آباد میں جنوبی کوریا کے تعاون سے 25 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے 12 منزلہ جدید آئی ٹی پارک رواں سال مکمل کیا جائے، آئی ٹی پارک کی تکمیل سے 10 ہزار ملازمتوں کے مواقع میسر آئیں گے، آئی ٹی برآمدات میں 70 ملین ڈالر کا اضافہ ہو گا، اس منصوبے سے اکیڈمی، محققین، صنعت اور منصوبہ سازوں کے مابین ہم آہنگی پیدا ہوگی، نوجوانوں کو فنی تعلیم سے آراستہ کریں گے، پاکستان کی ترقی کے لئے سب کو مل کر محنت کرنا ہوگی۔ ہفتہ کو اسلام آباد میں ٹیکنالوجی پارک منصوبے کا دورہ اور تعمیراتی کام کے جائزہ کے موقع پر وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا جنوبی کوریا کی کمپنی کو اس منصوبے کا 2022 میں کنٹریکٹ ایوارڈ کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے وزیر مملکت شینز افاطمہ اور سیکرٹری آئی ٹی اور متعلقہ کمپنی سے کہا ہے کہ اسی سال اس جدید منصوبے کو مکمل کریں، یہاں پر آئی ٹی کمپنیوں کے 120 سے زائد دفاتر ہوں گے۔ 12 منزلہ عمارت میں ایک چھت تلی تمام سہولیات دستیاب ہوں گی، اکیڈمی کے ساتھ اس پارک کا قریبی تعلق ہو گا۔ پروفیسر اور سٹوڈنٹس یہاں کا دورہ کریں گے۔ ان کی رہائش کے لئے یہاں گیسٹ ہاؤس کا بھی انتظام کیا جائے گا، یہاں پر کمرشل، سپورٹس کی سہولیات ہوں گی، پاکستان بھر کی جامعات مستفید ہو سکیں گی۔ اس سنٹر کی بدولت 250 ای روزگار مراکز ملک بھر میں قائم ہوں گے۔ یہ ایک جدید آئی ٹی پارک ہو گا جو انقلابی حیثیت کا حامل ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آئی ٹی کا سب سے بڑا بجٹ 80 ارب روپے مختص کیا ہے۔ ای اکانومی اور ای گورننس کے حوالے سے بات ہوئی ہے دو ہفتے بعد دوبارہ ملاقات میں اس کو ٹھوس شکل دیں گے، وزیراعظم میڈیا ونگ سے جاری تفصیلات کے مطابق وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد ٹیکنالوجی پارک پاکستان کا بین الاقوامی معیار کے مطابق پہلا کیٹیگری 3 کا ٹیکنالوجی پارک ہو گا۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/723350>

اصلاحات کے فروغ اور چینی طرز کی جدیدیت کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے سی پی سی کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے فیصلے کی منظوری

بیجنگ (این این آئی) کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کی 20 ویں مرکزی کمیٹی کا اجلاس بیجنگ میں منعقد ہوا، جس میں اصلاحات کو مزید فروغ دینے اور چینی طرز کی جدیدیت کو آگے بڑھانے کے حوالے سے سی پی سی کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے فیصلے کو منظور کیا گیا۔ اس فیصلے میں اصلاحات کو ہمہ جہت انداز میں مزید گہرا کرنے کے لئے مجموعی ہدف، ٹائم ٹیبل اور روڈ میپ کی وضاحت کی گئی ہے اور اس حوالے سے منظم انتظامات کیے گئے ہیں۔ یہ عمل چینی طرز کی جدیدیت کو فروغ دینے کے نئے سفر کی سمت کی نشاندہی کرتا

ہے، اور دنیا کو یہ موقع بھی دیتا ہے کہ وہ اصلاحات کی انجام دہی میں چین کے عزم اور اس میں موجود جیت جیت کے مواقع دیکھے۔ بعض مبصرین کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ فیصلہ گہری اصلاحات کے عمل میں چین کے لیے ایک نیا سنگ میل ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/723162>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی کمپنیوں سے "جوائنٹ وینچرز" کیلئے حکمت عملی طے، 7 بڑے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری ہوگی
 اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین اور پاکستان کی مختلف کمپنیوں اور کاروباری اداروں کے مابین "جوائنٹ وینچرز" کیلئے حکمت عملی طے کر لی گئی ہے اور پاکستان کے 7 بڑے اور اہم شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کے لئے چینی کمپنیوں کو یہاں مدعو کیا جائیگا جبکہ اس سیشن میں چین سے 78 اور پاکستان سے 167 کاروباری ادارے شریک ہوں گے جس سے سرمایہ کاری کے شعبے میں بڑی پیشرفت متوقع ہوگی۔ اس امر کا اظہار وفاقی وزراء عبد العظیم خان اور جام کمال خان کی زیر صدارت بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کے مشترکہ اجلاس کی بریفنگ میں کیا گیا۔ وفاقی وزیر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ، نجکاری اور مواصلات عبد العظیم خان نے کہا چین کی کمپنیوں کے اشتراک سے پاکستان کے تجارتی حجم میں ایک ارب ڈالر کا اضافہ ممکن ہے۔ اس میں کوئی شک نہیں زمینی حقائق اور موجودہ حالات میں بنگلہ دیش، بھارت، ویت نام اور خطے کے دیگر ممالک کے مقابلے میں چین کیلئے سرمایہ کاری کے لحاظ سے پاکستان زیادہ پرکشش اور اہمیت کا حامل ملک ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ پاکستان اور چین کی ان کمپنیوں سے رابطوں کو فوری طور پر حتمی شکل دیں جنہیں باہمی سرمایہ کاری کے لئے "جوائنٹ وینچرز" کرنا ہیں اور اس مقصد کے لئے بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کو بھی آن بورڈ لیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-21/page-10/detail-17>

July 22, 2024

Business Recorder

Chinese plants to be asked to switch to domestic coal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Pakistan's Thar region rather than imported coal, the power minister said on Sunday.

Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing, Awais Leghari, head of the energy ministry's Power Division, told Reuters.

Leghari will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation.

Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan.

"One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal. That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest (items on the) agenda," Leghari said in an interview.

Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves, he said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms.

The transition could save Pakistan more than 200 billion Pakistani rupees (\$700 million) a year in imports, translating to a decrease of as much as 2.5 Pakistani rupees per unit in the price of electricity, Leghari said.

In April a subsidiary of conglomerate Engro agreed to sell all of its thermal assets, including Pakistan's leading coal producer, Sindh Engro Coal Mining to Pakistan's Liberty Power. Liberty said the decision stemmed from Pakistan's foreign exchange crunch and its indigenous coal reserve potential. The minister declined to elaborate on the possible talks with China over re-profiling energy debt.

Pakistan's power sector has been plagued by high rates of power theft and distribution losses, resulting in accumulating debt across the production chain - a concern raised by the IMF.

The government is implementing structural reforms to reduce "circular debt" - public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills - by 100 billion Pakistani rupees (\$360 million) a year, Leghari said.

Poor and middle-class households have been affected by a previous IMF bailout reached last year, which included raising power tariffs as part of the funding programme that ended in April.

Annual power use in Pakistan is expected to fall consecutively for the first time in 16 years as higher tariffs curb household consumption, despite summer temperatures surging to near records, which typically boosts air conditioning and fan use.

"We have seen a shrinking demand trend in the past year or year and a half, and we are expecting this to continue unless we rationalise the price of power," Leghari said, adding that the government's major challenge was get demand to stop shrinking.

He said that since the per-unit tariff for power is more expensive, both urban and rural households are moving towards alternatives such as solar. "Right now we have close to 1,000 megawatts that are on the grid itself in the form of net metering systems and others. It's a very conservative estimate that (solar) could be five to six times more than that on the grid right now," Leghari said.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/22/1-page/1000041-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan to push Chinese utilities in Pakistan to switch to domestic coal

Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Pakistan's Thar region rather than imported coal, the power minister said on Sunday.

Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing, Awaiz Leghari, head of the energy ministry's Power Division, told Reuters.

Leghari will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation.

Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1210532/pakistan-to-push-chinese-utilities-in-pakistan-to-switch-to-domestic-coal/>

The Express Tribune

Govt to push Chinese plants to switch to Thar coal

Govt to initiate negotiations on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt

ISLAMABAD: The government would ask the Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from the Thar region rather than imported coal, and initiate negotiations on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during a visit by Energy Minister Awaiz Leghari to Beijing later this month.

China had set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan. Leghari would be part of a delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for Pakistan.

“One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal. That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest [items on the] agenda,” Leghari said in an interview with Reuters.

Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves, Leghari said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms.

The transition could save Pakistan more than Rs200 billion a year in imports, translating to a decrease of as much as Rs2.5 per unit in the price of electricity, he said. The minister, however, declined to elaborate on the possible talks with China over re-profiling energy debt.

The government is implementing structural reforms to reduce “circular debt” – public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills – by Rs100 billion a year, Leghari said.

Pakistani households have been affected by a previous IMF bailout reached last year, which included raising power tariffs as part of the funding programme that ended in April. Annual power use in Pakistan is expected to fall consecutively for the first time in 16 years as higher tariffs curb. REUTERS

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2481723/govt-to-pushchinese-plants-to-switch-to-thar-coal>

The Nation

Chinese companies to be invited to invest in 7 major sectors

Imran Ali Kundi

ISLAMABAD - Chinese companies will be invited to invest in 7 major and important sectors of Pakistan. Strategy for “Joint Ventures” among various companies and business organizations of China and Pakistan has been evolved and according to the details, Chinese companies will be invited here to invest in 7 major and important sectors of Pakistan. Moreover, 78 business organizations from China and 167 from Pakistan will participate in this gigantic session which is expected to make great progress in the investment sector.

This was expressed in the briefing of the joint meeting of the Board of Investment headed by Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan. Federal Minister of Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that it is possible to increase the trade volume of Pakistan by one billion dollars with the cooperation of Chinese companies. Pakistan is a more attractive and important country for China in terms of investment. Abdul Aleem Khan directed the high-up's of Board of Investment to immediately finalize details with companies who have to go in "Joint Ventures" for mutual investment. He added that for this purpose Pakistani Embassy in Beijing should also be taken on board so that companies in China could be facilitated as much as possible. Abdul Aleem Khan said that Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Industry and Production, Food Security and Maritime should also be taken in to loop for ensuring maximum coordinated efforts for investment. Federal Minister of Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan said that new industries should be established in industrial free zones or in the areas where maximum electrical supply is possible. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also asked the relevant authorities to submit the details for Pakistan-China trade road map to the Prime Minister and get directions for further progress in this regard.

Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also expressed in the briefing session regarding the investment of Chinese companies and said that the Ministry of Commerce has been instructed to fully coordinate and cooperate with the Board of Investment. Federal Secretary for Board of Investment while giving a briefing said that the 7 major sectors of Pakistan include medical and surgical equipments, plastics, clothing, leather industry, edible meat, fruits and vegetables and waste and fodder sectors are included. He told that the Board of investment is fully prepared to invite Chinese companies and associate them with Pakistani counter parts while initial homework has also been completed. He also presented a comparative review of various sectors during the briefing.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Jul-2024/chinese-companies-to-be-invited-to-invest-in-7-major-sectors>

The News

To cut power prices: Pakistan to press Chinese IPPs to use local coal: Leghari

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to press Chinese independent power producers (IPPs), which rely on imported coal, to switch to locally sourced solid fossil fuel to cut generation costs and provide relief to consumers tormented by bloated utility bills.

"Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Thar region rather than imported coal," Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awas Leghari told Reuters on Sunday.

He added that the transition could save Pakistan more than Rs200 billion a year in imports, translating to a decrease of as much as Rs2.5 per unit in the price of electricity.

"Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing."

Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves, he said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms.

The power czar will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation.

Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan.

“One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal. That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest (items on the) agenda,” Leghari said in an interview.

In April a subsidiary of conglomerate Engro agreed to sell all of its thermal assets, including Pakistan's leading coal producer, Sindh Engro Coal Mining to Liberty Power.

Liberty said the decision stemmed from Pakistan's foreign exchange crunch and its indigenous coal reserve potential.

The minister declined to elaborate on the possible talks with China over re-profiling energy debt.

Pakistan's power sector has been plagued by high rates of power theft and distribution losses, resulting in accumulating debt across the production chain — a concern raised by the IMF.

The government is implementing structural reforms to reduce circular debt — public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills — by Rs100 billion a year, Leghari said.

Poor and middle-class households have been affected by a previous IMF bailout reached last year, which included raising power tariffs as part of the funding programme that ended in April.

Annual power use in Pakistan is expected to fall consecutively for the first time in 16 years as higher tariffs curb household consumption, despite summer temperatures surging to near records, which typically boosts air conditioning and fan use.

“We have seen a shrinking demand trend in the past year or year and a half, and we are expecting this to continue unless we rationalise the price of power,” Leghari said, adding that the government's major challenge was getting demand to stop shrinking.

He said that since the per-unit tariff for power is more expensive, both urban and rural households are moving towards alternatives such as solar.

“Right now we have close to 1,000 megawatts that are on the grid itself in the form of net metering systems and others. It's a very conservative estimate that (solar) could be five to six times more than that on the grid right now,” Leghari said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=326265>

Jang News

چینی بجلی گھروں کو درآمدی کے بجائے مقامی کو نلہ استعمال کرنے کا کہہ دیجئے، وزیر توانائی

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) وزیر توانائی اویس لغاری نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت ملک میں چینی بجلی گھر چلانے والی کمپنیوں سے اسی ماہ کہہ دے گی کہ وہ کولے سے چلنے والے بجلی گھروں میں درآمدی کے بجائے بتدریج تھر کے خطے سے نکالا جانے والا مقامی کو نلہ استعمال کریں۔ اویس لغاری نے کہا کہ اس سے درآمدات پر لاگت کی مد میں پاکستان کو سالانہ 200 ارب روپے (قریب 700 ملین ڈالر) کی بچت ہوگی، بجلی کی پیداواری لاگت کم ہوگی، ملکی صارفین کے لئے بجلی کی فی یونٹ قیمت بھی کم ہو جائے گی، انہوں نے ہمیں امید ہے کہ ایسا کرنے سے بجلی کی فی یونٹ قیمت میں ڈھائی روپے تک کی کمی لائی جاسکے گی۔ ” برطانوی نیوز ایجنسی کو دیئے گئے انٹرویو میں اویس لغاری نے کہا ”کہا، کہ پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کے انتظام میں کام کرنے والے بجلی گھروں میں سے جو پاور پلانٹ کو نلے سے چلتے ہیں، ان میں ملک میں درآمد کردہ کولے کے بجائے آئندہ بتدریج مقامی کو نلہ استعمال کیا جانا چاہیے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان چاہتا ہے کہ ملک میں چینی پاور پلانٹ چلانے والے ادارے اب کولے کی مقامی پیداوار کو استعمال کرنے کا طریقہ کار اپنالیں۔ انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ پاکستان ممکنہ طور پر اسی مہینے بیجنگ کے ساتھ اس بارے میں مذاکرات بھی شروع کر سکتا ہے کہ پاکستان کو توانائی کے شعبے میں ری پرو فنانسنگ کی جائے۔ اویس لغاری آئندہ دنوں چین کا دورہ کرنے والے اس پاکستانی وفد میں شامل ہوں گے، جو توانائی کے ملکی شعبے ”دیے گئے چینی قرضوں کی کے ڈھانچے میں اصلاحات سے متعلق مشاورت کے لیے بیجنگ جائے گا۔ پاکستان کے انرجی سیکٹر میں یہ وہ اصلاحات ہیں، جن کا اسلام آباد حکومت کو مشورہ بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) نے دیا ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف کی طرف سے انتہائی حد تک مقررہ ملک پاکستان کی حکومت کو یہ مشورہ 7 ارب ڈالر کے اس تازہ ترین مالیاتی ٹیل آؤٹ پیکیج کے پس منظر میں دیا گیا ہے، جس پر اطراف کے مابین ابھی گزشتہ ہفتے ہی اتفاق رائے ہوا تھا۔ اویس لغاری کے بقول پاکستانی حکومت چین کی کمپنیوں کے انتظام میں کام کرنے اور کولے سے چلنے والے بجلی گھروں میں اب درآمدی کے بجائے مقامی کولے کے استعمال کی خواہش مند اس لیے ہے کہ اس تبدیلی سے ملکی معیشت کو بھی کافی ہمارے بنیادی مقاصد میں سے ایک یہ واضح کرنا بھی ہے کہ پاکستان میں کولے سے چلنے والے بجلی گھروں میں تھر کے علاقے سے نکالا گیا ”سہارا ملے گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا، مقامی کو نلہ استعمال کیا جانا چاہیے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/724066%22>

چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان منتقلی

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے حالیہ دورہ چین میں کئی اہم چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان منتقلی کا معاہدہ یقیناً ایسی کامیابی ہے پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کے ضمن میں جس کے نہایت انقلابی نتائج برآمد ہو سکتے ہیں۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ وزیر اعظم اس معاملے کو جلد از جلد آگے بڑھانے کی خاطر مسلسل کوشاں ہیں۔ پچھلے دنوں وزیر اعظم نے چینی اور پاکستانی کمپنیوں کے درمیان جو انٹو وینچر منصوبے کی منظوری دیتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینا ان کی حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ گزشتہ روز بھی ان کی صدارت میں اس منصوبے پر پیش رفت کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے ایک اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے اس حقیقت کی نشان دہی کی کہ اس عمل سے معیشت میں بہتری آئے گی، روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہونگے اور درآمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ اجلاس میں شریک متعلقہ وزارتوں اور اداروں کے ذمے داروں کو وزیر اعظم نے متنبہ کیا کہ چین کے ساتھ مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر عمل درآمد میں کوئی تاخیر برداشت نہیں کی جائیگی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ہر موسم میں ہمارا ساتھ دینے والی چینی قیادت پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کو مزید بڑھانے کیلئے پر عزم ہے۔ بلاشبہ چینی قیادت کا یہ تعاون نہایت قابل قدر ہے جس سے استفادہ کرنے میں ہماری سرکاری مشینری کی جانب سے ادنیٰ کوتاہی بھی نہیں ہونی چاہئے۔ اس ضمن میں تمام متعلقہ حکام کو اپنے حصے کا کام انجام دینے کو اپنا قومی فریضہ تصور کرنا چاہیے۔ وزیر اعظم کے زیر صدارت اس اجلاس میں چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان میں منتقلی کیلئے جامع روڈ میپ بھی پیش کیا گیا جس کے تحت چین کی ٹیکسٹائل، پلاسٹک، لیڈر، میڈیکل اور سر جیکل آلات کی صنعتوں کو پاکستان منتقل کرنے کے لیے چینی کمپنیوں کیساتھ شراکت داری پر دستخط کیے جائیں گے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ تعاون کرنے کیلئے 78 پاکستانی کمپنیوں کی دلچسپی کے بارے میں پیش رفت رپورٹ پیش کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس سلسلے میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے اقدامات اور سفارشات کو سراہا اور متعلقہ حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ چینی کمپنیوں کیساتھ تعاون کیلئے پاکستانی کمپنیوں کو مکمل سہولت فراہم کریں۔ اجلاس کو دی گئی بریفنگ میں مزید بتایا گیا کہ سکھر حیدر آباد موٹروے کو پبلک پرائیویٹ

پارٹنرشپ کے ذریعے مکمل کیا جائے گا جبکہ چین میں ایک ہزار طلباء کو سرکاری خرچ پر جدید زرعی پیشہ ورانہ تربیت کیلئے بھیجے گا لائحہ عمل مکمل ہو چکا ہے اور رواں تعلیمی سال کے آغاز پر طلباء کی پہلی کھیپ چین بھیجی جا رہی ہے۔ زرعی شعبے کو جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے سے ترقی دینا ہمارے لیے ناگزیر ہے۔ اسکے نتیجے میں فصلوں کی فی ایکڑ پیداوار میں کئی گنا اضافے کے علاوہ زرعی پیداوار کا معیار بھی بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے اور اس طرح عالمی منڈیوں میں اس کی مانگ میں نمایاں اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ کئی حوالوں سے سخت ناسازگار حالات کے باوجود وزیر اعظم جس تندہی اور جاں فشانی سے قومی معیشت کی بہتری کی جدوجہد کر رہے ہیں، اسکا ایک اور مظہر اسلام آباد میں ملک کے پہلے آئی ٹی پارک کی تعمیر ہے جس کے دورے کے موقع پر وزیر اعظم نے بتایا کہ یہ منصوبہ پورے خطے کیلئے رول ماڈل ہو گا جبکہ ملک بھر میں ایک ہزار ای روزگار سینٹر بھی قائم کیے جائیں گے۔ اس پارک کی تکمیل مقررہ شیڈول کے مطابق آئندہ سال جون میں ہونی ہے لیکن امید ہے کہ تیز رفتاری سے کام کر کے اس کو اسی سال اکتوبر میں مکمل کر لیا جائیگا۔ آج کی دنیا میں آئی ٹی کی صنعت نے ترقی اور روزگار کے جو بے پناہ مواقع پیدا کر دیئے ہیں، ان منصوبوں کے ذریعے ان مواقع سے بڑے پیمانے پر استفادہ ممکن ہو گا تاہم ترقی و خوشحالی کا یہ سفر جاری رکھنے کیلئے قومی مفاہمت ناگزیر ہے جس کیلئے سیاسی قوتوں اور ریاستی اداروں میں بلا تاخیر گریڈ ڈائلاگ کا اہتمام کیا جانا چاہئے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/723988%22>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی بجلی گھروں کو درآمدی کی بجائے تھر کا کوئلہ استعمال کرنے کو کہیں گے، بجلی سستی ہوگی: وزیر توانائی

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر توانائی اویس لغاری کا کہنا ہے کہ چینی بجلی گھروں کو درآمدی کے بجائے تھر کا کوئلہ استعمال کرنے کا کہیں گے، تھر کا کوئلہ استعمال کرنے سے توانائی اور بجلی کی قیمت پر بہت بڑا اثر پڑے گا۔ غیر ملکی خبر ایجنسی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے اویس لغاری کا کہنا تھا کہ چینی بجلی گھروں کو درآمدی کے بجائے تھر کا کوئلہ استعمال کرنے سے توانائی اور بجلی کی قیمت پر بہت بڑا اثر پڑے گا اور پاکستانی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر پر دباؤ کم ہونے سے یہاں چینی پاور پلانٹس کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ بجلی اڑھائی روپے یونٹ سستی ہو سکتی ہے۔ اویس لغاری نے کہا کہ اس طرح منافع کی واپسی آسان ہوگی۔ ڈالر کی صورت میں بہتر منافع کی پیشکش ہوگی، پاکستان کو درآمدات میں سالانہ 200 ارب روپے سے زیادہ کی بچت ہو سکتی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر توانائی کا کہنا تھا کہ سالانہ 100 ارب روپے کا گردش قرضہ کم کرنے کے لیے سٹرکچرل ریفاہ مزارا ہے ہیں، چین سے توانائی قرضے کی ری پروفائٹنگ پر رواں ماہ بیجنگ میں بات ہو سکتی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-22/page-1/detail-11>

July 23, 2024

Daily Times

Testing, commissioning of Gwadar airport completed

The testing and commissioning of the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) have been completed with precision.

This phase marks the culmination of a detailed three-month process, begun on April 15, that optimized the airport's compliance with design requirements, operational efficiency, and minimized future operational risks while adhering to maintenance standards and legislative regulations.

The comprehensive testing and commissioning involved the airport's entire infrastructure, including the runway, taxiway, apron, electrical systems, telecommunications networks, security features, water supply system, and grid station, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan official explained to Gwadar Pro, "Testing and commissioning encompass a series of engineering techniques and procedures designed to

check, inspect, and test every operational component of a project, from individual functions to complex systems.

The main objective is to ensure that all elements, including construction, processing, and installation, function according to capacity, usage, and requirements.”

Last July, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif inaugurated the airbase infrastructure of the China-funded NGIA, which includes 32 components such as civil, technical, electrical, and communication facilities, alongside modern allied services.

The next phase will see the construction of a cargo complex designed to handle diverse cargo types. Upon completion, NGIA will be the largest airport in Pakistan and the nation’s second to operate under an open sky policy.

It is slated to accommodate both narrow-body aircraft such as the ATR 72 and Boeing B-737 and wide-body aircraft like the Airbus A-380 and Boeing B-747, facilitating both domestic and international flights.

The airport’s development is guided by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Costing Rs. 60.208 billion, NGIA is a flagship project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The airport, surrounded by a security fence, spans over 4,300 acres and is located 26km northeast of the existing Gwadar City airport on the southwestern Arabian Sea coast of the Balochistan region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1210785/testing-commissioning-of-gwadar-airport-completed/>

Pakistan Observer

Analysing China’s H1 2024 economic statistics

Engr Qaiser Nawab

CHINA’S economy demonstrated a stable expansion in the first half of 2024, achieving a year-on-year GDP growth of 5%, equivalent to 61.68 trillion Yuan (approximately 8.65 trillion US dollars), according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday last. Despite facing significant domestic and international challenges, the country’s economic performance remained resilient, underpinned by policy incentives, a rebound in external demand and the emergence of new quality productive forces.

GDP Growth: The first half of 2024 saw China’s GDP grow by 5% year-on-year. In the second quarter, the GDP expanded by 4.7% year-on-year, slightly down from the 5.3% growth recorded in the first quarter. This steady growth indicates a resilient economy despite various challenges. **Retail Sales and Investment:** Retail sales of consumer goods increased by 3.7% year-on-year in the first half, reflecting a recovery in domestic consumption. Fixed-asset investment rose by 3.9%, while value-added industrial output expanded by 6%. These figures highlight the ongoing recovery and growth in key sectors of the economy.

Unemployment and Income: The surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.1% in the first half, down 0.2% age points from the same period last year. Per capita disposable income

grew by 5.4% year-on-year in nominal terms, outpacing economic growth. This indicates an improvement in living standards and employment conditions. China's industrial production has turned smarter and greener. The high-tech manufacturing sector saw an output increase of 8.7% year-on-year in the first half. Notable growth was observed in the production of service robots (22.8%) and new energy vehicles (34.3%). These advancements are a testament to China's commitment to upgrading its industrial base and embracing new technologies.

China has implemented several measures to support economic growth, including a new round of consumer goods trade-ins and the issuance of ultra-long special treasury bonds. These initiatives aim to boost investment and consumption, which have been major drivers of growth. In the first half, final consumption contributed 60.5% to the economic expansion, or 3 percentage points to the GDP growth.

Premier Li Qiang emphasized the need for greater efforts to address complex growth challenges, including ensuring solid macroeconomic policy delivery, leveraging policy synergies, and enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation. These efforts are crucial for maintaining sustained and healthy economic development. The NBS acknowledged that China faced a more uncertain, complex, and severe external environment, alongside new domestic challenges such as deepening structural adjustments. Despite these difficulties, the bureau noted that the overall economic environment continued to improve in a stable manner.

The milder second-quarter GDP growth compared to the first quarter was attributed to short-term factors such as extreme weather and floods, as well as rising difficulties from insufficient effective demand and unsmooth economic flow at home. However, these challenges are seen as growing pains that can be addressed through further development and policy measures.

China remains a key engine for global growth. Many foreign-invested institutions, including Barclays and Goldman Sachs, have raised their growth expectations for China's GDP in 2024 to 5%. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also revised China's economic outlook to 5%, indicating confidence in China's economic stability and potential for growth. According to the IMF, a 1 percentage point increase in China's GDP growth could result in an average of 0.3 percentage point increase in growth for other economies. This underscores China's significant influence on the global economy.

A key aspect of China's growth against headwinds has been the emergence of new growth drivers and the upgrading of traditional industries. Investment in high-tech manufacturing and services expanded by 10.1% and 11.7%, respectively, in the first half. This far exceeds the 3.9% headline growth of fixed-asset investment, indicating a shift towards high-quality development. The ongoing third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China is expected to further liberate and develop social productive forces, boosting social vitality and economic momentum. The session's focus on comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization is crucial for addressing emerging challenges and sustaining long-term growth.

Persisting issues like the property slump, inadequate demand and overcapacity pose significant challenges for China. Nonetheless, the NBS and Premier Li stress the need for a

comprehensive approach to tackle these issues. By advancing development and implementing targeted measures, China seeks to overcome these obstacles and sustain steady growth. The first half of 2024 showcases a stable and resilient economy, with a 5% GDP growth, underpinned by robust policy measures, technological advancements and high-quality development. China's role as a key engine of global growth remains steadfast as it addresses both domestic and external challenges.

The ongoing reforms and policy initiatives are expected to further stabilize and improve the economic fundamentals in the second half of the year. With a focus on high-quality development and strategic investments, China is well-positioned to achieve its annual growth target and contribute to global economic stability. The resilience and adaptability of China's economy will be crucial in navigating the evolving global landscape and ensuring sustained prosperity.

[https://pakobserver.net/analysing-chinas-h1-2024-economic-statistics/#:~:text=CHINA'S%20economy%20demonstrated%20a%20stable,\(NBS\)%20on%20Monday%20last.](https://pakobserver.net/analysing-chinas-h1-2024-economic-statistics/#:~:text=CHINA'S%20economy%20demonstrated%20a%20stable,(NBS)%20on%20Monday%20last.)

The Nation

Testing, commissioning of Gwadar International Airport completed

GWADAR - The testing and commissioning of the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) have been completed with precision.

This phase marks the culmination of a detailed three-month process, begun on April 15 that optimized the airport's compliance with design requirements, operational efficiency, and minimized future operational risks while adhering to maintenance standards and legislative regulations.

The comprehensive testing and commissioning involved the airport's entire infrastructure, including the runway, taxiway, apron, electrical systems, telecommunications networks, security features, water supply system, and grid station, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan official explained to Gwadar Pro, "Testing and commissioning encompass a series of engineering techniques and procedures designed to check, inspect, and test every operational component of a project, from individual functions to complex systems. The main objective is to ensure that all elements, including construction, processing, and installation, function according to capacity, usage, and requirements."

Last July, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the airbase infrastructure of the China-funded NGIA, which includes 32 components such as civil, technical, electrical, and communication facilities, alongside modern allied services.

The next phase will see the construction of a cargo complex designed to handle diverse cargo types. Upon completion, NGIA will be the largest airport in Pakistan and the nation's second to operate under an open sky policy. It is slated to accommodate both narrow-body aircraft such as the ATR 72 and Boeing B-737 and wide-body aircraft like the Airbus A-380 and Boeing B-747, facilitating both domestic and international flights. The airport's development is guided by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Costing Rs60.208 billion, NGIA is a flagship project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The airport, surrounded by a security fence, spans over 4,300 acres and is located 26km northeast of the existing Gwadar City airport on the southwestern Arabian Sea coast of the Balochistan region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Jul-2024/testing-commissioning-of-gwadar-international-airport-completed>

Express News

گدھے کا گوشت چین بھیجنے کیلئے گوادر میں سلاٹر ہاؤس کی تعمیر جاری، وزیر اعظم کو بریفنگ

پاکستان کی جانب سے چین کو گدھے کے گوشت کی ایکسپورٹ کے لیے گوادر میں سلاٹر ہاؤس کی تعمیر جاری ہے جس سے مقامی ایک ہزار افراد کو روزگار مہیا: اسلام آباد (Hengeng Trading) کی قیادت میں چینی کمپنی ہینگنگ ٹریڈ کمپنی (Zhang Bin) ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے چیئر مین زھانگ بن کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ (Company)

ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر اقتصاد امور احد خان چیمہ، وفاقی وزیر قومی غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق رانا تنویر حسین، وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ علی پرویز ملک اور متعلقہ اعلیٰ سرکاری افسران نے شرکت کی۔

چینی وفد کی جانب سے وزیر اعظم کو بریفنگ میں بتایا گیا کہ ہینگنگ ٹریڈ کمپنی پاکستان میں زراعت، لائیو اسٹاک، ادویات اور دیگر شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کر رہی ہے، ہینگنگ ٹریڈ کمپنی 50 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے گوادر میں جدید سہولیات سے آراستہ ذبیحہ خانہ (سلاٹر ہاؤس) تعمیر کر رہی ہے، سلاٹر ہاؤس کی تکمیل سے پاکستان کے لائیو اسٹاک کے شعبے سے چین 30 ملین امریکی ڈالر (آٹھ ارب 34 کروڑ روپے) تک سالانہ کی برآمدات ہوں گی۔

بریفنگ میں بتایا گیا کہ سلاٹر ہاؤس میں مقامی لوگوں کیلئے ایک ہزار کے قریب نئی ملازمتوں کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، ہینگنگ ٹریڈ کمپنی فارماسیوٹیکل مصنوعات کو گوادر فری زون میں پراسیس کر کے چین کو برآمد کر رہی ہے۔

وزیر اعظم نے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری کو خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں، میرے حالیہ دورہ چین کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کی کمپنیوں کے درمیان بڑے پیمانے پر بزنس ٹو بزنس معاہدے طے پائے جو کہ انتہائی خوش آئند امر ہے، پاکستان زراعت کے شعبے میں چین کی کامیابی سے استفادہ چاہتا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم نے گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی کو چینی کمپنیوں کو ہر ممکن سہولیات دینے کی ہدایت کی، وزیر اعظم نے گوادر فری زون میں یونیٹیز کی بلا تعلق فراہمی یقینی بنانے کی ہدایت کی۔

واضح رہے کہ سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے تجارت کا 18 جنوری کو اجلاس ہوا تھا جس میں گوادر زون میں سلاٹر ہاؤس قائم کرنے کی منظوری دی گئی تھی جس میں گدھے ذبح کر کے ان کا گوشت چین بھیجا جائے گا۔

کمیٹی کے اجلاس میں بریفنگ میں بتایا گیا تھا کہ ملک میں گدھوں کے بریڈنگ فارم قائم کر کے چین کو فروخت کرنے کا منصوبہ ہے، چاروں صوبوں میں گدھوں کی پیداوار اور تحقیق کے فارم ہاؤس بنیں گے، گدھوں کے گوشت کا سلاٹر ہاؤس صرف گوادر فری اکنامک زون میں ہو گا، چین کو گوادر فری اکنامک زون سے ہی براہ راست گوشت برآمد کیا جائے گا، فیصلہ گدھوں کا گوشت ملک کے فوڈ چین میں شامل ہونے سے بچانے کیلئے کیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2672719/1/>

Jang News

چین میں 8 ویں چائنا جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو کا آغاز، خورشید برلاس اور فہد برلاس کی سربراہی میں پاکستانی وفد کی شرکت

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چین میں 8 ویں چائنا جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے، اس موقع پر بزنس کانفرنس میں چین کے وزارت تجارت کے ڈی جی وانگ لیپنگ نے کہا کہ اس نمائش سے ایشیائی اور یورپی ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور باہمی تعلقات کو فروغ حاصل ہو گا، پاکستانی وفد کے سربراہ پاکستان ایسوسی ایشن آف ایگزیکٹو اینڈسٹری کے چیئرمین خورشید برلاس، کنوینسز فہد برلاس نے 25 بڑے پاکستان کے بزنس مین کے ہمراہ ایکسپو اور کانفرنس میں شرکت کی، نمائش میں دنیا بھر سے تقریباً 80 ممالک کے وفد شرکت کریں گے۔ نمائش سے نئے امکانات کی تلاش اور صنعت کی ترقی کو چلانے کیلئے نئے رجحانات اور ابھرتی ہوئی ٹیکنالوجی کو متعارف کروایا جائیگا اور مملکت سرمایہ کاری یا تعاون کے امکانات کی نشاندہی بھی کی جائے گی۔ کانفرنس کے اختتام پر پاکستان ایسوسی ایشن آف ایگزیکٹو اینڈسٹری کے بانی چیئرمین خورشید برلاس، فہد برلاس کنوینسز ایگزیکٹو اینڈسٹری نے وانگ لیپنگ ڈائریکٹر جنرل آف انسٹری کامرس سے ملاقات کی اور دو طرفہ تعلقات بڑھانے بارے بات چیت کی اور شیلڈ بھی پیش کی۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/724856%22>

July 24, 2024

Business Recorder

G-B court's order

Over Rs3bn per annum revenue through imports from China at stake?

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue's tax collection of over Rs 3 billion per annum from imports from China is at stake as Chief Court Gilgit Baltistan has stopped FBR from collecting sales tax/income tax from Sost Border.

The Collectorate of Customs (Gilgit Baltistan) has written a letter to the FBR on restraining order on collection of sales tax and income tax on import stage by Chief Court – Gilgit Baltistan.

According to the communication of the Collector of Customs to the FBR, Chief Court – Gilgit Baltistan on July 20, 2024, in writ petition number 201 of 2024, has passed an ex-parte restraining order at admission stage without issuing notices to the FBR and other respondents: “to not collect sales tax, income tax and additional sales tax from importers and exporters at Sost Dry Port, declaring that Gilgit Baltistan is exempt from these taxes.

Data revealed that the sales tax and income tax at the import stage at Sost Dry Port were collected last year equal to Rs 2.798 billion and Rs 0.979 billion respectively, according to the Collector of Customs.

The Sales Tax Act 1990 and Income Tax Ordinance 2001 have not been extended to Gilgit Baltistan as per Gilgit-Baltistan Constitution Order 2018 and its predecessor constitutional orders. However, under Constitution Order 2018, the Prime Minister is empowered to do so.

The issue has long historic background since 1981, in fact Income Tax Ordinance 2001 was extended to Gilgit Baltistan in 2012 and later withdrawn as a result of discussions and decisions in FBR and Prime Minister office.

The matter involves important constitutional issues, if the Board reaches to conclusion that the subject restraining order needs to be contested in the court then it is proposed that the Board may hire a constitutional lawyer from Islamabad, as no suitable lawyer is available here. In such a situation, the office of Attorney General of Pakistan may also be engaged if deemed necessary, Collector of Customs added.

The order of the Chief Court Gilgit Baltistan revealed that admittedly, the territory of Gilgit Baltistan is exempted from imposition of all kinds of taxes, which has already been decided in a plethora of judgements. The points raised by the petitioners (importers and exporters associations) need further consideration. Hence petition is admitted for regular hearing.

In the meantime, the FBR is restrained from collection/deduction of income tax, sales tax and additional sales tax from the importers and exporters of Gilgit Baltistan on import stage at Sost Station, order of the Chief Court Gilgit Baltistan added.—SOHAIL SARFRAZ

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/24/4-page/1000339-news.html>

Team meets PM

China's Hengeng constructing \$50m slaughterhouse in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China's Hengeng Trading Company, under the leadership of Chairman Zhang Bin met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a press release.

The prime minister said during his recent visit to China, large-scale business-to-business agreements were concluded between Pakistani and Chinese companies. Pakistan wants to benefit from China's success in agriculture sector, he further said.

Gwadar Port Authority will provide all possible facilities to Chinese companies, he said and directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of utilities in Gwadar Free Zone.

The prime minister was given a briefing that Hengeng Trading Company is investing in agriculture, livestock, medicine and other sectors in Pakistan.

The meeting was briefed that Hengeng Trading Company is constructing a slaughterhouse with modern facilities at a cost of \$50 million in Gwadar and completion of slaughterhouse will increase Pakistan's livestock sector's annual exports to China by up to US\$ 30 million.

The meeting was told that slaughterhouse will create around 1,000 new jobs for local people and Hengeng is processing pharmaceutical products in Gwadar Free Zone and exporting them to China.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister of State for Finance, Ali Pervez Malik and relevant senior government officials participated in the meeting.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/24/4-page/1000341-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pak ‘seeks’ rescheduling of \$15b Chinese loan

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb will embark on a visit to China starting today, as Pakistan is seeking a rescheduling of \$15bln loan from Beijing, well-placed sources told ARY News on Tuesday.

As per details, a joint working group will be established between Pakistan and China to facilitate the loan rescheduling, sources added.

Additionally, discussions will address China’s energy circular debt, which currently amounts to Rs 480 billion.

The Finance Minister will also engage in talks regarding the Panda Bond. Pakistan aims to secure a \$250 million Panda Bond during this visit.

Read more: ‘Chinese loan accounts for 11pc of foreign debt’

Earlier this year, China rolled over a \$2 billion loan to Pakistan.

The \$2 billion loan was due in March and was extended for one year. Beijing had communicated the decision to Islamabad, it added.

Pakistan’s cash-strapped economy is struggling to stabilise from a financial crisis and secured a \$3 billion standby arrangement from the International Monetary Fund last summer.

Pakistan’s vulnerable external position means that securing financing from multilateral and bilateral partners will be one of the most urgent issues facing the next government, ratings agency Fitch said last week.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-seeks-rescheduling-of-15b-chinese-loan/>

Third plenary session of 20th CPC Central Committee

Engr Qaiser Nawab

THE Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), held from July 15 to 18, 2024, in Beijing, marks a significant milestone in China’s journey toward modernization and sustainable development. This session, attended by 199 members and 165 alternate members of the Central Committee, along with non-voting participants including experts and scholars, was presided over by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, with General Secretary Xi Jinping delivering pivotal addresses.

During the session, the Central Committee reviewed and discussed a comprehensive report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented by Xi Jinping. The session also adopted the Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, reflecting the CPC’s commitment to continuous progress and reform. The Central Committee fully affirmed the efforts of the Political Bureau in implementing the guiding principles from the 20th National Party Congress and the first and second plenary sessions of the 20th Central Committee. These efforts include faithfully applying the new development philosophy, pursuing progress while ensuring stability, implementing the Five-

Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy, and ensuring both development and security.

The Central Committee's work has led to significant achievements in economic recovery and growth, high-quality development, and the advancement of socialist democracy and rule of law. These accomplishments underscore the CPC's dedication to safeguarding national security, promoting cultural work, and improving the people's wellbeing and environmental protection. The session's emphasis on comprehensively deepening reform to advance Chinese modernization aligns with the CPC's strategic vision for the present and the near future. This period is critical for building a great country and achieving national rejuvenation. Chinese modernization, driven by reform and opening up, promises broader horizons and greater achievements.

The session highlighted the importance of staying committed to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. This ideological foundation is essential for comprehensively deepening reform and adapting to complex domestic and international developments, the new scientific and technological revolution, and the industrial transformation. By adhering to the principles of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, freeing minds, seeking truth from facts, and taking a pragmatic approach, China aims to unleash productive forces and boost societal vitality.

The Central Committee outlined the overall objectives of further deepening reform, aiming to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's governance system and capacity. By 2035, the goal is to build a high-standard socialist market economy, enhance the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, modernize governance, and achieve socialist modernization. These efforts will lay a solid foundation for building a great modern socialist country by the middle of the century.

Key areas of focus for reform include building a high-standard socialist market economy, promoting high-quality economic development, supporting innovation, improving macroeconomic governance, and advancing integrated urban-rural development. Additionally, the session emphasized the importance of high-standard opening up, whole-process people's democracy, socialist rule of law, cultural advancement, and ecological conservation. National security and the modernization of national defense and the armed forces were also highlighted as integral to Chinese modernization.

China's commitment to sustainable development and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident in its approach to reform. The CPC's efforts to enhance education, science, technology, and talent development align with the SDGs' focus on quality education and innovation. The emphasis on ecological conservation and green development reflects the global goal of combating climate change and protecting the environment. Furthermore, China's dedication to promoting social fairness, improving the people's quality of life, and ensuring security and stability resonates with the SDGs' vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

The session stressed that the Party's leadership is fundamental to the success of further deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization. Upholding Comrade Xi Jinping's core position and the Central Committee's authority is crucial for maintaining political integrity, following the leadership core, and ensuring the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC. The Party's self-reform and the application of strict standards in governance are vital for steering social transformation and achieving the goals of reform.

China's foreign policy, rooted in the principles of peaceful development and the promotion of a human community with a shared future, reflects its commitment to global cooperation and development. The CPC's dedication to the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative demonstrates China's proactive role in international governance and its pursuit of an equal and orderly multipolar world. The session's communique emphasized the importance of studying and implementing the guiding principles from the session to ensure the success of reform initiatives and the advancement of Chinese modernization.

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee represents a visionary and strategic roadmap for China's future. By embracing comprehensive reforms, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing global cooperation, China is poised to achieve its goals of modernization and national rejuvenation. The CPC's leadership and commitment to reform are essential for navigating the complex challenges of the 21st century and building a prosperous, harmonious, and sustainable future for China and the world.

—The writer is a dynamic Global Climate Youth Leader, based in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/third-plenary-session-of-20th-cpc-central-committee/#:~:text=The%20Third%20Plenary%20Session%20of%20the%2020th%20CPC%20Central%20Committee,of%20modernization%20and%20national%20rejuvenation.>

Resurgent and confident China: Enhancing economic and strategic footprint

Naghmana A Hashmi

AS China approaches the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the goal of rejuvenation of the motherland, its confidence and diplomatic footprint is increasing around the world. The third consecutive presidential term of Xi Jinping is indicative of not only the confidence of the nation in his visionary leadership but also the economic and strategic direction of the country for the foreseeable future. This determination has been displayed by the leadership at all recent international gatherings and important internal occasions.

Despite the ever mounting pressure from the U.S.A. and its allies to retard the economic, technological, military and political rise of China by imposing sanctions and building new security and economic alliances, China is steadfastly moving towards its cherished goal of achieving growth and development for its people. In this quest, China has consistently advocated multilateralism, cooperation, dialogue and sustainable development for the shared future of mankind.

China for the last 73 years has defined its diplomacy on the hypothesis that the country's sovereign and independent action would deal with all international issues, without allowing itself to be subjugated to any interest other than its own people. Another essential foundation of its diplomacy has been the fight against hegemony and the importance of maintaining world peace.

China was determined not to join any military bloc or participating in an arms race right from the early days of the establishment of the People's Republic of and abided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

These principles were first put forward by then Premier Zhou Enlai in 1953 and were meant to maintain friendly ties between states. Over the past 70 years, these Principles have transcended time and space, overcome estrangement, showing robust resilience and everlasting relevance. They have become open, inclusive, and universally applicable basic norms for international relations and fundamental principles of international law.

The principles were borne of post-colonial solidarity and originally represented a vision of international relations that was highly principled. Chinese leaders embraced these principles both for their moral weight and strategic flexibility. In 1949 Chairman Mao declared that China had "stood up" after a century of humiliation. For China to carve a niche in international relations, the country needed to base its foreign policy around a set of values that would embody its principled independence in world affairs. Panchsheela provided these principles and is now closely aligned with the Chinese philosophy of peaceful rise and win-win cooperation.

At the 70th anniversary of Panchsheela in June President Xi reminded the world that to realize the common ideals enshrined in the UN Charter, the Chinese leaders had put forward the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Panchsheela provides the essential guidelines for creating a congenial international environment necessary for the socio-economic development of the world. Adherence to these principles is crucial and urgent as the international community attempts to create a new world order. China, belying conventional wisdom in the history of international relations, has risen to global preponderance peacefully, attempting not to create any major upheavals in the existing order.

The five principles of peaceful coexistence embody the spirit of the Charter and have forged the basic norms of international relations that countries, large or small, strong or weak, whether coming from the East or the West, should treat each other with mutual respect and equality. These principles also constitute an important intellectual basis for making the international order more just and equitable. Any international order based on exceptionalism, bloc politics, hegemonic ideologies, and exploitation of the underdeveloped South by the developed north must be challenged in favour of a just world order based on the Spirit of the UN Charter and the established international law.

At the 70th anniversary President Xi stressed that the past 70 years had proved the effectiveness of meeting challenges together for a better future and enhancing unity,

cooperation, communication and understanding. According to Xi, of all the forces in the world, the Global South stands out with a strong momentum, playing a vital role in promoting human progress and standing at a new historical starting point. The Global South should therefore, be more open and more inclusive, and join hands together to take the lead in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

To better support Global South cooperation, China has established a Global South research center and will provide 1,000 scholarships under the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence Scholarship of Excellence and 100,000 training opportunities to Global South countries in the coming five years. It will also launch a Global South youth leaders program. China will continue to make good use of the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, and the Climate Change South-South Cooperation Fund, and will work with interested parties to set up a tripartite center of excellence for the implementation of the Global Development Initiative to facilitate growth in Global South countries.

China also announced the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility and made an additional contribution equivalent to US\$10 million to be used to support agricultural development of the Global South. China has always displayed its readiness to discuss free trade arrangements with more Global South countries, continue to support the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative, and renew its contribution to the WTO's China Program. It welcomes more Global South countries to join the Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development. To support its vision of a peaceful and developed world, China has proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), providing Chinese solutions for improving global governance and addressing human development challenges.

Presently, international politics is increasingly defined by bloc politics, anti-globalization headwinds and fragmented international governance. Humanity is once again faced with the historical and existential choices. President Xi's proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind was put forward with the aim of carrying forward the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the five principles of peaceful coexistence under the new circumstances.

Addressing the SCO Plus Head of State Summit in Astana this month, President Xi reiterated his call for building a just, democratic, and sustainable international order to cope with major transformation and changes of historical significance across the world. He warned that as a result of new scientific and technological revolution the human civilization was marching forward in big strides and so were the factors of insecurity, instability and uncertainty evidently increasing.

In the context of SCO Plus Summit, China stressed the importance of upholding the SCO Spirit and to stay on the development paths that suit the respective national conditions and regional realities. Giving a strong and unambiguous message Xi proposed that;

First, build a common home of solidarity and mutual trust. The Shanghai Spirit is consistent with the essence of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and must be upheld. Respect the development path of respective countries and support each other in safeguarding core interests.

Second, Security is a prerequisite for national development. Irrespective of how the international landscape changes, SCO must hold the bottom line of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. Real security is premised on the security of all countries. Afghanistan is indispensable for the security in the region. Use the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbors and other platforms to increase humanitarian support to Afghanistan, and encourage Afghanistan to establish a broad-based and inclusive political structure and embark on a path of peace and reconstruction.

Third, build a common home of prosperity and development. Modernization is the shared goal of all countries in the SCO. China proposed that 2025 be designated as the SCO Year of Sustainable Development so as to help SCO focus on fostering new forces for growth.

Fourth, build a common home of good-neighborliness and friendship. Dialogue among civilizations is ever more important for world peace and harmony. China is ready to provide quality platforms for countries in the SCO to engage in such dialogues.

Fifth, build a common home of fairness and justice. The current SCO Summit has issued the Astana Declaration, the SCO initiative on world unity for justice, harmony and development, and the statement on the principles of good-neighborliness, trust and partnership. It is a strong message of the new era, one that calls for solidarity, cooperation and justice rather than division, confrontation, and hegemonism.

Sixth, jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, practice true multilateralism, and make global governance more just and equitable. The SCO should make its important contribution to eliminating the deficits in peace, development, security and governance.

Another important event this month was the holding of the Second GDI Forum in Beijing from 11 to 13 July 2024 that conveyed the message that China will leverage its experience of modernization and promote the building of a global community with shared development. Since the Global Development Initiative (GDI) was proposed nearly three years ago, its cooperation mechanism has been continuously strengthened with fruitful results, garnering widespread acclaim and active participation from the international community. China reiterated its commitment to continuing to enrich financing channels, innovate cooperation models, strengthen capacity building, expand partnership networks, coordinate actions with all parties, and make persistent efforts to generate vigorous momentum for sustainable development.

The GDI asks the global community to 'refocus' on development, 'recommit' to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 'reinvigorate' global partnerships and 'reactivate' international development cooperation. Like Truman's initiative, the GDI is vague and emphasizes working through the United Nations. It also promises to be a worldwide effort based not on monetary largess but on cooperation and knowledge sharing.

The GDI does not supplant China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI is essentially a rebranding of China's globalization, focusing on policy coordination, regional connectivity, trade, financial integration and people-to-people ties as routes to common prosperity.

China has framed its role and responsibility in the GDI as that of a developing country working in solidarity with other Global South countries. The GDI is linked to earlier Chinese initiatives like the US\$3.1 billion South-South Climate Cooperation Fund and the further US\$1 billion committed when it upgraded to the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. The GDI reflects China's support for and insistence on the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities — the idea that all countries have responsibilities for building a better world, but wealthier countries should bear more of the burden.

Vigorously promoting the implementation of the GDI by China comes at the right time with a promising prospect that China will anchor the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focus on the actual needs of the people of all countries, deepen Global South cooperation, and strengthen the alignment of development strategies among all parties.

The conference, themed "Promoting Sustainable Development: Continuous Action for a Better Future," was hosted by the National Development and International Cooperation Agency. Representatives from more than 110 countries, international organizations and other institutions participated in the conference online and offline. The participants recognized the GDI's capability to meet the needs of different parties, and to serve as an important public good for the whole world. China plays a crucial role in developing solutions for global challenges and creating a more equitable and sustainable world.

The cooperation mechanisms of the Global Development Initiative are being continuously improved. Till date, more than 160 countries have joined the GDI support group. Over 80 countries, regions, and international organizations have collaborated to form a promotion network for the GDI. More than 40 countries and international institutions have signed cooperation MoUs with China as GDI provides a new model that better suits Global South.

CIDCA Chairman informed that ever since President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative in 2021, China has forged international consensus on development and fostered new drivers for global growth. It has worked closely with other Group members to enhance the synergy between the GDI and the 2030 Agenda, and make sure that countries can truly benefit from the fruitful cooperation of the Initiative. The 32 major initiatives announced by President Xi in 2022 at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development are currently being advanced across the board through GDI mechanisms.

Under the GDI, China has brought tangible benefits to developing countries' economic and societal development on the basis of mutual respect, which are showcased not only in funding, creating job opportunities, and alleviating poverty, but also in upgrading their industries and addressing climate change. During last year's high-level conference, China announced the establishment of a global project pool and raised a special development fund to support it. To date, the pool includes over 1,000 projects, with more than 500 projects

completed or underway. China announced that it will continue to expand the pool and increase its funding, prioritizing “small and beautiful” livelihood projects.

The Global Development Promotion Center under the GDI framework and the Secretariat of its Network have been established in Beijing, which will provide strong support for the exchange of ideas, alignment of planning, and coordination of resources for development cooperation. China believes that on the journey of global development, we must ensure that no country and no one is left behind, and we must make it our consistent pursuit to meet people’s aspirations for a better life.

The global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is falling far short of expectations. Countries, especially developing countries, are facing mounting challenges and risks of losing their hard-won growth over the years. The international community must uphold true multilateralism, put development at the core of the UN agenda and the Summit of the Future, continue the positive momentum from last year’s SDG Summit, and together map out the way forward for common development.

The alignment of the GDI with the UN’s SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also allows China to reference low-income countries’ long-standing grievances about an inequitable and unbalanced global economy. Though mild, China’s rhetoric echoes some of the 1974 UN Declaration on a New International Economic Order, which included a set of proposals to end economic colonialism and dependency.

The GDI promises a fresh perspective on global development, especially for Asia, and its principles and aspirations are encouraging. Yet a true measure of the GDI’s effectiveness will lie in its practical elements. This includes its capacity to align China with partner nations without overshadowing them and its adaptability within the broader geopolitical landscape.

Central to the GDI is the blend of shared and sustainable development. The former emphasizes people-centricity and inclusiveness, while the latter values innovation and harmony with nature. This dual focus on a people-centric approach, coupled with a robust commitment to environmental stewardship, presents a forward-thinking vision. But operational challenges are inevitable. The task of ensuring fairness and inclusiveness, while also responding to global goals and challenges, will be pivotal for the initiative’s success.

<https://pakobserver.net/resurgent-and-confident-china-enhancing-economic-and-strategic-footprint/>

CPEC’s Strategic Importance for Pakistan

Arzam Bajwa

“We are the indispensable nation. We stand tall. We see further into the future than other countries. And we see the danger that others cannot see.” This quote by Madeline Albright shows the US euphoria when the USSR disintegrated, ushering the world into a unipolar moment. But the economic rise of China has instilled fears of a new cold war, more intense than the last century. China is the second-largest economy in the world. Both the US and China are entangled in an intricate web of economic interdependence. With China’s increased global influence, aspirations for regional leadership, ambitious military modernization,

enhanced military presence in the South and East China Seas, and rapid economic growth, the relative comprehensive national power gap between the US and China has decreased. As one 2019 study by James Dobbins, Howard J. Shatz and Ali Wyne put it, “China is a peer competitor that wants to shape an international order that it can aspire to dominate.” In light of these developments, the US adopted a containment policy toward China.

The main battlegrounds for US-China contestation are the South and East China Seas and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI was announced by President Xi in 2013. Initially, it was aimed at connecting the Chinese hinterland to Europe. Subsequently, it incorporated the regions of Africa, Oceania and Latin America. It seeks to bolster regional connectivity and increase economic dividends. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of BRI. It promises economic prosperity, infrastructure development, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the state-of-the-art Gwadar port. However, the economic state of Pakistan is on tenterhooks. It requires economic assistance from the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which is difficult to avail if Pakistan aligns itself more with China.

The Pivot to Asia policy was announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011. Its primary objective was to counterbalance the rising influence of China. Subsequently, President Xi articulated his economic vision in the form of BRI in 2013. The USA cannot match Chinese financing in Asia. But it also cannot leave China’s prowess unchecked. An increasingly assertive China in Asia will decrease US influence. Hence, the United States responded with a trade war with China under the Trump Administration. It involved increased tariffs on Chinese products. President Biden continued this trade war under his Administration. Washington also built close relations with New Delhi in the form of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).

The US and multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have recognized the significance of revitalizing the ‘old silk route’. These acknowledgements provide the rationale for Pakistan to become a party to it. As of December 2023, the number of countries that signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with China stands at 153. CPEC is pivotal to BRI, owing to its proximity to the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The US views BRI from a geostrategic lens, arguing that BRI is part of China’s grand strategy to dominate Asia. Pakistan’s weak economy cannot resist the economic dividends of BRI. Moreover, Washington cannot commit to such economic plans in Asia. Here, the burden of responsibility lies on Pakistan to convince the US that CPEC is devoid of any strategic aims on the part of China. The theory of dual or naval use of Gwadar is simply not true. The mass media needs to present it as an economic project rather than a strategic or military game changer.

CPEC is vital to realizing the dream of BRI. But rising Chinese influence in Asia invites US opposition. Consequently, the US adopts an antagonistic approach to CPEC. The United States expresses its displeasure by stating that China is encroaching on states’ sovereignty via a debt trap. This confrontational approach has deep implications for Pakistan. Pakistan cannot withstand alienating either. Therefore, it needs to carefully navigate regional sensitivities.

Despite CPEC and outstanding relations with China, Pakistan cannot afford to distance itself from the US either. The United States is the biggest market for Pakistani exports. The US needs to go beyond the traditional carrot-and-stick approach and increase bilateral trade with Pakistan via the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. It could bring ease for specific in-demand commodities like mangoes, etc. Pakistan can also play the role of a 'Bridge State' or a 'melting pot' as it did during the Sino-US Rapprochement.

Islamabad could invest in efforts to bridge the chasm between Washington and Beijing. However, the prospects of broadening will be dependent upon US and China's commitment to avoid a security competition. Islamabad needs to devise a mechanism to conduct the scrutiny of Chinese projects and loans to rebuff the claims of a debt trap and encroachment of strategic assets. The US needs to comprehend that a security competition with China can disrupt the strategic balance in Asia.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-strategic-importance-for-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese firms not to renegotiate PPAs

Chinese firms reject renegotiation of CPEC power contracts as Pakistan seeks debt relief

ISLAMABAD: As a Pakistani team leaves for Beijing to seek reduction in interest rates and extension in the tenure of the debt taken for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy projects and nuclear power plants, Chinese companies have ruled out the possibility of renegotiating the power purchase contracts.

In a background briefing to *The Express Tribune*, representatives of three large Chinese companies said that the matter of whether to restructure the energy debt should be decided between the Chinese banks and the Pakistani authorities.

However, they ruled out the possibility of renegotiating their own terms and conditions, which were related to their profits and the idle capacity payments, and agreed under the Power Purchase Agreements.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb leaves early Wednesday (today) to meet with Chinese authorities to seek an extension in repayment of the debt that the government of Pakistan and the Chinese companies have taken from the Chinese financial institutions for setting up power plants.

Pakistan had taken the debt to set up nuclear power plants, while the Chinese companies took these loans for the power plants setup under the CPEC. A Power Division official said that the estimated value of the outstanding debt was around \$17 billion for both nuclear plants and CPEC energy projects.

Pakistan has prepared a proposal for up to 8 years extension in energy debt repayments, changing lending currency from US dollar to the Chinese Yuan and seeking a cut in the interest rates, according to Finance Ministry sources.

If accepted by the Chinese authorities, the cumulative impact of these concessions could be around Rs6 to Rs7 per unit reduction in the prices. Only the impact of the Chinese power plants is Rs3 to Rs4 per unit, the sources said.

Pakistan is seeking conversion of interest instruments from Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) to Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate (SHIBOR). It is also seeking a cut on the interest spread over and above the SOFR or SHIBOR. This would cumulatively reduce the cost of debt around 5%, the sources added.

Similarly, as against the existing 10 years repayment period, the government is seeking five years to eight years further extension, spreading the cost of debt in the energy tariff over a total period of 18 years.

In this fiscal year, Pakistan is scheduled to make over \$2 billion energy debt repayments to Beijing, which it wants to postpone to seek relief amid distress times. Pakistan has also set up the nuclear power plants with the Chinese loans and is seeking the extension.

The government has notified the new average electricity price at Rs33 per unit with effect from July and out of this over Rs18 per unit was on account of idle capacity payments. There is a growing pressure from the industrialists and the residential consumers to avoid these idle capacity payments by reopening the Power Purchase Agreements. However, the government remains the major beneficiary of these idle capacity payments, followed by Chinese plants.

The take or pay condition of the Power Purchase Agreements is based on the 2014 energy policy, which cannot be reopened, said executives from the Sahiwal Power Plant, Port Qasim Power Plant and China-Hubco power plant. The combined capacity of these three plants is 3,960 megawatts and these have been setup under the CPEC umbrella.

Most of the countries buy electricity on take or pay basis and no foreign investor would be interested in setting up power plants in Pakistan on take-and-pay basis, said a Chinese executive.

In case of take or pay, the government has to make payment against the guaranteed capacity, irrespective whether it buys the power or not. However, in the take and pay scenario, the payments are only made against the purchased electricity.

Pakistan should be mindful that 10 years ago there were power outages of 10 to 14 hours a day and even local investors were not investing in the energy sector, according to these executives. "The 2014 power policy is the foundation of our investment in Pakistan", said the Chinese representative from the Port Qasim power plant.

These executives said that the core issue was uncontrolled and high line losses, theft and low recoveries. The Chinese companies should not be blamed for the higher energy prices, as our cost of electricity is still cheaper than the government-owned power plants being run on the LNG, they continued.

According to the plant merit order issued by the government on July 16, the Port Qasim was producing electricity at Rs13.88 per unit, standing 15 at the merit order. The China-Hub power plant was producing electricity at Rs13.93 per unit and was on 16 position at the merit

order. The Sahiwal coal power plant was producing power at Rs18.30 per unit and was on 20 in the merit order of total 74 power plants.

The government-owned power plants were producing electricity at over Rs24 per unit, according to the merit order. The Chinese representatives said that the return on equity on the Chinese investment was not more than the prevailing interest rates in Pakistan.

The representatives of the three largest imported-coal based power plants further said that due to Pakistan's foreign currency crisis they could not transfer dividends back home to their parent companies. "Even though we have been paid in the local currency, the money stayed in Pakistan and due to currency depreciation our profits have been eroded," said a senior executive.

"We have been making regular debt payments since the commissioning of the plants and the majority of the debts have already been paid," said an official of the Port Qasim Power Plant of the CPEC, when he was asked to comment on the government's proposal to seek restructuring of the Chinese energy debt.

The companies could not decide about the restructuring of the debt and any such decision had to be taken by the banks and their insurer, the Sinosure, according to a representative of one of the largest Chinese power plants. "It is meaningless whether or not energy companies will agree to any such proposal. The solution does not lie in the renegotiation of the terms of the energy deals."

The Chinese companies have submitted a report to the government on reducing the cost of energy in Pakistan, but there is no development on that, said these executives. The prime minister wanted to improve investment in Pakistan and yet it wanted to reopen 10 years old deals, which would not send a good signal to the Chinese investors, they added.

The companies said that the option of converting the local coal to imported coal could be considered only on the basis of scientific and evidence-based decision making while keeping in mind the financial and commercial viability of these plants. They said that the government was not sharing the complete details of a German consultant study about the conversion of imported coal power plants.

Former interim commerce minister Gohar Ejaz said on Tuesday that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) would approach the Supreme Court to challenge the agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

In a tweet, Ejaz said that the FPCCI, representing Pakistan's business community, would file a formal petition in the apex court with the request of the court's intervention in what Ejaz described as an intolerable situation that affected the right to life of every Pakistani.

However, the Supreme Court's intervention in Reko Diq mining deal had led to imposition of \$6 billion penalty on Pakistan and the government eventually begged for an out-of-court settlement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2482407/chinese-firms-not-to-renegotiate-ppas>

Turkmenistan urged to use Gwadar Port

Zardari signs law raising Christian marriage age to 18

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called for expanding bilateral ties with Turkmenistan across all areas of mutual interest, urging the country to benefit from Gwadar port for promoting the regional trade.

The president expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that Pakistan-Turkmenistan relations were based on a common vision for peace and prosperity in the region. The exchange of high-level visits between the two countries signified the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation.

Welcoming the minister, the president urged the need to enhance connectivity and communication between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, saying that Gwadar port offered great opportunities for promoting regional trade and Turkmenistan should benefit from the port.

He stressed the need for continued exchanges and dialogue at all levels and enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations for the prosperity of the two countries.

He offered that Turkmen students could seek education from the medical institutions of Pakistan and noted the importance of the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held today by the two Foreign Ministers. Meredov maintained that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations. He stated that his country would continue to promote economic, cultural and educational cooperation with Pakistan. He highlighted the importance of constructing motorways and railways, through Afghanistan, to connect the two brotherly countries. He conveyed the greetings of the leadership of Turkmenistan to the President.

Separately, President Zardari signed Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act into law, increasing the marriageable age for Christian men and women to eighteen years.

According to a statement issued by President Secretariat, the president accorded assent to the act under Article 75 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Act amends Section 60 of the Christian Marriage Act of 1872. Prior to the amendments, the age of Christian men and women intending to be married was required to exceed sixteen and thirteen years respectively. Addressing a ceremony after signing the act at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, he said that he would write to the federal government to enhance the jobs quota in different departments for the minorities. Zardari said that all the citizens of the country had equal rights and urged the minorities to continue playing their role for the progress and prosperity of the country as this soil and land belonged to them as much as to him.

Speaking on the occasion, Bishop Abraham Daniel said that raising the age of marriage for men and women had been a long-standing demand of the Christian community.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2482397/turkmenistan-urged-to-use-gwadar-port>

The Nation

Hamas signs unity declaration with Fatah at China summit

Chinese foreign ministry says both Palestinian factions, ending their division, have agreed interim national reconciliation government. Israel swiftly dismisses Beijing declaration. There can't be a role for Hamas: US.

Beijing /HONG KONG - Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah have signed a declaration agreeing to form an interim "national reconciliation government" for the occupied West Bank and Gaza after the war with Israel, in a meeting brokered by China, China's foreign minister and Hamas officials said Tuesday.

Representatives from the groups, along with 12 other Palestinian factions, pledged to work for unity after three days of talks in Beijing.

It is the latest of several reconciliation deals Hamas and Fatah have agreed on in their long fractured relationship, none of which have yet led to the end of the schism.

Israel has also ruled out a role for Hamas or Fatah in governing Gaza after the end of hostilities there.

The deep split began in 2007 when Hamas became the sole ruler in Gaza after violently ejecting Fatah from the territory. This came after Palestinian President and Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas dissolved the Hamas-led unity government formed when Hamas won national elections the year before.

Since then, the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority has been left in charge of only parts of the West Bank. Hamas has lost control in Gaza since the war with Israel began on 7 October with Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel, in which it killed about 1,200 people and took 251 others back to Gaza as hostages. More than 39,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza as a result of the Israeli offensive, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

In a statement posted on Telegram, Hamas spokesman Hossam Badran said the declaration was an "additional positive step on the path to achieving Palestinian national unity".

He said the groups were in agreement on "Palestinian demands relating to ending the war... which are: a ceasefire, complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, relief and reconstruction."

He said "the most important" part of what was agreed was to form a Palestinian national consensus government "that would manage the affairs of our people in Gaza and the West Bank, supervise reconstruction, and prepare the conditions for elections".

The declaration is in effect an expression of intent as there are major obstacles to making such an agreement work. Fatah has yet to comment on it, though its representative Mahmoud al-Aloul thanked China for its support of the Palestinian cause following the announcement.

Israel, which has vowed to destroy Hamas before it will end the war, swiftly dismissed the Beijing declaration. "Instead of rejecting terrorism, Mahmoud Abbas embraces the murderers and rapists of Hamas, revealing his true face," Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X.

“In reality, this won’t happen because Hamas’s rule will be crushed, and Abbas will be watching Gaza from afar. Israel’s security will remain solely in Israel’s hands.”

The announcement followed reconciliation talks hosted by China involving 14 Palestinian factions starting Sunday, according to China’s Foreign Ministry, which come as Israel wages war against Hamas in Gaza and as Beijing has sought to present itself as a potential peace broker in the conflict.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the agreement was “dedicated to the great reconciliation and unity of all 14 factions.” “The core outcome is that the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) is the sole legitimate representative of all Palestinian people,” Wang said, adding that “an agreement has been reached on post-Gaza war governance and the establishment of a provisional national reconciliation government.”

Fatah dominates both the PLO and the PA, the interim Palestinian government that was established in the Israeli-occupied West Bank after the 1993 agreement known as the Oslo Accords was signed. Hamas was not party to the accords and does not recognize Israel.

Mustafa Barghouti, president of the Palestinian National Initiative, who was at the Beijing talks, said “all the parties” have agreed that they should join the PLO, and that the organization is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

There is a long history of bitter enmity between Hamas and Fatah. The two sides have tried – and failed – multiple times to reach an agreement to unite the two separate Palestinian territories under one governance structure, with a 2017 agreement quickly folding in violence.

The PA held administrative control over Gaza until 2007, after Hamas won the 2006 legislative elections in the occupied territories and expelled it from the strip. Since then, Hamas has ruled Gaza and the PA governs parts of the West Bank.

Barghouti said the latest attempt at reconciling the Palestinian factions “went much further” than previous efforts and included “specific steps” towards the formation of a consensus government. The war in Gaza, he told CNN, has prodded the factions to unite as a common front against Israel’s occupation.

“There was a very clear feeling that what Israel is doing is really threatening everybody,” he said. “And so, in that sense, the feeling of unity (to) confront the Israeli side is very clear here.”

A new government would ensure the unity of the occupied West Bank and Gaza, ruling both territories after the war and effectively “blocking Israeli efforts” to maintain its occupation of Gaza, he said.

At a news conference Tuesday in Beijing, Hamas delegation representative Mousa Abu Marzook said they had reached an agreement to complete a “course of reconciliation,” while also using the platform in Beijing to defend the group’s October 7 attack on Israel. “We’re at a historic junction. Our people are rising up in their efforts to struggle,” Abu Marzook said, according to a translation provided by China’s Foreign Ministry, adding that the October 7 operation had “changed a lot, both in international and regional landscape.”

Beijing has not explicitly condemned Hamas for its October 7 attack on Israel.

China's role

Tuesday's agreement follows an earlier round of talks between Hamas and Fatah hosted by Beijing in April.

Since the start of the war in Gaza, China – which has looked to bolster its influence and ties in the Middle East in recent years – has presented itself as a leading voice for countries across the Global South decrying Israel's war in the enclave and calling for Palestinian statehood.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping in May called for an international peace conference during meetings with leaders from Arab nations and has also dispatched a special envoy to the Middle East to meet with diplomats and officials.

The US State Department said that while it had not reviewed the text of the Beijing agreement, it did not support Hamas having a role in the postwar governance of Gaza. "When it comes to governance of Gaza at the end of the conflict, there can't be a role for a terrorist organization," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told a press briefing, referring to Hamas specifically.

Miller said he did not believe the deal would "in any way have an impact on the ongoing discussions to reach a ceasefire." Miller also said the US wants to see the Palestinian Authority governing "a unified Gaza and the West Bank" after the war.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Jul-2024/hamas-signs-unity-declaration-with-fatah-at-china-summit>

Express News

چینی آئی پی بی پیز کا کیسٹسٹی چار جز پر نظر ثانی سے انکار

پاکستانی ٹیم سی پیک اور نیو کلیئر پاور پلانٹس کے پروجیکٹس سے متعلق لیے گئے قرضوں کی میعاد بڑھانے اور ان قرضوں پر سود کی شرح کم کرانے کے لیے: اسلام آباد بیجنگ گئی ہے۔

تاہم چین کی تین بڑی پاور کمپنیوں نے بجلی خریداری معاہدے پر دوبارہ مذاکرات کے امکان کو مسترد کر دیا ہے۔

ایکسپریس ٹریبیون "کوڈی گئی بریفنگ میں تین چینی کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں نے کہا کہ انہیں پر لیے گئے قرضے کو ری اسٹرکچر کرنے کا فیصلہ چینی بینکوں اور پاکستانی حکام کے درمیان ہونا چاہیے لیکن انہوں نے اپنے منافع اور کیسٹسٹی پیمنٹ کی ان شرائط و ضوابط میں کسی تبدیلی کے امکان کو مسترد کر دیا ہے جن پر پاور پراجیکٹ ایگریمنٹ کے تحت اتفاق ہوا تھا۔

پاکستانی وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب چینی حکام سے ملاقات کے لیے روانہ ہو گئے تاکہ اس قرض کی دوبارہ واپسی کی مدت میں توسیع کرا سکیں۔

یہ وہ قرض تھا جو حکومت پاکستان اور چینی کمپنیوں نے پاور پلانٹ نصب کرنے کے لیے چینی مالیاتی اداروں سے لیا تھا۔ پاکستان نے نیو کلیئر پاور پلانٹس لگانے کے لیے اور چینی کمپنیوں نے سی پیک کے تحت پاور پلانٹس لگانے کے لیے قرض لیا تھا۔

ان دونوں مدت کے قرض کی قدر تقریباً 17 ارب ڈالر بنتی ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان نے پیشکش تیار کی ہے کہ ازبجی کے شعبہ کے قرض کی واپسی کی مدت میں 8 سال کی توسیع کی جائے اور اس کی ادائیگی کو امریکی ڈالر سے چینی یوآن میں تبدیل کر دیا جائے اور ساتھ ہی اس قرض پر شرح سود کو بھی کم کیا جائے۔

اگر چینی حکام نے پاکستانی تجویز کو مان لیا تو اس سے پاکستان میں بجلی کی قیمت میں فی یونٹ 6 سے 7 روپے کمی آسکتی ہے۔ صرف چینی پاور پلانٹس کی بجلی کی قیمت میں 3 سے 4 روپے یونٹ کمی آسکتی ہے۔

ذرائع نے بتایا کہ پاکستان سود کے انسٹرومنٹس کو بھی ”ایس او ایف آر“ سے بدل کر ”ایس ایچ آئی بی او آر“ کرانا چاہتا ہے۔ یہ ایس او ایف آر اور ایس ایچ آئی بی او آر سے بھی اوپر ہو جانے والے سود کی بھی کٹوتی چاہتا ہے۔

پاکستان کی درخواست پر عمل ہو جائے تو اس سے مجموعی قرض کی لاگت میں 5 فیصد تک کمی آئے گی۔

اس سال پاکستان کو ازبجی کے شعبے کے قرض کی واپسی کے لیے 2 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ ادائیگی کرنا ہے۔ اس مشکل وقت میں پاکستان اس ادائیگی کو بھی مؤخر کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں صنعتکاروں اور گھریلو صارفین کی جانب سے حکومت پر بیکار کیسپسٹی کی ادائیگی سے بچنے کے لیے پاور پر چیز انگری منٹس پر نظر ثانی کرنے کا دباؤ بڑھ رہا ہے۔

تاہم ساہیوال پاور پلانٹ، پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ اور چائندہ حکو پاور پلانٹ کے عہدیداروں نے بتایا کہ 2014 کی ازبجی پالیسی کی بنیاد پر پاور پر چیز انگری منٹس کی ادائیگی یا وصولی پر نظر ثانی نہیں کی جاسکتی۔ ان تینوں پاور پلانٹس کی کیسپسٹی 3960 میگا واٹ ہے۔

پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ کے چینی نمائندے نے کہا کہ دس سال قبل پاکستان میں 10 سے 14 گھنٹے کی لوڈ شیڈنگ تھی اور کوئی مقامی سرمایہ کار ازبجی سیکٹر میں انویسٹمنٹ کرنے کو تیار نہیں تھا۔ اس وقت پاور پالیسی 2014 “ہی ہماری سرمایہ کاری کی بنیاد بنی تھی۔

چینی پلانٹس کے نمائندوں نے کہا کہ مرکزی مسئلہ انتہائی زیادہ لائن لاسز، چوری اور کم ریکوری کا ہے۔

کے ساتھ ہونے والے معاہدوں کو سپریم کورٹ میں چیلنج کرے گی۔ اپنے ٹویٹ IPPS سابق عبوری وزیر تجارت گوہر اعجاز نے منگل کو کہا ہے کہ ایف پی سی سی آئی ان میں گوہر اعجاز نے بتایا کہ میٹیشن میں کہا جائے گا کہ ان ناقابل برداشت حالات میں عدالت مداخلت کرے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2673111/6/>

Jang News

چینی قرضوں کی ری شیڈولنگ

حکومت زبوں حال معیشت کی بحالی کیلئے مشکل فیصلے کر رہی ہے تاہم اسے سیاسی دباؤ میں اضافے کے سبب شدید چیلنجوں کا سامنا ہے۔ وہ دوست ممالک سے لئے گئے اربوں ڈالر قرضوں کی ری اسٹرکچرنگ کیلئے کوشاں ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف نے چین کو واجب الادا قرضوں کی تین سال کیلئے ری شیڈولنگ کی شرط عائد کر رکھی ہے۔ پندرہ ارب ڈالر توانائی قرضوں کی ری شیڈولنگ کے اہم ترین ناسک پرویز خزانہ محمد اور نگزیب چین کا تین روزہ دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ توقع ظاہر کی جا رہی ہے کہ قرض کی ری شیڈولنگ کیلئے پاک چین ورکنگ گروپ قائم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان چین میں تین کروڑ ڈالر کا بانڈ امانڈ حاصل کرنا چاہتا ہے اس پر بھی چینی حکام سے بات چیت ہوگی۔ چین کے توانائی کے سرکلر ڈیٹ کا حجم پانچ سو ارب روپے کے لگ بھگ ہے۔ پاکستان قرضوں کی ری شیڈولنگ کیلئے پر امید ہے تاہم بعض ناقدین کے اس حوالے سے خدشات ہیں۔ ان کے خیال میں اگر چین قرضوں کی تنظیم نو کرتا ہے تو سری لنکا وغیرہ بھی بیبنگ سے قرضوں کی ری شیڈولنگ کی درخواست کر سکتے ہیں۔ ان کے مطابق پاکستان کو تاریخی آئی ایم ایف درکار اسٹرکچر اصلاحات نافذ کرنے میں مشکلات پیش آسکتی ہیں۔ وزیر خزانہ بھی پر امید ہیں کہ آئی ایم ایف معاہدے کے ذریعے اقتصادی اصلاحات کے ایجنڈے کو تقویت ملے گی۔ انہوں نے عالمی ریٹنگ ایجنسی فچ کے نمائندوں سے ورجوئل ملاقات کی ہے جس نے پاکستان کے اقتصادی اشاریوں کی بہتری کا اعتراف

کیا ہے۔ حکومت نے پچاس ارب روپے اکٹھا کرنے کیلئے نئی ریٹیلر اسکیم بیلیس شہروں میں نافذ کر دی ہے۔ ریٹیلر ٹیکس کا تعین دکان کے کرائے اور سرمایہ کاری کی بنیاد پر ہو گا۔ کم سے کم ٹیکس بارہ سو روپے سالانہ ہو گا۔ تاجروں کی ایک بڑی تعداد کو نئی اسکیم کے دائرے سے باہر کر دیا گیا ہے۔ سوال یہ ہے کہ محض تاجروں کے ایک محدود طبقے سے پچاس ارب کا ٹیکس حاصل ہو سکے گا؟

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/725028>

July 25, 2024

Business Recorder

Aleem briefs Chinese envoy about investment potential

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong was given a high-level briefing at the Board of Investment (BOI) for investment in Pakistan which was conducted by Federal Minister for BOI Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi.

In this session, the details of the establishment of industries from China to Pakistan under Matchmaking Industry were presented. In this briefing, seven major sectors were finalized, which include medical equipment, plastic industry, textile, leather, edible meat, fruit and vegetables and waste.

While giving briefing to Ambassador of China Zaidong and the Chinese delegation, Federal Minister Aleem Khan said that there are opportunities in Pakistan to invest in infrastructure, housing and other important sectors. He invited more Chinese companies to come to Pakistan and invest here. He assured that the Chinese brothers are our guests and their fool proof security would be assured at all costs.

Aleem Khan welcomed the participation of Chinese Ambassador Zaidong in the briefing session and said that Pakistan is extending business visa facility to investors from 124 countries including China.

China's Ambassador Zaidong assured all possible support for investment in Pakistan and said that business organizations from China will fully participate in the promotion of trade here.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Fatemi said that with China friendship, brotherly relations, investment is always the top priority for Pakistan.

Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal said that Pakistan-China investment is a joint responsibility of the BOI and the Ministry of Commerce, which will be fulfilled efficiency. The Chinese ambassador was accompanied by the Minister of Commerce, Consul, Second Secretary and other Chinese officials.

Meanwhile, French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discusses bilateral cooperation and trade activities between both the countries.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan told Nicolas Galey that work is being done on road network from Karachi to Sukkur and China including Central Asian states which will help to

promote business volume. He said that European countries are very important in terms of investment and economic activities in Pakistan.

Aleem Khan further said that for the strengthening of the country's economy, the privatization of loss-burdened institutions already in process while all these institutions have the potential to earn profits and work in good manner.

Expressing gratitude to the Federal Minister and President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan for participating in the reception of the National Day of France, Nicolas Galey invited him to visit France and meet the Business Association there.

French Ambassador also expressed interest in investment and partnership in business activities by his government and private sector of France.

In the meeting, they both held detailed discussions on increasing trade volume between Pakistan and France and also discussed different important proposals.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/25/3-page/1000462-news.html>

Daily Times

US seeks \$101m aid for Pakistan to ‘prevent its overreliance’ on China

The US administration has sought a budget of \$101 million for Pakistan to “strengthen democracy, fight terrorism, and stabilise the country’s economy”, US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu told a congressional panel on Tuesday.

Lu’s statement came as he presented a written budget request for South and Central Asian Affairs to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. He said that Pakistan was facing “ongoing challenges and opportunities”, in light of which, the requested funding would strengthen democracy, fight terrorism, and stabilise the economy by supporting economic reforms and debt management.

“The President’s Budget requests a straight-lining of our \$101 million Pakistan budget,” Lu said. “That money would be used to strengthen democracy and civil society, to fight terrorism and violent extremism, and to support economic reforms and debt management to help stabilise Pakistan’s economy.”

The US has consistently pushed Pakistan to uphold democratic values. Last month, the US House of Representatives adopted a resolution by an overwhelming majority in the US Congress, expressing concerns about the state of democracy and human rights in Pakistan. Islamabad responded strongly, rejecting the concerns as unfounded.

Similarly, Washington has repeatedly emphasised its “shared interest” with Pakistan in addressing the critical threat that terrorism poses to the entire region. The president’s budget, according to the budget request document, was seeking a total of \$1.01 billion in foreign assistance for the South and Central Asia region to “compete with the People’s Republic of China (PRC), counter Russian and Chinese disinformation, and prevent terrorist groups from threatening the US security”.

Of the total amount, the US announced it would redirect additional resources to South Asia, and to that end, the president had requested \$585.7 million for the region, representing a 4.8pc increase over the 2023-24 budget.

Commenting on Pakistan's economic relations with China, Lu said that the US was seeking to prevent Islamabad's "further overreliance" on Beijing.

Responding to a lawmaker during the hearing regarding Washington's plan to balance China's "strong and growing influence" in Pakistan, Lu said that the US would supersede Chinese investments.

"China is the past in terms of investment; we are the future," Lu said. Pakistan is the third biggest recipient of Chinese development finance worldwide with a portfolio of \$70.3 billion, a study revealed last year.

Only 2 per cent of China's portfolio in Pakistan between 2000 and 2021 consisted of grants while the rest was in the form of loans, the study added.

Last year, Beijing rolled over \$2.4 billion in loans to Pakistan during a financial crisis for the latter for two years. China had repeatedly helped Pakistan to avert a default amid low foreign exchange reserves through debt rollovers while Islamabad was struggling to win over a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The United States is "always concerned" at the arrest of opposition leaders and urges the peaceful upholding of constitutional and democratic principles, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday regarding the arrest of PTI leader Raouf Hasan and the raid on the party's office.

Hasan, himself a spokesperson for the PTI, was arrested by the Islamabad police on Monday during a raid conducted by the Islamabad police and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the PTI's digital media wing, with the interior ministry accusing the party of peddling "anti-state propaganda".

During a State Department press briefing last night, Miller was asked to comment on the Pakistani government's decision to conduct the raid, arrest Hasan and even trying to have the PTI banned. To this, Miller acknowledged to have seen the reports of the arrests of PTI leaders, adding that the US is "always concerned when we see arrests of opposition leaders".

"I'm always personally concerned when I see the arrest of a spokesperson," Miller said, drawing a laughter from those in attendance due to him being a spokesperson himself.

He said that the State Department "supports the upholding of constitutional and democratic principles, including the rule of law, equal justice under the law, and respect for human rights like freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly".

Miller added that the department "urges that these principles be respected in accordance with Pakistan's constitution and laws", before answering further questions.

Asked about the Department's views on the state of democracy in Pakistan as well as Bangladesh, Miller replied, "What we as the United States have always done [...] is to speak out for democratic values around the world and make sure that – or – and make clear that

countries are strongest when they uphold democratic values [...] anywhere in the world. And that's what we're going to continue to do."

"We will continue to make our values clear," he added, stressing that "sovereign countries make their own decisions" independent of what the United States or any other country believes. "What we can do is impress upon countries what we believe are the right way to approach questions of fundamental freedom, questions of democratic values, questions of human rights and bring all the influence we can to bear to urge them along that path," he stated. "And that's what we'll continue to do." The spokesperson was also asked about the deportation and overall state of Afghan refugees in Pakistan but he did not answer that question. The spokesperson was also asked about the Pakistan Army's decision to snuff out what it calls is "digital terrorism".

To this, Miller said, "We support media freedom in Pakistan, just as we support it around the world."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211492/us-seeks-101m-aid-for-pakistan-to-prevent-its-overreliance-on-china/>

China-Pakistan collaboration enhancing climate & disaster preparedness

A training Workshop on Application of Cloud-based Early Warning System (CEWS) for Pakistan commenced here, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

It aimed at further deepen Pakistan, China bilateral cooperation in climate and disaster preparedness. The 7-day workshop brings together 20 officials and experts from the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) for training and knowledge exchange. Following the conclusion of the workshop, Chinese meteorological experts will travel to Pakistan to collaborate with local counterparts on the installation and commissioning of the CEWS system. The CEWS Training is a collaborative effort between the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Cao Xiaozhong, Deputy Administrator of CMA, and Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science and Technology Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, and so on. On the occasion, Dr. Cao expressed hope for deeper cooperation in the future, contributing to the advancement of meteorological science and the implementation of the United Nations' universal early warning initiative. The Course covered various topics related to the locally adapted application of the Cloud-Based Early Warning System for Pakistan. Developed jointly by CMA and PMD, this system includes technologies for severe weather monitoring and forecasting, climate projections, meteorological satellite surveillance, remote sensing, and the installation and maintenance of meteorological observation facilities.

Participants engaged in on-site lectures, hands-on practical exercises, and interactive discussions, sharing experiences in disaster prevention, early warning, and enhancing overall climate resilience.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211358/china-pakistan-collaboration-enhancing-climate-disaster-preparedness/>

Chinese auto giant to promote battery technology in Pakistan

Chinese auto giant has entered into new arrangements to promote battery technology in Pakistan. Pakistan is gearing up to promote battery technology following the announcement of a strategic distribution partnership between BYD, a Chinese auto giant and world's second battery manufacturer, and Diwan International Pvt Ltd, Pakistan's largest solar component distributor. It aims at to supply premium Lithium-ion batteries for solar systems in Pakistan. The battery LV Flex Lite is a self-developed Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery technology that has been safety proved by millions of electric vehicles across the globe. The new partnership signifies a milestone in the country's renewable energy sector, as Diwan International expands its portfolio of world-renowned partners, including but not limited to Huawei Solar Inverter, Jinko Solar, Trina Solar, Longi Solar. Pakistan, like many other developing countries, faces challenges related to air pollution and rising greenhouse gas emissions. This endeavor is anticipated not only meet the needs of the local EV battery market gradually, but also make an indispensable contribution to Pakistan's sustainable development goals by curbing carbon emissions and promoting clean energy solutions. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, BYD surpassed Tesla last year to become the world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, showcasing its prowess in the field. By now, overseas business of this auto giant has covered Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica and many other countries, and its electric vehicles have covered six continents, more than 50 countries and regions, and more than 200 cities around the globe. Pakistan's growing emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and embracing eco-friendly transportation solutions coincides with BYD's ambitious global rollout plans. Furthermore, BYD's decision to develop electric vehicle production within Pakistan opens avenues for exporting Right Hand Drive (RHD) vehicles, catering to broader markets.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211364/chinese-auto-giant-to-promote-battery-technology-in-pakistan/>

Aleem invites Chinese firms to invest in different sectors

Federal Minister of Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday said that Pakistan is extending business visa facility to investors from 124 countries including China and invited more Chinese companies to invest in different sector of national economy.

Abdul Aleem Khan along with Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi briefed the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on the investment opportunities existing in different sector of the economy, said a press release.

In this session, the details of the establishment of industries from China to Pakistan under matchmaking industry were presented. During the briefing, seven major sectors were finalized, which include medical equipment, plastic industry, textile, leather, edible meat, fruit & vegetables and waste. While giving briefing to Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese delegation, Abdul Aleem Khan said that there are opportunities in Pakistan to invest in infrastructure, housing and other important sectors.

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Abdul Aleem Khan told Nicolas Galey that work is being done on road network from Karachi to Sukkur and China including Central Asian states which will help to promote business volume. He said that European countries are very important in terms of investment and economic activities in Pakistan.

He further said that for the strengthening of the country's economy, the privatization of loss-burdened institutions already in process while all these institutions have the potential to earn profits and work in good manner.

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French Ambassador also expressed interest in investment and partnership in business activities by his Government and private sector of France.

During the meeting both held detailed discussions on increasing trade volume between Pakistan and France and also discussed different important proposals.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211413/aleem-invites-chinese-firms-to-invest-in-different-sectors/>

Dawn News

Hamas-Fatah deal

THE Beijing Declaration signed in the Chinese capital on Tuesday reiterates the need for internal Palestinian unity at a critical time when people of the occupied territories are facing merciless slaughter at the hands of the occupying power. Moreover, the diplomatic coup has further strengthened China's image as a peacemaker in the strife-torn Middle East, succeeding where many other foreign powers have often failed. Fourteen Palestinian factions signed the declaration, with Hamas and Fatah being the most prominent of them. The former controls Gaza, while the latter runs the occupied West Bank through the Palestinian

Authority. Both parties have been bitter rivals since a violent power struggle erupted in 2007. The Beijing Declaration seeks the formation of a unity government and the achievement of “Palestinian independence at an early date”. Of course, standing in the way of these noble aims is Israel, which is furious with Beijing for inviting Hamas to the talks. Also, the Israeli parliament recently passed a bill rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state, effectively telling the world Tel Aviv has no intention of vacating the occupied territories.

The idea of a unity government is a much better ‘day after’ plan than the questionable schemes being dreamt up by Israel, the US and some Arab states. These include the presence of foreign ‘peacekeepers’ in Gaza. Numerous Palestinian factions have said they will not accept foreign troops on their land. Yet the fact remains that the unity government can only be formed once the slaughter in Gaza stops. Instead of foreign powers dictating their future, or worse, Israel installing loyalist puppets to police the Palestinians, the people of Palestine must be free to decide their own future through democratic means. And once the conditions for elections are established, the international community, as well as the Palestinian factions themselves, should respect the winning party’s mandate. As for Beijing’s growing role in the Middle East, this is China’s second major accomplishment after last year’s Iran-Saudi rapprochement. Perhaps China has succeeded as it does not bring with it the baggage of being an ex-colonial overlord in the region, while Beijing does not promise ‘ironclad’ support to an occupying power. The uniting of Palestinian factions in Beijing is another indication of a changing world order, where new global players are emerging to challenge the hegemony of the old order.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1847876/hamas-fatah-deal>

The News

CPEC Phase-II to go in full swing — I

Exclusive interview with Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Mr Zhao Shiren

Mian Saifur Rehman

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent successful visit to China, it was mutually agreed that special focus should be given to industrial development, agricultural modernisation, science & technology and development of SEZs in Pakistan ; ‘Shehbaz Speed’ or ‘Punjab Speed’ is quite well known to the Chinese, both here and back home; with the launch of CPEC phase II, this cooperation, collaboration and partnership would go in full-swing, integrating the development of five corridors, with Pakistan’s 5Es strategy in line with China’s five principles of peaceful co-existence; West’s so-called concern over China’s ‘industrial over-capacity’ is unjustified.

These views were expressed by the Consul General of China in Lahore, Mr Zhao Shiren, in an exclusive interview with The News. Answering further questions on China-Pak multifaceted cooperation, the Consul General, first explained the five principles of peaceful coexistence. He told The News that China held a very important conference in Beijing to mark the 70th anniversary of the five principles of peaceful coexistence on June 28 last.

According to him, 'President Xi Jinping, in his keynote policy speech, not only spoke volumes of the historic value and contributions of the five principles, but also emphasised the evolving development of the five principles into building a community with a shared future for mankind, highlighting China's foreign policy goals of pursuing global peace, development, security, prosperity and governance through dialogue and cooperation.

By championing the five principles and the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilisation Initiative, the Global Initiative on Artificial Intelligence Governance, and building a community with a shared future for mankind, China is demonstrating its unwavering support for and dedication to building a world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity, providing the Global South and the developing countries with more opportunities for revitalisation, transformation and development.

It is China who first initiated the five principles in 1953, which include mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. These principles were endorsed respectively in the joint statements between China and India and between China and Myanmar in 1954, and were further developed in Bandung Conference, Indonesia in 1955, into the basic norms, guiding international relations and international law. They emerged in the post-World War II era, and continue to serve as the fundamental principles for international peace, security and cooperation, having profound impact on global diplomacy and international landscape.

The past seven decades have seen these five principles being time-tested and enjoying strong resilience and relevance. They remain a beacon of hope in today's turbulent world, for building an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation. Standing against international vicissitudes, the five principles have been upgraded into the noble vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, underscoring China's resolve and commitment to contributing to global development and human progress.

By celebrating and sustaining the five principles, China invests heavily in the future of global peace, security and development. A rising, strong and prosperous China is a blessing to the world. Embarking on the path of peaceful development and modernisation, China remains a major contributor to world peace, security, justice, and growth.

China's approach towards Pakistan exemplifies its commitment to non-aggression and non-interference. Our relations are characterised by mutual respect, mutual benefits, and shared development. China has consistently supported Pakistan on various bilateral and international platforms, neither imposing its policies nor interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a prime example of how China has stood by the five principles and jointly built with Pakistan a closer community with a shared future in a new era'.

Replying to a question on enhanced China-Pak cooperation in the days to come, the CG responded, 'China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, good friends, and iron brothers. Hence the bilateral cooperation is both comprehensive and strategic, going beyond the bilateral to the multilateral and international fora. China deems its cooperation with Pakistan within the ambit of South-South cooperation, and the ongoing cooperation has

brought tremendous benefits to two nations and peoples. It is also conducive to keeping peace, stability and security in the region.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project in bilateral cooperation. During its 11-year trailblazing journey, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's energy and infrastructural landscapes, and reshaped its socioeconomic development.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent successful visit to China, both China and Pakistan have agreed that with the timely completion of all ongoing projects, special focus should be given to the industrial development, agricultural modernization, science & technology, and the development of Special Economic Zones in Pakistan in particular. So, I believe that with the launch of CPEC phase II, our cooperation, collaboration and partnership will be in full-swing and further expedited. The Gwadar Port development remains top priority and it will be transformed into a regional business and trade hub. Framework agreement has been signed on implementing the Karakoram Highway alignment project. Both sides also reaffirmed commitments to the Mainline-1 railway upgradation. Hopefully the financing arrangement and the phase-wise pilot construction will materialize in the near future.

Chinese goal on CPEC phase II is to integrate the development of five corridors, namely, the growth corridor, the livelihood-enhancing corridor, the innovation corridor, the green corridor, and the inclusive and open corridor, with Pakistan's 5Es strategy, so that we can work together and strive for building better an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era'. Dwelling further upon various facets of cooperation, the Consul General informed The News that it takes both G2G (Government to Government) and B2B (Business to Business). 'It is a mixed model, or you may call it a parallel model, requiring engagement of both the public sector and the private sector. In case of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, it is mainly G2G by nature, as all the mega projects concerning the power plants and the infrastructural construction demand huge investment and political support. Since inception of the CPEC, we have the understanding that G2G cooperation ensures smooth policy coordination and effective implementation of the projects. Given that, we are not opposed to B2B cooperation. B2B can supplement and complement G2G in uplifting the agricultural and industrial development of Pakistan and promoting trade and investment. In this regard, small and medium-sized enterprises and private companies are the right vehicles to undertake B2B cooperation. In the fields of labor-intensive and tech-intensive industries, agriculture, IT, solar energy and textile and garment manufacturing, B2B cooperation is more befitting.

In future development of the CPEC, G2G is still the need of the hour, while B2B is more encouraged. The all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan cannot stay only at the government-to-government level, and the private sector collaboration is what we need and are working hard on it. However, G2G can't be picked to be against B2B, and vice versa. Which mode of cooperation should be taken may well depend on the local conditions and the cooperation targets.

In summary, G2G and B2B should work together and go hand in hand in pursuit of the maximum benefits for our two peoples".

The Chinese diplomat was then asked, ‘Will this cooperation be on the basis of investment by Chinese companies only or will the Chinese banks give loans, as well, to Pakistan?’

The answer was: ‘Pakistan comes to an important juncture of socioeconomic development. The National Assembly managed to pass the FY25 budget, and the government just secured the Staff-Level Agreement with the IMF for a new bailout loans. China always renders its support to Pakistan when requested and if necessary. We are committed to deepening the bilateral cooperation in all respects. In the meantime, we also care about the debt sustainability in Pakistan. Therefore, my personal view is that the future cooperation between us might probably remain in the ambit of both investment and loans, edging more towards investment.

To further attract Chinese investors, I sincerely hope that the Pakistani government, both at federal and provincial levels, may create a more business friendly and investment friendly environment, plus enhanced security’. Whether some more aid projects were in the pipeline after Gwadar airport, friendship hospital and desalination plant, asked The News. Mr Zhao Shiren explained, ‘Foreign aid is an important component of China’s foreign policy towards the developing countries, which aims to help the recipient countries to reduce poverty, enhance people’s livelihood, and improve economic growth and social progress, achieving sustainable development. China’s aid is based on amity, sincerity and mutual benefit, with no political strings attached. When providing aid to foreign countries, we adopt the philosophy and approach of ‘not only to give the fish, but more importantly to teach them how to fish.’

This year marks not only the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, but also the 68th anniversary of the Chinese aid to Pakistan. As for whether there is any aid project in the pipeline, I believe you will know when those projects are getting into the pipeline’.

Is Punjab getting more projects with Chinese cooperation, was yet another question posed to the Chinese functionary. In response, he stated: My answer is both yes and no. Being the largest and most populous province in Pakistan, Punjab enjoys a big share of the national economy, and plays an important role in Pakistan’s socioeconomic development. With the CPEC navigating through one-decade journey, Punjab has been provided some mega projects from China under the framework. The Orange Metro line, Matiari-Lahore Transmission project, Sahiwal coal-powered plant and the Quid-e-Azam Solar Park Bahawalpur, to name a few. There are also some B2B projects in the province, i.e. The Challenge Apparel, the Haier Industrial Park, and the Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate, Faisalabad.

The provincial government is making efforts to build a state-of-the-art Nawaz Sharif IT City, and a modern textile and garment city in and near Lahore.

It also commits to set up a solar panel manufacturing plant seeking green transition and jobs for the local people. The Ravi Urban Development Authority officials have undertaken their roadshows in China, engaging the Chinese companies for the IT City. (To be concluded)

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=327153>

Jang News

چینی وزیر خارجہ کا جاپان سے رابطے اور تعاون مضبوط کرنے پر زور

بیجنگ (شہنشاہ) چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ یی نے جاپانی لبرل ڈیموکریٹک پارٹی (ایل ڈی پی) کی جزل کونسل کے سربراہ ہیروشی موری یاما سے بیجنگ میں ملاقات کی جس میں رابطے، انہماک و تفہیم اور تعاون مضبوط بنانے پر زور دیا گیا۔ کیونست پارٹی آف چائنہ کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے سیاسی بیورو کے رکن وانگ نے چین۔ جاپان تعلقات میں بہتری اور ترقی کے لئے ہیروشی موری یاما کی طویل مدتی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ وانگ نے کہا کہ ہمسایہ ممالک کی حیثیت سے چین اور جاپان کو ایک دوسرے کی حمایت سمیت افہام و تفہیم اور تعاون کرنا چاہئے جو ہمسایہ ممالک کے لیے ایک ساتھ رہنے کا درست طریقہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کو چین۔ جاپان 4 سیاسی دستاویزات کی شقوق کی پاسداری کرتے ہوئے بات چیت مضبوط بنانے سمیت باہمی تفہیم میں اضافہ کر کے تعاون کو وسعت دینی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے مفادات پورے ہوں گے بلکہ علاقائی اور عالمی امن و ترقی میں بھی معاونت ملے گی۔ کیونست پارٹی آف چائنہ کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے امور خارجہ کمیشن دفتر کے ڈائریکٹر وانگ نے کہا کہ چین اصلاحات کو مزید جامع انداز میں گہرا کرے گا جس سے جاپان میں ترقی اور چین۔ جاپان تعاون کو مزید مواقع ملیں گے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/725893>

K2 Daily

چینی مہم نے عالمی برسوں میں صحت مند اور پائیدار اعلیٰ معیار کا پیمانہ بنایا ہے۔ صحت کی دیکھ بھال سے وابستہ اصطلاحات میں متاثر کن تبدیلیوں کی ہے، جن میں بیوی اور ماہی کی ترقی، طبی علاجوں کی بہتر دیکھ بھال اور طبی صحت کے نظام میں بہتری شامل ہیں۔ عالمی صحت معیاروں کی ترقی سے صحت مند بننے کی ایک نئی جہت ابھی دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔

ایک نئی جہت ابھی دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ صحت مند بننے کی ایک نئی جہت ابھی دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ صحت مند بننے کی ایک نئی جہت ابھی دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ صحت مند بننے کی ایک نئی جہت ابھی دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔



ایک کلا چین عالمی ترقی کا اہم انجن

شاید انشان

2012 میں منظر ہونے والی کیونست پارٹی آف جاپان کی 18 ویں قومی کانفرنس کے بعد سے دور میں ایک اعلیٰ سطحی سطح پر ترقی اور ترقی کے عمل کا آغاز ہوا ہے۔

چین کی ترقی اور ترقی کے عمل کا آغاز ہوا ہے۔ چین کی ترقی اور ترقی کے عمل کا آغاز ہوا ہے۔ چین کی ترقی اور ترقی کے عمل کا آغاز ہوا ہے۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Editorial&Date=2024-07-25

July 26, 2024

Business Recorder

Economic team meets China's finance minister

Pakistan explains its approach to challenges

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economic team comprising Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Power, on Thursday, discussed issues related to Pakistan's economy and power sector with Chinese Minister of Finance LanFo'an in Beijing.

The prime minister has dispatched his team to Beijing for discussion on major financial cooperation issues including issuance of Panda Bonds, re-profiling of loans and conversion of imported coal power plants on Thar coal.

The sources said initially Panda Bonds would be up to \$300 million, which will be enhanced to \$700 or \$750 million.

According to an official statement, the ministers briefed the Chinese minister on the government's efforts to introduce tax and energy reforms in the system.

Both sides exchanged views to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation including boosting financial and banking cooperation.

Leghari and Aurangzeb also held a bilateral meeting with President of M/s Sinosure, Sheng Hetai in Beijing.

The ministers briefed the president on the government's efforts on economic recovery and growth, energy and taxation sectors.

Both sides also exchanged views to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation especially financial and banking cooperation. The two sides also discussed expanding CPEC and role of private sector, as it transitions to its next phase of its implementation.

China's insurance company, M/s Sinosure has reportedly shown willingness to implement 700 MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project and 1,124 MW Kohala Hydropower project worth billions of dollars on the guidance from Beijing.

Pakistan's successive governments made efforts to commence both key hydel projects but the Chinese insurance company was reluctant to implement these projects mainly due to the payments issues of existing companies and gigantic circular debt which is now hovering around Rs2.6 trillion.

In May 2024, Sinosure has received mandatory guidance from the Government of China for the implementation of Azad Pattan and Kohala HPP; at the same time, it is also important for Pakistan to urge the Chinese investors/enterprises to submit Letter of Intent (LoI) for these projects; LoI for Azad Pattan, submitted by China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) in April 2023 has expired. Reuters adds: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday

arrived in Beijing to open talks on power sector structural reforms suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), two government sources said.

He held a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing, they said, and added that the finance minister together with Power Minister Awaiz Leghari is leading a delegation, which will take up several proposals with the Chinese side, including reprofiling of nearly \$15 billion energy sector debt. The countries, which share a border, have been longtime allies.

Rollovers or disbursements on loans from China have helped Pakistan meet its external financing needs in the past.

Pakistan's finance ministry, junior Finance Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and the Chinese finance ministry didn't respond to a request for a comment.

Both the finance and power ministers told Reuters in interviews last week that they will be discussing the power sector reforms in their Beijing visit, though they did not specify the timing.

China has set up over \$20 billion worth of planned energy projects in Pakistan.

The reforms has been suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which this month agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian economy.

Pakistan's power sector has been plagued by high rates of power theft and distribution losses, resulting in accumulating debt across the production chain - a concern raised by the IMF.

The government is implementing structural reforms to reduce "circular debt" - public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills - by 100 billion Pakistani rupees (\$360 million) a year, Leghari has said.

Poor and middle-class households have been affected by a previous IMF bailout reached last year, which included raising power tariffs as part of the funding programme that ended in April.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/26/1-page/1000597-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan lauds China for achieving Palestinian 'Declaration of Unity'

* FO reiterates Pakistan's support for Palestinian self-determination, independent state with Al-Quds as capital

The Foreign Office on Thursday welcomed the 'Declaration of Unity' signed by Palestinian political factions in Beijing, recognising and commending China's role in facilitating meaningful negotiations.

"Unity among the Palestinian people is of paramount significance given the ongoing war crimes against the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza, and the blatant disregard for international law by the Israeli occupation forces," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated during her weekly press briefing.

She urged the international community to intervene immediately to halt the ongoing illegal and relentless aggression in Gaza. Baloch reiterated Pakistan's support for the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination, their right of return to Palestine, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Addressing the periodic report of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva on India, FO spokesperson noted that important questions were raised regarding arrests under draconian laws like the Public Safety Act and Public Security Act, as well as the frequent suspension of mobile internet services in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

“This demonstrates continuing concerns of the international human rights machinery about the dismal human rights situation in IIOJK. We call on the international community to take note of these human rights abuses by India in IIOJK and to bring an end to the suppression of the Kashmiri people,” she said, reiterating Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people.

Baloch announced that Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi will lead the Pakistani delegation at the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting in Laos on Saturday where he will participate in discussions on political and security issues, share Pakistan's perspective, and hold bilateral meetings with participating dignitaries.

The spokesperson also briefed the media on the visit of the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, that concluded on Thursday.

He held extensive talks with President Asif Ali Zardari, PM Shehbaz, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. He co-chaired the third round of the Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations.

The discussions focused on intensifying efforts in political, economic, and defense cooperation, fostering parliamentary, cultural, and educational exchanges, and strengthening collaboration in multilateral forums. Baloch apprised the media of a two-day Regional Conference on Export Control Programme for Dual-Use Goods in Central Asia, hosted by Pakistan on July 24-25. The conference will be attended by senior officials and experts from various countries and international organisations to discuss national approaches to strategic trade controls and promote international cooperation in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1540. Regarding the attack on Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt, Baloch said the matter had been taken up with the German government. On reports of the US Administration seeking a budget of \$101 million for Pakistan, she called it an internal debate of the US Congress, traditionally meant for civil society and strategic priority areas. She also noted Pakistan's response to a discussion at a “private event” in the Houses of Lords, emphasising that legislative bodies should promote positive dynamics in bilateral relations. The spokesperson also stated that Pakistan has already sent humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine and is working to send more in the coming days.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211701/pakistan-lauds-china-for-achieving-palestinian-declaration-of-unity/>

China top investor in Pakistan with \$568m FDI in FY24

China has emerged as the largest investor in Pakistan in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) with a net foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$568.2 million.

The second and third highest ranks in terms of net FDI were held by Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, with net investments worth \$358.51 million and \$268.19 million, respectively. It is pertinent to note that the total FDI in FY24 stood at \$1.9bn, up 16.88% YoY compared to FDI of \$1.63bn in FY23, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting official data issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

China held the majority proportion (29.88%) of direct investments in the country, however, investment from the respective country has declined substantially by 17.95% YoY when compared with the figure of \$692.52m in FY23. Hongkong's contribution in net FDI stood at \$358.51m (18.85%) in the FY24, up by 43.3% YoY compared to \$250.18m in SPLY.

The third major investor during FY24, United Kingdom's share was 14.1% with a direct investment of \$268.19m, declining by 0.61% YoY. Other major important investors were the United States, Singapore and Canada with a net FDI of \$137.29m, \$100.06m, and \$95.52m respectively. The Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), which represents an investment in the equity market (both direct and indirect) during FY24 stood at positive \$175.68m. The United Kingdom emerged as the biggest portfolio investor during the month, as it invested \$18.27m. In FY24, total foreign investment was reported at \$1.52bn as compared to foreign investment of \$600.75m incurred in the corresponding period last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211673/china-top-investor-in-pakistan-with-568m-fdi-in-fy24/>

Dawn News

Pakistan will not sacrifice China ties for US sake: FO

- Says no zero-sum games in foreign policy
- Insists UK MPs' demand for Imran's release made at private event organised by a political party
- PM to attend inauguration of Iran's president-elect

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan ruled out the possibility of sacrificing its relationship with China for the sake of improved relations with the United States, the Foreign Office said on Thursday, stressing that "Pakistan doesn't believe in zero-sum relationships".

"For us, relations with the United States and relations with China are both important," Foreign Office spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at a weekly press briefing in Islamabad. "We do not believe in situations where relationship with one country can be sacrificed on the altar of relations with another."

Describing China as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner of Pakistan, Ms Baloch said Pakistan would continue to strengthen this relationship. At the same time, Pakistan values its close relationship with the United States and believes in constructive engagement.

"We would like to develop this relationship on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs," she said.

Ms Baloch's statement came after she was asked to comment on the \$101 million assistance that the Biden administration sought from US Congress for Pakistan a day ago and remarks by US diplomat Donald Lu that "China is the past in terms of investment, and we are the future". The questioner also sought to know if the aid was being given with a pre-condition that China's influence would be reduced in Pakistan.

About the attack on the Pakistani consulate in Frankfurt, Ms Baloch said Pakistan has conveyed its concerns to the German government and is in discussions to ensure the protection of Pakistani consular missions and diplomats.

"We will continue to take measures to ensure the protection of our missions and work with the host governments to ensure that our missions are safe from any attacks," she remarked.

Commenting on the demand by over a dozen UK MPs for the release of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, Ms Baloch said Pakistan has taken note of the discussions at an event that took place in London.

"As far as we understand, it was a private event held in a side room of the House of Lords, and the event was organised by a political party that had invited some members of the parliament," she said. "It is important that members of legislative bodies contribute to promoting positive dynamics in bilateral relations and contribute to developing mutual understanding and mutual respect between the two countries."

When asked to comment on the US ambassador's declared plan to meet Imran Khan and asked if Pakistan would allow any diplomat to meet the former prime minister in jail, Ms Baloch said she had not seen the ambassador's statement.

"We have, however, commented on this particular aspect in the past, and we have underlined that any such requests will be determined on the basis of Pakistani laws and the decisions of the Pakistani courts," she said.

On the issue of foreigners' entry into Pakistan, Ms Baloch reaffirmed that the one-document regime remains in place, and no foreigner can enter Pakistan without a valid passport and visa.

To another question, she said Pakistan welcomed the efforts by China in bringing the different Palestinian factions to one platform and the outcome that has been announced. "We appreciate the positive role that China has played in the region, including in the understanding that was reached last year between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Pakistan will continue to work with China on all matters of mutual interest."

She announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would visit Tehran on July 30 to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's president-elect, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian.

"The visit attests to the commitment by the two countries to strengthen leadership-level engagement and bilateral cooperation," she said.

Ms Baloch said Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi will lead the Pakistan delegation at the 31st Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting, to be held on July 27 (tomorrow) in Lao People's Democratic Republic.

At the ministerial meeting, the foreign secretary will take part in discussions on political and security issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific region to foster collective solutions through dialogue and collaboration. He will share Pakistan's perspective on important regional and global issues and will hold bilateral meetings with participating dignitaries on the event's sidelines.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1848064/pakistan-will-not-sacrifice-china-ties-for-us-sake-fo#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Pakistan%20ruled%20out%20the,in%20zero%2Dsum%20relationships%E2%80%9D>.

The Express Tribune

China reevaluating CPEC undertaking?

Imtiaz Gul

A rethink on big-ticket economic engagement under CPEC is underway in Beijing. This impression stems from recent interactions with Chinese regional affairs experts on Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India watchers. Until 2015, Beijing never bothered about Pakistan's internal political dynamics. We deal with the country and not personalities, they used to say. Even the launch of the CPEC as the so-called flagship of President Xi Jinping's BRI stemmed from Beijing's unflinching faith in the friendship with Pakistan.

But as things began unfolding under CPEC, China figured out the socio-political realities of Pakistan — accentuated particularly by the ethnic divisions and the consequences of a multi-party system. The CPEC-related roadblocks eventually enforced a deeper study of Pakistan by the Chinese scholars and academia, who meanwhile have a much deeper understanding of the country. Objections by provinces to many CPEC projects and the ascendancy of PTI in 2018 to power at the Centre injected a new element into the bilateral relationship.

These conversations with Chinese officials reveal a certain degree of frustration with Pakistan on at least ten counts.

First, the tardy decision-making rooted in the 19th-century elitist and centralised governance regime which is non-responsive to the need for quick, inclusive decision-making and swift implementation.

Second, there is a visible dislike of Pakistani leaders' propensity to speak more and perform less. Chinese officials and academics hate to hear lofty phrases like “game-changer CPEC, geo-economics”.

Third, Chinese scholars think that federalism has either obstructed or slowed down the progress of some CPEC projects because approval and implementation procedures often involve the central and provincial governments.

Fourth, the political discord i.e. the status quo vs status quo. When analysing the country's present-day political economy and the context for Sino-Pakistan relations, Chinese

intellectuals draw a clear distinction among: a) Conventional political parties i.e. PPP, PML-N, JUI-F, b) Establishment, and c) PTI. They think the trio of forces are at war with one another, pulling the country apart with little consideration for the consequences and no hope for real reform.

Directly related to this is the concern about the growing reliance on the IMF, which appears to have become a tool for dictating the economic agenda. The IMF, they say, is the latest precipitating force restricting Pakistan from adopting a self-charted course for much-needed economic reforms.

Sixth, the traditional congruence of interest and comfort between the IMF and the World Bank on the one hand and the conventional mainstream status quo actors — PPP, PML-N, and the Establishment — on the other. Largely unquestioned, geo-politically conditioned funding by the international finance institutions (IFIs) had continued to flow until the emergence of the PTI, which distinguishes itself from the others with its anti-status quo ethos and a social welfare agenda.

Seventh, this confluence of interests has resulted in a visible tilt of the ruling elites to the West, where the civil-military bureaucracy feels more comfortable than in China. Education and training in the West are often seen as the best ladder for upward mobility in careers at home.

The eighth frustration relates to family politics. They ask: why are Pakistanis condemned to be ruled by two families only? They argue that family politics seem to stymie the growth of younger, talented and deserving leadership that the country needs. It obstructs leadership rejuvenation.

Ninth, in the eyes of Chinese academia and officials, the Establishment remains the lynchpin in Pakistan's security matrix — a force that they believe has held Pakistan together. However, they also feel that the Establishment's predominance in the political economy negatively impacts the country's socio-economic growth.

Can the Establishment step back from politics and corporate commercial activities?

In China, President Hu Jin Tao began pushing the military away from business ventures to modernise itself in the face of challenges from the US-led West. President Xi followed up and openly asked the military to disengage from commercial activities and focus on turning itself into the iron wall for the defence of China. The objective was for the military to focus on its primary task of safeguarding the country against external threats. Is the same possible in the case of Pakistan? This is a question resonating among think-tanks in China.

The tenth concern is linked to the CPEC projects, which stands out as the biggest source of frustration. With the Chinese circular debt topping Rs500 billion, delayed payments, administrative hurdles in the way of repatriation of profits, and idle power plants set up by Chinese companies seem to have compelled a rethink on CPEC Phase-II.

Ten years on, many Chinese expectations associated with CPEC have gone sour — a journey of lofty rhetoric and shallow promises by Pakistani leaders and less inclination to implementation and reform required for desired economic progress.

Officials and analysts in Beijing sound less optimistic about the second phase of CPEC. They point out that most projects in the first phase suffer from deficient performance, underutilisation, or dysfunction. The major reasons for that are the poor absorption and performance capacity and the country's inability to honour its financial obligations. The power sector's circular debt is a glaring example. Chinese investors see it as a waste of resources, time, and, of course, existing capacity.

For Chinese officials, the foremost challenge is making existing projects effectively functional — an apparent precondition for commitment to financing new projects. Why waste money and time when optimum utilisation and output are not certain?

For Chinese officials, the primary challenge is to ensure that existing projects are effectively functional, an apparent precondition for committing to financing new projects under CPEC Phase II. Why waste money and time when the optimal utilisation and output are uncertain?

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2482957/china-reevaluating-cpec-undertaking>

The Nation

China top investor in Pakistan with \$568m FDI in FY24: Report

ISLAMABAD - China has emerged as the largest investor in Pakistan in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) with a net foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$568.2 million. The second and third highest ranks in terms of net FDI were held by Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, with net investments worth \$358.51 million and \$268.19 million, respectively.

It is pertinent to note that the total FDI in FY24 stood at \$1.9b, up 16.88% YoY compared to FDI of \$1.63b in FY23, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting official data issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). China held the majority proportion (29.88%) of direct investments in the country, however, investment from the respective country has declined substantially by 17.95% YoY when compared with the figure of \$692.52m in FY23.

Hong Kong's contribution in net FDI stood at \$358.51m (18.85%) in the FY24, up by 43.3% YoY compared to \$250.18m in SPLY. The third major investor during FY24, United Kingdom's share was 14.1% with a direct investment of \$268.19m, declining by 0.61% YoY. Other major important investors were the United States, Singapore and Canada with a net FDI of \$137.29m, \$100.06m, and \$95.52m respectively. The Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), which represents an investment in the equity market (both direct and indirect) during FY24 stood at positive \$175.68m.

The United Kingdom emerged as the biggest portfolio investor during the month, as it invested \$18.27m. In FY24, total foreign investment was reported at \$1.52bn as compared to foreign investment of \$600.75m incurred in the corresponding period last year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Jul-2024/china-top-investor-in-pakistan-with-dollar-568m-fdi-in-fy24-report>

Lessons from China

Yasir Habib Khan

No country is able to develop itself behind closed doors.

Setting aside prejudices, the world needs to learn lessons from China's economic miracle by understanding the wisdom of deepening reforms, opening up, and advancing modernization. The recently concluded third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which adopted a resolution on these subjects, is a great look into this change.

During the 4-day summit held from July 15th to July 18th in Beijing, Chinese leadership charted a roadmap to further comprehensively deepen reform, which matters greatly for both China and the world. The international community is truly a beneficiary of China's reforms and opening up. Since the day China unleashed overarching reforms by opening its doors to the world, global growth has been registering an upward trajectory steadily and gradually. China even injected resilience into world economies that took heavy financial losses during the recent economic meltdown and the catastrophic ordeal of COVID-19.

China's improved business environment, and mature industrial chains have generated promising potential for foreign investors. China continues to be one of the most popular investment destinations in the world. Major multinational corporations from various sectors, including KFC and Standard Chartered, have recently boosted their investments in China. The country remains a prime investment destination due to its promising innovation opportunities, comprehensive industrial support, and conducive business environment.

As a welcoming destination for foreign trades around the globe, China attracted a total of 1.13 trillion yuan (\$158.7 billion) in foreign investment in 2023, compared to 941.52 billion yuan in 2019. "No country is able to develop itself behind closed doors," said China's top legislator Zhao Leji. He added, "We must oppose trade protectionism and all forms of erecting barriers, decoupling, or severing supply chains, and instead share opportunities in opening up and seek win-win outcomes through cooperation."

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, highlighted that China is pursuing a path of high-quality development and is deepening reform and opening up, providing great development opportunities for Asia and the world.

The BRI has changed the landscape of infrastructure financing and governance around the world by offering an alternative model to existing multilateral institutions. It has reshaped regional order and stability in Asia and beyond by creating new partnerships among the countries involved. It has also enhanced China's cooperation and coordination with many countries, especially in Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, where much-needed investment, trade, and development assistance have been provided.

Developing countries see the BRI as a source of financing, investment, trade, and infrastructure development that can boost their economic growth and development. The BRI has expanded China's export markets and diversified its trade partners, especially in emerging regions such as Africa, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia, bringing multiple

economic benefits. Additionally, it has increased China's outbound investment and facilitated its access to natural resources, technology, and markets.

From 2013 to 2020, China's trade volume with BRI countries reached \$9.2 trillion. Direct investment from China to those countries reached \$140 billion. Over the years, the BRI has significantly contributed to global GDP growth, especially for China and other participating countries. Statista projects that the BRI could increase global GDP by 0.7 percent in 2030 and by 2.6 percent in 2050. China's GDP could increase by 3.4 percent by 2030 and 5.3 percent by 2050 as a result of the BRI.

China's diplomacy of high-quality reforms and opening up has steered the global community from a unipolar world to a multipolar world, breaking free from ruthless dollar hegemony and providing a fresh choice in the form of the RMB, another international currency that is efficient and resilient in modern times.

SWIFT data showed that the RMB's share of global trade finance was 3.91 percent at the end of 2022, up 1.9 percentage points year-on-year, ranking third. In September 2023, the currency's share of global trade finance rose to 5.8 percent, up 1.6 percentage points year-on-year, ranking second.

In the first nine months of 2023, cross-border RMB payments reached 38.9 trillion yuan, up 24 percent year-on-year. Almost a quarter of that was used for trade settlements, the highest level in recent years. The report also showed that the RMB's function as a financing currency has been built upon. A number of policies have been introduced to support the issuance of RMB bonds by foreign institutions in China and the lending of yuan by domestic banks to overseas entities. <https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Jul-2024/lessons-from-china>

K2 Daily

بوقت 32	بھنگن پاکستان میں 568.2
براداراست میری سرمایہ کاری (ایچ ڈی آئی) کے ساتھ پاکستان میں سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے۔ گورنر کے مطابق خاص ایچ ڈی آئی کے لحاظ سے گورنر نے گورنر نے پاکستان کے لیے سرمایہ کاری کی ترقی میں 358.51 بلین ڈالر اور 268.19 بلین ڈالر سے 24 سال پہلے 1.9 ارب ڈالر کی ترقی کے ساتھ ساتھ 1.63 ارب ڈالر کے مقابلے میں 16.88 بلین ڈالر سے گورنر کے مطابق بلین ڈالر سے سرمایہ کاری کا کوئی حساب (بھنگن کا ہے) بلین ڈالر سے 29.88 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ 692.52 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ سرمایہ کاری میں گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ 17.95 بلین ڈالر کی ترقی کے ساتھ ساتھ گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان کے ساتھ ساتھ ایچ ڈی آئی میں سرمایہ کاری 358.51 بلین ڈالر سے 18.85 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ 250.18 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ 43.3 بلین ڈالر سے۔	ملین ڈالر کی براداراست میری سرمایہ کاری کے ساتھ گورنر کے ساتھ ساتھ 568.2 بلین ڈالر (ایچ ڈی آئی) کے ساتھ ساتھ 2024 (ایچ ڈی آئی) کے ساتھ ساتھ 24 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ 568.2 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ (ایچ ڈی آئی) کے ساتھ ساتھ 7 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ 32 بلین ڈالر کے ساتھ ساتھ

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-07-26

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-07-26

July 27, 2024

Business Recorder

China briefed about govt-IMF engagements

BEIJING: Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb Minister for Finance and Revenue and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari Minister for Power held meetings with Pan Gongsheng, Governor of People's Bank of China (PBoC) and Ren Jingong, Vice Administrator National Energy Administration (NEA), here on Friday. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and officials of the Embassy accompanied the ministers. In meetings with high-ranking officials from the Chinese institutions the ministers briefed about the government's reform agenda and engagement with the IMF. The discussions focused on the significant strides made by Pakistan in improving its macroeconomic indicators by focused reforms in taxation, energy and privatization of the state-owned enterprises. The reforms have already started showing their results, particularly, reducing inflation from 38 per cent to 13 per cent marks a substantial achievement for the economy. Additionally, the stabilization of the exchange rate and the bolstering of foreign exchange reserves were highlighted as key factors contributing to the economic upturn. There was consensus was that such reforms are indispensable for achieving long-term stability and fostering sustainable economic growth. The Governor's recognition of Pakistan's policy measures reflects a broader international perspective on the importance of economic resilience and the positive impact of prudent fiscal management.

Underlining Pakistan's plan to launch Panda Bonds, Minister for Finance briefed PBoC and other Financial Institutions about the steps taken so far and sought cooperation of the Chinese institutional investors in the capital market and seek benefit from the pro-business policies of the new Government. Lauding President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) both the Ministers noted the achievements during the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, for strengthening the infrastructure in energy, transport sectors along with others. It was highlighted that during the next phase of CPEC, focus is on strengthening b2b cooperation, with private sector playing the central role in the development and economic growth.

In a meeting with Vice Administrator NEA, Minister for Power expressed government's conviction to introduce energy reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency of power sector by addressing systemic issues and cutting transmission losses. He appreciated NEA for signing the MoU on improving governance of the Power Sector and expressed resolve to fast-track implementation of the agreement.

The ministers also met Executive Vice President of China Development Bank (CDB), President of National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII), Chairperson of Silk Road Fund (SRF), Chairman of China International Capital Corporation (CICC).

On the instructions of the Prime Minister, the two Minister paid an official visit to Beijing from 24-26 July 2024 as part of the Government's efforts to implement consensus reached at the leadership level during the former's recent visit to China.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/27/1-page/1000743-news.html>

Further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernisation

Yang Yundong

From July 15 to 18, the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was held in Beijing. This plenary session is a very important meeting held by the Communist Party of China on a new journey in the new era, firmly holding high the banner of reform and opening up, and closely focusing on promoting Chinese modernization and further deepening reform comprehensively.

Held at the end of 1978, the third plenary session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was an epoch-making event, ushering in a new era of reform, opening up and socialist modernization in China, and setting the country on a path of rapid development. While the third plenary session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held in November 2013 was another epoch-making event, ushering in a new era of comprehensively deepening reform and promoting reform through systematic design, and opening up a new situation in China's reform and opening up. China ensured medium-high and steady growth despite changes in the complex international political and economic situation, completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects on schedule, and historically solved the problem of absolute poverty that had plagued the Chinese nation for thousands of years. The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee demonstrates the strong determination and strong mission bearing of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core to reform in the end, and it is a re-declaration of what flag to hold and what path to take in the new journey of the new era, which is of great and far-reaching significance to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

The most important outcome of this plenary session is the adoption of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization. The Resolution scientifically plans the overall blueprint for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, and defines the guiding ideology, overall objectives, and major principles for further deepening reform comprehensively. It was stated that the overall objectives of further deepening reform comprehensively are to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance. The Resolution put forward a total of more than 300 important reform measures, all involving the institutions mechanism, and system, some are the improvement and upgrading of the current reform measures, and some are based on practical needs and pilot exploration of new reform measures. In the next five years, that is, by 2029, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the reform tasks proposed in this Resolution will be completed.

At the same time, the Resolution clearly put forward seven "focus", that is, focus on building a high-standard socialist market economy, advancing whole-process people's democracy, developing a strong socialist culture in China, raising the people's quality of life, building a Beautiful China, advancing the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level, and improving the Party's capacity for leadership and long-term governance.

The above seven focuses are not only the strength points for promoting the Chinese modernization, but also the focus points for further deepening reform comprehensively. However, economic structural reform is the top priority. China should take the new development philosophy as the guide, focus on the breakthroughs and key points of promoting high-quality development, and inject reform impetus for continuously creating a new situation of high-quality development. The goal is to build a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects by 2035. The Resolution is not only the practical continuation of the deepening of reform across the board since the Third Plenary session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, but also a new era of the new journey to advance Chinese modernization, and is another important programmatic document in the history of the Communist Party of China. Opening-up is China's basic state policy. Reform and opening up complement each other, and promoting reform and development through opening up is China's successful practice. Focusing on higher-standard open economy, this latest plenary session made important plan for promoting high-level opening up and expanding the use of foreign investment, mainly in the following three areas: First, China will steadily expand institutional opening-up. China needs to take the initiative to align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, harmonize rules, regulations, management and standards in the fields of property rights protection, environmental standards, labor protection, government procurement, e-commerce and finance, establish an efficient, convenient and secure mechanism for cross-border data flow, and create a transparent, stable and predictable institutional environment. China will further improve the system for facilitating residence, medical care and payment for people coming to China for business and tourism. Second, China will further relax market access. China will implement as soon as possible the "zero" restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector, expand the catalogue of industries for encouraging foreign investment, and rationally reduce the negative list for foreign investment access. China will further open up the service sector, fully implement the negative list for cross-border trade in services, and promote orderly opening up in telecommunications, the Internet, education, culture, and medical care, and accelerate the development of offshore trade. Third, China will effectively protect the national treatment and legitimate rights and interests of foreign-funded enterprises. China supports the development of domestic and foreign enterprises on an equal footing, and ensures that foreign enterprises receive national treatment in terms of access to factors of production, licensing, standard-setting and government procurement. In recent years, many good cases have emerged in various parts of China in protecting the trade secrets and intellectual property rights of foreign-funded enterprises, effectively protecting the investment rights and interests of foreign-funded enterprises. At present, economic globalization faces huge challenges. It is the shared responsibility of governments and enterprises around the world to oppose unilateralism and protectionism, maintain the global economic order and the security and stability of industrial chains and supply chains. China remains a fertile ground for investment. China will continue to improve its market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment, refine the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, build new advantages of an open economy at a higher level, actively participate in the reform of global economic governance, and share development opportunities and create a better future with Pakistan and other countries in the world.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/27/5-page/1000796-news.html>

Daily Times

Minister stresses SEZs' role in attracting investment

Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday emphasized the significance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and fostering industrialization, noting that the relocation of Chinese industries presents a significant opportunity for Pakistan.

While addressing a report titled *Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China* the minister said that the government is committed to offering more incentives and concessions to attract Chinese businesses, ensuring full security for their operations, and adopting Shenzhen as a benchmark for SEZ development.

The Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan and PowerChina on Friday launched a report titled “Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China”. The report aims to provide a strategic framework for enhancing the economic and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and China through Special Economic Zones (SEZs), said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister highlighted that a few SEZs in Pakistan are already functional and stressed the importance of export zones in driving economic growth. The Minister underscored the need for Pakistan to compete with other regions, such as ASEAN, Bangladesh, and Central Asia, by creating a favourable environment for industrial relocation. Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hyder Sayed emphasized the timeliness of the report. He noted that its release coincides with increasing collaboration between China and Pakistan, making it a pivotal moment for both nations.

He highlighted the critical need for Pakistan to adopt export-oriented policies to attract Chinese industries that are relocating to the global south due to rising production costs, business-friendly environments, and market access to regional markets.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1211978/minister-stresses-sezs-role-in-attracting-investment/>

Dawn News

China's role in the global economy

Battered by the last four years of pandemic, record inflation, long-drawn-out wars and high interest rates, the global economic outlook continues to be lacklustre. In its latest **World Economic Outlook** update, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts that the global economy will grow 3.2 per cent this year, down a tick from 3.3pc growth last year.

From 2000 through 2019, before the pandemic upended economic activity, global growth had averaged 3.8pc a year. Even this modest global expansion, the IMF notes, is being powered by stronger growth in China. The Fund expects the Chinese economy to grow by 5pc this year, an upgrade from the 4.6pc it had predicted in January but slower than the 5.2pc expansion the previous year.

China alone accounts for nearly a third of global growth. According to IMF analysis, a one percentage point increase in China's GDP growth would result in an average of 0.3

percentage point increase in growth for other economies. In China, the IMF said, the resurgent domestic consumption propelled the positive upside aided by what looked to be a surge in exports belatedly reconnecting with last year's rise in global demand.

Using IMF forecasts, a *Bloomberg* report in May this year said China would be the top contributor to global growth over the next five years, with its share bigger than all G-7 countries combined. China will account for about 21pc of the world's new economic activity from this year through 2029. That compares with 20pc for the G-7 and almost double the nearly 12pc for the US.

The IMF's chief economist, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, writes that China and India will account for nearly half of global growth this year. The IMF upgraded its economic outlook for China, India, and Europe and lowered expectations for the US and Japan.

The IMF update also says that worldwide progress against accelerating prices is "slowed by stickier-than-expected inflation for services." Services price inflation, according to it, is "holding up progress on disinflation, which is complicating monetary policy normalisation."

Upside risks to inflation have thus increased, raising the prospect of higher-for-longer interest rates. The IMF estimates that there will be more scarring for low-income developing countries, many of which are still struggling to turn the page from the pandemic and cost-of-living crises.

Previously, the IMF had also expressed trepidation about the US using industrial policy to subsidise America's clean energy and semiconductor sectors, with Gourinchas saying such actions had been leading to a "tit for tat" in trade restrictions and weighing on global output. He believes that some of the measures put in place by Washington, such as rules requiring companies to use only American-made components to qualify for certain manufacturing tax credits, were not compliant with international trade rules.

Experts note that, in particular, tensions between the United States and China pose a significant threat to economic development worldwide — especially for developing economies. Last year, the IMF estimated that economic fragmentation and increased international trade restrictions could cost the global economy \$7.4 trillion and cut global economic output by as much as 7pc.

The IMF's forecast for growth in emerging markets and developing economies has been revised upward. The projected increase is powered by stronger activity in Asia, particularly China and India. India's economy is now forecast to expand 7pc, up from the 6.8pc the IMF had projected in April, in part because of stronger consumer spending in rural areas.

China's economy has maintained stable expansion in the first half of this year despite rising challenges from home and abroad. Official data shows it grew by 5pc to about \$8.65tr. The growth was "hard-won" as the world's second-largest economy had faced a more uncertain, complex and severe external environment, as well as new challenges from deepening structural adjustment domestically, its National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) noted.

Support from policy incentives, a rebound in external demand and the development of new quality productive forces. A key part of China's growth momentum against headwinds has

come from its new growth drivers and faster upgrading of traditional industries. Investment into high-tech manufacturing and services expanded 10.1pc and 11.7pc, respectively, in the first half, well above the 3.9pc headline growth of fixed-asset investment.

Even though short-term factors such as extreme weather and floods, as well as rising difficulties and challenges, especially from insufficient effective demand and unsmooth economic flow at home, kept growth down to 4.7pc in the second quarter to June, China's urban unemployment rate is down by 0.2 percentage points and its per capita disposable income is up by 5.4pc year on year.

Industrial production has turned smarter and greener, according to the new data. The high-tech manufacturing sector saw output up 8.7pc while the production of service robots and new energy vehicles surged at 22.8pc and 34.3pc, respectively.

“From a comprehensive perspective, the favourable conditions facing China's development are stronger than the unfavourable ones,” the NBS said. “The economic fundamentals that will sustain long-term growth remain unchanged, and the trend toward high-quality development has not changed,” the bureau said, noting that the Chinese economy is still a key engine for global growth.

With the global economy facing uncertainties and challenges, China's role as a stabilising force is more crucial than ever, as pointed out in a recent article by Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of the Pakistani think tank Global Silk Route Research Alliance.

The IMF believes that Asia's emerging market economies, represented by countries including China, remain the main engine of the global economy. The stable operation and long-term positive outlook of the Chinese economy have also boosted confidence in global economic recovery, as underlined by the July IMF update.

The country continues to be an important engine and stabilising force for the world economy. When you consider that China is responsible for more than a third of the growth seen in the world, any kind of deceleration will be felt beyond its borders.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1848714#:~:text=China%20will%20account%20for%20about,nearly%2012pc%20for%20the%20US.&text=The%20IMF's%20chief%20economist%2C%20Pierre,of%20global%20growth%20this%20year>

Dawn News

US bill aims to boost India's defence against Pakistan, China

Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Influential US Senator Marco Rubio introduced a bill in Congress on Friday, pledging to help India combat China's growing influence and address alleged threats from Pakistan.

The proposed US-India Defence Cooperation Act strongly supports “technology transfers” to India and urges the administration to “treat India as if it were of the same status as US allies such as Japan, Israel, South Korea, and Nato members.”

Rubio, a Republican senator from Florida who has held his seat since 2011, delivered the Republican response to President Obama's State of the Union Address in 2013.

He ran for president in 2015, winning primaries in several states, but exited the race in 2016.

The bill requires the US administration to submit "a report to Congress on Pakistan's use of offensive force, including through terrorism and proxy groups, against India".

It proposes to "bar Pakistan from receiving security assistance if it is found to have sponsored terrorism against India".

If enacted, this legislation could have significant implications for Pakistan, particularly at a time when Islamabad and Washington are working to strengthen their bilateral relationship.

Providing India with advanced weapons typically reserved for close US allies and Nato members could undermine Pakistan's defence capabilities and constrain its ability to respond to Indian aggression in the region.

Although the bill is unlikely to advance in the current Congress, which is ending its session this year, it may be reintroduced in the next Congress, given the bipartisan support for enhancing the India-US relationship.

The bill argues that the US-India partnership is vital to countering influences from China and suggests enhancing Washington's "strategic diplomatic, economic, and military relationship" with New Delhi.

Senator Rubio said the proposed legislation would "set a statement of policy that the US will support India in its response to growing threats to its territorial integrity, provide necessary security assistance to India to deter adversaries, and cooperate with India with respect to defence, civil space, technology, medicine, and economic investments."

The bill suggests providing a limited exemption for India from CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) sanctions, which are a set of US sanctions aimed at countering Russia's influence.

The CAATSA sanctions target Russian defence and intelligence sectors, and countries that engage in significant transactions with these sectors may face secondary sanctions.

The proposed exemption would allow India to purchase Russian equipment currently used by the Indian military without facing US sanctions.

The bill seeks a 'Sense of Congress' statement that "expeditious consideration of certifications of letters of offer to sell defence articles, defence services, design and construction services, and major defence equipment to India is consistent with US interests." It notes that "it is in the interest of peace and stability (for) India to have the capabilities needed to deter threats." The bill seeks to authorise the Secretary of State to enter into a memorandum of understanding with India to increase military cooperation and expedite excess defence articles to India for two years. Seeking the same status for India as granted to other allies, it calls for expanding international military education and training cooperation with New Delhi. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1848265>

Fears mount as loan talks with China face uncertainty

KARACHI: Concerns are rising in Pakistan's financial sector amid negotiations with Chinese authorities over rescheduling energy sector loans.

On Friday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb met China's central bank governor Pan Gongsheng and exchanged views on bilateral finance cooperation, according to a statement from the People's Bank of China.

Mr Aurangzeb reached Beijing on Thursday for talks on power sector debt relief alongside structural reforms suggested by the International Monetary Fund.

Stakeholders are anxious about the talks' outcome, fearing significant repercussions for foreign investment and exchange rate stability if things don't go as desired.

"We believe China will not outright reject Pakistan's request to reschedule energy sector loans, but the final outcome appears bleak," said a senior banker closely monitoring the situation.

He said that China was initially reluctant to discuss the issue, leading to a delayed visit, signalling their disagreement with Pakistan over talks related to energy loans.

China has been Pakistan's largest foreign investor for years. Investment from Hong Kong, which is considered Chinese-approved, also plays a significant role. While Chinese investments have declined, they remain the largest in FY24. Combining investments from China and Hong Kong, foreign direct investment (FDI) amounted to nearly half of Pakistan's total inflows, which increased by 17 per cent in FY24.

Despite this growth, total inflows were just \$1.9 billion, with China (\$568 million) and Hong Kong (\$338m) contributing a combined \$906m.

"Our dependency on China has increased as we negotiate to reschedule \$15bn in energy sector loans, receive the highest FDI from China, and rely on them as our largest trade partner," said S.S. Iqbal, a senior banker. "China has also been providing loans or rescheduling payments to strengthen our reserves."

On March 23, 2018, the People's Bank of China signed an agreement with the State Bank of Pakistan to provide a \$2bn loan via China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) to shore up Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves.

This loan has been rolled over annually since 2018, with the most recent rollover occurring on Feb 29, 2024. The loan was due in March and was extended for one year.

"While China has supported our reserves, the State Bank stopped a \$1.8bn profit outflow to Chinese investors in FY24," Mr Iqbal said, wondering, "How can the Chinese sit calm and cool with this kind of treatment?"

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1848261>

Pakistan Observer

China's 3rd plenum and philosophy of openness

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

WHILE showcasing openness, modernization, innovation, international cooperation, economic globalization through constant and continued structural reforms, the Third Plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee's Communiqué has lambasted the Western notions of decoupling, delinking, over-capacity and China's Collapse theories. Moreover, their fabricated sanctions syndrome on the plea of national security has also been dashed to the ground. Thus China's philosophy of openness operating at a civilizational level, rather than merely to enhance competitiveness has become a shining star.

It seems that openness and development are a continuation of the tradition of inclusiveness and integration of the Chinese nation. In recent years, through meaningful negotiations with all main global business and trade stakeholders Chinese government have completed a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) with the European Union and applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) which vividly reflects its strong desire of further opening-up.

Evidently, from systemic reform to institutional openness, China is integrating its efforts to support high international economic and trade standards and actively participating in international economic and trade rule negotiations. Undoubtedly, the BRI and the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and future planning to hold the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) and the China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) have clearly illustrated its vision for trade liberalization and economic globalization. Thus China is moving towards further high-level opening-up, which has shifted its focus from passive to proactive openness, from open development to development-oriented openness and from opening up to promote reform to reforming to promote openness.

Recently, several international organizations, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have concurrently raised their forecasts for China's economic growth up to 5 percent. In the first half of the year, China's economy grew by 5 percent year-on-year, showcasing a stable economic foundation. It seems that China's quality of economic development is also improving, with investments in both high-tech manufacturing and high-tech services experiencing double-digit growth. On a global scale, China is also among the fastest growing economies. Interestingly, more multinational corporations are turning their attention to China because of its continued stable economic growth as well as deepening reform and opening-up which is a good omen.

Unfortunately, Washington's political rhetoric, a rupture in the China-U.S. economic relationship would result in mutual losses, disrupt global supply chains and stall economic recovery at a time when the world can least afford it. So economic wisdom and political sanity should prevail so that dreams of greater socio-economic integration and trans-regional connectivity may be achieved. The 60 points final resolution is market oriented strategic planning which will play a decisive role in resource allocation through legislation to improve

conditions for the private sector. The detailed plans to forge new productive forces, promote revolutionary breakthroughs in technology, innovative allocation of production factors and in-depth industrial transformation and upgrading would further enhance China's role in the regional as well as world economy.

Its resolution of further fiscal and financial reforms, boosting affordable housing, implementing employment-first policy, and improving job opportunities for young people and the standard of living for the elderly is an ideal combination of the Chinese Socialism propelling people's centric policies and preferring people over corporate profits. Therefore, further deepening reform will guide efforts in tapping the potential of the world's second-largest economy, offering a sense of continuity and certainty, and inject fresh growth momentum into global economic growth. It is a holistic development policy which outlines comprehensive reform guidelines across various key areas including the economy, legal system, culture, education and others for advancing Chinese modernization.

It is predicted that new quality productive forces driven by technological innovation will provide continuous impetus to Chinese macro-economy and will further tap the potential through institutional reforms such as intensifying efforts in building a unified national market and fostering the market economy to ensure prosperity in the next five to 10 years and beyond. The new blueprint will foster trust and confidence both at home and abroad. The new rules, regulations, management and standards and institutional innovations should also make improvements to achieve the high levels of opening-up and modernization. China is the "world's factory," its massive industrial transformation and huge upgradation is significant for the world as it will inject new growth energy into the global economy in terms of digitalization, smart technologies and green development.

Prominence of the Global South, new productive forces and positivity of China to take a leading role in global governance against the backdrop of the fast-changing geopolitical landscape, intensified global economic and financial fragmentation and a shift in trade and cross-border investment flows would create new and sustainable simulation for the recoveries of regional and world economies. In summary, China's economic miracle, BRI and CPEC have become a real inspiration for the developing and developed countries to adopt similar policies and approaches. It will encourage inclusive economic growth and development and to support common development and prosperity for all countries in the global village.

The setting up of foreign companies R&D centers in China and engaging in technological research and product innovation has become a futuristic development. Apple has R&D centers in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Suzhou, BMW has established its largest global production base and the largest R&D system outside Germany in China, BASF's innovation campus in Shanghai is the largest in the Asia-Pacific region and the second-largest globally showing China's leading role in qualitative industrialization and green transformation. The Western sponsored so-called China's Collapse Theory has become an absolute flop. Conversely, China has maintained its position as the world's largest trading nation in goods for seven consecutive years. In the first half of 2024, the export value of products like automobiles, ships and integrated circuits increased by 22.2 percent, 91.1 percent, and 25.6 percent year-on-year, respectively.

China's trade with partner countries under the BRI increased by 7.2 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2024. The number of China Railway Express freight trains surpassed the target of 10,000, 19 days ahead of the same target period in the previous year, with a total cargo volume increase of 11%. China offers visa-free entry to an increasing number of countries. In the first half of 2024, over 14 million foreigners entered China, demolishing notions of decoupling, delinking and overcapacity.

—The writer is President, Pak-China Corridor of Knowledge, Executive Director, CSAIS, regional expert: China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-3rd-plenum-and-philosophy-of-openness/>

The Nation

IIUI, NingboTech University sign MoU to establish collaborative partnership

ISLAMABAD - The Department of Media & Communication Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) and the Department of Journalism and Communication, School of Media and Law, NingboTech University, Ningbo, China on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement between key Pakistan Chinese universities was aimed to establish a collaborative partnership to facilitate the exchange of students and faculty members in the field of Media and Communication. The signing ceremony took place at the new campus of IIUI, witnessed by Acting President Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal signed on behalf of IIUI, while Vice Dean, School of Media and Law & Vice Director, Digital Culture Innovation Center, Professor Wang Junwei signed for NingboTech University. As per agreement, both parties agreed to develop education and teaching by sharing educational resources, joint student training, and student exchange and visits. They also vowed to work together to improve scientific research by initiating platform development, collaborative projects, and academic cooperation. The parties also agreed to develop faculty through discipline construction, visiting scholar programs, and faculty sharing. Acting President IIUI Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar stated that the university aims to enhance its bilateral educational cooperation worldwide. He noted that the university already had a significant presence of Chinese students and this venture boosted research in social sciences. He said that the collaboration will open new avenues for research and academic cooperation between the two universities. Professor Wang Junwei said that China and Pakistan have exemplary ties, with opportunities to enhance educational cooperation. He emphasized that faculty exchange programs and joint research ventures shared experiences and result-based research.

He opined that the MOU will facilitate the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources, ultimately contributing to the advancement of media and communication studies.

Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal briefed the Chinese delegation on the Faculty of Social Sciences and its research on various topics, including CPEC.

He hoped that mutual cooperation between the departments allowed media researchers to make significant recommendations for education. He emphasized that there is a dire need to work on the anthropological aspect of CEPEC adding that this MoU will be a vital opportunity to work on this characteristic. He said that the partnership is expected to yield fruitful results in the future, strengthening the bond between IIUI and NingboTech University.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Jul-2024/iiui-ningbotech-university-sign-mou-to-establish-collaborative-partnership>

Process of setting up of Special Economic Zones slowed down by multiple factors

Government must prioritise infrastructure development, policy stability, improved security conditions, and a business-friendly environment

ISLAMABAD - The process of setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZa) in Pakistan has been slowed down by multiple factors including security issues, political instability, bureaucratic hurdles, and insufficient infrastructure, which deters potential investors from operating in these zones.

Administrative inefficiencies, corruption, and bureaucratic obstacles have slowed the process of setting up and operating businesses within SEZs, said a report titled 'Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China' which was launched by the Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan and PowerChina.

The report aims to provide a strategic framework for enhancing the economic and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and China through Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The launch event was held here on Friday.

The success of SEZs in any country hinges on several critical factors, and Pakistan has encountered significant challenges in establishing these zones as success stories, said the report.

According to the report, within Pakistan's SEZs, inadequate transportation, utilities, communication networks have hindered their appeal to potential investors, discouraging businesses from establishing operations within these zones. Another key issue is the presence of policy and regulatory obstacles. Inconsistent or changing regulations, complex bureaucratic processes, and policy uncertainty have created uncertainty for businesses looking to invest in SEZs, as investors typically seek stability and predictability in regulations. Security concerns pose yet another challenge. In some regions of Pakistan, security issues and political instability deter potential investors from operating in SEZs. Furthermore, a shortage of a skilled workforce has limited the attractiveness of SEZs for businesses requiring highly trained labor. Economic challenges, such as inflation, currency depreciation, and fiscal issues, have also impacted the profitability and sustainability of businesses in these zones.

Infrastructure development within the SEZs, including industrial parks and utilities, is essential for attracting businesses, but such infrastructure may be lacking or underdeveloped

in certain cases. Global competition is another factor at play, as Pakistan competes with countries that have well-established SEZs and more favorable business environments, making it challenging to attract foreign and domestic investments

Administrative inefficiencies, corruption, and bureaucratic obstacles have slowed the process of setting up and operating businesses within SEZs. To address these challenges and transform SEZs into successful entities, the government must prioritize infrastructure development, policy stability, improved security conditions, and a business-friendly environment. Additionally, attracting foreign investments and nurturing a skilled workforce in these zones are essential steps to enhance their competitiveness and appeal to businesses.

The disconnect between the federal and provincial governments in Pakistan has had tangible repercussions for the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). One notable example is the inconsistent incentive structures offered to businesses within SEZs. While the federal government might promise certain tax breaks or import/export incentives, provincial governments could have their own sets of incentives or even different tax regimes. This lack of harmonization makes it challenging for investors to predict their long-term financial commitments and creates uncertainty, deterring potential investments. In terms of infrastructure development, coordination issues have impeded progress. A specific instance of this is the delayed development of transportation networks and utilities within SEZs. The federal and provincial governments need to work together to ensure the timely establishment of these crucial facilities. When this collaboration is lacking, it results in infrastructure delays, affecting the attractiveness of SEZs to businesses that require reliable and efficient infrastructure to operate effectively.

Another example is the allocation of land for SEZs. This process often involves both levels of government, and disagreements or misalignment can cause significant delays. For instance, the delayed allocation of land in a key SEZ might discourage prospective investors, who may choose to invest in a more efficient and coordinated environment in another country or region. Furthermore, the promotion and marketing of SEZs have not been as effective as they could be due to a lack of coherent messaging between federal and provincial governments. Potential investors may receive mixed messages or find it challenging to discern the actual benefits and opportunities associated with a specific SEZ, thus reducing the overall appeal of these zones.

In essence, the disconnect between different levels of government in Pakistan has led to challenges in policy alignment, inconsistency in incentives, delayed infrastructure development, inefficient land allocation, and inadequate promotion of SEZs. These issues have collectively hindered the overall success of SEZs, making it imperative for the federal and provincial governments to enhance their coordination and cooperation to address these challenges and improve the investment climate within these zones.

Similarly, Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have faced challenges due to the absence of a one-stop window for investors, hindering the ease of doing business in these zones. Investors looking to establish operations in SEZs often encounter a cumbersome and time-consuming bureaucratic process, as they need to navigate multiple government departments for various approvals and permits. For example, investors in the Rashakai

Economic Zone in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have reported the need to engage with multiple government agencies, such as the Board of Investment, the SEZ Authority, and various regulatory bodies, for different approvals, creating a time-consuming and complex process. This fragmented approach not only leads to delays but also makes it challenging for investors to navigate the regulatory landscape effectively.

To promote investment and economic growth within SEZs in Pakistan, the establishment of a one-stop window could significantly enhance the investment climate, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and increase investor confidence by simplifying the administrative procedures and making the process more efficient and transparent.

In conclusion, the report said that Pakistan has the opportunity to learn from the success story of China's SEZs and make the necessary adjustments to enhance the administration of its SEZs. By addressing the challenges, streamlining policies, and fostering an investor-friendly climate, Pakistan can unlock the true potential of its SEZs and embark on a journey of economic growth and prosperity. The transformation of SEZs from missed opportunities into thriving centers of economic activity requires a concerted effort and a commitment to long-term success.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Jul-2024/process-of-setting-up-of-special-economic-zones-slowed-down-by-multiple-factors#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%20%2D%20The%20process%20of%20setting,from%20operating%20in%20these%20zones.>

The News

Finance minister briefs Chinese officials on reform agenda engagement with IMF

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, during a meeting with high-ranking officials from the Chinese institutions on Friday, briefed them about the government's reform agenda and engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The finance minister and Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari held meetings with Governor of People's Bank of China (PBoC), Pan Gongsheng and Vice Administrator National Energy Administration (NEA), Ren Jingong.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and officials of the embassy accompanied the ministers, according to a press release issued by the finance ministry here.

The discussions focused on the significant strides made by Pakistan in improving its macroeconomic indicators by focused reforms in taxation, energy and privatization of the state-owned enterprises.

The reforms has already started showing their results, particularly, reducing inflation from 38% to 13% marks a substantial achievement for the economy.

Additionally, the stabilization of the exchange rate and the bolstering of foreign exchange reserves were highlighted as key factors contributing to the economic upturn.

There was consensus was that such reforms are indispensable for achieving long-term stability and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The Governor's recognition of Pakistan's policy measures reflects a broader international perspective on the importance of economic resilience and the positive impact of prudent fiscal management, the statement added.

Underlining Pakistan's plan to launch Panda Bonds, Minister for Finance briefed PBoC and other Financial Institutions about the steps taken so far and sought cooperation of the Chinese institutional investors in the capital market and seek benefit from the pro-business policies of the new Government.

Lauding President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) both the Ministers noted the achievements during the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, for strengthening the infrastructure in energy, transport sectors along with others.

It was highlighted that during the next phase of CPEC, focus is on strengthening B2B cooperation, with private sector playing the central role in the development and economic growth.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Vice Administrator NEA, Minister for Power expressed government's conviction to introduce energy reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency of power sector by addressing systemic issues and cutting transmission losses.

He appreciated NEA for signing the MoU on improving governance of the Power Sector and expressed resolve to fast-track implementation of the agreement.

The ministers also met Executive Vice President of China Development Bank (CDB), President of National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII), Chairperson of Silk Road Fund (SRF), Chairman of China International Capital Corporation (CICC).

On the instructions of the Prime Minister, the two ministers paid an official visit to Beijing from 24-26 July 2024 as part of the government's efforts to implement consensus reached at the leadership level during the former's recent visit to China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=327754>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین وزرائے خزانہ کی ملاقات

فاقی وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر اورنگزیب کی قیادت میں وفد نے چین کے وزیر خزانہ لین فون سے بیچنگ میں ملاقات کی۔ وفاقی وزیر انرجی اویس احمد خان لغاری بھی ملاقات میں موجود تھے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے پاک چین گہری دوستی کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان خصوصی طور پر مالی اور بینکنگ سیکٹرز اور سٹرٹجک تعاون پر مبنی پارٹنرشپ کی اہمیت بیان کی۔ انہوں نے چین کی طرف سے معاشی اور مالی تعاون کو قابل قدر قرار دیا۔ وفاقی وزیر انرجی اویس احمد خان لغاری نے انرجی کے شعبہ میں اصلاحات کے بارے میں حکومت کے اس عزم کو دہرایا کہ انرجی سیکٹر کے تنظیمی اور اپریشنل چیلنجز پر قابو پایا جائے گا۔ چین کے وزیر خزانہ نے پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کے لیے ان کے ملک کی طرف سے مکمل حمایت کی یقین دہانی کرائی اور کہا کہ اعلیٰ اور معیاری ترقیاتی ایجنڈا پر عمل درآمد میں مدد کی جائے گی اور سٹرٹجک پارٹنرشپ کے حوالے سے بھی

تسلل سے حمایت کی جائیگی۔

پاکستانی اور چینی وزیر خزانہ کے درمیان ہونیوالی ملاقات میں جس عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا ہے، وہ دونوں ملکوں کے مابین بے لوث دوستی، گہرے تعلقات کو اجاگر کرتے نظر آتے ہیں۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت پاکستان ترقی کی جس راہ پر گامزن ہے، وہ برادر چین کی بے لوث محبت اور بھرپور تعاون کا ہی نتیجہ ہے۔ چین کے تعاون سے پاکستان کا پہلا تاریخی سیٹلائٹ آئی کیوب قمر اس وقت خلا میں اپنا مشن جاری رکھے ہوئے ہے جبکہ سی پیک منصوبے کے تحت توانائی سمیت کئی شعبوں کی ترقی میں چین پاکستان کے ساتھ شانہ بشانہ کھڑا ہے جس کے ثمرات اب باقاعدہ نظر بھی آنے شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ ان دونوں ملکوں کی مثالی دوستی اور تعلقات کئی ملکوں بالخصوص بھارت کی آنکھوں میں کھٹک رہی ہے جو اس دوستی میں نہ صرف دراڑیں ڈالنے کیلئے سازشوں کے جال بنتا رہتا ہے بلکہ اپنے مرئی امریکہ کے ساتھ مل کر خطے کے گیم چینجر منصوبے سی پیک کے بھی درپے ہے۔ اسی تناظر میں گزشتہ دنوں جی ایچ کیو اور اوپنڈی میں چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی (پی ایل اے) کے قیام کی 97 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب کے موقع پر چینی سفیر نے دہشت گردی کیخلاف پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا عزم باندھا اور اس پختہ یقین کا اظہار کیا کہ کوئی بھی طاقت چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان آہنی دوستی اور دونوں افواج کے درمیان بھائی چارے کو ختم نہیں کر سکتی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-27/page-5/detail-9>

July 28, 2024

Business Recorder

Learning from China

Sirajuddin Aziz.

Most of us learn proverbs at the primary school stage and many of us would have written essays upon essays on these adages. Readers would recall, for example, “A man is known by the company he keeps“. The centrality of the theme in this dictum being that one should avoid bad company and must find good people to spend time in their midst. The underlying hope here being that the positive features present in those good people would rub off on others in the company. By using the same simple logic, we have since 1949 been in the good company of People’s Republic of China; that’s good seventy five years. Unfortunately, however, we as a nation seem to have learnt nothing from China...be it politics, economy or social reconstruction.

Having lived in the Region and in Beijing as well, I am witness to the amazing transformation of China. Our prime minister alongside a heavy delegation on his recent visit to china landed at Shenzhen airport. This city was the first Special Economic Zone that China opened up to the world. From a sleepy fishing village in the mid eighties, it now betters the Manhattan skyline with several skyscrapers. I am certain even that short visit to the headquarters of the IT company, Huawei, would have lit up the imagination of the delegation.

China’s independence is a mere two years apart from our own independence in 1947. In 1949 and till the late sixties we were in a better state in all respects as compared to China. And 75 years down the road, China is a global powerhouse, an economic miracle with a reputation of being the “factory of the world“. Against this growth and development of China, Pakistan on the other hand, has been on tenterhooks for the longest of times and is today a picture of sad economic morass— a patient in an ICU perennially. So what went wrong or alternatively, how were the Chinese different than us, and what did they do differently to achieve such amazing milestones?

In the very few first years of independence, China decided to live in the comity of nations on its own terms. It refused to bargain or trade off its interests. It preferred to be a closed country till the late seventies. The leadership refused to seek outside help for reconstruction after the devastating fight with Kuomintang forces led by Chiang Kai Shek. In October 1949, Chairman Mao raised the Chinese flag after defeating Chiang Kai Shek. The Chinese with a clenched fist decided to remain resolutely emancipated economically too, having gained political liberty. They stood for claiming “self- respect” for themselves, instead of falling prey to economic assistance, which the leadership sensibly recognised and fairly understood, would come with a lot of ‘strings’ attached to it.

Any assistance taken would have weakened the resolve to stand on their own feet. They denied to themselves comforts of the basic and ordinary type, let alone seek luxuries of life. The Chinese nation learnt to live in difficult circumstances. There was no difference in the pain and pangs suffered by both the leadership and the led. Leaders took no privileges or perks. They struggled together. There were years when due to famine many families would settle for a single meal during the day. This was done with great feeling of satisfaction and due grace. In this behaviour they found and protected their self esteem and belief in their abilities to turn around the country.

Immediately after 1947, divinity took away within a year or so our founding father Jinnah, who was suffering from debilitating tuberculosis, succumbed first, and two years later, Liaquat Ali Khan, a stalwart in his own right and a loyal confidant of the Quaid, was taken out through a bullet, which was fired from the cannons of conspirators, who till date remain unnamed and unpunished.

Between 1951 and 1958 Pakistan lost almost all leaders associated with the independence movement. The subsequent leadership saw no harm done to national prestige by becoming willing takers of economic handouts - which were put on the table as a quid pro quo. We joined CENTO and SEATO, both these organisations were created to act as a bulwark against the likelihood of the spreading of the Communist thought. We bargained our independence to “think” and acquired the status of being an “aligned country”.

The Korean War in the early fifties gave boost to our economy, largely through grants and aid. The infant/child state of Pakistan began to live on the malnourishment of “Aid”; little did the leadership realise that we were becoming ‘parasites’, gnawing at our own roots that ultimately led to the dismemberment of the country in 1971. The Chinese in the meantime thwarted the hegemonic designs of India by beating them black and blue in the Ladakh region. They knew how to protect their sovereignty. We failed the Quaid in less than 25 years.

Contrarily, China was(like India) extremely fortunate vis-a-vis its leadership. The formidable duo of Chairman Mao Tse Tung (the visionary) and Premier Chou En Lai (the executor or doer) led China for long years; they were Rock of Gibraltar, and stood their ground of making China a power to contend with.

Notwithstanding the ill effects of programmes like ‘Great Leap Forward’ or the more notorious, “Cultural Revolution”, the Chinese political system survived and continued to mature with reforms brought in frequently at various stages of its growth. The Party (Communist Party) in spite of diabolical intrigues played and engineered against it by

overseas powers kept a tight grip on the Nation. The people, most of them willingly and some of them being unwilling, rallied around to support the Party.

Leadership in China has always been clear in its objectives; both in relation to political philosophy and the economic system. It is pure's imagination of leadership to have an outcome that embraced diversity, and to have come up with a saleable slogan of "One Country, Two Systems". This how they negotiated the takeover of Hong Kong from the British in 1983.

State-owned enterprises blossomed in China during the decades of fifties and sixties. Pakistan on the other hand was struggling with both; political thought and economic system, we oscillated between full laissez- faire and muted Socialism. On the economic front during the decade of sixties, we witnessed some Capital creation and formation, through private enterprise, which also unfortunately led to concentration of wealth in the hands of the few. The infamously famous coinage of 22 families ruling the roost became evident. From here we moved to nationalisation of key industries and services. Both the political philosophy and the economic model failed and with the advent of the 'dark age' under the dictatorship of Gen. Ziaul Haq, we were back to square one. Our dependence and reliance on external support only gained more prominence and consequently dominance over policies. The Soviet misadventure in Afghanistan came as a blessing to the dictator. We were required to act at the behest of western global powers. There was 'loss of independence to think' about our interests.

China is still ruled by a single party. From the tracing of the history of the two countries what emerges is, essentially, the pronounced characteristics relating to 'political leadership' and the major element of "Sacrifice". Till the year 1976, which year, both, Mao and Chou departed to the yonder, the leadership was united and consistent in policymaking that gave economic and political stability. In Pakistan, political circus was the order, flirting the Westminster type of political democracy to the US Presidential system, both models were well punctured with long periods of dictatorship. The State was rudderless and the political leadership, either was clueless or conniving, the bureaucracy remained in bed with the establishment.

Leadership in China, because of the trust it has earned is respected by the people; in Pakistan, every single leader was booted out by the establishment on charges, real or perceived, relating to competence and corruption. Hence the people of Pakistan have scant respect for political leaders and, sadly, the courts operated as courtesans to the whims of the dictatorship.

China achieved its current status not without sacrifice! At least two generations offered to live in poverty and distressful economic conditions, yet they remained committed to meeting the demands of hard work and discipline. They faced severe famine, but in quick time were growing grains with a super high yield per acre harvest. The heavy and light industrial base kept growing due to consistent policies.

Between the Mao/Chou and Deng Xiao Ping years there was just two years of political instability, when the "Gang of Four" seized power through a bloodless "Palace Coup". The Party and the military acted swiftly under the leadership of Deng Xiao Ping and in 1978,

China opened up its doors - the Forbidden City/Country started to modernise with speed.

Again it was the foresight of leadership; it began with the creation of four Special Economic Zones, all crafted with the sole aim of drawing capital investments from Hong Kong and Taiwan, including the greater China areas. Alongside, thirteen coastal cities were opened up; thus began China's meteoric rise to being an economic powerhouse. In less than a decade, the giant in the fog emerged with subtlety. No theatrics or dramatics were seen from the political leadership.

Every leader that followed Deng remained faithfully inclined to the basic precepts of 'economic growth first', and political discourse to follow later. The theory has served the populace well.

This is where Mikhail Gorbachev went wrong, leading to dismembering the Soviet Union. The average Chinese has more disposable income than the past two generations, who couldn't even dare to imagine.

Leaders are expected to give direction. Leaders are respected when they are seen to be 'walking their talk'.

Any disparities between words and actions renders the leadership to be unworthy of the trust of the people. Simplicity has been in constant attendance to the political leadership in China; it still does while our leaders are known for living an ostentatiously loud and crude life. They flaunt their wealth, earned or ill gotten. Consequently, they are mistrusted.

An ordinary Chinese, who has good reasons to be filled with certain pride, due to his/her intellect and skill, will always decimate his/ her positions to act and remain ordinary while we have a tendency to act smart and knowledgeable without anything to substantiate the position or the claim.

I remember reading a news item when I was in the 10th standard. Robert McNamara, as president of the IMF, told media reporters after a rare meeting with Chairman Mao in Beijing that China will crumble under the weight of its own ticking population bomb.

They shall starve, he asserted. In reaction Mao reminded Robert that the Chinese have only one mouth to feed but two hands to work.

And indeed, under able leadership the hands, almost 2.8 billion of them, have cohesively worked to produce the economic wonder that China is today.

Only an enlightened leadership can develop and translate vision into reality. Honest, committed, well read and sincere leadership's availability is the first rung on the ladder of growth and development. All power comes from the canons of the ballot and people's power. The leadership in China is respected by its people and so does the rest of the world.

'It is leadership, not the economy, stupid'!

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/28/4-page/1000878-news.html>

JVs with Chinese companies

The fruits of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's "special visit" to China last month are beginning to show. First, in early July, he approved joint venture projects between Chinese and Pakistani companies regarding relocation of Chinese industries, signaling that Pakistan was now also included in the list of countries that will benefit from Beijing's strategic shift away from high growth to a long-term focus on advanced technology and manufacturing.

Now it's been announced that "a strategy for JVs among various companies and business organisations of China and Pakistan has been evolved". Apparently, seven sectors have been identified – medical and surgical equipment, plastics, clothing, leather, edible meat, fruits and vegetables, and waste and fodder. Also, 78 businesses from China and 167 from Pakistan are going to participate in a "gigantic session which is expected to make great progress in the investment sector", it's been reported, although the likely dates haven't yet been announced. This, as noted at the time of the earlier announcement, is a priceless opportunity. On top of all the macroeconomic benefits, like improving infrastructure, mobility and employment, these JVs also present the option of importing to export, the main reason countries from Asia to Africa have been lining up to take advantage of China's "paradigm shift" and its novelty of moving entire industries elsewhere. China will not abandon these industries, after all, but buy their produce to sell abroad; the ideal win-win that is at the heart of JV theory. However, let's not forget that the prime minister seemed to understand the pitfalls on this road when he shared this development with the nation, and ordered rapid progress on the ease of doing business front that has been stalled since forever, as well as a quick revision of the Special Economic Zones One Stop Shop Law. Yet now that we're hearing of both sides putting final touches on this ambitious plan, these items have disappeared from the headlines. Islamabad knows only too well that Beijing is the largest foreign investor in this country, and therefore understands the nightmare of getting through all the bureaucratic red tape here. So, when the federal secretary of the board of investment said, as quoted in the news, that BOI had done its "initial homework", one would like to think that it had done something about its own trademark inefficiencies also. It's a shame that Pakistan's own bureaucracy, still stuck in the 19th-20th century Raj mould (minus the efficiency), is the biggest stumbling block to enacting progressive reforms. All other countries with the same or similar heritage, especially India, have long since identified such problems, solved them, and moved on, especially when it comes to facilitating foreign investment – the life and blood of the modern, frontier/emerging market economy. But not us. Not that it's not been tried. Most parties have promised bureaucratic reforms on the campaign trail, some have even tried to get the ball rolling after coming to power, but the civil service, usually the epitome of functional lethargy, springs into action to sabotage all such initiatives promptly. This time, though, the government has no choice. Pakistan was initially kept out of this particular Chinese outreach simply because its economy was too weak to absorb it; not to mention that its official processes are not investor-friendly. And since the economy has not changed at all in the last few years – if anything, it has only got worse – we will most certainly need to bury the red tape immediately for these JVs to even take off. The PM has pulled off quite a deal with the Chinese, he's also ordered the right groundwork to be laid for it. So much for theory. Now he'll have to show the political will to push necessary reforms through before the Chinese start landing here to sign on their contracts. <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/28/4-page/1000876-news.html>

Dawn News**Surging imports keep trade balance in China's favour***Shahid Iqbal*

KARACHI: Exports to China have remained stuck around \$2.7 billion for the last five years as exporters find it hard to penetrate the Chinese market. According to the State Bank's data, imports from China increased by \$3.843bn to \$13.506bn in FY24, but exports remained stuck up for the last five years to \$2.7bn. China is now Pakistan's largest trade partner as it has replaced the United Arab Emirates and the United States during the last five years. The rapid growth in imports from China reached its peak in FY22, when the figure soared to \$17.3bn while exports stood at \$2.783bn. Although China has been offering its market to Pakistani products, local exporters said the high cost of production in this country "makes our goods uncompetitive" in the Chinese market. Moreover, China is also a competitor in textile and leather products.

Exporters said Pakistan had limited products to sell in the Chinese market.

"China is the world's production house and their export industry has advantages of much better economic policies, stable inflation and low interest rate," said Aamir Aziz, a manufacture and exporter of finished textile products.

Imports from China declined sharply in FY23 to \$9.663bn, against exports of \$2.025bn. Before this fall imports recorded a high of \$17.3bn in FY22.

Imports from China were \$15.527bn in FY21 while exports amounted to \$2.33bn.

From FY20 to FY24, exports to China ranged between \$1.7bn and \$2.7bn. However, imports have kept rising from \$12bn in FY21 to \$13.5bn now.

Smuggling of a number of goods from China is unaccounted for. At the same time, under-invoicing is also very common.

Energy sector loans

Pakistan is looking to get reschedule \$15bn Chinese loans in the energy sector, but experts see little hope. Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb is in Beijing to persuade Chinese investors to reschedule the loans.

China supported Pakistan last year through rollover of payments on \$2bn loans. Pakistan is willing to launch Panda Bond in the Chinese market, but financial experts don't show much enthusiasm for it.

The finance minister's visit to Beijing is crucial as his success in China could pave the way for the \$7bn IMF loan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1848459/surging-imports-keep-trade-balance-in-chinas-favour#:~:text=Before%20this%20fall%20imports%20recorded,FY21%20to%20%2413.5bn%20now.>

The Nation

Pak-China Institute, PowerChina unveil groundbreaking report: Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan, China

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with PowerChina, has launched a groundbreaking report titled 'Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China'.

The report aims to provide a strategic framework for enhancing the economic and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and China through Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The launch event brought together key stakeholders and experts who shared their insights on the importance of this initiative and its potential impact on Pakistan's economic landscape, a news release said. In his opening remarks, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hyder Sayed emphasised the timeliness of the report. He noted that its release coincides with increasing collaboration between China and Pakistan, making it a pivotal moment for both nations.

Sayed highlighted the critical need for Pakistan to adopt export-oriented policies to attract Chinese industries that are relocating to the global south due to rising production costs, business-friendly environments, and market access to regional markets. He stressed that the global economic landscape is highly competitive and Pakistan must position itself as the prime destination for the relocation of key industries by developing unique selling points. Drawing lessons from China's successful SEZ model, the report outlines what has worked in China and what needs to be adapted for Pakistan. Key takeaways include the necessity to attract investors with flexible policies and strategic locations for industrial zones, particularly near ports and business clusters, akin to the success seen in Shenzhen. Su Dong, representing PowerChina, underscored the successful completion of 47 projects in Pakistan, with several others under construction. He expressed PowerChina's readiness to continue working closely with Pakistan, extending best wishes for the report's success. Su Dong emphasised the significance of this collaborative effort in driving economic growth and fostering a stronger bilateral relationship.

He reiterated PowerChina's commitment to supporting Pakistan in its industrial development journey, highlighting the potential for future projects and partnerships that can further enhance the economic ties between the two nations. Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, delivered a keynote speech, lauding China as a great friend of Pakistan. He emphasised the significance of SEZs in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and fostering industrialization, noting that the relocation of Chinese industries presents a significant opportunity for Pakistan. Hussain stated that the govt is committed to offering more incentives and concessions to attract Chinese businesses, ensuring full security for their operations, and adopting Shenzhen as a benchmark for SEZ development.

He highlighted that a few SEZs in Pakistan are already functional and stressed the importance of export zones in driving economic growth.

The minister underscored the need for Pakistan to compete with other regions, such as ASEAN, Bangladesh, and Central Asia, by creating a favourable environment for industrial relocation.

Chief Administration Officer of China Overseas Ports Holdings Company Pakistan Ltd, Zou Yaodong extended warm congratulations on the launch of the report. He noted that in the past few years, SEZs have achieved significant development and become engines of economic growth. However, he acknowledged that there are still many challenges to overcome in the face of global competition. Zou Yaodong assured that his organisation is available to assist and support the improvement and development of SEZs in Pakistan, highlighting the importance of strategic partnerships and continuous efforts to enhance the SEZ framework to attract more investors and industries. Additional Secretary and Executive Director General-II (EDG-II) at the Board of Investment (BOI), Dr. Erfa Iqbal shared her insights on the report, emphasising that the topic is very close to her heart. She highlighted that economic survival depends on robust SEZ policies and that China serves as a valuable example for Pakistan, a model followed by countries like Cambodia and Vietnam.

Dr. Iqbal pointed out that while Pakistan has made strides, the success of its SEZs is still debatable due to a range of problems. She praised the report for providing a comprehensive diagnosis of these issues and offering strategic recommendations.

Dr. Iqbal stressed that the success of Shenzhen was not merely due to its location but a combination of factors such as land, labor, and capital, all supported by proactive government policies. She emphasized the need to reduce transaction costs, enhance supportive banking transactions for investors, improve security measures and ensure business facilitation to create a conducive ecosystem for SEZ development.

The launch event concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening Pakistan-China economic relations through strategic SEZ policies. The collaborative effort marks a significant step towards economic growth and industrial development in Pakistan, paving the way for a prosperous future.

The report, ‘Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China’, is poised to serve as a blueprint for policymakers and industry leaders, guiding the development of SEZs that can attract global investments and drive sustainable economic growth in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Jul-2024/pak-china-institute-powerchina-unveil-groundbreaking-report-aligning-special-economic-zones-policies-of-pakistan-china>

The News

Pak-China Institute, PowerChina unveil sketch for SEZs collaboration

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with PowerChina, has launched a groundbreaking report titled ‘Aligning Special Economic Zones Policies of Pakistan and China’ to provide a strategic framework for enhancing the economic and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and China through Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The launch event, held in Islamabad, brought together key stakeholders and experts who shared their insights on the importance of this initiative and its potential impact on Pakistan's economic landscape.

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Dr Erfa Iqbal, an official at the Board of Investment, highlighted the critical role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan's economic growth. She emphasised the need for learning from China's SEZ model and addressing the challenges Pakistan faces in this area. Erfa praised the report for identifying key issues and providing solutions, such as reducing bureaucracy, improving banking services, and enhancing security for investors. The launch event concluded with a two-sided commitment to boosting economic ties through a new report on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to guide policymakers and businesses in developing SEZs that will attract foreign investment and drive economic growth in Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=328075>

Jang News

ہمیں چین اور امریکہ دونوں بلاکس کے ساتھ آگے چلنا ہے، وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب

وفاقی وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا ہے کہ ہمیں چین اور امریکہ دونوں بلاکس کے ساتھ آگے چلنا ہے۔

اسلام آباد میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ اگر ہم میکرو اکنامک استحکام نہیں لاتے تو مسائل ہوں گے، ترقیاتی بجٹ بنا کر کوششیں کر چکے لیکن بیرونی ادائیگیاں کرنا بہت مشکل ہو گیا۔

محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ کوشش کر رہے ہیں نچلے طبقے پر ٹیکس کا بوجھ نہ ڈالا جائے، ملکی معیشت کی بہتری کے لیے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں، مقامی سطح پر ٹیکس کے حوالے سے بات چیت چل رہی ہے، میں سیلری کلاس میں سے ہی آیا ہوں۔

محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ یکم جولائی سے انڈسٹری کو 68 ارب کے ریفرنڈم دیے جا چکے ہیں، ایف بی آر میں اصلاحات سے متعلق وزیر اعظم ہر ہفتے اجلاس کر رہے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ زراعت کو ٹیکس رجیم میں لانے کیلئے اقدامات کیے جائیں گے، وزرائے اعلیٰ زرعی ٹیکس کے حوالے سے قانون سازی کریں گے، تاجر دوست اسکیم متعارف کروائی ہے، ٹیکس واجبات کی ادائیگی سے معیشت مضبوط ہوگی۔

وفاقی وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ ڈیٹا ہی سب سے بڑا اثوت ہو گا، تاجروں اور سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے سہولیات کی فراہمی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1374517>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی کمپنی کے عہدیدار کی ملاقات، ڈیجیٹل گروتھ کیلئے سٹریٹجک تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال

لاہور (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف سے ہواوے کے ڈیپٹی چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر یوشاؤنگ نے ملاقات کی، جس میں پنجاب کی ڈیجیٹل گروتھ کے لیے سٹریٹجک تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ڈیجیٹلائزیشن میں ہواوے کی تکنیکی مہارت سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لئے تجاویز اور سفارشات کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں نواز شریف سمارٹ سٹی سمیت ممکنہ شعبوں میں تعاون پر گفتگو ہوئی۔ ڈیجیٹل معیشت میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مختلف آپشنز کا بھی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے گورننس، عوامی خدمات اور معاشی ترقی کے لیے جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ مریم نواز نے کہا کہ ہمارا وٹن پنجاب کو ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی جب میں تبدیل کرنا ہے۔ ہواوے ڈیپٹی چیف نے پنجاب کے تکنیکی اقدامات میں تعاون کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے تکنیکی اختراعات اور سرمایہ کاری کے لیے سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ علاوہ ازیں مریم نواز نے نشان حیدر کا پہلا اعزاز پانے والے کیپٹن محمد سرور شہید کو خراج عقیدت پیش کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ کیپٹن محمد سرور شہید پاک وطن کے دفاع کیلئے جان دے کر تاریخ میں امر ہو گئے۔ قوم کو کیپٹن محمد سرور شہید پر فخر ہے، کبھی نہیں بھولیں گے۔ وطن پر اپنی جان نچھاور کرنے والے شہداء دلوں میں زندہ ہیں اور زندہ رہیں گے۔ دفاع وطن کے لئے بہادری اور جرات کا مظاہرہ کرنے والے شہداء کو قوم کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-28/page-1/detail-34>

پاکستان چین شراکت آگے بڑھنے لگتی ہے تو بعض لوگ سازش تیز کر دیتے ہیں: احسن اقبال

نارووال (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + نمائندہ نوائے وقت) وفاقی وزیر پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ جس ملک امن اور استحکام نہیں رہتا وہ ملک ترقی نہیں کر سکتا۔ وفاقی وزیر پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ احسن اقبال نے نارووال بار سے خطاب میں کہا کہ پاکستان میں بارہا واحد ادارہ ہے جس نے 75 سال سے جمہوریت کے تسلسل کو برقرار رکھا ہے، یہی وجہ ہے وکلاء کے اندر جو جمہوری روایات ہیں وہ ہمیں اپنی سیاست میں دیکھنے کو نہیں ملتیں۔ الیکشن کے موقع پر آپ ہر سال لاؤنٹکر لے کر ایک دوسرے کے خلاف برسر پیکار ہوتے ہیں، جو نبی الیکشن ختم ہوتا ہے آپ لوگ برادری بن کر کام میں لگ جاتے ہیں، یہی وہ روایات بد قسمتی سے پاکستان میں ہماری سیاست میں پیدا نہیں ہو سکیں، جس کی بڑی وجہ ہے کہ ہمارے نظام میں تسلسل نہیں ہے۔ 16 مہینے محنت کر کے چین کا اعتماد بحال کیا ہے، ہم سی پیک فیروزہ شروع کرنے جا رہے ہیں۔ جو نبی پاکستان چین کی شراکت آگے بڑھنے لگتی ہے اسی رفتار سے بعض لوگ پاکستان میں سازش کو تیز کر دیتے ہیں۔ جیسے پہلے سی پیک کا اعلان ہوا دھرنے شروع ہو گئے۔ 2018ء میں رجم چیئنگ کر کے ساری پالیسیوں کا پورٹن کر دیا گیا، پاکستان کے نادر موقع کو ہم ٹیک آف کر سکتے تھے مگر کریش کر دیا گیا۔ سی پیک 2 کو لے کر نکلے ہیں، کون سے کردار ہیں جو پاکستان میں دوبارہ کسی کے اشاروں پر بے یقینی پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں تاکہ پاکستان اور چین کا منصوبہ کسی طرح کامیاب نہ ہو سکے۔ نارووال سے نمائندہ نوائے وقت کے مطابق احسن اقبال نے نارووال میں باروم سے ملحقہ کیفیریا کاسٹنگ بنیاد رکھ دیا۔ انہوں نے کہا وکلاء کے تمام مطالبات مانتے ہوئے جلد تعمیرات مکمل ہوگی۔ پاکستان ترقی کی طرف چل پڑا ہے اس وقت ملک کے قرضے 77 ارب ڈالر سے تجاوز کر چکے ہیں جب کہ ملکی قرض 155 ارب ڈالر ادائیگی ہی کر سکے تو باقی ملک پھر مقروض رہ جاتا ہے ہمیں ملکر پوری قوم کو معاشی استحکام بہتر کرنے کیلئے سب کو کوشش کرنا ہوگی۔ اگر 15 سالوں میں نارووال بدل سکتا ہے، نارووال یونیورسٹیوں اور تعلیم میں پورے پاکستان میں پہلے دس نمبروں پر آسکتا ہے تو پھر پاکستان پوری دنیا میں پہلے دس نمبروں میں کیوں نہیں آسکتا۔ 2047ء میں جب ہم پاکستان کی 100 سالہ تقریبات منا رہے ہونگے تب ہم بھی ترقی پزیر ممالک کی صف میں ہونگے۔ بھارت، انڈونیشیا، بنگلہ دیش اور دیگر ممالک ترقی پزیر ملکوں نے جس طرح ترقی کی ہے ہمیں بھی اسی طرح ترقی کرنا ہوگی۔ تقریب میں چیئر پرسن جنیل خانہ جات پنجاب رانا منان خاں ایم پی اے۔ اقلیتی امور پنجاب کے صوبائی وزیر رویش سنگھ اروڑا ایم پی اے۔ احمد اقبال ایم پی اے حلقہ پی پی 54 نظر وال، ابراہیم گورائیہ ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سیکرٹری بار محمد نوید سیان ایڈووکیٹ، شکر گڑھ بار کے صدر حافظ رضوان مسعود ایڈووکیٹ اور ممبر پنجاب بار کونسل عمر اکبر خان ایڈووکیٹ ضلعی صدر مسلم لیگ انجمن سید اظہار الحسن، محمد سرور آف دنوال، قیصر رشید چوہدری آف لگوال منہاس بھی موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-28/page-1/detail-38>

July 29, 2024

Business Recorder

‘China will help secure IMF loan’

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb said that China would support Pakistan’s negotiation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and would play its role in securing approval from the Fund’s board. He said that the government has taken drastic measures to improve the country’s economy in the right direction with a special focus at expansion of tax net. Pakistan opted for the IMF programme to bring micro-stability in the country. And China will support Pakistan in securing approval for the IMF agreement. A total of Rs 68 billion have been refunded to taxpayers by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) from first July and trader-friendly policies are being chalked out. The government will introduce legislation in the Parliament to impose tax on agriculture sector and the prime minister is personally monitoring reforms in the FBR, the finance minister expressed these views while addressing a news conference on Sunday after China visit. He said that Pakistan requires a three to five-year extension in the maturity of \$12 billion debt from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, China, and UAE as part of confirmation before securing approval from the IMF’s Executive Board on a fresh bailout package. The minister ruled out the possibility of seeking incremental foreign loans from bilateral partners and said that the external financing gap was quite “manageable”. Islamabad is only seeking re-profiling of its foreign deposits of \$12 billion including \$5 billion from KSA, \$4 billion from China, and \$3 billion from UAE for a three to five-year period. The IMF wants external financing assurances for 37- month period under \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The minister also informed that Islamabad has started process of re-profiling of Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) debt for seeking extension in maturity and now Chinese consultant would be hired to move towards achieving the desired objectives. The Chinese IPPs outstanding repayment stood at \$15.4 billion till 2036 and Pakistan is making requests for securing extension in debt tenor of five to eight years period. “There is need to understand very ‘delicate’ issue carefully as Pakistan does not seek any debt restructuring or haircut but it has requested for extension in tenor of maturity of outstanding debt on account of both foreign deposits and Chinese IPPs debt” he stated. The minister said that there would be nine Chinese IPPs including one transmission line as they could not go ahead with knee jerk approach. He said that the joint working groups would be established to create a win-win situation for both sides. It would be long process for discussing with individual IPPs. The issue of their Rate on Equity and dividend so discussed all these issues in details, he added. To a query, he stated that the annual expenditure of ministries stood at Rs 890 billion and if 20 to 25 percent reduction should be achieved in terms of reducing their financial burden. The minister also confirmed that Pakistan was discussing \$600 million commercial loan from Chinese banks. He said that Pakistan would launch Panda bond whereby they intend to register \$1 billion out of which \$150 to \$200 million would be capitalised at the first phase. About the IMF programme, the minister said that the discussion with the IMF had remained positive and constructive and all the set benchmarks were achieved.

He said that China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have always extended their support for Pakistan for its economic growth and development. The minister said that he visited China along with the energy minister and held discussions on different aspects of bilateral trade and economic cooperation including local energy requirements and launching of Panda bonds in the Chinese markets. Answering a question, he said that during the recent visit to China re-profiling of energy sector loans was also discussed. He said that they discussed the conversion of energy plants into coal and other aspects for affordable energy generation during different high-level meetings. He said that in the discussion, the Chinese authorities acknowledged and ensured that our issues are registered with the right forum. He said that the process has to be followed to take them forward. He said they also wanted to help the country in terms of re-profiling. The minister said that China is ranked among the world's biggest capital markets and Pakistan plans to issue these bonds to diversify its funding sources and strengthen its foreign exchange reserves by attracting Chinese investors. About energy, the minister said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his visit to China had also discussed the local energy requirements with the Chinese top leadership. He said that the prime minister urged them to evolve a mechanism for extending their support to overcome power supply needs for the socio-economic development of the country.

He said that reforms are being done in the FBR and in this regard, weekly meetings are held under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that putting fewer burdens on lower income class is the government's top priority.

Expressing gratitude to the chief ministers of all four provinces for supporting government's tax reforms agenda, the finance minister expressed hope that they will introduce tax legislations for inclusion of the agricultural sector in the taxation regime.

He said without including untaxed and under tax community into tax regime, we cannot achieve certainty and ease of collection that is vital for economic stability.

The minister said notices will be sent through a centralised system, while field formations will be authorised to collect taxes, accordingly.

He said that to realise the 13 per cent tax-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio, it was prerequisite to take measures for the simplification of tax returns and facilitating the tax pairs to achieve full compliance. He said that the government has launched Tajir Dost Scheme for voluntary tax compliance that offers benefits to unregistered businesses.

Mentioning the details of tax evasions and frauds, he said we have identified a tax potential worth Rs600 billion that was not collected, out of which, one billion rupees has been recovered so far.

In customs, through misclassification, tax worth around Rs50 to 200 billion has been identified, he said.

The minister said the government is also working on the simplification of the tax processes to facilitate the business and salaried persons. Through this simplified process, they will be able to respond to our system in a very simple and easy manner without the involvement of any tax consultant, he said.

He said that the expansion of the tax to other sectors like retailers, real estate, builders and developers and agriculture would help to create a space to provide relief and reduce the

burden from the existing taxpayers. He said that the government was fully determined to bring the un-taxed and under-taxed sectors into the tax net.

The minister said that through digital data analytics, the FBR has identified about 4.9 million income tax non-filers and they were pointed out on the basis of basic data regarding travelling abroad, a number of vehicles and others.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb said that at the initial stage, the government is going to right-size five ministries, including Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, SAFRON, Industries and Production, Information Technology and Telecom and Health have been short-listed in this regard. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will take the final decision to this effect.

He said that federal government has collected all data on 4.9 million non-filers' assets, houses, foreign travel, and cars and will start issuing notices to enforce tax regime. He mentioned that non-filers would no longer receive direct notices from tax officers, reducing harassment and ensuring a centralised notification system.

He said this data, which was collected from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and other sources, will not be used to harass non-filers but to bring them into the tax net. He said that the notices will be issued centrally, with field formations only contacting individuals where necessary. Effective enforcement action will be taken against tax defaulters, he added.

He stated that efforts are being made to ease the tax burden on the lower-income population while simplifying the taxation process for traders.

The minister criticised tax defaulters for not being loyal to the nation, urging that tax payments are crucial for economic stability. He highlighted the need to streamline government expenditures and discussed potential mergers of certain ministries.

He also mentioned detailed discussions with Chinese officials on energy, including the conversion of coal power plants to local coal and the issuance of Panda Bonds.

He said Chinese ministers praised Pakistan's negotiations with the IMF and assured support for the agreement's approval by the IMF board.

The finance minister stressed the importance of simplifying tax processes, comparing it to the straightforward tax systems in other countries, where annual forms provide clear tax details without the need for legal assistance.

He said without including untaxed and under tax community into tax regime, we cannot achieve certainty and ease of collection that is vital for economic stability.

The minister also mentioned that positive discussions on CPEC Phase-II are ongoing, and working groups will be formed soon to further these initiatives.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/29/1-page/1000933-news.html>

Daily Times

China: one step ahead

Kazim Laghari

After the successful mediation of rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran, China has taken again one step forward in the international arena as it has mediated fourteen factions of Gaza in Beijing including Hamas and Fatah groups, which are severe rivals of each other. Hamas has been ruling Gaza since 2007 and Fatah rules the West Bank in the form of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Beijing's declaration glaringly mentioned in their mediation agenda that a unity government would be the day after the Gaza war and achieve Palestinian independence at an early date. These two themes are highly appreciable from the Palestinian point of view and are in fair contrast with Israel and its allies' brewing plan for the day after for Gaza.

It is worth highlighting that with peaceful mediation, China has been rising as an influential mediator across the world particularly in the Middle East. Repercussions of Iran and Saudi Arabia détente were heard in Yemen also, as the escalation between Houthi rebels, backed by Iran, and the Saudi-led coalition Government widely observed a decrease and less intensification. However, repeated calls for a ceasefire from human rights organizations as well as countries across the globe have not forced the USA to rein in Israel against attacks civilians in Gaza. Though the US, a big ally of Israel, has taken some initiatives and asked for a ceasefire in the Gaza war, the result still has been fruitless. After China mediates with Palestinian factions, the US and Israel may take now serious actions and step forward for productive actions.

Prime Facie, China has emerged as a conciliatory and peace-led country. With its business-focused economy and flagship projects mindset, Xi-led China has been working on peace and a war-free environment for business and trade. Contrary to this, the history of the US shows its collusion mindset in wars and machination inclination. From Iraq's war to Afghanistan and the Cold War era evidence of the USA how played a biased role in being a Super Power.

Moreover, after Joe Biden's drop out from the USA's presidential election and Donald Trump's likely winning assumptions global diplomacy has also got shake-up gaits. Recently, Ukraine's top diplomat said that Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has visited China and met his counterpart Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the discussion lasts for three hours. He further said that Ukraine is ready to talk with Russia if it acts in good faith. Considering Trump's talks about lessening Ukrainian aid and NATO's reformation, the Ukrainians have been brewing their preemptive measures for sorting out the conflict of a Russian invasion.

Besides, the motives of China behind mediation in Middle Eastern countries have widely been drawn by some corners that China has been on the horizon for extending its influence in the Middle East. As the Arab countries with oil-rich economies are stepping ahead to shore up their economies beyond oil reliance, Saudi Arabia's Neom plan and UAE's extension of corporate hubs are some incentives for China to stretch its feet in the Middle East. Xi-led

China with a business-oriented economy has been extending its arms to catch the Arab countries' new markets.

However, some corners have another point of view, as they have been expressing that China is strengthening its flanks and showing to the USA with such mediations. Moreover, China has been vitalizing its position across the globe and challenging the old-world order setters. Taking advantage of global diplomacy's staggering, China is on its way to building its position as strong as a superpower.

Considering the scenario of mediation and expressed views it has become clear that China with the second biggest economy in the world has taken the lead against its competitors USA and Western countries. With détente between severe rivals Saudi and Iran and agreeing Gaza's factions including Hamas and Fatah groups on a unity government in Gaza, China has widely strengthened its position in the Middle East. Eventually, if China succeeds in mediating between Russia and Ukraine, the West including the USA will be shocked and their influence might be lost. With such a leading role China may have a slot as a strong country on other polar which can challenge the West order. Taking that role China should continue its peace mediator and business expanding position. Learning a lesson from the USA China should not indulge in war or proxy wars otherwise it may lose such a strong built position.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1212633/china-one-step-ahead/>

China-aided poverty alleviation projects win praise

A group of 19 officials, business representatives, and experts in charge of economic development cooperation from Islamabad, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab participated here in a recent two-week seminar. The seminar, hosted by China Center for Urban Development of the National Development and Reform Commission, is one of the 2024 bilateral training programs supported by China aid. From China's land system and the development history of China's urbanization, to the background and experience of China's relocation for poverty alleviation, as well as China's industrial poverty alleviation policies and practices, food security, smart agricultural development, and rural public services improvement, the trainees gained a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of China's poverty alleviation process. The two week seminar concluded on July 24, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. In Zunyi and Bijie City of Guizhou Province in southwest China, the participants gained first-hand experience of China's poverty alleviation and rural revitalization efforts. The delegation experienced batik and embroidery techniques of the Miao ethnic group in Zhijin County, which has a history of more than 2,000 years. It visited local production workshops and folk villages to gain a detailed understanding of the output, value, and market of local traditional handicrafts, and how they improve the employment and income of local people. In Huawu, once a village mired in poverty, now it embraces clean and tidy roads and charming antique houses. All the participants spoke highly of its transformation and marveled at its successful organic connection between poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, as well as the integration of rural ecological revitalization, industrial revitalization, and cultural revitalization. <https://dailytimes.com.pk/1212572/china-aided-poverty-alleviation-projects-win-praise/>

Local coal gets nod from China for three power plants

China has approved the conversion of three coal-fired power plants in Pakistan from imported coal to local coal, a significant move aimed at reducing energy costs. Sources confirmed that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Energy Minister Owais Leghari, facilitated the agreement.

The plants affected include the 1,320 MW Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, the 1,320 MW Hub Power Plant, and the 1,320 MW Port Qasim Power Plant, all known for producing some of Pakistan's most expensive electricity.

The Chinese delegation provided a positive response regarding the re-profiling of these coal power plants, ensuring a shift to local coal.

The two countries also outlined the future steps required to advance this conversion process. Additionally, Chinese officials assured full support for Pakistan regarding Panda Bonds, further solidifying the cooperation between the two nations.

Meetings between Pakistani and Chinese officials will continue to address the conversion and re-profiling of the power plants.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1212620/local-coal-gets-nod-from-china-for-three-power-plants/>

Pakistan banks on China for approval of IMF deal

* *Finance Minister Aurangzeb says Beijing will support Islamabad for the cause*

* *Says govt focusing on rightsizing different ministries, divisions to cut expenditure*

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb Sunday said that the Chinese Government has commended Pakistan's negotiation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and assured to play its role in securing approval from the Fund's board.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that he along with the Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari had visited China and held constructive meetings with the Chinese authorities including the Finance Minister of China and the President Bank of China.

The minister further informed that he also visited China along with the energy minister at the start of last month (June) and held discussions on different aspects of bilateral trade and economic cooperation including local energy requirements and launching of Panda bonds in the Chinese markets.

During the recent visit to China re-profiling of energy sector loans was also discussed, he said adding that the conversion of energy plants into coal and other aspects for affordable energy generation were also discussed during different high-level meetings.

He said that the Chinese authorities acknowledged and ensured that our issues are registered with the right forum adding that the process has to be followed to take them forward. He said they also wanted to help the country in terms of re-profiling.

He added that this would be done through the context of a memorandum of understandings or various working groups which would be formed to take the matters forward during the days

to come. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that China is ranked among the world's biggest capital markets and Pakistan plans to issue these bonds to diversify its funding sources and strengthen its foreign exchange reserves by attracting Chinese investors. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had also discussed the local energy requirements with the Chinese top leadership urging them to evolve a mechanism for extending their support to overcome power supply needs for the socio-economic development of the country. Regarding the IMF programme, the finance minister further informed that the discussion with the Fund had remained positive and constructive, adding that all the set benchmarks were achieved.

He said that China, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have always extended their supports for Pakistan for its economic growth and development. Meanwhile, the minister said that the incumbent government was also taking several measures in domestic front for turning around the local economy, adding that special emphasis was paid on the taxation side by bringing the non-taxed sectors into the tax net for broadening the tax base. He said that to realize the 13 percent tax to GDP ratio, it was prerequisite to take measures for the simplification of tax returns and facilitating the tax pairs to achieve full compliance, adding that the government has launched Tajir Dost Scheme for voluntary tax compliance that offers benefits to unregistered businesses.

He said that the government was determined to introduce the same facilities for other sectors to simplify the tax return process. He said that the expansion of the tax to other sectors like retailers, real estate, builders and developers and agriculture would help to create a space to provide relief and reduce the burden from the existing tax pairs, adding that the government was fully determined to bring the un-taxed and under-taxed sectors into the tax net.

He said that the Prime Minister himself was monitoring the tax sector reforms and digitization of the tax collecting system to plug the leakages as well as identifying the under-taxed or un-taxed to enhance revenue collection in the country. Through digital data analytics, the Federal Board of Revenue has identified about 4.9 million income tax non-filers, adding that those were pointed out on the basis of basic data regarding traveling abroad, a number of vehicles and others, he added.

The minister said that the government was also focusing on right-sizing the different ministries and divisions to minimize its expenditure and create more fiscal space for social sector development, adding that in the first phase work on the right-sizing of five ministries was in progress. He said that as soon as the progress would be made on the right sizing of these institutions, it would be implemented as well and shared with the media.

The finance minister admitted the fact that inflation went up after the GST measures were introduced in the Federal Budget for the Fiscal Year 2-24-25, however, he said that some elements were taking undue benefit and artificially sparking the prices of essential commodities. The minister warned that such elements would be dealt with iron hands and directed the provincial government to enhance their vigilance through the price monitoring committees and ensure the fair prices of these commodities across the country to facilitate the common man in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1212629/pakistan-banks-on-china-for-approval-of-imf-deal/>

Pakistan Observer

China to support Pakistan in securing IMF deal: Aurangzeb

Says, Govt has complete data of 4.9m non-filers; FBR's tax officers will not be able to send notices directly to non-filers; Announces tax reforms, five ministries' right-sizing plans Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced that China will support Pakistan in securing approval for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement. The statement was made during a press conference in Islamabad, highlighting ongoing efforts to improve the country's economic situation. FM Aurangzeb emphasised the need to provide facilities to the public if taxes are to be increased, pointing out that both the United States and China are vital partners for Pakistan. He stated that efforts are being made to ease the tax burden on the lower-income population while simplifying the taxation process for traders. FM Aurangzeb criticised tax defaulters for not being loyal to the nation, urging that tax payments are crucial for economic stability. The finance minister noted that reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) are discussed weekly, and provincial governments are encouraged to legislate taxes in the agricultural sector.

FM Aurangzeb highlighted the need to streamline government expenditures and discussed potential mergers of certain ministries. He also mentioned detailed discussions with Chinese officials on energy, including the conversion of coal power plants to local coal and the issuance of Panda Bonds. Chinese ministers praised Pakistan's negotiations with the IMF and assured support for the agreement's approval by the IMF board. The finance minister stressed the importance of simplifying tax processes, comparing it to the straightforward tax systems in other countries, where annual forms provide clear tax details without the need for legal assistance. Meanwhile, The Finance Minister said reforms are being done in the FBR and in this regard weekly meetings are held under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that putting less burden on lower income class is the government's top priority. He noted that strengthening the economy requires paying taxes and providing public services. The minister also mentioned that 4.9 million non-filers have been identified in the income tax system. Mentioning the details of tax evasions and frauds, he said we have identified a tax potential worth 600 billion rupees that was not collected, out of which one billion rupees has been recovered so far. In customs, through misclassification, tax worth around 50 to 200 billion rupees has been identified. He urged media to start a campaign against under tax and un taxed community. The Minister said the government is also working on the simplification of the tax processes to facilitate the business and salaried persons. Through this simplified process, they will be able to respond to our system in a very simple and easy manner without the involvement of any tax consultant. Expressing gratitude to the Chief Ministers of all four provinces for supporting government's tax reforms agenda, he expressed hope that they will introduce tax legislations for inclusion of Agricultural sector in the taxation regime.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-support-pakistan-in-securing-imf-deal-aurangzeb/#:~:text=Finance%20Minister%20Muhammad%20Aurangzeb%20announced,improve%20the%20country's%20economic%20situation.>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین تعلقات کے خلاف امریکی سینیٹر کا بل

امریکی سینیٹ میں ریپبلکن سینیٹر مارکو روہیو نے بل پیش کیا جس میں چین کے بڑھتے اتر اور سوخ اور پاکستان کی جانب سے مہینہ خطرہ سے نمٹنے کے لیے بھارت کی مدد کا وعدہ کیا گیا ہے۔ بل میں بھارت کے ساتھ اسرائیل، کوریا، جاپان اور نیٹو جیسے اتحادیوں کی طرح کے برتاؤ پر زور دیا گیا ہے۔ بل میں بھارت کے خلاف مہینہ اقدامات پر پاکستان کی امداد روکنے اور کانگریس کو آگاہ کرنے کی تجویز دی گئی جبکہ نئی دہلی کے ساتھ واشنگٹن کے 'سٹرٹیجک، سفارتی، اقتصادی اور فوجی تعلقات' میں اضافے کی تجویز بھی پیش کی گئی ہے۔ بل منظور ہونے کی صورت میں پاکستان پر نمایاں اثرات مرتب ہو سکتے ہیں، خاص طور پر ایسے وقت میں جب اسلام آباد اور واشنگٹن اپنے دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے کام کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین بڑھتے مثالی تعلقات، اقتصادیات، اترجی اور ٹیکنالوجی کے میدان میں چین کا بھرپور تعاون اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی بی سی) کے آپریشنل ہونے کے بعد سامنے آنے والے اس کے ثمرات امریکا اور بھارت کو ایک آنکھ نہیں بھارے، یہ دونوں ملک خطے کے گیم چیئنگر منصوبے سی پیک کو سبوتاژ کرنے کی ہر ممکن کوشش کر رہے ہیں حتیٰ کہ سی پیک منصوبے پر کام کرنے والے چینی انجینئرز کو دہشت گردی کا نشانہ بنا کر اس منصوبے کو نقصان پہنچانے اور پاک چین تعلقات میں دراڑیں ڈالنے میں کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑی مگر پاکستانی اور چینی قیادت نے انتہائی بالغ نظری اور معاملہ فہمی سے کام لے کر آپس کے تعلقات کو مزید موثر اور مضبوط بنایا۔ تاریخ پر نظر ڈالی جائے تو دوسری جنگ عظیم سے اب تک امریکا کا کردار ہمیشہ دہشت گرد ملک کا رہا ہے۔ اپنے مفادات کی خاطر سب سے زیادہ انسانی قتل اس کے ہاتھوں ہوا جبکہ دنیا کا مہلک ترین ہتھیار بنا کر اسے چلانے میں بھی اس نے کوئی عار محسوس نہیں کی جس کے زخم جاپان آج بھی چاٹ رہا ہے۔ امریکا اپنے دفاع کی آڑ میں اپنے اتحادیوں کے ساتھ مل کر اب تک کئی ملکوں کو تباہ کر چکا ہے اور وہ اپنے فطری اتحادی بھارت کو ہر قسم کے ہتھیار فراہم کر کے اس کی مکمل سرپرستی کر رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں ہونے والی بدترین دہشت گردی میں بھارت ہی ملوث ہے جس کے ٹھوس ثبوت ڈویژن کی صورت میں پاکستان کئی بار عالمی طاقتوں کو فراہم کر چکا ہے۔ امریکا پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی دوستی کو دم تو بھرتا ہے مگر حقیقت یہ ہے کہ اس دوستی کی آڑ میں جتنا نقصان امریکا نے پاکستان کو پہنچایا، اتنا اس کے اندرونی اور بیرونی دشمنوں نے نہیں پہنچایا۔ اس لیے امریکا کے حوالے سے پاکستان کو اپنی پالیسی پر نہ صرف نظر ثانی کرنی چاہیے بلکہ اس کے آئے روز کے پروپیگنڈوں کے خلاف موثر اقدامات کرنے کی بھی ضرورت ہے تاکہ پاکستان کے خلاف امریکی ریشہ دوانیوں کا ٹھوس بنیادوں پر سدباب کیا جاسکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-07-29/page-5/detail-9>

July 30, 2024

Business Recorder

Quad foreign ministers decry 'dangerous S China Sea actions'

TOKYO: Foreign ministers from Australia, India, Japan and the United States said on Monday they were seriously concerned about "intimidating" and "dangerous" manoeuvres in the South China Sea and pledged to bolster maritime security in the region.

The joint statement came after talks between the so-called 'Quad' countries in Tokyo, attended by Australia's Penny Wong, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Japan's Yoko Kamikawa and Antony Blinken from the US.

They also followed security discussions between Tokyo and Washington on Sunday where the allies labelled China the "greatest strategic challenge" facing the region.

"We are seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterate our strong opposition to any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion," the ministers said in the statement, which did not directly mention China.

They also expressed serious concern about the militarization of disputed features and coercive and intimidating manoeuvres in the South China Sea, including dangerous use of coast guard and maritime militia vessels.

Chinese vessels have repeatedly clashed with Philippine ships around the disputed Second Thomas Shoal in recent months, although the two countries reached a provisional agreement earlier this month that aims to ease tensions.

The Quad group said they were working on a series of initiatives to maintain “the free and open maritime order” including working with partners to bolster domain awareness and a plan to set up a new maritime legal dialogue.

“We are charting a course for a more secure and open Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region by bolstering maritime security and domain awareness,” Blinken said in remarks to reporters after the meeting.

“It means strengthening the capacity of partners across the region to know what’s happening in their own waters,” he added.

He said the US would continue to work with its partners to ensure freedom of navigation and the unimpeded flow of lawful maritime commerce.

The US announced plans on Sunday for a major revamp of its military command in Japan to deepen coordination with its ally’s forces.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/30/5-page/1001070-news.html>

The Nation

Pakistan credited as guest of honour at 8th China-South Asia Expo

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan was credited as Guest of Honour at 8th China-South Asia Expo, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. As per the report, Pakistan took centre stage as the country of honour at the recently concluded 8th China-South Asia Expo held in Kunming from July 23 to 28.

With a grand total of over 170 stalls, Pakistan showcased its vibrant economic diversity through a myriad of products ranging from exquisite furniture and carpets to fresh fruits, intricate handicrafts made from bronze and onyx, and dazzling jewellery, all housed within the Pakistan Pavilion inspired by the iconic Lahore Fort.

The engagement of Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi at the expo bolstered Pakistan’s prominence.

“The China-South Asia Expo serves as a testament to China’s unwavering dedication to enhancing economic ties and promoting regional integration,” remarked Ambassador Hashmi in an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro.

“I am delighted to see Pakistan’s diverse range of products on display, showcasing our nation’s rich cultural heritage and economic potential,” he added.

One of the highlights of the Pakistani Pavilion was the spectacular mango display curated by Dr Adnan Hafeez. With an impressive selection of over a ton of mangoes, featuring three

prized varieties—Sindhri, Langra, and SB Chaunsa, Dr Hafeez aimed to introduce the sweetness and diversity of Pakistani mangoes to the Chinese consumers. The 8th China-South Asia Expo and the concurrent 28th China Kunming Import and Export Fair attracted over 2,000 enterprises from 82 countries, regions and international organisations, including Nepal and Malaysia, underscoring its status as a premier event for promoting economic cooperation and cultural exchange in the region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Jul-2024/pakistan-credited-as-guest-of-honour-at-8th-china-south-asia-expo#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%20%2D%20Pakistan%20was%20credited%20as,from%20July%202023%20to%202028.>

July 31, 2024

Business Recorder

CG explains China-Pakistan bilateral relationship

KARACHI: The Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong has said China firmly supports Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Pakistan and China have confirmed a “zero tolerance” stance against all forms of terrorism and further strengthening anti-terrorism security cooperation, the Chinese Consul General said while speaking at Meet the Press Programme at Karachi Press Club (KPC) here on Tuesday.

He said China supports Pakistan in independently choosing a development path that is in line with its national conditions, supports its efforts to maintain national security, stability, development and prosperity, its resolute fight against terrorism, its greater role in international and regional affairs.

“And we wish Pakistan to achieve socioeconomic development, prosperity, unity, stability and security”, he said. The active development of China-Pakistan relations will always remain a priority in China’s diplomacy, he added.

The Consul General said China has been on the path of rapid development since the late 1970s and early 1980s when it implemented the policies of reform and opening up. Pakistan has always been an important partner of China. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, and at the same year, China and Pakistan announced the launch of CPEC construction, making it an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. The two sides have adhered to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and have made significant achievements in corridor construction, changing Pakistan’s development landscape, benefiting Pakistani people’s livelihoods, and promoting integrated development of China and Pakistan.

Currently, the two sides will build on the achievements of the CPEC and jointly promote the implementation of the eight actions for high-quality BRI cooperation proposed by China, jointly developing five major corridors for growth, better life, innovation, green development and openness, creating an upgraded version of the CPEC construction, and aligning with Pakistan’s “5Es” framework which includes Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment and climate

change, Energy and infrastructure and Equity and Empowerment to better benefit the two countries and peoples, he said.

In major cooperation, the two sides have included the upgrade and renovation of Main Line-1 (ML-1) project into the CPEC framework. It is recognised that ML-1 is of strategic significance to Pakistan's socioeconomic development. Both sides agreed to accelerate the rerouting of the Karakoram Highway (Raikot to Thakot) and the upgrade of the Khunjerab-Sost Pass inspection infrastructure, striving for year-round opening of the Pass. Gwadar Port is a key node for regional connectivity, and the new Gwadar International Airport will be completed soon. Both sides agreed to speed up the construction of supporting facilities at Gwadar Port, so as to release the full potential of Gwadar Port as a transshipment cargo hub, he said.

He said industrial cooperation is the top priority for high-quality CPEC construction. China supports Pakistan's industrialisation, encouraging Chinese enterprises to explore the opportunities to invest in Pakistan's special economic zones under market-oriented and commercial principles, enhancing Pakistan's industrial and export capabilities. It is hoped that Pakistan optimizes its business environment and provides more favourable policies for Chinese investment. He said mining cooperation is a key breakthrough in industrial cooperation, and both sides will actively promote Chinese enterprises to carry out investment and cooperation in the mining industry in Pakistan, and jointly strengthen the planning of mining industrial parks, including deep processing of minerals.

“Agriculture is a pillar industry in Pakistan, and both sides will carry out practical cooperation in seed technology, crop cultivation, drip irrigation, pest and disease control, agricultural mechanization, capacity cooperation, and technical exchanges in modern agriculture. Additionally, both sides will actively explore clean energy, artificial intelligence, financial technology, and even space cooperation.”

The Consul General said security and development are two inseparable sides of the same coin. Without security, there is no guarantee for development. During his meeting with Prime Minister Shahbaz, President Xi Jinping clearly stated that China supports Pakistan's resolute fight against terrorism and hopes Pakistan continues to create a safe, stable, and predictable business environment, ensuring the safety of Chinese people, projects, and institutions in Pakistan.

The Pakistani side has made the commitment to resolutely combat and severely punish the terrorists, and will use all its strength to ensure the safety of Chinese people and institutions in Pakistan. Both sides confirmed a “zero tolerance” stance against all forms of terrorism and further strengthening anti-terrorism security cooperation. “We firmly believe that with strong guidance from the high-level consensus of the two countries and joint efforts of relevant departments, security cooperation between the two countries will surely reach a higher level, creating a safe environment and providing reliable guarantees for the development of China-Pakistan relations”, he added.

He informed that the Communist Party of China held its third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee in Beijing two weeks ago with the theme to closely focus on promoting Chinese modernisation and further deepening reform comprehensively. It is of great significance for China's development and opening up in the coming years. In the next five

years, all the reform tasks proposed in this session will be completed. The goal is to build a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects by 2035.

He said despite the uncertain international situation and the slow recovery of the world economy, China's economy still maintains a good momentum of development. In the first half of this year, China's GDP reached RMB 61.7 trillion, an increase of 5.0 percent year-on-year, which is still at the forefront of the world's major economies. China has maintained its position as the world's largest trading country in goods for seven consecutive years, and its international market shares in exports and imports has remained the first and the second respectively in the world for 15 consecutive years.

Meanwhile, China's outbound investment has ranked among the top three in the world for 11 consecutive years, with capital flows covering 155 countries and regions around the world. In the first half of the year, China's imports and exports exceeded 21 trillion yuan for the first time, up 6.1 percent year-on-year, with the growth rate of some indicators reaching double digits. Thanks to the strong performance of foreign trade, IMF raised the projection of China's economic growth rate this year to 5.0 percent in its recently released "World Economic Outlook Report".

He said Karachi Press Club is one of the earliest established journalists' clubs in Pakistan and plays an irreplaceable role in integrating media resources and promoting communication. The Chinese Consulate General in Karachi has always maintained a good working relationship with KPC. Chinese Consulate General supports the continuous growth and development of KPC and will continue to provide all possible support.

Saeed Sarbazi, President KPC, in his speech said that the support extended by China has played a pivotal role in the economic development of Pakistan. This partnership has been marked by significant contributions, most notably in the realms of nuclear energy and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "These initiatives have not only bolstered our infrastructure and energy capacities but have also paved the way for a brighter, more prosperous future for our people", he said.

Chinese assistance in the field of nuclear energy has been instrumental in addressing energy needs in Pakistan, he said.

The CPEC project, a flagship initiative of the Belt and Road Initiative, has transformed the economic landscape of Pakistan. It has created jobs, enhanced trade, and opened new avenues for investment, he added.

Shoaib Ahmed, Secretary KPC while welcoming the Chinese Consul General and his team said the friendly relations between Pakistan and China are based on mutual interest. "People from both sides are well aware about the importance of these brotherly relations and love and respect each other", he said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/31/4-page/1001201-news.html>

Chinese leaders pledge to tilt stimulus towards consumers

BEIJING: Chinese leaders signalled on Tuesday that the stimulus measures needed to reach this year's economic growth target will be directed at consumers, pointing to a "batch of incremental policy steps" to boost domestic demand.

The world's second-largest economy missed growth forecasts in the second quarter and faces deflationary pressures, with retail sales and imports significantly underperforming industrial output and exports.

The Politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, pledged at the end of its July meeting to pursue a "proactive" fiscal policy, and reiterated the need for a "prudent" monetary framework.

"The meeting stressed that it is necessary to focus on boosting consumption to expand domestic demand, and the focus of economic policy should be more to benefit people's livelihood and promote consumption," the official news agency Xinhua said.

It said policies should increase residents' income "through multiple channels" and enhance the "ability and willingness" of low- and middle-income groups to spend.

It also said economic measures should improve elderly and child care, and "weave a dense and solid social security net." As widely expected, no specific steps were announced, but the leadership gave instructions for a "timely launch (of) a batch of incremental policy measures." Politburo meetings set the direction of policies. Various government departments are expected to come out with policy announcements in the coming weeks and months as they seek to implement the latest guidelines.

The yuan, and Chinese stocks and bonds were little changed following the announcement.

After unshackling the economy from three years of COVID-19 restrictions, Chinese officials had hoped that stimulating the industrial sector would stabilise the job market and lead to higher wages and consumption.

What happened instead was that greater industrial capacity led to price wars and a cost-cutting race that kept wages depressed, fuelling job uncertainty and adding to the pain among consumers caused by the property sector downturn.

"The government recognises that domestic demand is weak," said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

Authorities have already signalled in recent weeks a shift to a more supportive policy stance for the second half of the year.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/31/5-page/1001226-news.html>

Remaining PSM land

Centre, Sindh agree to establish SEZ

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer on Tuesday discussed the revival of the Pakistan Steel Mill plan and the establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the remaining land.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Industries Jam Ikarm Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Industries Yasin Shar, and the Federal Minister was assisted by Federal Secretary for Industries Saif Anjum and his team, according to a CM House communique on Tuesday.

The chief minister said that the proposed Special Economic Zone project was discussed in the cabinet on May 30, 2024. He added that his cabinet proposed the federal government establish the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the extra land of Pakistan Steel Mill.

CM Murad Shah said that his cabinet was of the view that the 700 acres of land earmarked for the Pakistan Steel Mills plant should be kept intact for the revitalisation of the Steel Mills Plant or setting up a new Steel Mill, any additional requirement of land for the purpose should be worked out mutually.

At this, Federal Minister Rana Tanveer proposed that the Federal Government was ready to allow the Provincial Government to revive the old steel mill plant or install a new one on its 700 acres.

Sindh CM said that the 4,840 acres of land may be utilized to set up SEZ for the federal and provincial government. Rana Tanveer said that the federal government from its resources would start developing the SEZ to be given to Chinese investors.

Murad Shah said that the SEZ was located close to the sea, and its infrastructure was in place along with necessary water and gas facilities. He added that these facilities would be enough to make the SEZ one of the best zones in the country.

The provincial and federal governments agreed to complete the paperwork at the earliest so that the zone could be established promptly.

The Special Economic Zone would generate employment opportunities and contribute to the country's economy. —NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/07/31/12-page/1001302-news.html>

The News

China CG emphasizes importance of Gwadar

Jamal Khurshid

KARACHI: Referring to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, the Chinese Consul General, Yang Yundong, said on Tuesday that the Pakistani side had committed to combating and severely punishing terrorists and would use all its strength to ensure the safety of Chinese people and institutions in Pakistan.

He emphasized that both countries confirmed a "zero tolerance" for all forms of terrorism and further strengthened anti-terrorism security cooperation.

Yang Yundong expressed China's firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Speaking at the "Meet the Press" event at the Karachi Press Club, the Chinese consul general said China supports Pakistan in independently choosing a development path that aligns with its national conditions, maintaining national security, stability, development and prosperity, and fighting terrorism.

“We wish Pakistan to achieve socio-economic development, prosperity, unity, stability, and security,” he said. “The active development of China-Pakistan relations will always remain a priority in China’s diplomacy.”

He highlighted the comprehensive and in-depth cooperation between China and Pakistan, noting the construction of Karakoram Highway as a testament to their strong partnership. He added that during Sharif’s visit, the leaders of both countries reached a broad consensus on deepening their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, promoting practical cooperation in various fields, and addressing international and regional issues of common concern.

The consul general stressed that China and Pakistan would continue to develop their relations strategically and long-term, safeguard common interests, promote socio-economic development, enhance the well-being of both peoples, and jointly maintain regional peace, stability and development.

Regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he mentioned plans to build on its achievements and implement the eight actions for high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation proposed by China. This includes developing five major corridors for growth, better life, innovation, green development and openness, creating an upgraded version of CPEC construction aligned with Pakistan’s “5Es” framework — exports, E-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment.

Yang Yundong noted that the upgrade and renovation of Main Line-1 (ML-1) project have been included in the CPEC framework, recognising its strategic significance to Pakistan’s socio-economic development. Both sides agreed to explore phased advancements of the project and discuss financing models as per the leaders’ consensus. Additionally, they agreed to accelerate the rerouting of the Karakoram Highway (Raikot to Thakot) and upgrade the Khunjerab-Sost Pass inspection infrastructure for year-round opening.

He emphasized the importance of Gwadar Port as a regional connectivity node, noting the impending completion of the new Gwadar International Airport and the need to accelerate supporting facilities at the port to fully realise its potential as a transshipment cargo hub.

The Chinese consul general also highlighted industrial cooperation as a priority for high-quality CPEC construction, encouraging Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan’s special economic zones under market-oriented and commercial principles, thereby enhancing Pakistan’s industrial and export capabilities. He urged Pakistan to optimise its business environment and provide favourable policies for Chinese investment, emphasizing the potential for cooperation in the mining industry and agriculture.

He expressed the hope for joint efforts in clean energy, artificial intelligence, financial technology and space cooperation, stating that these initiatives would inject new momentum into China-Pakistan cooperation. He reiterated China’s support for Pakistan’s fight against terrorism, emphasising the need for a safe business environment for Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

Yang Yundong also addressed the challenges facing global economic globalisation, emphasising the need for governments and enterprises worldwide to oppose unilateralism and protectionism and to maintain global economic order and supply chain security. He noted that

China continues to be an attractive investment destination, with a stable economy and a favourable environment for foreign investment.

He concluded by acknowledging the uncertain global situation but expressed optimism about China's economic outlook. He praised the Karachi Press Club's role in promoting China-Pakistan friendship and people-to-people exchanges, highlighting the strong working relationship between the Chinese Consulate General and the club. KPC President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shoaib Ahmed also spoke.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=328846>

Chinese Newspapers

July 16, 2024

Global Times

China-Pakistan green cooperation gains pace, a viable model of sustainable development: expert

Ma Tong

Pakistan and China are deepening cooperation in emerging green sectors through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute told the Global Times in a recent exclusive interview. Sayed viewed the green CPEC project as a global model of people-centered, win-win cooperation that significantly advances new energy transition and sustainable economic development.

The comments came ahead of the 8th China-South Asia Expo, which is scheduled to take place in Kunming, Southwest China's Yunnan Province, on July 23-28. During the Expo, green energy will stand out as a crucial sector where the two regions aim to enhance extensive and diversified business cooperation, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

Sayed highlighted accelerating Chinese industry relocation and technology transfer to Pakistan to enhance bilateral cooperation across green sectors. "This process will fuel local economic development and energy transition while allowing Chinese firms to benefit from Pakistan's lower production costs, facilitating China's green engagements with Central Asia and the Middle East," he said.

CPEC, a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is now upgrading into a green economic corridor. Sayed noted that the initiative has significantly benefited Pakistan by addressing its energy crunch, improving intra-country and cross-regional connectivity, developing local infrastructure, and revitalizing ports for enhanced commerce.

Pakistan is committed to developing renewable energy projects and investing in eco-friendly initiatives within the green CPEC by absorbing and utilizing Chinese advanced expertise and technologies, Sayed said, acknowledging the necessity of securing financial support from China.

"Drawing investments from Panda Bonds, which are yuan-denominated debts issued by foreign entities in China, along with green bonds issued by Chinese banks, will contribute to funding green projects and fostering sustainable development in Pakistan," Sayed said.

Since its establishment in 2013, CPEC had cumulatively created 236,000 jobs for Pakistan and contributed to the addition of 510 kilometers of highways, 8,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity, and 886 kilometers of expressway network across the country, according to official data.

Various energy projects under CPEC, such as wind energy and hydroelectric projects in northern Pakistan, are the country's notable efforts toward diversifying the energy matrix. Chinese investments can help Pakistan reduce dependence on imported fuels while supporting its vision of reaching 30 percent of green energy capacity in the power mix by 2030, according to Sayed.

In June, the first unit of the China-built Suki Kinari Hydropower project in northwest Pakistan entered its wet testing phase, marking a major step towards official operation and power generation, furthering the progress of renewable energy cooperation under the CPEC, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Looking forward, Sayed said that more joint ventures are expected, focusing on localizing solar panel cells manufacturing in Pakistan.

"Our way is to facilitate low-carbon investment from China into Pakistan, establish clear green investment criteria for Chinese investors, as well as ensure projects' financial viability, security, and profitability," he said, adding that Pakistan is eager to cooperate with and learn from China.

Pakistan-China cooperation exemplifies people-centric cooperation between countries, Sayed said. "China has been prioritizing ecological and environmental protection as integral to human development, focusing more on improving people's living standards, which Pakistan views as a model for its modernization," he added.

In late May, China and Pakistan announced five new corridors for the second phase of CPEC construction, including the Innovation and Green Corridors, according to Pakistan media reports. Pakistani officials have vowed to attract more Chinese investment for joint ventures in renewable energy and modern agriculture projects.

Unlike Western models, China's economic growth is based on shared prosperity, extending mutual benefits to its partners, he said, highlighting this model's crucial role in reshaping the global landscape, while some Western countries' new Cold War mentality is overshadowing world peace and the rise of the Global South.

He criticized these countries' ongoing smear campaign against China as part of their containment strategy to hinder China's rise. They are also trying to create controversy around the BRI cooperation by labeling China's investments as placing debt traps. However, these attempts will fail, Sayed said.

The Global South is looking to China for leadership, as the future of the world economy is shifting toward the East, while the Western powers will seek confrontation to uphold their hegemony, he noted, urging the West to engage constructively with China in all potential areas, avoiding over-politicizing economic and trade issues.

Sayed is optimistic about China's growth prospects, noting despite external challenges, the Chinese economy remains resilient amid efforts for high-quality development. China's new development pattern of "dual circulation" will transform its economy into one driven by both domestic and international demand, promising a sustainable path of development, he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316122.shtml>

People's Daily

China's first all-electric propulsion communication satellite passes in-orbit tests, becomes fully operational

Deng Xiaoci

The Asia-Pacific-6E, or the APStar-6E, China's first all-electric propulsion communication satellite, has successfully passed in-orbit technology verification and ground station technology reviews in Hong Kong, which means the satellite has become fully operational after having successfully passed all in-orbit tests, according to spacecraft manufacturer China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) on Monday.

As of Monday, all tests outlined in the in-orbit testing protocol were completed successfully. The payload of the APStar-6E is functioning normally, with performance consistent with ground test results, meeting contractual specifications and in-orbit operational requirements, the CGWIC told the Global Times on Monday in a statement.

Both sets of Hall/Ion electric propulsion systems on the platform met the station-keeping requirements, read the statement.

By providing highly cost-effective, high-throughput broadband satellite resources, the APStar-6E will aid the development of the regional information industry and address the digital divide faced by developing areas, according to the CGWIC.

Developed by the China Academy of Spacecraft Technology using the DFH-3E satellite platform, the APStar-6E is the first satellite of its kind.

The APStar-6E is operated by Hong Kong-based APT Mobile Satcom Limited and managed by APT Satellite Company Limited. The APStar-6E focuses on the Southeast Asian market, providing high-capacity, cost-effective broadband communication services to the region.

The APStar-6E communication satellite and its independent propulsion module were successfully launched by a Long March-2C carrier rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan Province on January 13, 2023.

After separating from the propulsion module on January 23 of the same year, the satellite used its onboard Hall/Ion dual electric propulsion systems to autonomously change orbits, reaching geosynchronous orbit (GEO) and positioning at its test location on June 10, 2024.

The APStar-6E satellite is the new generation of all-electric propulsion commercial satellites in the DFH series and is also the first Chinese satellite to achieve autonomous orbit transfer.

After reaching the GEO, the in-orbit testing of the APStar-6E proceeded smoothly. Following the completion of the first phase of in-orbit testing on July 9, 2024, the satellite was repositioned to its operational slot at 134°E, co-located with the APStar-6C and APStar-6D.

It is equipped with 25 Ku-band user beams and 3 Ka-band gateway beams, with a communication capacity of approximately 30 Gbps and an in-orbit lifespan of 15 years.

The successful operation of the APStar-6E is significant for achieving high-capacity and low-cost satellite platforms, enhancing the international competitiveness of China's communication satellite platforms, realizing fully autonomous orbit raising and long-term autonomous operations, and improving the intelligent autonomy of China's satellite platforms, according to the CGWIC.

CGWIC, a subsidiary of the state-owned space giant China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), has conducted 13 in-orbit delivery communications satellite programs for international customers so far, and has delivered its communications satellite system to multiple countries and regions including Nigeria, Venezuela, Pakistan, Bolivia, Laos, Belarus and Algeria, the Global Times has learned.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0716/c90000-20194020.html>

China-Pakistan green cooperation gains pace, a viable model of sustainable development: expert

Ma Tong

Pakistan and China are deepening cooperation in emerging green sectors through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute told the Global Times in a recent exclusive interview.

Sayed viewed the green CPEC project as a global model of people-centered, win-win cooperation that significantly advances new energy transition and sustainable economic development.

The comments came ahead of the 8th China-South Asia Expo, which is scheduled to take place in Kunming, Southwest China's Yunnan Province, on July 23-28. During the Expo, green energy will stand out as a crucial sector where the two regions aim to enhance extensive and diversified business cooperation, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

Sayed highlighted accelerating Chinese industry relocation and technology transfer to Pakistan to enhance bilateral cooperation across green sectors. "This process will fuel local economic development and energy transition while allowing Chinese firms to benefit from Pakistan's lower production costs, facilitating China's green engagements with Central Asia and the Middle East," he said.

CPEC, a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is now upgrading into a green economic corridor. Sayed noted that the initiative has significantly benefited Pakistan

by addressing its energy crunch, improving intra-country and cross-regional connectivity, developing local infrastructure, and revitalizing ports for enhanced commerce.

Pakistan is committed to developing renewable energy projects and investing in eco-friendly initiatives within the green CPEC by absorbing and utilizing Chinese advanced expertise and technologies, Sayed said, acknowledging the necessity of securing financial support from China.

"Drawing investments from Panda Bonds, which are yuan-denominated debts issued by foreign entities in China, along with green bonds issued by Chinese banks, will contribute to funding green projects and fostering sustainable development in Pakistan," Sayed said.

Since its establishment in 2013, CPEC has cumulatively created 236,000 jobs for Pakistan and contributed to the addition of 510 kilometers of highways, 8,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity, and 886 kilometers of expressway network across the country, according to official data.

Various energy projects under CPEC, such as wind energy and hydroelectric projects in northern Pakistan, are the country's notable efforts toward diversifying the energy matrix. Chinese investments can help Pakistan reduce dependence on imported fuels while supporting its vision of reaching 30 percent of green energy capacity in the power mix by 2030, according to Sayed.

In June, the first unit of the China-built Suki Kinari Hydropower project in northwest Pakistan entered its wet testing phase, marking a major step towards official operation and power generation, furthering the progress of renewable energy cooperation under the CPEC, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Looking forward, Sayed said that more joint ventures are expected, focusing on localizing solar panel cells manufacturing in Pakistan.

"Our way is to facilitate low-carbon investment from China into Pakistan, establish clear green investment criteria for Chinese investors, as well as ensure projects' financial viability, security, and profitability," he said, adding that Pakistan is eager to cooperate with and learn from China.

Pakistan-China cooperation exemplifies people-centric cooperation between countries, Sayed said. "China has been prioritizing ecological and environmental protection as integral to human development, focusing more on improving people's living standards, which Pakistan views as a model for its modernization," he added.

In late May, China and Pakistan announced five new corridors for the second phase of CPEC construction, including the Innovation and Green Corridors, according to Pakistan media reports. Pakistani officials have vowed to attract more Chinese investment for joint ventures in renewable energy and modern agriculture projects.

Unlike Western models, China's economic growth is based on shared prosperity, extending mutual benefits to its partners, he said, highlighting this model's crucial role in reshaping the global landscape, while some Western countries' new Cold War mentality is overshadowing world peace and the rise of the Global South.

He criticized these countries' ongoing smear campaign against China as part of their containment strategy to hinder China's rise. They are also trying to create controversy around the BRI cooperation by labeling China's investments as placing debt traps. However, these attempts will fail, Sayed said.

The Global South is looking to China for leadership, as the future of the world economy is shifting toward the East, while the Western powers will seek confrontation to uphold their hegemony, he noted, urging the West to engage constructively with China in all potential areas, avoiding over-politicizing economic and trade issues.

Sayed is optimistic about China's growth prospects, noting despite external challenges, the Chinese economy remains resilient amid efforts for high-quality development. China's new development pattern of "dual circulation" will transform its economy into one driven by both domestic and international demand, promising a sustainable path of development, he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0716/c90000-20194177.html>

July 19, 2024

China Daily

China holds workshop for Pakistan meteorological experts

Twenty members of the Pakistan meteorological department, including officials, senior meteorological experts and engineers, gather in Beijing for the Training Workshop on the Application of Cloud-based Early Warning System, which kicks off on Thursday. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

Twenty members of the Pakistan meteorological department, including officials, senior meteorological experts and engineers, gathered in Beijing for the Training Workshop on the Application of Cloud-based Early Warning System, which kicked off on Thursday.

The workshop is hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and organized by the World Meteorological Centre Regional Training Center Beijing.

"Climate change is a global issue that has profound impacts on human society and the natural environment. Both China and Pakistan are suffering from the adverse effects of climate change," said Lu Shize, deputy director general of the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, at the opening of the training workshop.

He said the recent severe heat waves and floods in Pakistan have highlighted the severe challenges posed by climate change.

"Facing such challenges, the Chinese government attaches great importance to climate change issues and has taken a series of measures to address them. We have established China's Climate Change South-South Cooperation Fund with a donation of 20 billion yuan (\$2.75 billion) to support developing countries, including Pakistan, in enhancing their capacity to address climate change and promote green and low-carbon development," Lu added.

According to the organizers, the workshop aims to train Pakistani technical and management experts in the usage, development and application of the Cloud-based Early Warning System. It is believed that the workshop will enhance Pakistan's technical capabilities in meteorological observation, forecasting and disaster prevention and reduction, and to support the implementation of the United Nations Early Warnings for All initiative in Pakistan.

Next, China Meteorological Administration will send experts to Pakistan to collaborate with local meteorological workers to deploy the cloud-based system, according to the administration.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202407/19/WS669a6525a31095c51c50f026.html>

July 22, 2024

Global Times

China-Pakistan energy cooperation yields new prospects for local economy

Wang Yi

Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Pakistan's Thar region rather than imported coal, which would significantly reduce costs, Pakistan's power minister Awais Leghari said on Sunday, according to Reuters.

Pakistan's proactive efforts to enhance power supply and promote sustainable development are commendable. The shift toward utilizing local coal is expected to decrease electricity costs in Pakistan, and the move is also crucial to ensuring that domestic coal meets technical and environmental standards.

Energy cooperation between China and Pakistan has already shown progress in optimizing local resources and cutting costs.

For example, the coal-fired power plant of the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), officially began commercial operation last February. The plant is using local coal resources that were previously deemed unusable for quality problems.

The project, which includes an open-pit coal mine with an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite and a coal-fired power station with a total installed capacity of 1,320 megawatts, can provide about 9 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity per year to Pakistan's national grid, meeting the energy demand of nearly 4 million local households, according to a report by the Xinhua News Agency.

Bilateral energy cooperation will continue to expand, further enhancing the utilization of Pakistan's domestic coal resources in power generation, contributing to reducing energy costs, improving resource utilization and strengthening Pakistan's energy security.

In the bigger picture, under the synergy of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the CPEC, China and Pakistan have long established close cooperation in energy supply, and they have been focusing on green energy and localization issues. Diversified electricity projects have been implemented using advanced technology to address local shortfalls in power generation and transmission.

Since 2013, the completion and operation of coal power projects including Sahiwal, Port Qasim and Hub have reversed the local power shortage dilemma; clean energy projects such as the Karot hydropower project, the Dawood wind power project and the Bahawalpur solar power project have significantly optimized the local energy structure.

Energy cooperation between China and Pakistan is a successful example of mutually beneficial cooperation that has contributed to regional prosperity. However, some Western media reports are attempting to discredit these achievements from a geopolitical perspective. VOA on Monday claimed in an article that "China is fully occupying Pakistan's solar energy market."

By tarnishing this cooperation from a geopolitical perspective, hyping the so-called "excess green production capacity" in China, and sensationalizing Pakistan's debt and energy supply shortage issues, this is a typical smear campaign that slanders China-Pakistan cooperation and distorts the facts.

Undoubtedly, Chinese investments can help Pakistan reduce its dependence on imported fuel while supporting its vision of increasing green energy in the power mix. Smearing by Western media outlets cannot stop the energy cooperation between the two sides from increasing supply, reducing costs and making progress toward a greener direction.

By investing in new-energy projects such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power, China can help Pakistan reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and improve its energy security. This will help Pakistan meet its growing energy demand while reducing its carbon emissions and bringing unprecedented opportunities to its economy.

Bilateral cooperation under the BRI and CPEC framework is entering a new stage of development opportunity. The improvement of the power infrastructure has laid a solid foundation for industrialization and economic development in Pakistan.

With projects moving through and beyond the planning stage, China-Pakistan energy cooperation will more effectively drive economic development in Pakistan and the region.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316498.shtml>

July 24, 2024

China Daily

Expo to boost Sino-South Asian trade

ZHU WENQIAN and LI YINGQING

The China-South Asia Expo, which opened in Southwest China's Kunming, Yunnan province on Tuesday, is forecast to further promote trade and economic development, as well as tourism and cultural communication between China and South Asian countries, according to a senior official.

China as well as South Asian and Southeast Asian countries have been a human community with a shared future, and the expo aims to promote economic globalization and common

prosperity of all countries, Wang Ning, Party secretary of Yunnan province, said during the expo's opening ceremony.

"We hope to turn more exhibits into commodities. This year, the expo has increased the number of South Asian exhibition halls to two, including more than 800 booths showcasing various South Asian specialties such as Pakistani jewelry and Afghan carpets," Wang said.

The expo, the eighth edition since 2013 when the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed, runs through Sunday. This year, 82 countries, regions and international organizations are participating in the event, with over 2,000 exhibiting companies — of which nearly half are overseas enterprises — covering all countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

With 15 exhibition halls, the expo will showcase achievements of industries with significant potential for economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries. The sectors include green energy, modern agriculture, healthcare and cultural tourism.

"Yunnan boasts geographical advantages with abundant resources such as mineral resources, green electricity and plateau agriculture. Yunnan also serves as an important node connecting China and South Asia and Southeast Asia, and it has enormous potential for industrial investment," Wang said.

In particular, a coffee industry hall has been established for the first time at the expo in which over 160 industry players are participating. In addition, a dedicated national exhibition area has been set up for Pakistan, the country of honor this year.

In the past 11 years, the expo has facilitated cumulative foreign trade transactions worth over \$100 billion and the signing of over 3,000 projects.

Last year, the trade value between China and South Asian countries reached nearly \$200 billion, doubling from the level seen in 2013, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

Himalayan Threads, a handmade products maker from Nepal that offers hand-embroidered scarves, cashmere shawls and hand-woven bags, has set up three booths at the expo, and has brought more goods compared to last year, it said.

Ful Prasad Sharma, general manager of Himalayan Threads, said many Chinese consumers favor handmade products rather than machine-made ones, and the company has a large number of clients in Kunming.

"We participate in different kinds of big exhibitions in China, especially in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen in Guangdong province, Lanzhou in Gansu province and Yinchuan in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region. The business is good," Sharma said.

Meanwhile, Shanghai-based MQ Coffee, a major domestic brand, is participating with its full product lineup at the expo this year. The company is showcasing local coffee beans produced in Lancang Lahu autonomous county under the city of Pu'er, Yunnan, with its unique anaerobic sun treatment process.

By participating in the expo, MQ Coffee said it hopes more people will understand and love coffee beans produced in Pu'er, Yunnan, known as China's coffee capital, and thus further promotes the development and prosperity of China's coffee industry.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202407/24/WS66a0576da31095c51c50f97d.html>

July 25, 2024

People's Daily

**Pakistani PM hails China's efforts to secure declaration on uniting
Palestinian factions**

ISLAMABAD, July 24 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday hailed China's efforts to broker the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity.

"I particularly applaud the People's Republic of China for securing this important diplomatic success," said Sharif in a statement.

For long the people of Palestine have seen nothing but pain and suffering and the agreement ignites hope that lasting peace can be achieved, he said, adding that the world must stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and urge Israel to end its brazen violence that has destroyed Gaza and killed thousands of innocent Palestinians.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and reiterates its call for a two-state solution that creates an independent state of Palestine, Sharif said.

"Unity among Palestinian factions is essential for a strong and effective voice for peace, justice and statehood. We stand with the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination," he added.

At China's invitation, senior representatives of 14 Palestinian factions held reconciliation talks in Beijing from Sunday to Tuesday.

According to the declaration, parties believe that the Beijing talks demonstrated a positive and constructive spirit, and agree to realize national unity among all factions under the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0725/c90000-20197747.html>

July 30, 2024

China Daily

Pakistan envoy eyes more cooperation in emerging technologies with China

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi lauded the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China as highly successful, noting that it outlined a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the Chinese economy over the next 10 years and beyond. Hashmi expressed optimism about the opportunities for enhanced Pakistan-China cooperation, particularly in emerging technologies, and believes the two countries can develop greater and stronger beneficial partnerships.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202407/30/WS66a8ce1ea3104e74fddb7a02.html>