



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

November 16-30, 2023

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Supervised by Dr. Muhammad Irfan

Data collected and compiled by Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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November 16, 2023

Pakistan Observer

UVAS holds China-Pakistan training forum on livestock disease control

The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) in collaboration with the livestock and dairy development department Punjab and the China Agriculture University arranged a China-Pakistan training forum on Livestock Disease Control at a local hotel on Wednesday.

Chief Executive Officer Punjab Agriculture Research Board Dr Abid Mahmood presided over the inaugural session and Secretary Livestock & Dairy Development Department Punjab Muhammad Masood Anwar chaired concluding session while Chinese Council General Mr Zhao Shiren was the guest of honor.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad , Project Leader College of Veterinary Medicine, China Agriculture University Prof Dr He Cheng, Director Institute of Microbiology (IOM) Prof Dr Aftab Ahmed Anjum, researchers, stakeholders (dairy, livestock, meat, veterinary pharmaceutical) industries, Chinese delegation from academia and business industries, livestock department officials, professionals, UVAS faculty members and students were also present. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Dr Abid Mahmood said that it was direly needed to learn about new technologies and techniques to meet international standards to enhance dairy and meat products export in international markets. He said such training was necessary to learn about new experiences especially to control livestock major diseases and the UVAS collaborative partnership with Chinese academic and business industry would be more beneficial for both countries not only to promote academic and research but also for enhancing export as well. Masood Anwar said for the enhancing of dairy and meat export in international market the livestock department was actively working to fulfill international standards to establish FMD disease free compartments in Punjab. Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed urged Chinese to assist the UVAS .

<https://pakobserver.net/uvas-holds-china-pakistan-training-forum-on-livestock-disease-control/>

PM Kakar vows to complete ML-1 railway project on priority basis

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar foresees the Main Line (ML-1) railway project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as most favourable transit route for the regional countries.

The prime minister on Wednesday vowed to complete ML-1 on a priority basis, saying the project would also improve connectivity between the country's seaports with its economic zones.

While chairing a meeting to discuss ML-1 here at the PM House, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the project would contribute to the improvement of communication network in the country.

The prime minister said there existed huge potential for foreign investment in Pakistan Railways and stressed the need for early materialization of its projects. He stressed meeting

the targets of the project within stipulated time and directed the formulation of a comprehensive reform strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximize the benefits of the ML-1.

Emphasizing transparency in the implementation of ML-1, he said, the project would result in the creation of new employment opportunities and reduced travel time and freight rates. The meeting was told that the ML-1 project was in its final stage of modalities and its ground-breaking would be performed by early next year.

The project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood will be upgraded as per international standards.

In the next phase, the 796-kilometre-long rail track from Multan to Peshawar will be laid in line with the requirements of the future.

The meeting was attended by caretaker federal ministers including Shamshad Akhtar and Sami Saeed, PM's Adviser Ahad Khan, PM's Special Assistant Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the ministries concerned.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-kakar-vows-to-complete-ml-1-railway-project-on-priority-basis/>

Pakistani envoy inaugurates pavilion at China tourism market

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market Expo-2023, held at the China National Agriculture Center in Beijing.

The inauguration of the Pavilion was part of a series of activities aimed at celebrating year 2023 as the "Year of Tourism and Exchange" between Pakistan and China.

While commending the efforts of the exhibitors and tourism companies for the promotion of Pakistan's tourism potential, Ambassador Hashmi noted that Pakistan was bestowed with rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes and unique culinary. He encouraged Chinese tourists, academics and entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan and explore the country.

He added that the tourism exchanges between China and Pakistan held immense significance for strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Hashmi hoped that COTTM would serve as an excellent platform for networking between the tourism companies of China and Pakistan, which would contribute toward further enhancing the people to people exchanges between the two countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-envoy-inaugurates-pavilion-at-china-tourism-market/>

BRI and Xinjiang: An ideal combination of greater regional connectivity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE BRI has already "transformed" numerous countries, communities and cities of the member countries in terms of building world class infrastructure, communication, connectivity and, above all, smart living. In this regard, Xinjiang has been at the "core" of China's trade relations across the Eurasian region since the ancient Silk Road. It has "strategic" location in China's westernmost frontier that borders eight countries Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India which gives it a

comparative advantage of trans-regional connectivity, trade, transport system and, mostly importantly, human capital development.

China's Xinjiang has been dubbed as the "gateway" and "goldmine" to the BRI's projects that envisions trade and cultural connectivity along the ancient Silk Road. It is indeed vivid reflection of multiculturalism, economic regionalism, window of greater trans-regional connectivity, connecting hub and one of the biggest stimulators of trans-regional trade and commerce.

Moreover, Xinjiang's opening up is the true "essence" of China's rich ethnic diversity, development and dialogue, negating all false and fake propaganda of the West. Due to Xi's global initiatives of development, security, civilization and AI good governance it has become symbol of progress, prosperity and peaceful persuasions.

In recent years, as part of China's BRI approach, Xinjiang has witnessed rapid infrastructure development. Urumqi International Land Port in Xinjiang's capital city has been built as an integrated rail, road and flight logistics hub to facilitate trade with not only the neighbouring countries but all the way up to Europe via the China-Europe Railway Express.

At present, it has a total of 19 lines, reaching 26 cities in 21 countries. The regions with relative service advantages are mainly the Central Asian region around Xinjiang, including Russia and the countries along the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.

It follows the holistic concept of balanced development and BRI-Xinjiang is equally focused on the international as well as domestic connectivity of the region. The Lanzhou-Xinjiang High-Speed Railway that opened in 2014 connecting Xinjiang to neighbouring Gansu Province has been transformative for the tourism sector.

According to China Railway Urumqi Group Co Ltd., as of early September, inbound and outbound China-Europe freight trains in 2023 passing through Xinjiang have totalled 10,017, up 10.1% year-on-year.

Till July, the International Land Port in Urumqi welcomed 772 China-Europe freight trains, up 9.35% year-on-year. The rail routes are connected with 26 cities across 19 countries. The port also serves as an important transit point for goods across China and from Southeast Asia to be transported to Europe.

Remarkably, Xinjiang has engaged in foreign trade with 170 countries and regions this year. Its foreign trade with five Central Asian countries increased by 59.1% year-on-year to 176.64 billion RMB, accounting for 80.6% of the region's total export value.

It is evident that the BRI has driven up Xinjiang's foreign trade, which is a boon for local industries. It is also conducive to Xinjiang's economic development and boosting employment opportunities. The port authorities plan to set up a textile trading centre within the port to facilitate the exports and trade of clothes and other textile products.

The Xinjiang's Free Trade Zone (FTZ) will improve a service guarantee mechanism for foreign investment and support eligible foreign funded enterprises in enjoying equal access to preferential development policies

Foreign financial institutions will be supported in setting up banking, insurance, securities and other financial branches in the Xinjiang pilot FTZ to provide a wide range of internationalized financial products and services.

The FTZ plan encourages the area to carry out cross-border RMB trade settlements with the partner countries participating in the BRI in sectors including bulk commodity trade and overseas project contracting.

Xinjiang, sitting at the heart of the Eurasia continent as well as the intersection of the CPEC and the China-Central Asia-West Asia route, has an incomparable geographic advantage in access to massive neighbouring markets with a total population of 2.8 billion. The region is also a core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt after 10 years of BRI development.

Eastward, it could target the Asia-Pacific markets. Westward, the region is a gateway to markets in Central Asia, West Asia and the Middle East.

Xinjiang is an important node for China-Europe freight train, a flagship BRI project that is deemed as an Asia-Europe golden passage. And the region is home to two land ports tailored for undertaking express freight service. As of the end of September, over 60,000 China-Europe freight trains have passed through Xinjiang, accounting for more than half of the total in China. It also encourages developing China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan multimodal highway-railway transport, exploring China-Pakistan multimodal transport and the joint construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway. In summary, Xinjiang sits upon a geopolitical goldmine. It is one of four buffer regions for Beijing which protects the heartland of Han China.

The region takes up one-sixth of the Chinese landmass and it is the western gate of the country. Xinjiang also plays a significant role in the implementation of the BRI. The BRI has provided the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with exceptional opportunities for development and has helped improve the livelihoods of the residents. Interestingly, its regional enterprises have made investment in more than 60 countries and regions. They have also built four overseas economic and trade cooperation parks and have organized seven China-Eurasia expos and nearly 50 commodity fairs in the past 10 years.

Furthermore, the region has been accelerating the formation of a modern industrial system supported by major local industries such as green mining, grain and oil, cotton, textiles and clothing in recent years. The series of preferential policies encouraging support for Xinjiang in trade, logistics, agriculture and energy, the region's advantageous industries have accelerated upgrading, which has provided new momentum for high-quality development,

Undoubtedly, the BRI has significantly improved connectivity in the region. Currently, all prefectures and cities in Xinjiang are connected to expressways, all county-level areas have better roads, and all townships feature paved roads. In addition, 25 civil transportation airports have been built and put into operation, more than any other provincial-level regions in China.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-xinjiang-an-ideal-combination-of-greater-regional-connectivity/>

The Express Tribune

ML-I groundbreaking by early 2024

PM seeks reform strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximise benefits of ML-I

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday announced the groundbreaking of the Mainline-I (ML-I) project by early next year, which would be constructed after a drastic revision in its scope that reduced the estimated cost by one-third to \$6.7 billion to make it commercially viable.

The decision was made during a meeting chaired by interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, who instructed officials to try to perform the groundbreaking before the end of his government's term on February 8.

The PM sanctioned the revision in the project with directives to present its revised PC-I to the competent forum for approval in the current week.

The meeting was told that modalities for ML-I were in final stages and the project's groundbreaking would be performed by early next year, according to a statement issued by the PM Office. The project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged in the 2022 floods will be upgraded as per international standards.

In the next phase, a 796km-long rail track will be laid from Multan to Peshawar in line with requirements of the future. In 2017, Pakistan and China signed a five-year framework agreement for construction of the ML-I project. The framework has now been extended for another five years.

However, the sources said that the groundbreaking would be contingent on firmed-up financing for the project as so far financing details had remained uncertain. A financing plan will be discussed by both sides next month.

The in-principle understanding is that China will provide 85% of the project cost in the shape of loan while Pakistan will arrange the remaining amount.

Sources said that the project cost was being revised to \$6.67 billion, a reduction of \$3.2 billion, or one-third, through a reduced scope and design aimed at making it commercially viable.

During the visit of PM Kakar, both countries signed an addendum to the ML-I project, which was part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), reducing its scope and design.

It was decided that no fence would be constructed along the route, which would help save cost. But it will have a direct impact on the rail speed. In the absence of fencing, the operational rail speed will be 120 km to 140 km per hour but in project design the speed may remain at 160 km, according to the sources.

At an event held this week, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong outlined three key points for future cooperation: consolidation of the current phase of CPEC, deepening cooperation in agriculture and mining, and improving people's livelihoods through small but impactful

projects. Jiang highlighted the need for consolidation with the completion of projects like ML-I and Karachi Circular Railway. The ambassador did not mention any road projects. According to PC-I of the ML-I project, approved in November 2022, a 1,733km-long route will be rehabilitated and 482 underpasses, 53 flyovers, 130 biker bridges and 130 stations will be constructed along the route. But this plan will now undergo drastic changes. PM Kakar desired the “formulation of a comprehensive reform strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximise benefits of the ML-1”, said a press statement. Pakistan Railways does not have the fiscal muscle to take a \$5.8 billion Chinese loan on its books, as the entity remains highly mismanaged like other state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises (CCOSOE). The State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023 was re-submitted to the committee for review, after incorporation of the feedback received from members of the committee. The committee reviewed the changes incorporated into the draft and recommended a revised policy for approval from the cabinet, according to the Ministry of Finance. It added that the SOE policy marked a crucial step towards enhancing the governance and operations of state-run companies, aligning with the broader objectives outlined in the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023. The IMF has set a condition to get the policy approved and make a central monitoring unit effective before the end of November. The CCOSOE made certain changes in the policy pertaining to the board of directors of SOEs, human resources, code of conduct, fit and proper criteria and public disclosure. After approval of the policy from the cabinet, Finance Minister Akhtar and Adviser to the PM on Establishment Ahad Cheema will have to resign from some of the boards of public sector enterprises where they sit as members. Their continuation will be a violation of the new policy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2446601/ml-i-groundbreaking-by-early-2024>

November 17, 2023

Business Recorder

ADB’s ACSR Bunting Conductor

Chinese firm urges authorities to reevaluate tender

ISLAMABAD: Chinese firm M/s Henan Tonga-Da Cable Co Ltd has urged Pakistani authorities to undertake reevaluation of ADB’s ACSR Bunting Conductor for 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line from Sangal to 500 kV Maira switching station. In letters to Pakistani authorities and Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, the company’s Regional Sales Director Dylon Wong has sought intervention in this matter as according to the firm, distorted facts have been shared with the Senate Standing Committee on Power. The company has also expressed its surprise on withdrawal of minutes of standing committee meeting on instructions from some “influential” personality in Senate. Chairman Standing Committee has refused to withdraw minutes.

According to the company its letter is with reference to the subject NTDC tender which has been marred by some serious issues related to wrong bids evaluation as well as non-redressal

of grievances on part of NTDC and NESPAK “due to reasons beyond our understanding and only best known to them.” “Such unprecedented statement and surprising withdrawal instructions by Senate clearly reflects some humongous mafia supporting this cause which perhaps is afraid of all these facts coming to light and does really not want this contract award decision to be overturned from Newage to Henan Tong-Da, as they know that Newage was given wrong domestic preference by NESPAK and NTDC,” Wang said, adding that in case of any investigation or re-evaluation of the contents of Newage bid, the recommendation of contract award will easily be over-turned. ADB being the project’s financing authority, understands official as well as moral obligations to seek complete report from NTDC and NESPAK and can clearly ask whether or not Newage had any domestic preference calculations in support of domestic value addition claim or not. “The ADB must ask NTDC and NESPAK whether Newage stands eligible for the domestic preference claim in light of “ADB Domestic Preference Guidance Note on Procurement - June 2018” as this has been declared as the reference document by ADB as well as NTDC/NESPAK in response to its pre-bid clarifications for the upcoming ADB-401C-2022 tender,” he maintained. Chinese company has once again reiterated its claim that Newage Cables Lahore does not fulfill the technical and manufacturing criteria (Sub-Clause 2.3.2(i) of Section-3 of ADB-4018 tender) as it clearly demands the bidders to have at least 5 years manufacturing experience of similar goods having similar or higher rating and capacity; and Newage has manufactured ACSR Rail Conductor as the biggest conductor so far which is lower in capacity than ACSR Bunting Conductor hence Newage does not even qualify Sub-Clause 2.3.2(i). The company further stated that Newage also does not fulfill the domestic preference criteria (appendix-2: domestic preference by application of price margin, ADB domestic preference guidance note on procurement - June 2018). Chinese company urged all concerned authorities to intervene in this matter and ask NTDC/NESPAK to reevaluate the tender in light of the facts revealed e as well as ADB Domestic Preference Guidance Note on procurement-2018, otherwise no international bidder will participate in any NTDC tender in future due to lack of interest of the authorities in fairness and transparency in the bidding process.—

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/17/1-page/977199-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

HEC announces Chinese scholarships

The Chinese Scholarship Council is offering Pakistani students and scholars to study and conduct research at Chinese universities. According to the details, the scholarships were being offered through the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in the academic year. Designated Chinese universities offer a wide variety of academic programs in science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, economics, legal studies, management, education, history, literature, philosophy, fine arts, etc. for scholarship recipients at all levels. Qualified applicants can apply for scholarships for undergraduate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral/phd programs in their respective fields of study.

<https://pakobserver.net/hec-announces-chinese-scholarships/>

November 18, 2023

Business Recorder

Gwadar soon to be hub of sea trade, says Kakar

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents Association has requested the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar that in order to make Gwadar port fully functional, initially some part of the government cargo should be imported from Gwadar port to Pakistan. The delegation comprising Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents Association President Abdul Rahim Zafar, Secretary General Hameed Baloch, and Faisal Dashti met with the caretaker prime minister on Friday. During the meeting, the delegation informed the caretaker premier about the problems of shipping clearing agencies, as well as, the problems of fishermen in Gwadar. Kakar assured the delegation that their problems would be solved on a priority basis. He said that it is the priority of the government to give innovation to the fisheries industry in Gwadar. He further stated that the fishermen in Gwadar are being given professional training for modern machinery, engines in boats and navigation equipment and methods of catching fish according to international standards. He added that the wide potential of exports in the fisheries sector from Gwadar will be fully exploited. Kakar directed the concerned authorities to submit a comprehensive report in this regard. He added that Gwadar port will be the centre of sea trade in the near future and the government is taking steps to establish industries in Gwadar port and improve communication links with industrial areas. The caretaker prime minister added that providing employment and international quality facilities to the local people of Gwadar is the key to development of this important port of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The delegation appreciated the government's measures for providing employment to fishermen, vocational training and solving the overall problems of Gwadar.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/18/2-page/977297-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan joins Food Security and Technology Innovation Alliance in Chengdu

The Food Security Education and Technology Innovation Alliance was inaugurated in Chengdu, China, initiated by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU). A total of 27 universities and institutes from China, Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh, Laos, Greece and Argentina joined the alliance. It aimed at deepening exchanges and cooperation in food security, agricultural science and technology, and education among the countries along the Belt and Road route. It's learned that sharing educational resources, establishing joint laboratories and setting up international scientific projects in key areas of the agricultural sector are being planned in the alliance, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.—INP
<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-joins-food-security-and-technology-innovation-alliance-in-chengdu/>

November 19, 2023

Business Recorder

Experts for Chinese help in promotion of sugar industry

ISLAMABAD: Amid the urgent need for adoption of modern technology, agriculture experts urged for joining hands with China for promotion of sugar industry by learning from mutual experiences for mutual gains.

Talking to media here on Saturday, Khan Faraz, an Agriculture expert said that sugarcane is an important cash crop of Pakistan grown on a large area of the country. A number of sugar mills have been established for manufacture of sugar from the sugarcane grown in the country. Also, some portion of the crop is used for the production of “Gur” (jiggery) especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The sugar industry is the second largest agriculture based industry after textile.

He said that sugarcane is a longer duration crop as compared to other cash crops grown in the country. Farmers require great skill and huge investment to grow this crop, and face a host of problems including increasing cost of inputs, labour and water, he added.

Pakistan and China trade officials have reportedly recently discussed measures to enhance their cooperation in the sugarcane sector aiming to produce high grade sugar to export it to the world market. Also, experts from China and Pakistan discussed the potential of collaboration in the sugar industry. Wherein, it was observed that there was a great scope of cooperation between China and Pakistan including sugar industry by learning from mutual experiences for mutual gains. Therefore, both countries should join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing using modern technologies and techniques, such as tissue culture, disease-free seedlings and integrated pest management.

Faraz said that Pakistan is a traditional agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to be done to modernize its agriculture sector to enable it to meet international standards.

Pakistan sugarcane industry could not prosper until growers get access to the best sugarcane varieties and practices, said Faraz, adding that Pakistan should start a sugarcane breeding programme with the help of China, and learn from its experience and expertise.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/19/5-page/977386-news.html>

UAF, CAU organise Sino-Pak workshop on ‘Control of Livestock Diseases’

FAISALABAD: Strengthened Pakistan-China relations will help control livestock diseases and harness the growth potential in order to increase per animal production and solve livestock health issues.

It was echoed by the experts while addressing a one-day Sino-Pak workshop on Control of major Livestock Diseases.

On the direction of University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan, the seminar was organized by the Department of Pathology, Faculty of

Veterinary Sciences, UAF, in collaboration with China Agricultural University at the meeting room of Veterinary Sciences.

The opening session of the seminar was presided over by Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences Prof. Dr. Farzana Rizvi while Prof He Cheng from China Agricultural University, DG Research Livestock and Development Department Punjab Sajjad Hussain and Dr. Kashif Salemi from UAF spoke at the inaugural session.

Dean Animal Husbandry UAF Prof Dr Qamar Bilal, Director Research Prof Dr Jafar Jaskani, Director Institute of Animal Sciences Prof Dr Riaz Virk, former Dean Prof Dr Tariq Javed, Director External Relations Prof Dr Muhammad Saqib, Ex-Director NEBGE Dr Shahid Masood, Dr Qin Tianda, Dr Muhammd Sahail Sajid, Dr Muhammad Abu Bakar, Dr Misbah Ijaz, Dr Jiang Tao, Dr. Zahida Fatima, Dr. Javed Arshad, Dr Imran Arshad, Dr Mashkooor Gilani, Dr. Muhammad Nadeem, Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan and others also attended.

Prof Dr Farzana Rizvi said that half of the agriculture in Pakistan's GDP consists of livestock. She said animals' genetic improvement will increase production. She said that the livestock sector was facing problems due to diseases, climate change and other reasons in which Pakistan-China joint efforts will help to combat. She said that by developing the livestock on modern lines, not only the domestic needs can be met in a good manner, but also earn forex.

Dr. Sajjad Hussain said we can solve livestock problems by cooperating with China in the field of vaccination, animal medicines and others.

Prof Dr He Cheng said that all possible efforts are being made under the project to control diseases in livestock in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that livestock accounts for 11.3% of Pakistan's GDP and according to 2020 statistics, there are 211 million buffaloes, cows, camels and sheep in Pakistan.

Dr. Kashif Saleemi said that the development of livestock is very important for achieving food security. Tangible research work is being carried out keeping the problems to arrange on a scientific basis.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/19/5-page/977392-news.html>

The Express Tribune

De novo push for BRI: rethinking growth prospects for Pakistan

Pakistan should rethink and re-evaluate its economic growth policy approach towards BRI in general and CPEC

Recently China organised third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing to mark ten years of the strategic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Its purpose was to provide a de novo push for the multi-trillion dollar project for broader global partnership. Some analysts argue that China is gradually expanding the scope of BRI by shifting its strategy of addressing reservations of fickle critics and the partner countries. Clearly, China is fast changing the BRI strategic framework with a view to optimising its economic utility in China's favour by bringing majority of finicky stakeholders in the strategic framework of regional development. This is

the right time for Pakistan to rethink, re-strategise and re-evaluate its economic growth policy approach towards BRI in general and CPEC in particular. For this purpose, a rudimentary appraisal of regional economic growth prospects suggests that the economic priorities of China and Pakistan are strategically different. It is because China is at an advanced stage of development while Pakistan is facing serious economic problems. In other words, China and Pakistan are at two different stages of development which require a different local and contextual approach to harmonise the strategic and regional growth priorities of each other.

Back in 1949, EM Hoover and JL Fisher presented an eclectic framework of regional development. They argued that countries undergo a five-stage economic development process. In the first stage, trade and investment volumes are small and the populations locate themselves according to natural resources. In the second stage, the regions focus on the advancement of transport by building roads and railways network. At this stage, the countries advance in trade and local specialisation. In the third stage, agricultural modernisation takes place. The fourth stage witnesses a diminishing return to agriculture, thus forcing a region to industrialise. And finally, at the fifth stage, a country specialises in tertiary industry and exports to less developed regions. Despite seemingly dumbfounded opprobrium, this development framework is still logical and applicable while planning regional economic growth prospects in a developing country like Pakistan. According to Hoover and Fisher's framework, as mentioned earlier, China is at the last stage of development while Pakistan is at the second stage of regional economic development. However, Pakistan can still grab massive economic opportunities in the wake of China's recent push to re-energise its multi-trillion dollar BRI programme. For this purpose, Pakistan needs to clearly delineate its second stage priorities of regional growth and look for the crisscrossing areas where Pakistan could complement China's strategic economic priorities.

China's fifth stage priorities are clearly mentioned in eight major steps announced by President Xi Jinping: 1) promoting a multidimensional belt and road connectivity network; 2) encouraging an open world economy; 3) ensuring practical cooperation; 4) promoting scientific and technological innovation; 5) advancing green development; 6) supporting people-to-people exchanges; 7) ensuring integrity in the BRI projects; and 8) promoting institutional development for the BRI cooperation. A micro level anatomy of the above-mentioned eight-step framework clearly shows that all of them are aimed at specialising in China's tertiary industry and promoting exports to less developed countries or regions in line with the fifth stage of Hoover and Fisher's regional development model. While designing the eight steps above, China has deeply researched the multidimensional requirements of different regions it is aiming to connect. According to Hoover and Fisher, a region is an area in which a high degree of interdependence exists among individual incomes.

Pakistan, at this stage, however, needs to focus on advancement of transport by building roads and expanding railways network which is the second stage of regional development. Pakistan's economic growth strategy needs to realise that China and Pakistan are two different regions in which the long-term determinants of economic growth are way different. These include, but are not limited to, culture, religion and geography. For China, these long-run determinants of economic growth are not very important because it is at fifth stage of

development. However, Pakistan needs to focus on modernisation of transport infrastructure and pay special attention to local specialisation. Local specialisation of products is the right strategy to exponentially enhance the trade volume and promote exports in the long run. The strategy needs to be linked with the roads expansion under the CPEC investment. For the purposes of local specialisation in Pakistan, there is a need to first identify the local regional units which are districts. There are more or less 170 districts in Pakistan including the districts in G-B, AJK and the Capital Territory. Each district needs to determine its area of specialisation in terms of industry, agriculture and/or tourism. The district Deputy Commissioner could be assigned the job of carrying out necessary homework in this regard. Although, most district development plans mention the agricultural and industrial potential of the district, the same needs to be presented in a detailed coherent report issued by the Deputy Commissioner. The Planning Commission may issue necessary guidelines for this purpose following the argument that economic growth is not uniform over the entire region, rather it takes place around particular poles or clusters. Within each district, a cluster of local industries or productive agricultural lands or tourism spots, no matter how feeble they are, be mapped so that the same could be treated as local pole of economic growth in that district. Once, these poles are identified and mapped, it will provide a basic data set necessary for linking the modernisation of transport, such as roads and railways expansion, with the clusters of local specialisation all over Pakistan. This strategy is part of second phase development which could be exponentially aggrandised under China's fresh push for the BRI. Naturally, the strategy will prepare Pakistan for the third stage development aimed at modernising agriculture. After identifying the growth poles at the district levels, these poles are to be connected through roads and/or railways not only with each other but also with CPEC so as to maximise the benefits of agglomeration at the macroeconomic level. After necessary homework, a detailed presentation could be given to the Chinese authorities showcasing Pakistan's industrial and agricultural potential to complement President Xi's eight steps mentioned earlier. Arguably, Pakistan has to align its second stage economic interests with fifth stage interests of China. The job requires smart thinking and prompt action.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2447060/de-novo-push-for-bri-rethinking-growth-prospects-for-pakistan>

The Nations

Pak participation in COTTM to help enhance inflow of Chinese tourists

BEIJING - Pakistan's participation in the China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM) Expo will help strengthen the tourism exchange between the two countries and enhance the inflow of Chinese tourists into historic, cultural, and scenic places across Pakistan. Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), along with eight leading private tour operator companies, showcased the country's rich tourism potential at the three-day exhibition held in Beijing from November 15–17. Regarded as the industry's most important platform and the only business-to-business event, COTTM focuses purely on the burgeoning outbound market.

In a statement, State Minister for Tourism and SAPM on Youth Affairs Wasi Shah said that Pakistan's participation in this leading tourism market will help strengthen the tourism exchange between the two countries and help in developing business-to-business linkages between the tour operators of both sides. The friendship of Pakistan with China is stronger than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honey, whereas Pakistan welcomes its Chinese friends to invest with open arms in the country.

While commending the efforts of exhibitors and tourism companies for promoting Pakistan's tourism potential, Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, who inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at COTTM, noted that Pakistan was bestowed with rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and unique culinary. He encouraged Chinese tourists, academics, and entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan and explore the country. The ambassador said that the tourism exchanges between China and Pakistan held immense significance for strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Hashmi hoped that COTTM would serve as an excellent platform for networking between the tourism companies of China and Pakistan, which would contribute toward further enhancing the people-to-people exchange between the two countries. Managing Director (MD) of PTDC Aftab Rana said, "The expo will be greatly helpful to build B2B linkages between the tour operators of both countries, and as a result, tourist traffic between the two countries will further increase."

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Nov-2023/pak-participation-in-cottm-to-help-enhance-inflow-of-chinese-tourists>

PHDEC webinar guides growers on cultivating white onions for export to China

LAHORE - Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC) hosted a webinar titled "Exploring the Export Prospects and Opportunities of White Onions in the Chinese Market" the other day. The aim was to guide growers/farmers on recent protocol signed with Chinese government on white onion, and sharing information on good agriculture practices for optimal white onion production and high yield. The webinar targeted processors, progressive growers, R&D, and entrepreneurs nationwide.

Professor Dr Tanveer Fatima, Director of the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, gave detailed presentation on the subject issue. Agro Division team of TDAP shared detailed information on the protocol. Predominantly, participants from the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab participated, collectively contributing significantly to the nation's onion production.

Pakistan, ranking as the 6th largest global onion producer, annually yields 2 million metric tons (MMT) over an expanse of approximately 150 thousand hectares. The country stands at the 7th position in onion exports, with an annual export value of \$147 million. While onion cultivation spans the entire country, the production is notably concentrated in six districts of Sindh and Balochistan: Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Chaghi, Kalat, and Turbat, contributing around 60% to the national onion production.

Recognizing the suboptimal production of white onions in Pakistan and the newfound opportunity created by China opening its market to white onion imports, the webinar aimed to guide growers on cultivating white onions for export to China. Athar Hussain Khokhar, CEO of PHDEC, inaugurated the webinar with opening remarks, introducing himself, and outlining PHDEC's mandate. He extended a warm welcome to participants, emphasizing the significance of the event for potential growers and stakeholders.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Nov-2023/phdec-webinar-guides-growers-on-cultivating-white-onions-for-export-to-china>

Youth, climate change, and the BRI for sustainable development

The recent meeting between President Xi Jinping of China and President Joe Biden of the United States in San Francisco highlighted the pressing need for global cooperation on climate change. As the world's two largest carbon emitters, the leaders recognized the urgency of addressing environmental challenges while fostering sustainable development. President Xi emphasized the importance of sustainable development as the "golden key" to solving global problems. He outlined key proposals during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, focusing on accelerating the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Global Development Initiative (GDI) was introduced to promote international cooperation and address development deficits, showcasing China's commitment to inclusive growth. President Xi proposed forging a new path for green development, emphasizing coordinated efforts to transform energy, industrial, and transportation structures. This involves promoting carbon and pollution reduction, green expansion, and high-quality employment. The goal is to create a balanced ecosystem where economic advancement aligns harmoniously with environmental sustainability.

China and the United States pledged to cooperate on slowing methane emissions, supporting renewable energy growth, and reducing plastic pollution. Their commitment to triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030 demonstrates a shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. This collaboration sets a positive precedent for global efforts to combat climate change. China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, connecting regions across Asia, Africa, and Europe, has faced scrutiny for its environmental impact. While the BRI focuses on infrastructure development, concerns arise regarding the dominance of nonrenewable energy projects. Historically, a significant portion of Chinese energy financing for BRI countries has supported fossil fuel projects. As climate change intensifies, the world is approaching critical temperature thresholds. The vulnerable areas include regions where 40% of the global population resides, leading to profound social, economic, and political implications. Youth, recognizing the gravity of the situation, are increasingly vocal about their concerns and demand action from global leaders.

As the BRI envisions a community with a shared future, it inherently involves the younger generation in building bridges, both figuratively and literally, between nations. With the projected population of BRI countries reaching approximately 5.4 billion by 2030, the involvement of youth becomes pivotal in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future. Despite the promising developments in international cooperation, challenges persist in

aligning China's BRI with global climate goals. The transition to a low-carbon economy in China is crucial, given its significant carbon emissions. The technological capabilities of the country offer opportunities for innovation and the development of sustainable practices. China, as a major player in the fight against climate change, advocates building global synergy. President Xi urged countries to uphold the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasizing common but differentiated responsibilities. China is dedicated to promoting green Belt and Road Initiative projects, focusing on green infrastructure, energy, and transportation to contribute to global climate goals.

Youth engagement and activism are pivotal in addressing climate change, and their concerns should be taken seriously by leaders worldwide. As China and the United States collaborate on environmental initiatives, the Belt and Road Initiative's alignment with sustainable development goals becomes essential. By integrating youth perspectives, fostering international cooperation, and redefining the BRI's focus, a path to a cleaner, more sustainable future can be forged. The upcoming COP28 serves as a crucial waypoint for global climate mitigation efforts, and nations must work collectively to meet the challenges ahead.

In the wake of global infrastructure demands, economic fallout from COVID-19, and the urgent need to address climate change, the BRI emphasizes the importance of accelerating a sustainable recovery. The Green Investment Principles, integral to the BRI's vision, guide investments towards environmentally friendly projects, ensuring a balance between economic growth and ecological preservation. Since its inception, the BRI has been conceptualized as the "Green Belt and Road," underscoring China's commitment to sustainability, environmental protection, and international environmental standards. Despite some discordant voices alleging negative environmental impacts, a closer examination reveals the BRI's dedication to preserving biodiversity, promoting clean energy, and implementing well-prepared environmental governance structures. BRI projects, such as the Peljesac bridge in Croatia, exemplify the commitment to preserving biodiversity. The bridge construction adhered to the highest environmental standards, dispelling concerns raised by local oyster farmers. In Kenya, the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway incorporated wildlife corridors and noise control measures, demonstrating substantial efforts to protect ecologically vulnerable areas.

Traditional dependence on fossil fuels in many BRI host countries has led to air pollution and health issues. The BRI responds by incorporating projects that promote clean and renewable energy, including wind farms, solar power plants, and eco-friendly transportation systems. Initiatives like the Cox's Bazar wind power project in Bangladesh showcase the BRI's role in providing cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions, and contributing to the global shift towards green energy. Contrary to claims of irreversible damage, BRI projects have demonstrated a commitment to preserving land and water. Examples such as the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway in Uganda and the Kingfisher oil project in Uganda showcase environmentally conscious practices, including bridge construction to maintain water levels and technological means to minimize the impact on complex ecological environments. The BRI's commitment to environmental protection is reinforced by well-prepared environmental governance structures. BRI Action Plan released in 2015 outlines the

vision and framework, emphasizing environmental protection. Collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, and the formation of the BRI International Green Development Coalition underline China's dedication to green and sustainable development. China's promotion of green finance within the BRI framework, including green bonds and investment practices, channels funds into environmentally friendly projects. This includes investments in renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable infrastructure. Examples like the Nairobi Global Trade Centre highlight the impact of green finance in supporting projects that prioritize energy efficiency and sustainability.

BRI emerges not just as a geopolitical strategy but as a beacon of hope for a sustainable and shared future. By incorporating youth, adhering to Green Investment Principles, and emphasizing environmental protection, the BRI stands as a model for global cooperation in the face of climate change. As nations unite under the "Green Belt and Road," the BRI paves the way for a resilient and environmentally conscious world.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Nov-2023/youth-climate-change-and-the-bri-for-sustainable-development>

November 20, 2023

Business Recorder

Socioeconomic landscape in Pakistan

CPEC has transformational impact: Ahsan

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a transformative force reshaping the socioeconomic transformational impact on the lives of people in Pakistan, former Minister for Planning and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal said.

"When we started CPEC in 2013, Pakistan was suffering from a major energy crisis. We were experiencing power shortages for 16 to 18 hours per day, and we had major infrastructural bottlenecks with very poor physical infrastructure," he said in an exclusive interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

And because of a lack of electricity, energy was not there, and industrial and agricultural production was suffering, which meant there was more unemployment, which was a major contributor to more poverty, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through the CPEC, in three years, more than \$25 billion of investment came into Pakistan that modernized infrastructure and created new roads to connect many regions. It provided more than 8,000 megawatts of new power, which helped the country overcome power shortages. "As we had energy in the economy, our agriculture and industrial outputs improved, which brought more employment for thousands of young people and also helped them come out of poverty," he added. About special economic zones, he said that nine special economic zones have been identified in different regions of Pakistan and added, "All regions are taking part and taking benefit from CPEC, which is another indicator that it is a

very inclusive project and it does not leave anyone behind.” “We are now working with China to set up industries in these special economic zones, through which both Pakistan and China can work together and export goods to third countries,” he added. “Gwadar Economic Zone is developing very fast, but in addition to that, nine more economic zones are being developed in Pakistan, in which we hope that investment that will come from China will help us in industrialization and that will be a major contributor towards structural transformation of the economy.” He opined that it would create more jobs, and most importantly, Pakistan needs to improve its export performance, adding, “We hope that with Chinese technology and investment and their access to global supply chains, we will be able to improve our exports as well.” Terming CPEC a game changer for Pakistan and the region, he said that the future of economic development lies in regional cooperation. “We can create an economic market for a huge benefit for three billion people living in South Asia, China, Central Asia, and the Middle East through regional connectivity,” he added. He said that therefore, programmes like CPEC and BRI could help people eliminate poverty and unemployment and realize the dream of shared prosperity as well as people-to-people contact. Responding to a question about the next stage of CPEC, he stressed the need to ensure an environment of peace, stability, and continuity of policies in Pakistan. “We have a very young population that is now getting education and skills relevant to the future economy, and it provides a very economical human resource for investments in the industry and technology sectors, particularly,” he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the government has launched a very ambitious programme to stabilize Pakistan’s economy and restore the confidence of the business community by following policies initiated in 2013 with full force and vigor. He said that a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) brings all the government agencies and all the government branches, whether federal or provincial, whether civil or military, under one roof to attract foreign direct investment. “The SIFC is a very new initiative that the government has undertaken, and we hope that it will encourage foreign investors to come to Pakistan,” he added. To yet another question about debt burden, he said, “If the previous government had promoted CPEC enough, we would have seen lots of progress in industrial cooperation. So, slow progress on CPEC actually contributed to the slowing down of the economy.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/20/3-page/977439-news.html>

GCCI for making Gwadar port operational on permanent basis

KARACHI: Gwadar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI) is taking efforts to operationalise the Gwadar port on permanent basis.

In this regard, Faisal Dashti founding president GCCI and VP to FPCCI met with the PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at PM House Islamabad and discussed issues related to Gwadar town & Gwadar port.

He stressed on keeping the Gwadar port operational on permanent basis by importing/ discharging all government procured commodities through it.

The Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar principally agreed with the proposal and directed the concerned offices to work on it immediately.

Faisal Dashti also discussed issues with the PM regarding provision of basic needs to Gwadar, illegal fish trawling, CPEC projects, trade/ industrial development, conducive and business friendly environment for boosting up economic activities in the area.

All concerned officials were also called by the PM office on the occasion.

Dashti also met with Sarfraz Bugti federal minister interior and Gohar Ejaz federal minister for commerce/ trade and industries earlier in this regard on the said issues.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/20/5-page/977453-news.html>

The Nation

Sino-Pak workshop on major livestock disease control held

Islamabad - Pakistan and China acknowledged the untapped potential for agricultural cooperation, this was noted at a workshop on major livestock disease control held in Faisalabad.

The workshop was the part of third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. During the workshop, Pakistan and China acknowledged the untapped potential for agricultural cooperation within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in areas including “crop cultivation, animal and plant disease prevention, agricultural mechanization, technology exchange, and trade in agricultural products.” According to the report, as a manifestation of their recent commitment, the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Faisalabad, and China Agriculture University in Beijing had jointly organised the Workshop on Control of Major Livestock Diseases”. Pakistani and Chinese experts shared their views on the control of major diseases in animals in Pakistan. The inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by Prof Dr Farzana Rizvi, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. In her opening remarks, she highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the livestock industry, underscoring the importance of sharing expertise and fostering cooperative strategies for disease management.

Prof Dr Cheng He from China Agriculture University shared his expertise on preventive veterinary medicine and innovative measures for major animal disease control.

Dr Cheng He, who has contributed to zoonotic infection originating from animal industry and human health, shared his experiences with the participants and highlighted Sino-Pakistan cooperation in animal sciences. The ten-member Chinese experts shared their experiences with Pakistani counterparts regarding major diseases in animals. They highlighted key areas for Sino- Pak cooperation in the livestock sector. Dr Sajjad Hussain, Director of General Research, Livestock Department Punjab highlighted key areas of cooperation between China and Pakistan, informed the participants about the prevalence of the Congo virus in animals, and detailed the initiatives undertaken by the government of Punjab to address this issue.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Nov-2023/sino-pak-workshop-on-major-livestock-disease-control-held>

November 21, 2023

The News

Potato value chain, exports discussed

OKARA: Potato growers and exporters received valuable insights into the value chain and export potential of potatoes in traditional markets at a seminar organised by the Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC), a statement said on Monday.

The seminar, held in collaboration with the Potato Growers Co-operative Society Okara, featured virtual presentations from Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) from key traditional markets, including Afghanistan, Malaysia, Qatar, and Sri Lanka. Pakistan, the 19th largest potato exporter globally, produces about 8.0 million metric tons of potatoes annually, mainly exporting to Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the UAE, the Russian Federation, and Qatar.

PHDEC chief executive officer Athar Hussain Khokhar highlighted the company's commitment to product and market development, urging the development of industrial potato varieties and inviting growers to submit value-added product proposals eligible for funding from the Export Development Fund (EDF).

Kausar Ali Zaidi, minister for Trade and Investment, emphasised Pakistan's tremendous export potential, particularly in the lucrative market of Afghanistan, where value-added potato products, such as potato chips, are popular.

Asmma Kamal, Trade and Investment Attaché, High Commission of Pakistan, Colombo, Sri Lanka, revealed that imported potatoes from Pakistan are more cost-effective than locally cultivated ones, contributing to Sri Lanka's import total of over \$92 million from Pakistan in 2022. Aisha Iftikhar, Trade and Investment Officer in Malaysia, highlighted the robust trade ties between Pakistan and Malaysia, noting the 22.78% increase in fresh and chilled potato imports to Malaysia, totaling around \$100 million in 2022. Syed Ijaz Ul Hassan, Principal Scientist at the Potato Research Institute Sahiwal, stressed the imperative need for research and development to enhance productivity and develop disease-resistant varieties. He also praised the seminar for disseminating production technology and building capacity among stakeholders. Serrein Asad, Trade and Investment Attaché from Pakistan High Commission Doha Qatar, emphasized the popularity of Pakistani potatoes in Qatar and the potential for value-added potato products in the Qatari market.

The TIOs collectively assured the audience of their readiness to address any trade-related inquiries from potato growers and exporters. Salman Rizvi, a potato exporter, emphasized the necessity for infrastructure development, including warehouses, to support the potato industry comprehensively. He also advocated for a holistic approach and fostering a cottage industry for potato products. Mubarak Ahmed, Consultant from the Agro Division of TDAP, applauded the Potato Grower Cooperative Society Okara for their tireless efforts and emphasized the pivotal role of exports in the prosperity of potato growers. He also called for private sector investment in varietal development and infrastructure.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=256975>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی بیک مخالف ممالک کی فہرست بڑی واضح، وہ نہیں چاہتے پاکستان ترقی کرے: چینی تھک ٹینک

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی تھک ٹینک سینئر فارچائنا اینڈ گلوبلائزیشن کے نائب صدر مسٹر وکٹر گاؤں کا کہنا ہے دنیا میں کچھ طاقتیں چین اور پاکستان کی بڑھتی دوستی نہیں دیکھنا چاہتیں۔ ایک نجی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے وکٹر گاؤں کا کہنا تھا پاک چین دوستی کے مخالف نہیں چاہتے کہ پاکستان بہتر رابطوں کے منصوبوں سے جڑے، وہ یہ بھی نہیں چاہتے کہ پاکستان معاشی طور پر مضبوط ہو اور یہاں معاشی ترقی کیلئے کوآرڈینیشن ہو۔ ان کا کہنا تھا ملکوں کے نام نہیں لینا چاہتا تاہم سی بیک کی مخالفت کرنے والے ممالک کی فہرست بڑی واضح ہے۔ آپ کے پڑوسی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا حصہ نہیں، وہ بضد ہیں کہ بی آر آئی منصوبہ وہاں سے گزرے جہاں کے وہ عویدار ہیں لیکن چین اور پاکستان اس بات سے متفق نہیں ہیں۔ نائب صدر چینی تھک ٹینک سینئر فارچائنا اینڈ گلوبلائزیشن کا کہنا ہے چین اور پاکستان ایک پیچ پر ہیں، ہم اسے اکٹھے کرنا چاہتے ہیں اور چاہتے ہیں کہ اس کے زیادہ سے زیادہ فوائد حاصل ہوں۔ وکٹر گاؤں کا کہنا تھا پاکستانی عوام، حکومت اور فوج کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں کہ پاکستان نے چینی ورکرز، انجینئرز، اساتذہ اور سرکاری حکام کی سکیورٹی کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون کیا۔ دنیا کے کسی بھی حصے میں کچھ ہو اس کی خبر چین میں جنگل کی آگ کی طرح پھیلتی ہے۔ اگر کسی چینی باشندے کی زندگی ضائع ہو تو وہ خبر بھی جنگل کی آگ کی طرح پھیلتی ہے۔ اس سے بے چینی، مایوسی پیدا ہوگی، یہ معاشی تعاون کیلئے اچھا نہیں ہوگا۔ ہم پاکستان میں کام کرتے چینوں کے ساتھ پاکستانی عوام کے لیے بھی تعاون کے خواہاں ہیں۔ اگر آپ استحکام کی اہلیت رکھتے تو غیر ملکی سرمایہ یہاں آنے سے گریز کرے گا۔ غیر ملکی سرمایہ شیف کر دیا جائے گا یا روک دیا جائے گا تو ملک و عوام کو نقصان ہوگا۔ چین اور پاکستان کو جدید راہیں اختیار کرنا ہوں گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-21/page-1/detail-34>

وزیر داخلہ سے چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، سکیورٹی کے شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) نگران وزیر داخلہ سرفراز احمد بگٹی سے چین کے سفیر جیانگ ژائی ڈانگ نے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں دو طرفہ تعلقات سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ سرفراز بگٹی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کئی دہائیوں پر مشتمل دوستی دنیا بھر کے لئے مثال ہے۔ وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑ نے چین کا کامیاب دورہ کیا جس سے سکیورٹی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون مزید مضبوط ہوگا۔ اگلا ہدف دورے کے دوران کئے گئے معاہدوں کو عملی جامہ پہنانا ہے۔ نگران وزیر داخلہ نے کہا کہ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا گلوبل سکیورٹی انیشیٹیو قابل ستائش ہے۔ گلوبل سکیورٹی کو بڑھانے کیلئے پاکستان ہر قسم کے بین الاقوامی تعاون میں فعال کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ چینی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کئے گئے ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے چینی باشندوں کو ہر ممکن سکیورٹی فراہم کرنے پر وزیر داخلہ کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ سرفراز بگٹی نے کہا کہ دہشتگردی ایک چیلنج ہے، ہم نے اسے پہلے بھی شکست دی ہے، اس مرتبہ بھی مکمل خاتمہ کریں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کے کردار کو سراہا۔ ملاقات میں سکیورٹی کے شعبے میں تعاون کو مزید آگے بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہوا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-21/page-1/detail-20>

November 22, 2023

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Vitalities Green Transformation

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It's a positive sign that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) continues to invigorate green transformation in the country, energizing socio-economic development. This initiative has significantly bolstered and diversified the country's energy sector, increasing its installed and generating capacity.

Interestingly, energy has consistently been one of the primary focuses of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In the first half of this year, over 40 percent of BRI energy projects announced were wind and solar, with 22 percent each for gas and oil, and zero for coal projects.

In this connection, the keynote speech of the Chinese President at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2021 clearly demonstrated his vision about green energy transformation. He announced that China would no longer support the construction of coal-fired power plants abroad. He also stated that the country would "step up" support for "green and low-carbon energy" in fellow developing countries.

The operationalization and channelization of all the 12 wind power projects in Thatta, Sindh with an installed capacity of 610 megawatts have been connected to the national grid making another value addition in the country's energy sector. Obviously, the green energy transformation is gaining momentum and more than 100 wind turbines in the Thatta district are constantly delivering green power to households in the rural areas as part of the CPEC. Thus a mega rural development and transformation process has been initiated to bring peace and comfort in the lives of common people along with social upliftment, eradication of poverty, generation of new jobs and, most importantly, initiation and institutionalization of climate's friendly energy source mitigating spillover effects of devastating global warming in the country. The cheap source of energy has now become reality, converting the lives of common people. The provision of an environment-friendly source of energy is impacting its geography and gearing up its overall socio-economic development in Thatta.

The wind energy project has multiplier socio-economic dividends and creation of over 20,000 new jobs for locals is testimony of it. Moreover, the generation of 2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually, equivalent to a two-million-tonne reduction in carbon dioxide emissions has further highlighted its multidimensional utility and importance alike.

Additionally, overall energy projects have been a dominating factor in the CPEC Phase-I in the country which has already substantially reduced energy deficits by removing long hours load shedding. Even CPEC Phase-II will have many energy projects facilitating to achieve the desired goals of industrialization in the country.

On the other hand, the government's announcement of the groundbreaking of the Mainline-I (ML-I) project by early next year would be another mega project revolutionizing rail

transport in the country. Interestingly, it will be built on reduced estimation of US\$6.7 billion to make it commercially viable and economically relevant.

The interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's aspiration to perform the groundbreaking ceremony before the end of his government's term on February 8 vividly reflects the interim government's holistic approach to enhance rail transport in the country so that inter and intra connectivity may be further streamlined and strengthened.

According to the Ministry of Planning the said project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged in the 2022 floods will be upgraded as per international standards. In the next phase, a 796km-long rail track will be laid from Multan to Peshawar in line with requirements of the future. In 2017, Pakistan and China signed a five-year framework agreement for construction of the ML-I project. The framework has now been extended for another five years.

In this connection, China's pledging of 85% of the project cost in the shape of loan clearly demonstrates its strong commitment to assist Pakistan to modernize its crippling rail system to robust poor rail infrastructure and further enhance connectivity. In future the ML-I may be connected with the proposed trilateral trans-regional mega project of railway among Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan which would connect South East Asia with Central Asia. Pakistan will arrange the remaining amount.

According to the PC-I of the ML-I project, approved in November 2022, a 1,733 km-long route will be rehabilitated, and along this route, 482 underpasses, 53 flyovers, 130 biker bridges and 130 stations will be constructed. It is a positive development that during PM Kakar's visit to the BRFC 2023, both countries signed an addendum to the ML-I project, a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

For the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation, the newly-appointed Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong outlined a comprehensive strategy comprising consolidation of the current phase of CPEC, deepening cooperation in agriculture and mining and improving people's livelihoods through small but impactful projects. Thus showcasing the new holistic policy to complete the CPEC Phase-I projects and enhanced cooperation in agriculture and mining would improve food security mechanism between the two countries in the days to come. Moreover, initiation of meaningful small projects to gear up social development would bring positive changes in the lives of local people.

In summary, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has evolved into a symbol of modernization and greater connectivity which has already stimulated supplies of environment's friendly energies in the country. In this regard green energy transformation has become one of the leading sources of immense social upliftment, elimination of poverty, the advancement of small and medium enterprises, rural development and, crucially, generation of new jobs for the locals in the country. Moreover, the approval and expected groundbreaking of mega rail project of ML-I would modernize Pakistan's Railways infrastructure in the days to come.

The CPEC has become a mega energizing machine in the country which would also be instrumental for its short, medium and long term socio-economic revival and achieving higher growth rates in the days to come.

Critical analysis reveals that Pakistan would benefit from important projects like ML-1 that addresses the transportation network in Pakistan. Unfortunately, Pakistan lacks a high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective supply chain network, and the state of the railway infrastructure further complicates matters. After the completion of ML-1, it is expected that train speeds will double, and the line's capacity from Peshawar to Karachi and Karachi to Peshawar will increase from 34 to 134 daily trains, providing a substantial boost to the railway.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-vitalities-green-transformation/>

Planning minister, Chinese envoy discuss progress on CPEC

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Tuesday and discussed progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the minister felicitated the Chinese leadership for the successful holding of the 3rd Belt and Road (BRI) Forum-2023 last month and appreciated the Vision of President Xi Jinping who identified eight areas of cooperation, a news release said.

The Secretary Ministry of Planning and the CPEC Project Director also attended the meeting, which “discussed progress on the ongoing CPEC projects and future outlook”.

The two sides reiterated the resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

The Planning Minister said President Xi's Vision would have a strong impact on the implementation of phase-II of the CPEC and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the projects.

It is noted that the second Phase of CPEC has already started as both countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC.

Highlighting the ongoing development projects under CPEC, particularly after the successful BRI forum, the minister informed the envoy that the Planning Ministry frequently reviewed the progress in order to ensure their timely completion.

Sami Saeed highlighted the significance of ML-1 and Karachi Curricular Railways (KCR) projects, considered to be ‘strategic interventions. He also emphasized the importance of new areas like Science & Technology, Agriculture and Mining.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/planning-minister-chinese-envoy-discuss-progress-on-cpec/>

Karachi, Gwadar and Chabahar have strategic, economic importance: Moghaddam

PCFR interactive session on Pak-Iran relations

Zubair Yaqoob

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam, said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and the rich oil and gas reserves in Iran can be helpful for both brotherly countries to strengthen their trade and investment ties.

However, he strongly condemned the Israeli aggression on Palestine and expressed his country's resolve to continue its support to the people of Palestine. Addressing an interactive session titled:

'Pakistan Iran relations: Present & Future' here he said that Iran enacted a special provision into its constitution right after the 'Islamic Revolution' to support Palestine and the country observed 'Yaum-ul-Quds' on last Friday of the holy Ramadan, each year, for the freedom of the oppressed Palestinians.

The event was hosted by the Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR). "Iran is supporting Palestine to the best of its capacity, but never interferes in its internal affairs," the ambassador said.

On the prospects of Pak-Iran cooperation, he said that the CPEC project in Pakistan is next to the border of Iran; while on the other hand, Iran has rich oil and gas reserves. The close distance between Karachi and Gwadar Port and the Port of Chabahar in Iran is strategically and economically important. Both countries can enhance their cooperation and benefit from these opportunities.

Iran and Pakistan enjoy common interests and suffer from common threats. Our common threats are security and terrorism. However, actions taken recently in this regard are good and we need to do more. There are many common interests in the areas of economy, trade, and transportation. The opening of the border market shows the determination of the two countries towards the enhancement of bilateral ties in all areas including commercial and economic fronts. He stressed the need for an active role of research centers to identify common problems and suggest initiatives to improve the political economic and security issues. The current cooperation between the research centers of the two countries is in very good condition.

These research centers have regular meetings. MOU between IPIS and IRS will be finalized shortly, he said. Iran and Pakistan are two countries with a lot of cultural, historical, religious, language, and civilization links. With more than 900km common border, we have lived together in peace throughout history. Responding to a query regarding China's role in bringing Iran and Saudi Arabia closer to each other, he said Iran wants to maintain good relations with the Islamic countries including Saudi Arabia.

<https://pakobserver.net/karachi-gwadar-and-chabahar-have-strategic-economic-importance-moghaddam/>

The Express Tribune

Experts stress need for opening up CPEC

Say Pakistan should seek investment from neighbours in SEZs' infrastructure

KARACHI: Pakistan is required to make a paradigm shift from geopolitics to geo-economics and open up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for its neighbours to achieve economic wellbeing and strengthen its position in the region and beyond. Speaking at a two-day conference on "South Asia and Regional Connectivity in the 21st Century", organised by the Department of International Relations, University of Karachi, Dr Rabia Akhtar, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lahore, said that in order to address the country's geopolitical challenges, the national security policy stressed the importance of the geo-economics paradigm. She said Pakistan's pursuit of geo-economics objectives would serve as a means of strengthening the economic muscle while also supplementing efforts to address security concerns. "The policy recognises that a secure and prosperous Pakistan can play a more active and positive role in regional and global affairs, augmenting the country's voice and influence in the process." CPEC is vital for Pakistan, therefore hurdles in phase-II must be overcome. "Instead of outlining CPEC as BRI's litmus test, we should highlight that its infrastructure is open for investment in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and other areas," she said. Extending CPEC to Afghanistan would benefit all three countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, she stressed. Quaid-e-Azam University Associate Professor School of Politics and International Relations Dr Farhan Hanif Siddiqui said Pakistan and India could improve trade and economic ties despite having political differences. "There are wars, conflicts and animosities around the world but dialogue is held to overcome them. Countries without achieving complete conflict resolutions have moved forward. For instance, the US and China remain rivals historically. At the same time, they remain big trading partners with trade worth \$700 billion last year," he said. Similarly, China and India exchanged goods and services worth \$125 billion last year despite having high tensions over their borders. Pakistan and India could no longer live without cooperation and collaboration. "India has to speak to Pakistan. Pakistan has to open up for India," he stressed. University of Karachi Department of International Relations Chairman Dr Naeem Ahmed said CPEC was the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "This has increased Pakistan's prospects of regional connectivity and economic cooperation." However, major regional stakeholders including India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are still locked in old border disputes. He underlined the need for increased dialogue and trust building between countries in the region as well as greater willingness to prioritise economic development and regional connectivity over traditional security concerns. BRI covers around 70 countries while targeting 65% of the world's population and covers 40% of the global GDP, he said. Renowned author and foreign policy expert Ahmed Rashid raised questions "can we have connectivity when you consider all your neighbours as threat and danger? Can you take advantage of connectivity when you do not pursue...trade?"

He replied "what we really need is a paradigm shift in Pakistan's foreign policy...and support genuine policy of trade and improved relationship."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2447544/experts-stress-need-for-opening-up-cpec>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک منصوبہ اور بھارتی سازشیں

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) دونوں ملکوں کی لازوال دوستی کا ایک نیا ثبوت ہے اور یہ بھی پوری طرح واضح ہے کہ یہ منصوبہ ان دونوں ملکوں کے علاوہ خطے کے اندر اور باہر موجود بہت سے ملکوں کے لیے مفید ثابت ہو گا، اسی لیے بھارت سمیت کئی ممالک کو یہ منصوبہ ایک آنکھ نہیں بھاتا۔ اس حوالے سے چینی تھنک ٹینک سینٹر فار چائنائیٹڈ گلوبلائزیشن کے نائب صدر مسٹر وکٹر گاؤن کا کہنا ہے کہ دنیا میں کچھ طاقتیں چین اور پاکستان کی بڑھتی دوستی نہیں دیکھنا چاہتیں۔ ایک نجی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے وکٹر گاؤن نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کے مخالف نہیں چاہتے کہ پاکستان بہتر رابطوں کے منصوبوں سے جڑے، وہ یہ بھی نہیں چاہتے کہ پاکستان معاشی طور پر مضبوط ہو اور یہاں معاشی ترقی کے لیے کوآرڈینیشن ہو۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ ملکوں کے نام نہیں لینا چاہتا لیکن سی پیک کی مخالفت کرنے والے ممالک کی فہرست بڑی واضح ہے۔ آپ کے پڑوسی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا حصہ نہیں، وہ بصد ہیں کہ بی آر آئی منصوبہ وہاں سے گزرے جہاں کے وہ دعویٰ ہیں لیکن چین اور پاکستان اس بات سے متفق نہیں۔ وکٹر گاؤن کا یہ کہنا بالکل درست ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان ایک بیج پر ہیں اور وہ مل کر مذکورہ منصوبوں سے زیادہ سے زیادہ فائدہ حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان دونوں اس بات سے اچھی طرح واقف ہیں کہ بھارت سمیت کون کون سے ملک سی پیک کو کامیاب ہوتا نہیں دیکھنا چاہتے اور اس منصوبے کے خلاف مختلف طرح کے ہتھکنڈے استعمال کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں کئی دہشت گرد گردہ اور تنظیمیں صرف اس کام پر مامور ہیں کہ وہ سی پیک منصوبے سے وابستہ افراد کو نشانہ بنائیں۔ چین اور پاکستان کو ان عناصر اور ان کی پشت پناہی کرنے والوں پر کڑی نظر رکھنا ہوگی تاکہ عوامی اور بین الاقوامی فلاح کی ضمانت فراہم کرنے والے سی پیک منصوبے کو کوئی نقصان نہ پہنچے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-22/page-5/detail-4>

November 23, 2023

Business Recorder

Pakistan can become digital corridor of connectivity for China, Russia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's optical fiber cable network is planned to become a global corridor which can reduce the latency, besides benefitting the country by millions of dollars, said caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has planned a digital corridor of connectivity for China, Russia, and Central Asian States with the rest of the world. The implementation of the proposed project will benefit Pakistan by millions of dollars, said Dr Saif, while addressing the meeting of representatives of PTA, SCO, PTCL, Transworld, and Peace Cable.

“We often talk about CPEC trade corridor, but equally big opportunity is for Pakistan to become a digital corridor of connectivity for China, Russia and Central Asian States with the rest of the world. We now have fiber connectivity from Kashgar to Karachi and can offer low latency connectivity for China transit traffic with the evolving network of submarine cables connecting Africa and Europe. Our digital corridor can reduce the latency from 120 ms to just 20 ms”, the minister added.

He further said this is a huge opportunity for Pakistan and we are all set to take this forward. Wonderful to meet with all the ISPs, SCO and submarine cable operators to turn Pakistan into a digital corridor.

Global traffic can be connected to the submarine cable with the optical fiber cable up to Khunjab, Karachi, and Gwadar. All resources and required facilities have been provided for the digital corridor, said Dr Saif, adding that digital access to the Middle East, Central Asia, China, and Europe will be available at easy and affordable rates.

Some of the immense global digital traffic can be routed through this corridor, said Dr Saif, adding that the platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) can be a great help in this project. At present, there are about 180,000 kilometers of fiber cable in the country and 6,000 mobile towers are connected, said Dr Saif. A feasible plan has been made to install 0.3 million kilometers of optical fiber cable and connect 20,000 towers, he added. By increasing the optical fiber cable, the connectivity will be faster, and better internet facilities will be provided to the users, said Dr Saif, adding that they are also in touch with international organisations including Google, Meta. Soon good news would be given about global networks, said the caretaker IT minister.—TAHIR AMIN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/23/4-page/977753-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

KPBoIT-Chinese firm sign MoU

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBoIT) and the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce, China, have formalized their commitment to strategic collaboration in the realm of e-commerce and related IT opportunities for investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony took place during the China Innovation Summit, an initiative led by CAREC that fosters cooperation, collaboration, and the promotion of e-commerce and related IT interventions.

Representing the CEO of KPBoIT, Gul Mohammad, the board's representative, signed the MoU with the Director of Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce. Hangzhou, known for its diverse industrial sectors such as light industry, agriculture.

<https://pakobserver.net/kpboit-chinese-firm-sign-mou/#:~:text=The%20Khyber%20Pakhtunkhwa%20Board%20of,signing%20of%20a%20Memorandum%20of>

Gwadar smart port city master plan in high gear

Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan (2019-2025) has picked momentum with a flurry of high-quality development activities in 13 areas to shape up the old-fishing town into a modern city.

The activities include the progression of the central business district, rehabilitation of old towns, remodeling of roads, establishment of parks, fostering of green growth, designing of ecological corridors, mapping out of tourism spots, digitalization, and development of skill-

based economy, aiming to lay down the foundation of social and civic amenities, trail-blaze new business avenues and making available state-of-the-art health as well educational facilities.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, 75-page master plan document was prepared by China Communications Construction Company in conjunction with Pakistan's Minister of Planning, Development & Reform and Gwadar Development Authority. Work has been completed on various water supply projects in Gwadar.

Meanwhile, a sewage water treatment plant has been set up so that the sewage water of Gwadar could be used for irrigation and agriculture, instead of polluting the coastline. Gwadar Indus Hospital also called Pak-China Friendship Hospital for \$30.5 million has been completed. It will provide the best medical facilities to the people of Gwadar district.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-smart-port-city-master-plan-in-high-gear/>

Pakistan's exports to China up by 70 pc in October: Ghulam

Pakistan's export to China touched US\$368 million in October this year, showing 70 percent increase as compare with same month of the previous year, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on Wednesday.

"We're very happy to note that Pakistan's exports to China for October as per the Chinese data, have improved by 70% and have touched US\$368 million figure after a very long time. And there's an appreciable increase of over US\$150 million in a month," he told APP.

He informed that the main products which were exported last month included sesame, seafood, rice and other agricultural products.

Ghulam Qadir opined that the increased exports were the result of the participation of over 200 Chinese businessmen in the Food and Agri Expo held in Karachi this year.

"We arranged many meetings between the Chinese businessmen and traders with their Pakistani counterparts and we must continue to work on it to see more positive results," he added.

Responding to a question about further increase of Pakistani products to China keeping in view the huge potential, he said that Pakistan will soon start exporting meat to Chinese market.

All out efforts are being made for value addition in dairy products, chilly, cherries and sesame seed, adding, "We want to convert sesame seed into sesame oil and byproducts and work is underway in this regard."

Ghulam Qadir said that in terms of food and agriculture, the country expects more exports to China. "Similarly, for textiles and other pet exports, we are pinning our hopes on more presence of Pakistani players in China through e-commerce and other platforms."

He said that copper is also one of the biggest exports to China and the government is focusing on turning our copper into value added copper.

About Chinese support and investment in different sectors, he said that the government expects investment in food and agriculture and we really like all the Chinese investors to make best use of the US\$30 billion market. It should be better utilized with more investment, more technology transfer and more Chinese characteristics and we can make a big impact from that. “Similarly, we also want the Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and invest in textiles, footwear, toys, agriculture and all the labour-intensive sectors plus electronics, light engineering, and consumer products,” he added. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-up-by-70-pc-in-october-ghulam/#:~:text=Pakistan's%20export%20to%20China%20touched,Ghulam%20Qadir%20said%20on%20Wednesday>

The News

Pakistan eyes BRICS membership, seeks Russia’s help

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has applied for BRICS membership and sought Russia’s support, the country’s envoy to Moscow Muhammad Khalid Jamali has said.

There has been no comment from the Foreign Office without whose approval Jamali (who is yet to present his credentials) would not have made this revelation.

According to media reports, Jamali was talking to the Russian news agency TASS in which he revealed that Pakistan had filed an application to join the BRICS and was counting on Russia’s assistance.

Jamali said Pakistan had already applied for membership of the BRICS, which was set to expand next year with the admission of six new members.

Jamali said Islamabad planned to join the group under Russia’s presidency next year.

Pakistan would like to be a part of this important organisation and we are in the process of contacting member countries for extending support to Pakistan’s membership in general and the Russian Federation in particular, he said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=257705>

Pakistan, China enhancing technology for cancer screening

Islamabad: In a landmark move towards improving cancer care, Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH) in Islamabad, Pakistan, has joined forces with Landing Med, medical technology company based in Wuhan, China, to make use of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing

Cervical Cancer screening, says a press release.

This collaboration, driven by the pursuit of cutting-edge research and development, aims to redefine the landscape of cervical cancer screening for Pakistani women. Under the ambit of the China-Pakistan AI Cervical Cancer Screening Programme, Landing Med has provided multiple state-of-the-art, self-developed cervical cancer screening devices, complemented by

a large number of sets of consumable items. This infusion of advanced technology is poised to bring about a transformative shift in the early detection of cervical cancer, utilising the power of artificial intelligence.

Yasir Khan Niazi, CEO of ANTH, described this initiative as a pivotal step towards seamless integration of technology into the fabric of cancer screening for Pakistani women. He said that, “The AI-powered devices, equipped with unparalleled speed, efficiency and accuracy, promise to detect traces of cancer cells within minutes. Beyond swiftness, the devices leverage comprehensive algorithm models and decades of diagnostic data, ensuring early diagnosis that is speedy, precise and reliable.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=257607>

November 24, 2023

Business Recorder

Coal power project at Gwadar

Chinese firm shows ‘conditional’ willingness to commence work

ISLAMABAD: Chinese firm, CIHC Pak Power Company (Pvt) Limited (CPPCL) is said to have shown willingness to commence work on 330 MW imported coal power project at Gwadar with stringent conditions, to be met by the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

This project has been firmed up, after interactions at the highest level between China and Pakistan as the former had refused to start a project on Thar coal. The power company submitted revised tariff petition to NEPRA on the advice of PPIB.

The power company’s General Manager Li Yanfeng, stated that the company was unable to formally commence construction as requested by the two governments from time to time over the past six years’ and one of the most important reasons is the absence of an approved rational tariff.

The project was inaugurated by the leaders of the two countries in 2017 and the groundbreaking ceremony was witnessed by the concerned government officials in 2019 when the Company entered into an EPC agreement with Power China under which the contract amount was \$ 20 million above the EPC amount (\$ 21.41million) determined by NEPRA. In 2020, the Company constructed a temporary camp and wire fence at the site, in compliance with the request of the GoP. The same year GoP initiated negotiations of PPA and IA, which were finally signed with the company in April 2021 even though a reasonable tariff was still absent.

In 2021, for the development of the project, the company and CDB (China Development Bank) were required by both the Governments to commence financing work on a fast track basis and as a result, the Company and the lenders, commenced financing work without project cost and final tariff, which was recorded in CDB financing history. For the support of

Sinosure, the consent was sought in all directions in this project by the sponsors from 2019 and 2021.

So far, the investor has spent more than \$ 22 million directly on the project, and can no longer afford to continue a project that may be shelved by relevant parties' though the Company is dedicated to promote and develop the project to the extent of its ability. Despite uncertain conditions and circumstances not allowed to take further commercial activities, the Company overcame numerous difficulties or risks, and carried out the work with assistance of both government entities, which reflects its enthusiasm for investing in Pakistan and its commitment to the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar region. However, the efforts and sacrifices of the company have been considered by some as irrational. Sinosure and CDB finally decided to suspend the financing work due to the absence of a reasonable tariff following the analysis of recently determined tariffs by all parties. The Company had submitted the Motion for Leave for Review to NEPRA and sought following relief: (i) approve the EPC cost of \$ 420.03million; (ii) onshore EPC cost may allowed to be adjusted according to following mechanism, ie, for the conversion of the onshore EPC cost, the exchange rate prevailing at the time of the decision in the present case should be used and adjustments to the exchange rate on onshore EPC cost will not reduce the EPC contract amount. The same may be applied in others item of the project cost;(ii) project development cost of \$ 47.86 million subject to revision as per actual to the extent of amount to be quoted by NESPAK with respect to Project Owner's Engineer;(iii) permit the upfront Sinosure fee at 5.3% under the Buyer's Credit policy without any condition and specific amount will be adjusted based on debt service amount and other related assumptions; (iii) coal pricing API-3 index be replaced with API-4 index; (iv) approve O&M cost of \$ 17.47 million, which is inclusive of \$ 1.64 million Ash Handling cost;(v) cost of providing the bank guarantee be permitted as part of the Project cost (for the portion related to the construction period) and as part of the O&M cost (for the portion related to the operating period); (vi) NEPRA may determine provisionally an amount for withholding tax and sales tax, subject to adjustment at the Commercial Operations Date (COD), and include this sum in the overall project costs. This inclusion is critical for enabling the Company to fulfill the requirements set by its lenders; (vii) the security costs as per Section 5.4 of Implementation Agreement may be included as pass-through items;(viii) NEPRA may incorporate the Sinosure fee and financing fees and charges in the computation of interest during the construction phase; (ix) NEPRA may endorse the proposal for a flexible adjustment in the ratio of debt to equity at the COD, taking into account the finalized loan terms agreed upon with the lenders, with a minimum threshold of 70% for the debt to equity ratio;(x) NEPRA may issue a clarification allowing for the use of SOFR for loans of the project; (xi) NEPRA to approve the 17% Rate of Return for this project according to the macroeconomic situation, the regional situation and the actual situation of this project again; (xii) NEPRA to allow the Company to procure coal from the spot market with some flexibility if coal is not available or does not meet the operational demand under the long-term agreement. This will ensure that the coal pricing mechanism for the project is competitive with other large operators in Pakistan procuring coal on a long-term basis; (xiii) NEPRA to approve the CSR cost Rs 10 million for the entire project life time determined in the tariff determination on July 27,2023; (xiv) NEPRA to take

into account the exchange risk if the annual exchange rate loss exceeds 5% of the established Return on Equity (ROE) and the Company incurs a loss on this account; (xv) NEPRA to restore the project cost denominated in dollars regarding cost of land in PKR paid to Government of Balochistan through dollar selling based on signed lease agreement, which has mistakenly been reduced sharply applying the current exchange rate; (xvi) the cost of standby letter of credit @ 1 % to be paid to the issuing bank for maintaining the Debt Service Reserve Account through project finance be allowed as part of the operation and maintenance expenses on an actual basis; and (xvii) the lenders' advisors' fees (including technical legal, insurance, Trustees, inter-creditor agents, administrators, supervisors etc.) paid by the Company be treated as pass-through item during the term of debt at actual not exceeding \$ 0.89 million per annum.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/24/1-page/977816-news.html>

CPEC second phase

Minister, China's envoy discuss ways to expand cooperation

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister of Commerce and Industries, Gohar Ijaz and Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, met on Thursday and discussed ways and means to extend more cooperation under second phase of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) especially in fields of trade and investment. Caretaker Minister informed the Ambassador that the first phase of CPEC is at an advanced age at inter-governmental level which helped Pakistan develop infrastructure, road network, power plants to meet energy needs, and now the time has come for the private sectors of both countries to gear up to realise the benefits on the ground prepared by the two governments. Minister said a new relationship has been initiated by a consensus between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on the second stage of CPEC. He urged the Chinese private sector to invest in Pakistan, with particular attention to SEZs in Lahore and Karachi. He also informed the ambassador that he met Ambassador ShaZu Kang, President of Pak China Friendship Association in China and they also agreed that this was the way forward. The minister highlighted the importance of private sector collaboration as the next step in strengthening the Pak-China relationship, revealing plans for the development of a Northern SEZ to link Urumqi with Pakistan and the availability of the Lahore and Karachi SEZs for further development. He informed the Ambassador that as a part of his "Vision Pakistan: Road to \$100 billion exports", he has created two separate Export Advisory Councils for Textile and non-Textile Sectors respectively. The Councils will provide recommendations to the Ministry of Commerce on matters affecting export and would propose measures for export enhancement. These would meet on a monthly basis or with higher frequency, if required, on trade and increasing Pakistani exports. He further discussed the importance of key projects, including the upgradation of ML1 and the realignment of the Karakoram Highway. The significance of the northern region, particularly the work on the Khunjerab Pass, was also highlighted. The Commerce minister emphasized the need to develop and operate Special Economic Zones and reiterated the importance of Gwadar Port. "Pakistan is focusing on sectors such as agriculture, mining, new energy and IT under the framework of SIFC," he added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/24/12-page/977918-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Ambassador Zaidong discusses Pak-China trade relations with Gohar

Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Minister of Commerce & Industry received the Jiang Zaidong, the Ambassador of China to Pakistan for a meeting to discuss Pakistan-China Economic cooperation especially in fields of trade and Investment on Thursday. The focus of the discussions revolved around the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has now entered its second stage. Dr. Ejaz informed the Ambassador that the first phase of CPEC is at an advanced age at inter governmental level which has helped Pakistan to develop the infrastructure, road network, power plants to meet energy needs, and now the time has come for the private sectors of both countries to gear up to realise the benefits of the ground that has been prepared by the two governments. Minister Gohar Ejaz, heralded the start of a new relationship initiated by consensus between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar on the second stage of CPEC. He urged the Chinese private sector to invest in Pakistan, with particular attention to SEZs in Lahore and Karachi. He also informed the Ambassador that he met the Ambassador Shazu Kang, President of Pak China Friendship Association, in China and they also agreed that this was the way forward.

Minister Ejaz highlighted the importance of private sector collaboration as the next step in strengthening the Pak-China relationship, revealing plans for the development of a Northern SEZ to link Urumqi with Pakistan and the availability of the Lahore and Karachi SEZs for further development.

<https://pakobserver.net/ambassador-zaidong-discusses-pak-china-trade-relations-with-gohar/#:~:text=Ambassador%20Zaidong%20discusses%20Pak%2DChina%20trade%20relations%20with%20Gohar,-by%20News%20desk&text=Dr.%20Gohar%20Ejaz%2C%20the%20Minister,trade%20and%20Investment%20on%20Thursday.>

The Express Tribune

Chinese envoy discusses economic cooperation

Ejaz urges Chinese investment to focus on SEZs in Lahore, Karachi

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting between Dr Gohar Ejaz, the Minister of Commerce & Industry, and Jiang Zaidong, the Ambassador of China to Pakistan, discussions cantered around the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), now entering its second stage.

Ejaz emphasised the advanced development in infrastructure, road networks, and power plants achieved in CPEC's first phase. He called upon the private sectors of both countries to capitalise on the groundwork laid by the governments. The minister highlighted a new phase of Pak-China relations initiated by consensus between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar.

Ejaz urged Chinese private sector investment in Pakistan, focusing on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Lahore and Karachi. He revealed plans for a Northern SEZ linking Urumqi with Pakistan, emphasising the need for private sector collaboration to strengthen bilateral ties.

As part of his “Vision Pakistan: Road to \$100 billion Exports,” Ejaz established Export Advisory Councils for Textile and Non-Textile Sectors. The councils, comprising notable figures from various industries, will provide recommendations on export-related matters.

“SMEs and non-textile sectors are key to Pakistan’s prosperity,” said Ejaz. The Non-Textile Export Advisory Council includes figures from agriculture, fruit & vegetable, processed chicken, sports, jewellery, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, IT, engineering, marble, leather, glass, and food sectors. The Textile Export Advisory Council comprises leading exporters.

In a follow-up to the prime minister’s visit to China, Ejaz will lead a delegation to China in December, including members from Export Advisory Councils and CEOs of major industrial groups. The delegation aims to foster trade, investment, and joint ventures.

The Chinese Ambassador acknowledged the commerce ministry’s role in promoting Pak-China trade and discussed key projects, emphasising the importance of SEZs, Gwadar Port, and developments in the northern region, including the Khunjerab Pass.

The commerce minister stressed the ministry’s role in developing SEZs and the production of value-added goods. The meeting highlighted the strategic economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, especially in the context of the CPEC’s ongoing second stage.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2447773/chinese-envoy-discusses-economic-cooperation>

The Nation

Chinese private sector urged to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD-Dr Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Commerce & Industry, has met ambassador of China to Pakistan to discuss Pakistan-China economic cooperation especially in fields of trade and investment.

The focus of the discussions revolved around the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has now entered its second stage. Dr Ejaz informed the ambassador that the first phase of CPEC is at an advanced age at inter-governmental level which has helped Pakistan to develop the infrastructure, road network, power plants to meet energy needs, and now the time has come for the private sectors of both countries to gear up to realise the benefits of the ground that has been prepared by the two governments. Minister Gohar Ejaz heralded the start of a new relationship initiated by consensus between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar on the second stage of CPEC. He urged the Chinese private sector to invest in Pakistan, with particular attention to SEZs in Lahore and Karachi. He also informed the ambassador that he met the Ambassador Sha Zu Kang, President of Pak China Friendship Association, in China and they also agreed that this was the way forward. Minister Ejaz highlighted the importance of private sector collaboration as the next step in strengthening the Pak-China relationship, revealing plans for the

development of a Northern SEZ to link Urumqi with Pakistan and the availability of the Lahore and Karachi SEZs for further development. He informed the ambassador that as a part of his “Vision Pakistan: Road to \$100 billion Exports”, he has created two separate Export Advisory Councils for Textile and non-Textile Sectors respectively. The Councils would provide recommendations to the Ministry of Commerce on matters affecting export and would propose measures for export enhancement. These would meet on a monthly basis or with higher frequency, if required. “SMEs and the non-textile sectors are the key to Pakistan’s prosperity and progress” said Dr. Ejaz. He informed the ambassador that as a follow-up to the visit of the Prime Minister to China last month, he will be taking a delegation of the three main groups to China from 11 to 15 December, 2023. In addition to the members of the two Export Advisory Councils, the third group would include the CEOs of the top industrial groups in Pakistan. These include Fawad Ahmed Mukhtar, Muhammad All Tabba, Waqar Ahmed Malik, Abdul Samad Dawood, Raza Mansha, Shahzad Asghar Ali, Samir Chinoy, Amir Fayyaz Sheikh, Shahbaz Yaseen Malik, Ahsan Bashir, Syed Hyder Ali and Farooq Naseem.

This multi-segmental delegation representing the business sector of Pakistan would hold meetings with their counterparts in China for trade and investment and formation of joint ventures. The Chinese ambassador acknowledged the crucial role of Commerce Ministry in promoting Pak-China trade and increasing Pakistani exports. He further discussed the importance of key projects, including the upgradation of ML1 and the realignment of the Karakoram Highway. The significance of the northern region, particularly the work on the Khunjerab Pass, was also highlighted. The commerce minister emphasized the need to develop and operate Special Economic Zones and reiterated the importance of Gwadar Port. “Pakistan is focusing on sectors such as agriculture, mining, new energy, and IT under the framework of the SIFC” said Dr Ejaz. He further stated that the Ministry of Commerce played a crucial role especially concerning SEZs and the production of value-added goods.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Nov-2023/chinese-private-sector-urged-to-invest-in-pakistan>

The News

Pakistan joins Turkey, China on Palestine peace process restart

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thursday joined Turkey and China who have been demanding an international peace conference to restart the Palestine peace process.

“Pakistan supports the call for an international peace conference to restart the peace process. We believe that peace in the region can only be achieved with the implementation of relevant UN resolutions calling for a two-state solution, culminating in a viable, sovereign and geographically-contiguous Palestinian state within the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital,” said the Foreign Office spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during the weekly media briefing here.

She pointed out that like the rest of the world, Pakistan impatiently awaited the truce that was expected to come into effect tomorrow (Friday). “It presents an opportunity to establish a

humanitarian corridor facilitating the delivery of food, water, fuel and other humanitarian aid to the besieged people of Gaza,” she added.

Pakistan believed, she emphasised, that a durable and sustained ceasefire is critical for bringing the much-needed relief to the Palestinian people and to respond to the immense humanitarian needs in Gaza that include extensive and robust humanitarian supplies, urgent medical aid to the injured and shelter to those who have been displaced as a result of indiscriminate and inhumane bombing campaign by Israeli forces.

To a query, Baloch confirmed that Pakistan had made a formal request to join BRICS, which ‘we believe is an important grouping of developing countries’.

Pakistan took this decision after having noted the BRICS related developments in Johannesburg and its proclaimed openness to inclusive multilateralism. “We believe by joining BRICS, Pakistan can play an important role in furthering international cooperation and revitalization of inclusive multilateralism. We also hope that BRICS will move forward on Pakistan’s request in line with its commitment to inclusive multilateralism”, she added.

Commenting on Wednesday’s shocking revelations about an attempt by India to assassinate a US-based Sikh leader coming at the heels of Canada’s accusations that India had assassinated a Canadian Sikh on the Canadian soil a few months ago, the spokeswoman replied, “As we have said in the past, Pakistan has remained a target of India’s state-sponsored terrorism, subversion and espionage for a long time. And we have also seen that India’s network of espionage and extraterritorial killings has gone global. We have condemned and we are concerned about India’s reckless and irresponsible conduct, which we believe is in clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty”.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will undertake an official visit to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to participate in the World Climate Action Summit, scheduled to take place on 1-2 December 2023, as part of the UN Climate Change Conference 2023 (COP 28). Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination will be part of the delegation. Kakar’s programme in Dubai includes participation in the high-level events at the summit and bilateral meetings with counterparts from participating countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=258037>

Chinese EV giant BYD in talks with Pakistan over investment opportunities

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker BYD Co Ltd is in talks with Pakistan’s government and potential local partners about investing in the country’s nascent EV sector.

The Board of Investment (BoI), Pakistan’s main body for attracting foreign investment, said the world’s largest EV manufacturer, had expressed interest in exploring opportunities in Pakistan during a visit by a delegation this week.

"The delegation is currently on an exploratory visit to Pakistan, facilitated by BOI, including crucial meetings with potential local partners," the BoI said Thursday on its social media platform X. The significant update comes in the aftermath of a meeting between a delegation from BYD Company China, led by Cai Xiao Xu, head of Dealer Division (South Asia), and Lei Jian, Country Head (Pakistan), with Sohail Rajput, Secretary at BoI.

The BoI said BYD, recognized as a Fortune 500 entity and a global leader in EV manufacturing, emphasized its presence in four major industries: automobile, rail transit, new energy, and electronics.

During the meeting, the Secretary of BoI welcomed BYD's interest, emphasizing the significance of EVs in Pakistan. He assured the BYD delegation of the Government of Pakistan's commitment to facilitating foreign investors.

BYD, holding the title of the world's largest EV manufacturer, is a key player in the production of various vehicles, including battery electric and hybrid cars, buses, trucks, as well as battery-powered bicycles, forklifts, solar panels, and rechargeable batteries.

In the preceding month, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Minister for Commerce & Industries, disclosed through his 'X' account that BYD is actively considering investment opportunities in Pakistan. The minister informed the BYD delegation about the government's policy and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), expressing full support for their potential ventures.

With its operations in India and various right-hand-driven (RHD) markets, BYD is emerging as a formidable competitor to Tesla and is on track to surpass the latter as the world's largest EV manufacturer. The Chinese company's EVs have been gaining widespread popularity globally.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=257849>

November 25, 2023

Dawn News

30 buses from China due in Jan for 13 new routes in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is all set to start construction of a bus depot at Zero Point as 30 of the total 160 electric buses will arrive from China in January for launching a bus service in the city.

CDA Chairman Anwarul Haq on Friday chaired a meeting to get an update on the import of the buses. He was told that in January 30 buses will reach in Islamabad followed by the arrival of two other fleets in February and March.

Sources said the chairman directed the concerned wing to expedite the process and ensure timely arrival of all the buses. The CDA will operate the 160 buses on 13 routes in the capital.

The main dept will be constructed at Zero Point along Srinagar Highway towards H-8 side. The planning wing of the CDA has already earmarked a piece of land for the depot.

The sources said the CDA board in October had decided that the depot would be constructed under 42(f) of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules, allowing only government-run construction firms to participate in the bidding process for “its speedy and timely completion.” They said in future three more depots will be constructed, but the first one was being set up on priority. Once started, the construction work on the depot will be completed in six months. The sources said the CDA had invited applications from the government-run construction firms. It is relevant to note here that majority of contracts for the CDA projects have been won by Frontier Work Organisation (FWO) and National Logistics Cell (NLC). The buses would be operated on 13 routes by the National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) - the contractor of the CDA which has placed orders for the 160 buses with an international firm that is manufacturing them in China.

As per the agreement, the CDA will pay the NRTC about Rs306 to Rs331 per kilometre to operate the buses. The 13 routes include Police Foundation/Orange Line Station to Red Line Faiz Ahmed Faiz Station in I-8; Allama Iqbal Station to Red Line Potohar Station; Pims to Secretariat; D-12 to G-10; F-11 to Red Line F-8 Station; G-11 to Pims; Aabpara to Tramri Chowk; Nilor to Khanna Pul; Pirwadhai Chowk to Faizabad; B-17 to 26 Number Chungi, and I-16 to 26 Number. Earlier, the CDA had intended to procure the buses from its own funding, however, in February this year, the civic agency decided to hire the services of a contractor and NRTC won the contract. Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last year had directed the CDA to launch new bus services on 13 routes. During his tenure, he constantly pushed the CDA to start the service. He had also inaugurated three metro bus services: Orange Line, Green Line and Blue Line. The buses plying on the three routes belong to the CDA and they are providing great relief to thousands of passengers daily. CDA officials said when the buses will start plying on the 13 new routes, there will be an adequate travelling facility available for the residents of Islamabad as almost all areas of the city will be connected with each other.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1792317#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20The%20Capital%20Development%20Authority,bus%20service%20in%20the%20city.>

Daily Times

3-day learning festival, book fair starts at Pak-China Center

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aghai (ITA) and the National Book Foundation, is organizing a Pakistan Learning Festival (PLF) 2023 which includes Conference, Book Fair & the Pakistan Learning Festival with the theme: “Today’s Readers, Tomorrow’s Learners”

According to the official sources, the event will start from 25th to 27th November 2023 at Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad.

The sources further briefed that PLF is a significant event that combines a national conference on reading and literacy with a 3-day Book and Foundational Learning Festival. The focus of this year’s event is on children, schools, and families, where leading education providers will deliver short ‘Lightning Talks’ addressing innovative solutions to specific areas of foundational learning. Particularly on the first day (25th November 2023) the

renowned educationists will lead insightful discussions on key challenges and advancements in the field of literacy and foundational learning. In order to make this event more interesting and impactful various activities for the children have been organized on different days. The first day (25th November, 2023) activities include the animated story of the books, Storytelling: Suno Kahani Meri Zubani, Dadi Gulabi Singing & Song writing, Interactive performances, Creating Desi Characters, by Ms. Nigar Nazar, and the Art of bookmaking.

Similarly, on second and third day (26th & 27th November, 2023) children along with their families can amuse themselves from the Poems, Screen Plays, Dance and Musical performances and Dramas etc. This comprehensive three day program would provide a learning platform for the youth of the society. The mega festival also included interactive learning activities and learning solutions and Book fair for children, teacher and parents happening on 25th, 26th and 27th of November 2023.

These three days are packed with program for kids curated carefully on promoting foundational learning and reading habits among kids. The first day i.e., 25th November will be kicked off with the National Reading Conference, “Today’s Readers, Tomorrow’s Learners for enhancing literacy and reading. The main highlight of the events is the Pitching Sessions in which different leading education providers will deliver short insightful lightning talks, addressing the innovative solutions specifically for the foundational learning followed by thought provoking panel discussions which will be led by renowned educationists on key challenges and advancements in the field of literacy and foundational learning.

The day-long activities will continue along side the book fair by National Book Foundation. The learning festival will be unique blend of learning, awareness, and fun, the program of the learning activities is curated on PLF 16 learning strands which includes climate change, creative writing, storytelling, self- expression and number of other innovative learning solutions and activities for the participants for fostering a reading culture and enhancing foundational literacy skills but also provide an opportunity to engage with renowned educationists in enlightening panel discussions and Book launches.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1147708/3-day-learning-festival-book-fair-starts-at-pak-china-center/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China relations: A start of new chapter

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

WITH the appointment of HE Jiang Zaidong as the new Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, both countries have now entered a new phase of greater mutual trust and respect, further translating cordial relations into socio-economic realities, initiation of new projects and start of a new economic journey. Zaidong has a rich and diversified experience of economic diplomacy, business strategy, investment, industrialization and, importantly, commercial diplomacy which would ideally catalyze the advancement of CPEC projects in the country.”

It is an encouraging indication that HE Zaidong pledged to consolidate the current phase of CPEC, further strengthening agriculture and mining cooperation and people’s friendly

projects through the development of SMEs in Pakistan. Therefore, completion of the CPEC Phase-I projects and start of CPEC Phase-II and greater cooperation in agriculture and mining would definitely improve food security capacity of Pakistan. It is indeed a paradigm shift in the CPEC outlook through immense social uplifting and supporting the Government of Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for quick economic revival, investment, stability and sustainability.

The modern economic concept of "Small is Beautiful" is still relevant and productive and change of CPEC towards the development of SMEs would bring desired goals of rural development, empowerment of women, eradication of poverty, capacity building mechanism and notably, generation of new jobs for the local communities, thus revolutionizing the concept of community development under the flagship project of CPEC. The CPEC has completed its ten years during which the highest levels of investment have been received in the country. Energy sector remained the biggest recipient of funds. Infrastructure development was also one of the key priorities of CPEC investment in the last ten years. CPEC Phase-II will be completed by 2030.

Thus for the easy and smooth initiation, execution, implementation and completion of numerous projects of the CPEC in next seven years urgently needs revitalization of working relations, nature of bilateral coordination among all main stakeholders, scope of mutual consultation and utility of proposed projects under the CPEC Phase-II in the country. There is an urgent need of new working formula comprising removal of all bureaucratic impediments in terms of approval, disbursement and transparency, snatching of horizontal and vertical flop-holes in the existing governance system and tightening of flaws in safety & security of the Chinese people working in the CPEC projects, especially in Gwadar, Balochistan.

In this regard, Integrated Model of Security (IMS) would be a step in right direction between the two countries. The latest assurance of the COAS General Munir Asim vividly reflects Pakistan's unwavering support for this noble cause. The scaling, streamlining and systematizing of pending dues of the Chinese private companies in the country should also be settled as soon as possible to speed up cooperation of public-private partnership in the CPEC projects. It would be mutually beneficial for both sides in the days to come.

There is an urgent need to spell out new national narrative about CPEC in the country because onslaught of the western schemers have somehow polluted its strategic importance and utility through disseminating false and fake propaganda against so-called debt trap. In this regard, rigorous nationalistic media campaign, publication of numerous articles, news items, documentaries and interviews highlighting national, regional and international significance of the CPEC, pledging materialization of dreams of socio-economic prosperity, eradication of poverty, generation of new jobs, industrialization, modern agriculture and last but not the least, development of renewables is crucial.

It is high time to gradually change the priority of CPEC from infrastructure development to social development, rural/community development in the country.

Hopefully, it would be instrumental to win hearts and souls of local people in the country. Pakistan has become the easy prey of devastating looming threat of climate change which has

spoiled our economies, communities, industries and production channels in the country. To avoid these natural/environment catastrophes the policy makers of Pakistan and China should start national drive of green energy transformation by further including new green energy projects in the CPEC Phase-II.

In this regard, starting of solar, wind and hybrid model of hydro & hydrogen power generation, building of lithium batteries, promotion of Electric Vehicles, environment's friendly infrastructure development, hybrid production of agriculture yields, diversification of existing basket of food production, conservation of ecology, preservation of depleting water resources, converting of sandy soils into green lands and, equally important, close liaison in disaster management under the flagship project of CPEC would be mutually beneficial.

The successful model of solarization of housing societies, transfer of technologies and joint ventures with local companies would be useful to promote and mitigate spillover socio-economic repercussions of climate change in the country.

In this regard there is an urgent need of introducing and implementing new Equity-Investment Model (EIM) in the country to transform the energy outlook.

In summary, the policy makers of Pakistan should avail this opportunity and utilize diversified expertise of H.E. Jiang Zaidong, the newly appointed ambassador in the country and gear up projects of CPEC.

The two countries should also jointly work to include mega projects of Sand Storage Energy Generating Capacity Model (SSEGCM) or Oscan Energy Storage Capacity Model (OESCM) under the flagship project of CPEC.

It would be new value addition in the country's energy mix a giant leap towards clean energy production and energy efficiency.

Mobilization and channelization of domestic savings and banking resources should also be seriously considered for the financial support of the CPEC projects in the country.

Building of various small hydro-dams in the Northern Areas and Balochistan would have substantial impact on local economies and communities which should also be considered and initiated.

Close cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, re-location of qualitative industries, greener industrialization, and skilled education and, lastly, capacity building training should be part and parcel of the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

New vision, vigilance and greater velocity of the CPEC projects is the way forward for the quick economic recovery, revival, stability and sustainability in the days to come.

—The writer is Executive Director, Centre for South Asia & International Studies, Islamabad, regional expert China, BRI & CPEC & senior analyst, world affairs, Pakistan Observer.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-relations-a-start-of-new-chapter/#:~:text=WITH%20the%20appointment%20of%20HE,of%20a%20new%20economic%20journey>

The Express Tribune

China tie-up to advance EV charging network

ADM International to assist K-P in developing EV assembly and manufacturing infrastructure

PESHAWAR: During the China Innovation Summit and Digital Economy Tour, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) and China's ADM International Trading Company inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to foster strategic collaboration.

The focus of the agreement is on jointly establishing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, assembly, and manufacturing infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This initiative, part of the CAREC-led efforts for cooperation in e-commerce and electronics, aligns with the goals of the Automotive Policy 2021–26. ADM aims to provide cutting-edge EV services by creating a nationwide charging network and establishing assembly and manufacturing facilities for EVs and related products in Pakistan. The partnership, as described by KP-BoIT Director Iqbal Sarwar, not only supports the province's sustainable development goals but also presents significant opportunities for EV investors, marking a substantial step towards reducing imports.

In October this year, K-P Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr Aamir Abdullah, emphasized the significant population increase of 5.5 million people in the province after the merger of tribal areas.

He underscored the vital role of private investment and business promotion in achieving sustainable development in the region. The minister noted that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa offers abundant opportunities across various sectors, emphasizing the need to create a favorable environment and facilities for investors and entrepreneurs.

He highlighted the pivotal role of private investment and business growth in the province's economic development, citing global examples where countries achieved progress by prioritizing the private sector. He expressed the government's commitment to supporting investors and entrepreneurs and providing them with comprehensive assistance.

These remarks were made during his address as the chief guest at an event titled 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa SMEs and Investors Networking,' held at a local hotel in Peshawar.

The event was organized by the KPBOIT, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Attendees included officials from relevant government departments, investors, businessmen, representatives of UNDP, and other stakeholders. Dr. Abdullah emphasized that fostering the private sector and encouraging investment are crucial for a country's development. He highlighted the success stories of countries like China, which prioritized facilitating private businesses and investments to achieve progress and alleviate poverty.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2447932/china-tie-up-to-advance-ev-charging-network>

Railways wants China to expedite ML-1 project

21-member National Railway Administration delegation visits HQ

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has urged Chinese authorities to accelerate work on the multi-billion-dollar Mainline-1 (ML-1) project, a crucial part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan Railway CEO Amir Baloch made the request during a meeting with a high-level delegation from China's National Railway Administration. The 21-member delegation, led by Zhu Mengrui, expressed full support and commitment to ensuring the timely commencement of the transformative ML-1 project. Baloch emphasised the unparalleled cooperation between Pakistan and China in the energy and transport sectors. He described ML-1 as a game-changer set to revolutionise Pakistan's transport landscape and significantly enhance revenue in the freight sector.

Mengrui, leading the ML-1 project team, assured collaborative efforts to address various aspects, including financing schemes and design proposals. This marks a significant stride towards strengthening economic ties and reducing transportation costs by establishing economic zones linked to ML-1.

Wang Chen, representing the Science and Technology Department of the Chinese Railways, was also a prominent member of the 21-member delegation. Recently, the Ministry of Railways forwarded the revised PC-1 of the ML-1 project to the Ministry of Planning. Subsequently, the PC-1 will undergo presentations before the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for approval.

The estimated overall project cost stands at \$6.67 billion, to be executed in two phases. The revised PC-1 outlines the construction of an initial phase covering a 930-kilometre track to be completed within five years, costing \$3159.7 million.

Package One consists of a 397-kilometre track, encompassing Nowshera, Rohri, Khanpur, and PR Walton, while Package Two extends for 533 kilometres. Package Two includes tracks from Karachi to Nawabshah (296 kilometers) and from Khanpur to Multan (237 kilometers), with a total expenditure of \$3,159 million.

The second phase of ML-1 incurs a cost of \$3,518.8 million, covering a track length of 796 kilometers. Package Three links Multan to Lahore (334 kilometers) with an expenditure of \$799 million.

Package Four includes tracks from Lahore to Rawalpindi (288 kilometers) and Rawalpindi to Peshawar (174 kilometers), along with the Havelian Dry Port. The total cost is \$2,719 million, with an expected completion within four years.

PC-1, or Planning Commission Form 1, serves as a comprehensive project document detailing project needs, description, justification, location, duration, cost estimates, and anticipated benefits.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448044/railways-wants-china-to-expedite-ml-1-project>

November 26, 2023

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China ink accord on sustainable uplift of rivers

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have signed a cooperation agreement focusing on the Indus and Yangtze Rivers to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by river cultures, ecosystems and economies and engage in discussions on sustainable development of major rivers, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said on Saturday.

Both countries have learnt from the historic role that all these rivers and river systems have played for the civilization, human settlements and cultures, he said while talking to APP on the sidelines of the Yangtze Culture Forum held in Nanjing, China.

The forum brought together guests from all over the world to discuss and promote the shared values of humanity and establish a global network for dialogue and collaboration among major river cities.

Ambassador Hashmi acknowledged the theme of the forum that focused on the Yangtze River and its connections with humanity, cities and civilisations.

As the largest river in China, Yangtze has played a significant role in economic and cultural development of several big cities along it, he added.

There are a number of ports along the Yangtze River and China has significantly preserved and used this river for not only the development of human life but also for food security and connectivity.

Pakistan, he informed, has also launched a big project called Living Indus Initiative that mainly deals with environmental protection and climate change.

The forum jointly hosted by UNESCO and other partners fostered exchange and mutual learning in river basin areas, eventually constructing a shared human destiny community.

Rivers play a vital role in nurturing cities and preserving their cultural heritage and shared memories.

Nanjing, the only one of China's four great ancient capitals located along the Yangtze River, has been continuously paying attention to the Yangtze River issue for many years.

The uniqueness and innovation of this forum lie in establishing a platform to showcase and share the diverse cultures of the entire Yangtze River basin, with a broader goal of fostering mutual learning and exchange among civilizations and cities of great rivers.

The forum focused on the theme "Flowing Rivers, Converging Future". It discussed issues that are common in river basins globally. —APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/26/1-page/977998-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China sign agreement on sustainable development of rivers: Hashmi

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1147909/pakistan-china-sign-agreement-on-sustainable-development-of-rivers-hashmi/>

Pakistan Observer

Investment prospects

THE interim federal cabinet on Friday gave the nod to seven memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with Kuwait for an investment worth \$10 billion that would be signed by caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar during his upcoming visit to the Middle Eastern country.

The MoUs will be inked for projects in various fields, including expansion of water reservoirs, mining facilities, protection and expansion of mangrove forests for coastal areas, investment in IT sector and food security. According to a statement of the PM Office, the expected MoUs between the two countries became possible due to the efforts made by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

This is an encouraging development in the backdrop of uncalled-for concern over the role and functions of the SIFC by some vested interests as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which has started poking its nose in almost all policy areas.

Like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the propaganda against the SIFC is surely part of the conspiracies to deprive Pakistan of the benefits of all major initiatives, programmes and projects.

It was because of the foreign pressure and propaganda that the previous government of PTI adopted a policy of going slow on CPEC projects and as a result their cost increased despite the readiness of the Chinese side to provide necessary finances and help implement them in a time-bound manner.

And now some local elements and the IMF are active to undermine prospects of significant foreign investment in Pakistan by some friendly countries. There is no doubt that the SIFC is focusing on investment from the Gulf countries but there is absolutely no bar on investment from other countries.

While the country welcomes investment from all countries, both Pakistan and China have repeatedly made offers to other countries to join CPEC to share the benefits of progress and development. The SIFC is, in fact, a facilitator that clears potential hurdles and takes timely measures to clear road blocks in the way of smooth investment and project implementation. People of Pakistan have anxiously been waiting to hear about concrete progress from this platform and now the Prime Minister has shared the good news that in the next couple of weeks, Pakistan would be signing a number of MoUs of billions of dollars of investment with various countries from the platform of SIFC. Kakar said the SIFC was vigorously working on attracting local and foreign investment in various fields including the minerals sector, agriculture and IT. We hope that all ideas, plans and MoUs would translate into tangible projects in the shortest possible time as this would be the surest way to scuttle baseless propaganda against the SIFC.

<https://pakobserver.net/investment-prospects/>

November 27, 2023

Business Recorder

KP-BoIT, China's firm sign MoU on e-vehicle manufacturing

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) and China's ADM International Trading Company have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster strategic collaboration.

The MoU was signed during the China Innovation Summit and Digital Economy Tour from November 22 to 25, 2023.

According to Iqbal Sarwar, a Director at KP-BoIT, the focus of the agreement is on joint establishment of infrastructure for charging and manufacturing Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This initiative, part of the CAREC-led efforts for cooperation in e-commerce and electronics, aligns with the goals of the Automotive Policy 2021–26.

ADM aims to provide cutting-edge EV services by creating a nationwide charging network and establishing assembly and manufacturing facilities for EVs and related products in Pakistan.

The partnership, as described by KP-BoIT Director. Iqbal Sarwar, not only supports the province's Sustainable Development Goals but also presents significant opportunities for EV investors, marking a substantial step towards reduction in imports.

Following the initiative, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has joined hands with the Electrical Vehicle Academy (EVA) Islamabad, a private company which is providing hands on trainings regarding electrical vehicles, have agreed to collaborate in training of skilled persons and technical students for the manufacturing of electric vehicles in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This initiative will further help to promote the conversion of traditional vehicles towards electricity consumed vehicles in the province.

As per this collaboration, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Department and EV Academy Islamabad will work jointly to provide the required trainings.

In this connection, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), a relevant subsidiary formation of the department will provide the space and required equipment for the subject training, while the training company will extend support in imparting requisite skill through their qualified and trained trainers to train the technical students and skilled workers from the same modern technology.

In this regard, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, met with relevant authorities of the company, (EV Academy), at Islamabad and discussed with them matter related to training of electric vehicles production/ manufacturing in the province. Similarly, the possibilities of mutual collaboration also came under consideration.

On this occasion, it was agreed to make jointly efforts for providing necessary training for the manufacturing/production of electric vehicles in the province, while the caretaker minister termed this effort of mutual cooperation in the province very useful and said that the skilled trainers of the company, equipped with advance experience of the automotive industry of the United States, will make possible to train the local technical students, skilled workers and trainers for promotion of electrical vehicles on local level.

It is merit to mention that the EV Academy provides training courses on the latest technologies in the automotive industry with professional technicians and trainers, equipped with US experience in the field of manufacturing electric vehicles.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/27/3-page/978074-news.html>

Delegation of Chinese police officials reaches Lahore

SAFDAR RASHEED

LAHORE: On the invitation of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, a high-level delegation of Chinese Province Jiangsu Police has reached Lahore on a 5-day visit to Pakistan. Led by Tan Yongsheng, Deputy Director General of Public Security Department of Jiangsu Province, Chinese delegation visited the Central Police Office. The officers included in the delegation were Shen Xiang, Director of Public Security Data Administration Bureau of Public Security Department of Jiangsu Province, Wang Bingde, Standing Deputy Director General of Nanjing Public Security Bureau, Jiangsu Province, Yaun Xiulai, Director of Public Order Administration Department of Public Security Department of Jiangsu Province, Hu Xiao, Deputy Director General of Wuxi Public Security Bureau, Jiangsu Province and Shao Weimin, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Bureau of Public Security Department of Jiangsu Province. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and senior police officers adorned the Chinese delegation officers with the traditional cultural turbans of Punjab. During the meeting, it was agreed to further strengthen security and strategic relations between Punjab and Jiangsu police officials. Jiangsu Police delegation undertook a detailed discussion on increasing bilateral cooperation in training, security and technical matters with Punjab Police. The Chinese police officers will review the working of different units of Punjab Police in the recent visit, and will finalize the matter to enhance the mutual cooperation. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police is looking forward to enhance cooperation with Chinese police in investigations, operations, trainings, information technology, modern weapons and logistics etc. He said that the capacity building of Punjab Police force will be improved with the experience of Chinese police, modern technology and upgrading the training modules. He said that the foolproof security of Chinese citizens, investors and experts is the top priority of the Punjab Police and in this regard the Special Protection Unit is tirelessly working by day and night. Deputy Director General, Tan Yongsheng appreciated the foolproof security of Chinese experts (working on various projects) provided by Punjab Police. He vowed to continue the technical and logistics support to Punjab Police and modern training of officers. He said that Chinese police experts will train the newly formed Punjab Tourism and Investment Police. He lauded the women empowerment and increase in women representation at key posts in Punjab Police. He also appreciated the public service delivery projects of Punjab Police.

At the end of the meeting, souvenirs and gifts were exchanged between the members of the Punjab Police and the Chinese delegation. Liu Yingkai, Embassy of China Islamabad, Li Quingchun, Embassy of China Islamabad, Cao Ke, Deputy Council General and Zhao Fushan Secretary Council General were accompanied the Chinese delegation, whereas Additional IG Punjab Sultan Ahmad Chaudhry, Additional IG Welfare Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara, DIG SPU Tayyab Hafeez Cheema and senior officers of Punjab Police also attended the meeting.

Later, a high-level delegation of Chinese Jiangsu Province Police, led by Deputy DG Public Security, visited the Special Branch Punjab Roberts Club headquarters. Shen Xiang, Director of Public Security and Administration Bureau, Wang Binged, Standing Deputy Director General of Ningjiang Public Security Bureau, Yuan Xiulai, Director of Public Order Administration, Hu Xiao, Deputy Director General of Wuxi Public Security Bureau, Shao Weimin, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Bureau, China were included in the delegation.

Additional IG Special Branch Punjab Zulfiqar Hameed briefed Deputy DG Tan Yongsheng and the delegation about the nature of work and administrative affairs of Special Branch. The delegation was appraised of the role and responsibilities of the Special Branch regarding the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. It was reiterated to increase cooperation between Special Branch Punjab and Jiangsu Police regarding information technology and cyber security. Souvenirs and gifts were exchanged between the Special Branch and the Chinese delegation. In the evening, Chinese delegation visited Wagah border where the Chinese police officers attended the traditional flag parade ceremony. Chinese delegation also saw the cultural artifacts amid other monuments of Punjab at the Wagah border. Senior officers of Punjab Police accompanied the Chinese delegation. Meanwhile, a Christian delegation led by former Federal Minister for Minority Affairs Dr. Paul Bhatti visited the Central Police Office and met IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar. The Christian delegation included Nadeem Daniel, Jararad Bhatti, Kamran Ejaz and Azeem Bhatti. IG Punjab informed the Christian delegation about the ongoing measures for the protection and convenience of the minority citizens, especially the Christian citizens.

He said that the protection of lives and properties of Christian citizens and religious places is the first priority of Punjab Police.

For easy provision of policing services to all minority citizens, including Christians, Meesaq centers have been established in all districts of the province.

Through these Meesaq Centers, Christian citizens are provided immediate service in case of any problem. He told the Christian delegation that foolproof security arrangements are made for churches in all districts including Lahore on Sunday. The Christian delegation was given a visit to the Central Police Office including martyr and Ghazi walls and other departments. Additional IG Punjab Sultan Ahmad Chaudhry, Additional IG Operations Shahzada Sultan, DIG Elite Sadiq Ali Dogar, DIG Operations Waqas Nazir, AIG Admin Amara Athar and other officers were also present on the spot.

After the meeting at the Central Police Office, IG Punjab took the Christian delegation for visit of Meesaq Center Liberty, where the Christian delegation reviewed the provision of service delivery and working in the Meesaq Center. Dr. Paul Bhatti said that for the

protection of life and property of the Christian citizens, projects like the Meesaq Centers are worthy of praise, Christian citizens across the province are benefiting from these projects. Meanwhile, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar directed the RPOs, DPOs to increase the security of churches, SPs; supervisory officers should check the security arrangements of churches and important places.

IG Punjab directed that additional police personnel and snipers should be deployed at sensitive churches, Dolphin Squad, PRU; Elite teams should conduct effective patrolling around the churches.

He said that the police officers and officials posted on security duty should remain extremely alert and keep a close watch on the evil elements. He said that search and sweep operations should be continued around churches, Christian communities and sensitive places, whereas scholars, Christian community leaders and members of peace committees should promote inter-faith harmony.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/27/4-page/978085-news.html>

Daily Times

China gears up to mitigate smog in Punjab

China and Pakistan are collaborating to tackle the hazardous smog and air pollution threatening the lives of over 100 million residents in Punjab province.

Three areas have been identified for China-Pakistan partnership to help Punjab address the dangerous atmospheric toxicity that has enveloped many districts over the last two months, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

One area of cooperation is conducting artificial rain in smog-affected localities. A Punjab government official told Gwadar Pro that cloud seeding is the most effective method for inducing artificial rain, adding that arrangements with Chinese experts have been finalised.

“Chinese experts will soon visit Pakistan,” he added. Artificial rain, or cloud seeding, is a weather modification technique involving the dispersion of chemicals into clouds from an aircraft to encourage precipitation.

It is used to induce rainfall in drought-stricken or pollution-laden areas. The second area of collaboration involves using Chinese anti-smog technology by installing smog towers in Lahore and other parts of the province. Progress was made following a successful meeting between Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi and Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren.

According to the Chinese Consul General, good air quality is essential for the people of Lahore.

The Chinese Consulate Lahore has provided comprehensive documents regarding smog-eating towers built in China to the Chief Minister Office Task Force Smog.

“We have collected all the required data and information by establishing a connection with relevant authorities in China,” said an official from the Chinese Consulate Lahore. “If the CM office needs further help, we will surely provide it,” he added. An official from the CM

Secretariat stated that amidst Punjab's unhealthy air quality, Chinese smog towers seem to offer a solution to the pollution crisis.

“The tower, over 100 meters tall, is designed to improve air quality in the city, where standards regularly fall short of those set by the World Health Organisation,” he added.

Meanwhile, Chinese company Norinco International Pakistan Branch has signed a contract with the Environment Protection Department, Government of Punjab, to establish air quality monitoring stations across the province, with a total value of Rs 3.65 billion.

Approximately 21 air quality monitoring stations, including 16 fixed and 5 mobile units, will be set up across Punjab to monitor air quality in eight regions in real time.

These systems will provide real-time data on parameters such as particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and others. This data will enable policymakers and stakeholders to make informed decisions and develop effective strategies to combat air pollution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1148281/china-gears-up-to-mitigate-smog-in-punjab/>

Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan

Yasir Habib Khan

Gwadar smart port city master plan is in action; changing Gwadar from a small fishing town to an advanced city. It aims to shape it as a trade and logistic hub by fostering a skill-driven economy, boosting business activities and making available civic amenities as per the new era.

The 75-page master plan document, prepared by Chinese state-owned company China Communications Construction Company in conjunction with Pakistan's Minister of Planning, Development & Reform and Gwadar Development Authority, chalks out an elaborate road map and plan on how Gwadar is to become the trade and economic hub of South Asia with a GDP per capita of \$15,000–10 times that of Pakistan's average.

Game-changing 13 areas include the progression of the central business district, rehabilitation of the old town, remodelling of roads, establishment of parks, fostering of green growth, designing of ecological corridors, mapping out of tourism spots, the launch of digitalization, development of skill-based economy, laying down the foundation of social and civic amenities, trailblazing new business avenues and making available state-of-art health as well as educational facilities.

Work has been completed on various water supply projects in Gwadar. In this regard, two dams, Shadi Kaur and Sowd, have been completed and connected to the city through pipelines.

Meanwhile, a sewage water treatment plant has been set up so that the sewage water of Gwadar could be used for irrigation and agriculture, instead of polluting the coastline. Gwadar Indus Hospital called also Pak-China Friendship Hospital for \$30.5 million has been completed. It will provide the best medical facilities to the people of Gwadar district.

In the initial phase, Gwadar Port has gone digital as the state of the fibre optic cable network is operationalized in true letter and spirit, unveiling modernization of E-Custom at the Port for easier and simpler trans-shipment and containerized trade on commercialized modules. With the laying down of fibre optic cable, paperless custom procedures have become fully functional, transforming Gwadar into a bustling hub of regional and international trade to Afghanistan, Central Asia and China. Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) completed the project of laying down the fibre optic cable.

The Balochistan government has approved a ‘central business district’ over an area of 2,500 acres in the port city under the Gwadar Master Plan. The government has also granted a tax-free zone status to Gwadar district, exempting the area from all provincial taxes in an attempt to boost economic activities. While a 280km road network has also been constructed.

Under the master plan, a project of a breakwater at Jebel-e-Nuh for the expansion of Port Gwadar worth Rs. 42.19 billion has been greenlighted. The purpose of this breakwater project is mainly to provide ample marine protection against waves and monsoonal swells and meet limiting (allowable) wave conditions considered safe for berthing. Gwadar Port Breakwater is designed to reduce coastal erosion and impacts of siltation at the East Bay. Overall, the Gwadar Port Breakwater will enable safe working at the port, navigation, cargo handling, berthing and unberthing, dredging, hydrographic surveys, mooring, etc.

Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI) has also been operational providing advanced skilled-based knowledge to the youth of Gwadar. Gwadar is going green with a quantum leap from barrenness to vegetation. Many green projects have been producing marvellous results. These projects include Pak-China Friendship Green Park, GDA Central Park, GDA New Town Family Park, Sunset Park, Gwadar Port Free Zone Nursery, a tissue culture Lab and an intelligent greenhouse in the free zone area. Under the agriculture ecosystem, projects regarding Aloe Vera plantation and Juncao, a name for fungi-breeding herbaceous plants, also known as the “Magic Grass are the new additions. City arteries, small and big, are blooming with the plantation drive mostly on dedicated road dividers. Marine Drive and Syed Hashmi Avenue (Old Airport), Shaheed Capt Road, Pak-China Friendship Road and many other internal roads even pathways inside housing societies have been wearing a greener look.

The plantation is also visible in China-Pakistan Faqeer Middle School, GDA higher secondary school, Behria Model Schools, Army Public Schools, Allama Iqbal Open University campus, Girls Degree College, Boys Degree College, National University of Modern Language (NUML) camps, Gwadar Information Technology (GIT), Gwadar University, DC office, Governor House and GDA hospitals. “Under green urbanization vision upholding the high spirit of “Gwadar Master Plan”, Gwadar life with sapling and plants is now the order of the day. Trees, plants and parks are the new scenes. Leafs, flowers and shrubs spell green extravaganza inside Gwadar Port as well as the city limits,” said local leader Noor Ahmed. Given the proposed Tourism Strategy, a “Ferry Service” is planned to be launched connecting adjoining areas of Gwadar and the neighbouring country Iran that will inculcate a startling sense among tourists to be amazed by the sound and sights of Gwadar.

The upcoming strategy will also entail “Festival Tourism”. It will set tourists’ interest ablaze, he claimed and added that Festival Tourism will unlock a sense of thematic festivity offering the people to get introduced to Gwadar’s local events, fairs and carnivals. “Cultural Tourism” is another valuable aspect that will be incorporated in the proposed draft of Gwadar’s first tourism strategy, he said. Recently Balochistan government launched a tourist policy in Gwadar to ensure a safe and secure environment for the visitors thronging the coastal city for recreational activities. Meanwhile, the ecotourism resorts are being built swing with allied facilities in the coastal areas of Balochistan to cater for the needs of local and foreign tourists visiting its beautiful coastal lines. The construction work on the establishment of tourist resorts in Gwadar is underway. Tourism in Gwadar may be marked as adventure tourism with boat riding, fish catching, some prospects of jeep rally and keeping in view the initiatives of the sea. The Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) has seen substantial progress with the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the submission of technical and financial feasibility reports, all under the framework of the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2025. With an estimated cost of Rs 3,325.6 million, the Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Government of Balochistan. Key aspects of the project include the installation of optical fibre cables spanning up to 190 kilometres and the placement of multipurpose cameras at 411 locations.

Gwadar Old City Master Plan is in making on fast-track promising new avenues of progress and prosperity for the local community. Gwadar Old City Master plan features the conservation of historical places, and old markets including Shahi Bazaar, and Janaat Bazaar, the rehabilitation of city arteries, the revamping of the drainage and sewerage system, and skill education for Gwadar’s boat-makers.

The writer is a senior Journalist. He is also President of Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1148239/gwadar-smart-port-city-master-plan/>

Pakistan Observer

Railways wants China to expedite ML-1 project

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<https://pakobserver.net/railways-wants-china-to-expedite-ml-1-project/>

The News

Tongzhou Global Development Forum: need for new governance system

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Renmin University of China recently concluded its first global development forum. The forum was organised to deliberate on contemporary development challenges and future courses of action to tackle them. China presented its vision of development for building a better global society – a society where development is an equal right of every individual without discrimination.

The Chinese officials and scholars presented their ideas for devising a fair and people-oriented development system. They highlighted China's unwavering commitment to the global development agenda and willingness to contribute.

The participants from all over the world discussed China's role in achieving the global development agenda. They also discussed the existing global governance system and its role in realising it. They appreciated China's robust commitment to the global governance system and the United Nations' central role.

They also deliberated on whether the current governance would deliver equitable development or there was a need to reform the system.

The analysis of the international governance institutions – financial, economic, development and political – is not very encouraging. It indicates most powerful global institutions have deep-rooted structural flaws and imbalances.

The imbalances have significantly impacted the development agenda of the world.

We have selected some leading institutions for the discussion to understand the structural imbalances and their impact on the development agenda. Let's start with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is a leading financial institution created after the economic crisis of 1930, with the objectives of achieving sustainable growth and prosperity for all. It was envisioned the IMF would be working to further international monetary cooperation, encourage trade and economic growth expansion and discourage policies that would harm prosperity. The institution committed itself to being accountable to all members and run it democratically.

However, the governance and voting structure of the institution shows it does not follow democratic norms. The voting structure is highly skewed in favour of a few. The US has the maximum number of voting rights – 16.50 percent. It makes the US the most powerful member of the IMF.

The decision-making formula gives veto power to the US. According to the rules of the IMF, there would be a need of 85 percent votes for any major decision. So, without the US's participation, it is impossible to make any major decision. The US can reject any decision, regardless of the support of the whole world.

Another interesting example is the comparison between voting rights of Japan and China. Japan has 6.14 percent, while China 6.04. Even though China is the second-largest economy and the biggest trade partner of the world, it has fewer votes than Japan. It is against the vote calculation formula. If applied to calculate votes, China must have more votes than the current number. Thus, there is a need for reforms to correct the mistake That are not happening because the influential players are not allowing meaningful reforms.

Second, the World Bank Group (WBG) is another institution with structural imbalances. The Group was created with the mission to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity on a livable planet. Again, it was decided the WBG would be run democratically and member countries would play a role in the decision-making and implementation. However, like the IMF, WBG also has structural issues obstructing it from achieving the objectives. The World Bank's voting power distribution is also biased in favour of a few powerful countries. The US has veto power with 15.68 percent voting rights.

On the political side, the United Nations is the most prominent organisation. It was established to ensure peace, development and dignity of humanity, among others. It preaches equality of humans and countries. It is also considered a symbol of democratic governance. However, in reality, it has deep structural imbalances. For example, the General Assembly is the biggest platform of UN, as all the member countries sit in the assembly.

Unfortunately, it has limited powers to finalise decisions or implement them. The real power is somewhere else – in the hands of members of the Security Council. It is concentrated in the hands of a few countries. They enjoy decision-maker status. Nothing can happen without

their approval. For example, in 1950, during the selection of the Secretary General of the UN, the decision of the General Assembly was not respected. The US rejected it. On the other hand, USSR refused and vetoed the US nomination. In 1996, the US again refused to accept the decision of the majority. It is widely accepted Boutros-Ghali was forced to suspend his candidacy. Moreover, members of the Security Council use their veto to protect their national interests and allies. Apart from the institutions, the economic growth and development discourse is heavily biased in favour of a few powerful actors and countries. The global governance actors have captured the driving seat to steer the discourse and actions. For example, the military-industry complex of the West is promoting economic security as a fundamental pillar of national and global security. It is a good idea and must be appreciated, but the devil is in the details. Unfortunately, they are militarising the economy in the name of economic security. They are shifting focus from human-centric economic security to military-centric one. It has greatly impacted global development objectives and disturbed international peace. Will it be possible for China to deliver fair and equitable development to all without discrimination? The answer is a big no. Thus, if China wants equitable development and ensure human dignity, as was discussed during the Tongzhou Global Development Forum, it will have to work for a better governance system. There are two options China can explore for answers.

China is already working with Global South and striving for fruitful global governance reforms. The reforms can lead to sustainable development. President Xi Jinping has accelerated the efforts to pursue reforms and made it one of the core areas of work. President Xi has asked China's leadership to lead in reforming the system. In the pursuit of the vision of President Xi, China's diplomats and leadership from other areas have adopted a proactive and efficient approach to materialise the vision into reality. However, despite all efforts by China and other countries, there is a limited success. The influential players of the system are not allowing meaningful reforms. China will now have to look for the second option. It should work with other countries to create new institutions to materialise the dream of equitable development by adhering to principles of dignity of humanity and respect for sovereignty of countries. It is good to note China is cognizant of this fact and has started working on it. It has launched numerous initiatives: Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilisation Initiative, Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, etc. All these initiatives have been undertaken to assist developing countries to meet their economic and financial needs for achieving development goals. China is also putting efforts into strengthening the BRICS and working with regional organisations like ASEAN, Arab League, etc. Through the Tongzhou Global Development Forum, China is trying to bring back discourse on human-centric economic security. It is the right time for China to show leadership and solve the global problems. It should lead the course by reforming or creating new institutions, sticking to the discussion-based and collaborative economic growth and development philosophy. It would be a step in the right direction to materialise the development dream.

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Nawaiwaqt News

چینی پولیس کا وفد لاہور پہنچ گیا، دورہ سنٹرل پولیس آفس، واہگہ بارڈر

لاہور (نامہ نگار) انسپکٹر جنرل پولیس پنجاب ڈاکٹر عثمان انور کی دعوت پر چینی صوبے جیانگ سو پولیس کا اعلیٰ سطحی وفد پاکستان کے 5 روزہ دورے پر لاہور پہنچ گیا۔ چینی صوبہ جیانگ سو پولیس کے ڈپٹی ڈی جی پبلک سکیورٹی، مسٹر تین یونگ شنگ کی قیادت میں جیانگ سو پولیس کے مختلف عہدیداران نے سنٹرل پولیس آفس کا دورہ کیا۔ وفد میں شین زیانگ ڈائریکٹر پبلک سکیورٹی ڈیٹا ایڈمنسٹریشن بیورو، ویگ بنگڈ سٹیڈنگ ڈپٹی ڈی جی مین جیانگ پبلک سکیورٹی بیورو، یو آن زیولائی ڈائریکٹر پبلک آرڈر ایڈمنسٹریشن، مسٹر ہوزیاو ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جنرل وو کسی پبلک سکیورٹی بیورو اور شاوان دی من ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر انٹرنیشنل کو آپریشن بیورو شامل تھے۔ آئی جی پنجاب ڈاکٹر عثمان انور اور سینئر پولیس افسران نے وفد میں شامل افسران کو پنجاب کی روایتی ثقافتی پگڑیاں پہنائیں، دوران اجلاس پنجاب اور جیانگ سو پولیس حکام کے درمیان سکیورٹی و سٹریٹیجک تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے پر اتفاق رائے کیا گیا، پنجاب اور جیانگ سو پولیس اداروں کے درمیان ٹریننگ، سکیورٹی و ٹیکنیکل امور میں دو طرفہ تعاون بڑھانے پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی پولیس افسران حالیہ دورے میں پنجاب پولیس کے مختلف یونٹس کی ورکنگ کا جائزہ لیں گے، باہمی تعاون کے فروغ کو حتمی شکل دیں گے۔ لاہور کے دورے پر آئے چینی پولیس حکام کے وفد نے واہگہ بارڈر کا دورہ کیا۔ چینی پولیس حکام کے وفد نے واہگہ بارڈر پر چم اتارنے کی روایتی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ سٹیڈیم میں موجود پاکستانیوں نے چینی پولیس افسروں کو دیکھ کر پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد کے نعرے لگائے۔ چینی پولیس افسروں نے تقریب میں پنجاب ریجنل کے بہادر جوانوں کے جوش کو دیکھ کر خوشی کا اظہار کیا۔

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سی پیک: ہم کہاں کھڑے ہیں

ڈاکٹر طلعت شمیر

اس سال جب ہم سی پیک کے دس سال کا جشن منارہے ہیں تو یہ ضروری ہے کہ ہم سی پیک کا ایک سنجیدہ جائزہ لیں کہ ان دس سالوں میں ہم کہاں تک پہنچے ہیں؟ سی پیک کے اہداف کیا تھے اور اب تک سی پیک کے کون کون سے اہداف حاصل کیے جا چکے ہیں؟ کیا سی پیک ہمارے ملک میں کوئی بڑی تبدیلی لانے میں کامیاب ہوا؟ اور مستقبل میں سی پیک سے بڑے خوابوں کی تعبیر کے لیے کون کون سے سنجیدہ اقدامات کرنے ہوں گے؟ سی پیک سات دہائیوں سے مسلسل مضبوط ہوتے پاک چین تعلقات اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان معاشی تعاون کی ایک کڑی ہے۔ تاریخی طور پر پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات کی نوعیت سیاسی، اقتصادی، دفاعی اور تزویراتی رہی اور دونوں ممالک شاید حالیہ سفارتی تاریخ کی مثال ہوں گے جن کے تعلقات میں تو اتار سے گرم جوشی اور بھائی چارہ دیکھنے کو ملتا ہے۔ سیاسی طور پر دونوں ممالک عالمی اور علاقائی سطح پر ایک دوسرے کے علاقائی اور عالمی مفادات کی حمایت کرتے رہے اور چین نے ہر کڑے وقت میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑے ہو کر یہ ثبوت دیا ہے کہ وہ بین الاقوامی اور علاقائی حالات سے قطع نظر پاکستان کے ساتھ ہے۔ چینی دوست بھی اپنی تقریر و تحریر میں پاکستان کے کردار کو تحسین کے ساتھ دہراتے ہیں کہ پاکستان نے چین کی سفارتی تنہائی ختم کرنے میں مدد کی۔

پاکستان اور چین کے اقتصادی تعاون کی بھی ایک تاریخ ہے۔ سی پیک کے دائرے سے نکل کر دیکھا جائے تو چین کا پاکستان سے معاشی تعاون قابل ذکر ہے اور اس کا حجم بھی سی پیک سے بہت بڑا ہے۔ اس لیے میں اس بات پر زور دیتا ہوں کہ سی پیک کو پاکستان چین تعلقات کا ایک عنصر گردانا جائے۔ روز اول سے ہی پاکستان اور چین کے اقتصادی تعاون میں ترقیاتی تعاون، توانائی، ریل اور سڑکوں کی تعمیر، صنعت و تجارت شامل رہے ہیں۔ دفاعی اور تزویراتی تعاون میں چین نے پاکستان کی دفاعی صلاحیتوں کو نہ صرف مضبوط بنانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا بلکہ دفاعی صلاحیت میں خود انحصاری کے حصول کے سفر میں بھی مدد کی۔

ان حالات میں سی پیک ایک ملٹی بلین ڈالر انفراسٹرکچر ڈیولپمنٹ پروجیکٹ کی صورت آیا جس کا مقصد چین کے صوبہ سنکیانگ کو پاکستانی بندر گاہ گوادر سے جوڑنا تھا۔

منصوبے میں سڑکیں، ریلوے، پاور پلانٹس، صنعتوں کی بحالی اور گوادری کی ایک بڑی بندرگاہ کے طور پر ترقی شامل تھی۔ سی پیک کا بڑا مقصد پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ دینا اور چین کے لیے بحیرہ عرب تک رسائی کو سہل بنانا تھا جو چین کے لیے ایک انتہائی مختصر راستہ بھی ہے۔ سی پیک کے ساتھ چینی قیادت کی دلی وابستگی کا عنصر یہ بھی ہے کہ وہ قدیم شاہراہ ریشم کا جدید دور میں احیاء چاہتے ہیں۔ قدیم شاہراہ ریشم تجارتی راستوں کا ایک ایسا نیٹ ورک تھا جس نے چین، وسطی ایشیا، مشرق وسطیٰ اور یورپ کو تجارتی اور ثقافتی حوالے سے پندرہ سو سال تک جوڑے رکھا۔ سی پیک کے اہداف کی ایک طویل فہرست ہے لیکن چند بڑے اور بنیادی مقاصد کا ذکر ضروری ہے۔ سی پیک کی بدولت اب تک پاکستان میں نے 809 کلومیٹر سڑکیں شامل ہو چکی ہیں۔ 12000 میگا واٹ کے منصوبے مکمل کیے جا چکے ہیں اور بجلی نیشنل گریڈ میں آچکی ہے۔ ایک لاکھ پچیس ہزار سے زیادہ پاکستانیوں کے لیے ملازمتیں پیدا ہو چکی ہیں اور مزید ملازمتوں کی گنجائش پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔ پاکستان چین دو طرفہ تجارت 37 بلین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہے۔ اب تک سی پیک کی مدد میں 26 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہو چکی ہے اور دونوں ممالک مستقبل کے منصوبوں کے حوالے سے یکسو نظر آتے ہیں۔

سی پیک کے گذشتہ دس سالوں کی کہانی شاید ہماری استعداد، وسائل اور درست سمت کی بحث میں اُلجھ جائے گی۔ اس لیے مستقبل کے حوالے سے سمت درست کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ سی پیک سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے کا مقصد یا معیشت کو سنبھال دینے کے لیے چار عناصر (1) سیاسی استحکام، (2) فول پروف سکیورٹی، (3) کاروبار کرنے کی آسانی اور (4) کاروبار کرنے کی لاگت بہت اہم ہیں۔ سیاسی استحکام سے کیا مراد ہے؟ سیاسی استحکام شفاف اور جوابدہ اداروں کی تعمیر ہے جو لوگوں کی ضروریات کو موثر طریقے سے پورا کریں۔ سیاسی استحکام قانون کی حکمرانی ہے۔ سیاسی استحکام جامع سیاسی عمل کو فروغ دینا ہے جس میں مختلف نسلی، مذہبی اور ثقافتی گروہوں کی نمائندگی ہو۔ سیاسی استحکام فیصلہ سازی کے عمل میں شفافیت ہے۔ سیاسی استحکام پریس کی آزادی اور ذمہ دارانہ صحافت کی حوصلہ افزائی ہے۔ سیاسی استحکام تعمیری سیاسی مکالمے کا آغاز ہے۔ سیاسی استحکام اتفاق رائے کے کلچر کا فروغ ہے اور ایسا انتخابی نظام ہے جو نمائندگی کو فروغ دے اور پولرائزیشن کو کم کرے۔ اور معاشی ترقی کے تناظر میں سیاسی استحکام سے مراد ایسا نظام ہے جو پالیسیوں کے تسلسل کا ضامن ہو جو ملک میں سرمایہ کار اور کاروباری لوگوں کا اعتماد بحال کرے۔ پاکستان کی عمومی اقتصادی بحالی اور سی پیک کی کامیابی کے لیے سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنانا بہت ضروری ہے۔ پچھلے چند سالوں کے تجربات سے یہ معلوم ہوا کہ انفراسٹرکچر اور وہاں کام کرنے والے لوگوں کی سکیورٹی بھی ایک اہم نکتہ ہے۔ انفراسٹرکچر کی حفاظت میں سڑکیں، پاور پلانٹس، بندرگاہ، اور سی پیک سے متعلق تمام اہم منصوبے شامل ہیں جن کے لیے جامع حفاظتی اقدامات کرنا اشد ضروری ہے۔ اور جب تک پاکستان میں کام کرنے والوں کو تحفظ کا احساس نہیں ہو گا نہ یہاں ماہرین آئیں گے اور نہ ہی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی۔ پاکستان میں کاروباری ماحول کو بہتر بنانے اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنے کی کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں مگر وہ ناکافی ہیں۔ حکومت نے حالیہ مہینوں میں مختلف اصلاحات نافذ کی ہیں جن میں آن لائن رجسٹریشن کا نظام، کاروباری اداروں کے لیے قرض تک رسائی، تعمیراتی اجازت ناموں کے حصول کے عمل میں آسانی، ٹیکس کے نظام کو مزید شفاف اور کاروبار دوست بنانے کے لیے ٹیکس اصلاحات جیسے اقدامات شامل ہیں۔ اس کے باوجود بہت سے چیلنجز بشمول بیوروکریٹک رکاوٹیں، ریگولیٹری پیچیدگیاں، اور بنیادی ڈھانچے کے مسائل کی وجہ سے یہ تاثر عام ہے کہ پاکستان میں کاروبار کرنا مشکل ہے۔ سرمایہ کار اور کاروباری حضرات کے لیے آسانیاں پیدا کیے بغیر معاشی ترقی کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر نہیں ہو سکتا۔ چوتھا عنصر پاکستان میں کاروبار کرنے کی لاگت ہے جس میں انفراسٹرکچر، مزدور کے اخراجات، ٹرانسپورٹیشن اور توانائی جیسے عوامل اہم کردار ادا کرتے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ پاکستان میں ریگولیٹری ماحول بشمول لائسنس کی ضروریات، ٹیکس، اور تعمیر کے اخراجات کاروبار کرنے کی لاگت کو متاثر کرتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے اکثر کاروباری حضرات کا خیال ہے کہ بہت سی پالیسی کاروبار کے مسابقتی منظر نامے کو سمجھے بغیر لاگو کر دی جاتی ہیں جس کی وجہ سے کاروبار کرنے کی لاگت میں اضافہ ہوتا ہے اور پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور کاروبار نفع بخش نہیں رہتا۔ سی پیک سے متعلق میری سوچی سمجھی رائے ہے کہ یہ پروجیکٹ پاکستان کے لیے ایک تاریخی موقع ہے اور اس تاریخی موقع سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے ہم اپنے ملک کا معاشی منظر نامہ یکسر بدل سکتے ہیں۔ سی پیک ہمارے خوشحال پاکستان کے لیے سنگ میل ہو سکتا ہے۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ ہم یکسوئی سے تمام وسائل بروئے کار لاکر سی پیک کے منصوبوں پر جنگی بنیادوں پر کام کریں۔ ہماری نسل کے پاس اپنی آنے والی نسل کے لیے سی پیک کی صورت میں معاشی میراث چھوڑ جانے کا نادر موقع بھی ہے۔

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November 28, 2023

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China forge textile ties

Delegation explores silk hub, paves way for collaboration

SUZHOU: A Pakistani delegation, led by Hussain Haider, Pakistan’s Consul General in Shanghai, visited Shengze Oriental Textile City in Suzhou, China, and met with representatives from local textile enterprises.

During the meeting, Haider introduced the trade and investment environment of Pakistan and China, with a particular focus on the preferential policies available to Chinese investors in Pakistan.

“Currently, Pakistan’s textile exports to China mainly consist of cotton yarn, apparel, cotton fabrics, and home textiles, with cotton yarn accounting for 73% of the total,” he stated.

Expressing a strong desire for deep cooperation with Shengze’s silk and textile industry cluster, he extended an invitation to Shengze’s enterprises to visit Pakistan and gain first-hand knowledge of the trade and investment policies.

Shengze is renowned for its robust silk and textile industry with a rich history.

To gain insights into the dynamics of the textile sector and explore potential collaborations, the delegation toured several textile enterprises in Shengze Oriental Textile City and reached preliminary cooperation intentions.

Haider said, “We hope to further communicate and connect with Shengze Oriental Textile City.

We sincerely invite Shengze’s enterprises to invest and establish factories in Pakistan, aiming to achieve mutual benefits and contribute to the deepening of China-Pakistan cooperation.”

Agro-forestry Economy

The third Science and Technology Exchange Conference on China-Pakistan Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest is being held both online and offline from November 26 to 28 in Zhengzhou, China, and Gwadar, Pakistan, simultaneously.

The exchange conference aims to showcase achievements and research progress of both nations in the field of economic forestry. It also seeks to facilitate academic exchanges of woody medicinal herbs and active substances between China and Pakistan.

The event, co-hosted by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) and Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT), drew over 220 officials, scholars, students, and business representatives from both countries.

In 2021, CSUFT, China Overseas Port Holding Company, and Yulin Holdings collaborated to establish an Engineering Research Centre for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448202/pakistan-china-forge-textile-ties>

November 29, 2023

Pakistan Observer

BRF: A Beacon of Opportunities for the Global Community.

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

With the historic announcement of eight major initiatives by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), China has propelled the spirit of the Silk Road toward achieving joint development and prosperity among participating countries in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). President Xi's keynote speech strongly asserts China's unwavering commitment and confidence in fostering modern and high-quality development among all partner countries.

The first successful decade of BRI development has laid down the clear path of future goals that will definitely be fuelling up the economic growth of common development in Belt and Road countries.

The presence of international leaders, heads of international organizations, and media representatives has conveyed a powerful message to the international community that China enjoys robust diplomatic support and has emerged as a significant source of investment to meet the needs of numerous countries grappling with financial challenges.

Over the past decade, BRI facilitated connectivity that has been highlighted in terms of bonding bridges, path to prosperity thriving ports and happy cities jointly built by China and its partners.

The idea of 'community with a shared future of humanity' first appeared in the 18th National Congress of Communist Party of China that attracted the attention of the international community as it provided the base of multilateral cooperation with meaningful and mutual consultation based on a win-win situation. This report stated that win-win cooperation needed the awareness of a community with a shared future for humanity, which expected countries to stick together in times of difficulty, share rights and shoulder obligations and boost the common interests of mankind.

President Xi Jinping of China has consistently stressed the importance of elevating awareness through a series of significant bilateral and multilateral diplomatic initiatives.

At the start of the launch of BRI, President Xi proposed building a China-ASEAN community of shared destiny, a China-Pakistan community of shared destiny, an Asian community of shared destiny and a China-Latin American and Caribbean countries community of shared destiny and a community of shared destiny with African countries.

In September 2015, President Xi made an important speech entitled "Working Together to Forge a New Partnership of Win-Win Cooperation and Create a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity" at the General Debate of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York.

In January 2017, Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech entitled “Working Together to build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity” at UBN headquarters in Geneva.

In his speech he elaborated on the concept of how to build a community with the shared future of humanity, giving answers to the questions on what had happened to the world and how we should respond.

In October 2017, Xi Jinping explicitly stated that to build a community with the shared future for humanity is the lofty goal of China’s diplomacy and called on the people of all countries to work together to “build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

The 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation conveyed to the international community that the concept of a ‘community with a shared future of humanity’ represents a proactive approach aligned with the developmental trajectory of human society.

This approach is rooted in insights into the international situation and the evolving trends shaping the global landscape.

It reflects the global vision beyond narrow minded national and state interests, state to state relations and differences in ideologies.

The assembly at the BRF demonstrates China’s contemplation of the future of humanity. Ideally, the international community should strive to attain ‘a community with a shared future for humanity’ that transcends being merely an abstract or imaginary concept.

Throughout the initial decade of the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese leadership has consistently refined and expanded it into specific, gradually achievable targets.

In this golden and historical development with actively advocating, enriching and promoting the concept of ‘a community with a shared future for humanity’, the Chinese leadership also proposed new concepts such as correctly viewing justice and profit, partnership rather than alliance, a new type of major country relations, global economic governance and new security concepts .

These practical and feasible concepts have continuously enriched diplomatic practice with Chinese characteristics and have been integrated into the systems of diplomatic theory with Chinese characteristics.

With the rapid and high quality development of BRI, the core of China’s diplomatic concepts and strategy has maintained and advanced national interests and building a community with a shared future for humanity as well as to uphold peace, promote development and pursue cooperation and mutual benefits at both regional and international levels.

At this point of time, while entering in the 2nd decade of development, the gathering at 3rd BRF has sent a very strong, dynamic, exclusive and open message to the international community that the connectivity and development is the future of our generation for living in a peaceful environment and this initiative is a long term platform that will always be providing more opportunities of prosperity to all.

<https://pakobserver.net/brf-a-beacon-of-opportunities-for-the-global-community/>

Pakistani delegation visits Kashgar to explore cooperation

A delegation from Pakistan, led by Nadeem Alam, CEO of Alam Group of Businesses, recently visited the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group in Kashgar, China to explore potential collaboration opportunities.

Accompanied by Xie Hongjun, Head of Kashgar Yiwu Supply Chain Company, the delegation toured the Kashgar Yiwu International Procurement Center and the Cross-Border E-commerce Marketing Department, which provided valuable insights into the development prospects of the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group and the specific investment advantages it offers, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Nadeem Alam, CEO of Alam Group of Businesses, stated, “Kashgar’s geographic proximity to Central Asia and South Asia positions it as an ideal platform for fostering economic partnerships. We are interested in expanding exchanges and cooperation with Kashgar, and we aspire to introduce Pakistani products to the Kashgar Yiwu International Procurement Center. Together, we can promote the development of China-Pakistan import-export trade.”

The meeting concluded with a cooperation initiative to launch selected Pakistani products on Yiwugo, an online platform of Kashgar Yiwu International Procurement Center. This strategic move aims to leverage the immense potential of the platform and facilitate the entry of Pakistani goods into the Chinese market.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-delegation-visits-kashgar-to-explore-cooperation/>

BRI 2.0 and Ethiopia: A Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) has entered its Phase 2. According to numerous independent reports, BRI 2.0 holds brighter prospects in terms of further expansion, scope, utility and multidimensional trans-regional connectivity in the next decade. The BRI embodies Chinese President Xi’s extraordinary vision, transcending borders, connecting continents and fostering economic cooperation on an unprecedented global scale. It stands as a testament to China’s shared commitment to progress and mutual prosperity.

Ethiopia stands as a pioneer in China-Africa cooperation, serving as a key connecting hub for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa. The Chinese government is committed to supporting Ethiopia’s developmental aspirations through the BRI and other initiatives. Evidently, Ethiopia and China are steadily promoting high-quality BRI development, initiating meaningful cooperation under the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and driving the implementation of the Nine Programs under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. These efforts are yielding dividends for both countries.

With its wealth in minerals, metals, agriculture, infrastructure development, blue economy, and most importantly, industrialization and human capital, the African continent holds the promise of future global development. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia envisions Africa as an emerging economic, political, and social powerhouse. Consequently, Ethiopia’s role becomes pivotal in further expanding the BRI’s footprint across Africa.

In this regard, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the window of greater regional connectivity, food security, promotion of renewables and minerals & metals exports to the outer world. Moreover, interestingly, the aging populations of European Union and ASEAN have also increased the influx of its human capital in the global countries and communities in the future.

According to numerous published reports, Ethiopia's real GDP growth for 2023 is projected to reach 6%, a significant increase from an estimated 4.4% in 2022. This growth is primarily driven by robust fixed investment, notably following the resolution of the conflict in Tigray. In fact, Ethiopia has surpassed the GDP growth of many regional countries in 2023

Anticipatedly, in 2024, the growth rate is poised to accelerate further, reaching approximately 6.8%. This surge is expected as private consumption gains momentum and foreign investment inflows increase. Ethiopia's inclusion in the BRICS has significantly bolstered its economic potential and global presence, signaling promising prospects for its macro-economy. This augments the country's ambitious drive for industrialization and infrastructure development. Moreover, the close collaboration on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) holds paramount importance in the high-quality China-Ethiopia cooperation under the BRI. This partnership marks a significant stride toward realizing the objectives of a robust capacity-building mechanism.

In its BRI cooperation with China, a host of crucial infrastructure development projects in Ethiopia, ranging from roads, railways, industrial parks, energy development projects to export-oriented industries, have yielded tangible results. The China-Ethiopia BRI cooperation has been wide-ranging, fruitful and pace-setting in Africa. The two sides have successfully established the all-weather strategic partnership.

The Chinese President Xi emphasized that China supports Ethiopia in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests. China is ready to work with Ethiopia to strengthen practical cooperation in various fields under such frameworks as the BRI and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, support and participate in Ethiopia's post-war reconstruction and economic revitalization, strengthen cooperation in green development, and implement the Global Development Initiative to boost Ethiopia's development effort.

Ethiopia expressed strong endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has borne substantial results due to fruitful collaboration with China, at the Ethiopia-China investment forum held in Beijing during October 2023.

More than 400 delegates from Ethiopia and China rigorously came together to delve into deeper cooperation and shared development in the forum themed "Exploring Untapped Investment Potential in the Heart of Africa." Ethiopian officials presented the most recent advancements and investment possibilities in sectors such as infrastructure, mining, and energy.

Interestingly, Ethiopia attributes its double-digit growth in the past decades to investment from China. China/BRI has revolutionized the infrastructural development in Ethiopia and now these investments are booming in the shape of building roads, bridges and railways. Moreover, the BRI has been one of the main players of achieving a boom in infrastructure

development and the manufacturing sector and also created abundant job opportunities for Ethiopian youth in the last ten years. On its part, the Ethiopian government had outlined five priority investment sectors for bilateral cooperation, including agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, tourism, information communication technology, and the mining sectors and the BRI has further furnished potential of these important sectors of its economy. The BRI has become an open and inclusive, mutually beneficial and win-win international cooperation platform between China and Ethiopia. It has effectively supported and streamlined its national transportation system which is now contributing to its regional connectivity and national income and GDP growth. In this connection, the 752.7-km Chinese-built Ethiopia-Djibouti standard gauge railway, also known as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, has now become an iconic mega project of the BRI which has also injected a crucial impetus to Ethiopia's development aspirations.

Moreover, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway is not only a transportation line but also a transformative transport economic corridor and a road to socio-economic prosperity. Obviously, it has opened up a railroad corridor to the sea for Ethiopia, effectively driving the development of industrialization and urbanization along the route.

In summary, the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China are complementary, translating opportunities into real potentials and real potentials into real seas of progress and prosperity. The Chinese BRI has become a mutually beneficial cooperation platform advancing socioeconomic development in Ethiopia and beyond.

It is suggested that the speed and magnitude of implementing the Belt and Road Initiative should be further streamlined, systemized and strengthened between Ethiopia and China which would open new avenues of mutual cooperation and collaboration in terms of health, vaccine cooperation, digitalization, e-commerce, Artificial Intelligence, qualitative industrialization, green energy transformation, rural revitalization, disaster management, EVs, SMEs, banking & finance cooperation, exploration of minerals & metals and above all nurturing of human capital.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-2-0-and-ethiopia-a-way-forward/>

The News

Ministry explores Pak-China ties in dairy products

Islamabad: A delegation from the Pakistani Ministry of National Food Security and Research visited the Royal Cell Company in Nanning, China, and had a meeting to discuss potential collaboration. Muhammad Masood Anwar, Secretary of Livestock and Dairy Development Department in Punjab, stated, "We are particularly interested in collaborating on embryo transplantation technology. The visit of the delegation aims to attract more investment for the establishment of disease-free ranches in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported. In addition to constructing more ranches, we aim to establish associated dairy and meat processing plants, expanding our collaboration to include dairy products including powdered milk, UHT milk and meat products such as beef jerky.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=259332>

November 30, 2023

The News

Chinese delegation visits Civil Secretariat

LAHORE: An eight-member delegation from the Chinese province of Jiangsu headed by Deputy Director General of the Public Security Department Tan Yongsheng visited the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday and expressed their resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman welcomed the delegates and conveyed good wishes on behalf of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab. He said, "We value the relationship with China and are keen to increase the partnership in education, health, environment and other fields. Punjab wants to benefit from China's experience to control environmental pollution and smog".

Tan Yongsheng said that Punjab is the hub of economic activities and the exchange of delegations between the two friendly countries would promote bilateral cooperation. He also appreciated the professionalism of Punjab police and thanked the Chief Secretary Punjab for hospitality.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=259555>

Chinese Newspapers

November 16, 2023

Global Times

China, Pakistan hold first joint naval patrol to safeguard China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

Liu Xuanzun

Amid an ongoing joint exercise, Chinese and Pakistani naval warships are for the first time conducting a joint maritime patrol in the northern Arabian Sea, a move experts said on Thursday is part of the two countries' concrete actions to safeguard the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's Type 054A frigate Linyi and the Pakistan Navy's F-22P frigate Saif formed a task group and launched the joint patrol in waters around major maritime routes and port channels in the northern Arabian Sea, as the China-Pakistan Sea Guardian-3 joint exercise entered the sea phase on Tuesday, the PLA Navy said in a press release on Thursday. This marks the first time that the PLA Navy and the Pakistan Navy have held a joint maritime patrol, observers said. The joint patrol is an important part of the Sea Guardian-3 joint exercise, which is dedicated to displaying the two countries' common duties and firm determination in safeguarding the CPEC, according to the press release.

During the joint patrol, the two sides conducted training that included joint search and rescue operations, formation maneuvering and VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), effectively enhancing their capabilities in jointly dealing with maritime security threats, the PLA Navy

said. During another part of Sea Guardian-3, six warships, including the PLA Navy's Type 052D destroyer Zibo, Type 054A frigate Jingzhou and Type 903 replenishment ship Qiandaohu as well as the Pakistan Navy's Type 054A/P frigate Shah Jahan, formed a task group and launched the sea phase of the drill in the northern Arabian Sea, the PLA Navy said in a separate press release. They practiced multiple training operations including VBSS, aerial photography, air defense, communications and joint anti-submarine training during the first day of the sea phase, with warships from both sides taking turns to act as the command ship, according to the PLA Navy.

Kicked off at the Karachi Naval Dockyard on Saturday, the Sea Guardian-3 consists a port phase from Saturday to Monday and a sea phase from Tuesday to Friday. Explaining the differences between the joint patrol and the sea phase of the joint exercise, Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Thursday that a joint patrol is a military presence that allows fast response to emergencies and safeguards security in a region, while a joint exercise is training with preset goals and targets. The Arabian Sea is important to both China and Pakistan in terms of goods and energy transport, highlighted by the CPEC that connects the two countries' economic activities, so it is important for the two countries to safeguard this sea lane from security threats, Song said. This type of joint naval patrol will likely become routine, Song said. This is the third and the largest edition of the Sea Guardian exercise. The first edition was held in 2020 in the northern waters of the Arabian Sea, while the second edition was held in 2022 in the waters off Shanghai. According to official releases and media reports from both sides, the PLA Navy sent a Type 052D destroyer, two Type 054A frigates, a replenishment ship, a conventional submarine and a submarine support ship, while the Pakistan Navy sent at least two Type 054A/P frigates, two F-22P frigates and an anti-submarine patrol aircraft, plus special forces from both sides. Observers noted that the Pakistan Navy's main combat vessels were developed by China, and the interoperability between the two countries' navies is at a high level.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301985.shtml>

Pakistan: Ambassador inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at the COTTM Expo

By Hou Xiangjun

"Tourism exchanges between China and Pakistan hold immense significance for strengthening the [two countries'] bilateral relationship," Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi underscored on Wednesday at the opening ceremony of the Pakistan Pavilion at the 2023 China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM) Expo in China National Agriculture Center.

The inauguration of the pavilion was part of a series of activities aimed at celebrating 2023 as the "Year of Tourism and Exchange" between Pakistan and China.

While commending the efforts of the exhibitors and tourism companies for the promotion of Pakistan's tourism potential, the ambassador noted that Pakistan was bestowed with rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes and unique culinary delights. He encouraged Chinese tourists, academics, and entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan.

There are different options for Chinese friends to explore Pakistan, Ambassador Hashmi told the Global Times on Wednesday. People who are more interested in adventure tourism like mountain climbing or forest treks, for instance, will find that "Pakistan has some of the highest mountains in the world, So that's the very beautiful and very excellent regions for adventure tourism," he said. Meanwhile, one of the many great attractions to Chinese tourists might be its civilization and heritage sites, Ambassador Hashmi added. One of the most visited sites in Pakistan, Taxila, is generally considered to be one of the most significant archaeological sites in Asia. Taxila was a university and educational center for Buddhists, and it attracted pilgrims from all across Asia.

Another attraction recommended by the ambassador to Chinese tourists was Pakistani gastronomy. "Chinese tourists would find Pakistani cuisine to be different and very diverse like in China. From the Northeast to the South, we also have places known for their spicy cuisine, a different type of spice than China, but we have less spicy food in the North. Food is a big industry in Pakistan and is something I'm sure our Chinese friends would also like," he told the Global Times. The 2023 COTTM Expo focused on Belt and Road partner countries, saw the participation of more than 20 countries and regions such as Egypt, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Azerbaijan, and others at the exhibition held from Wednesday to Friday, with invitations being extended to Chinese tourists to visit these countries to appreciate and experience their nature, history, humanities, and life. At least 12 tourism exhibitors and companies from Pakistan participated in the Expo. Ambassador Hashmi expressed hope that COTTM would serve as an excellent platform for networking between the tourism companies in China and Pakistan, which would contribute toward the further enhancing of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301983.shtml>

November 18, 2023

People Daily

Explainer: Xi's vision of future APEC development

Why Chinese President Xi Jinping is promoting an innovation-driven, open, green, and inclusive future of APEC?

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday urged leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members to promote innovation-driven, open, green and inclusive development.

Here is what Xi said and why it serves as a visionary blueprint for the region's future.

ON INNOVATION-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

"Innovation is a strong driver of development. We should follow the trends of scientific and technological advancement, more proactively promote exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, and work together for an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory

environment for scientific and technological progress," Xi said here when addressing the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Xi's call for innovation-driven development acts as a rallying call for the region to harness the transformative power of technological advancements.

According to a projection by the World Economic Forum, 70 percent of the global economy will be made up of digital technology over the next decade.

There is now a new concept of supply chain internationally, and China is crucial in providing technology-oriented, more cost-efficient solutions in this regard, said Mahmood Khalid, senior research economist from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

In a world where progress hinges on the ability to adapt and innovate, APEC members should be challenged to become architects of change. This emphasis on innovation is not only a nod to the technological revolution but also a recognition of its pivotal role in steering economies toward sustainable and inclusive growth.

ON OPENNESS IN DEVELOPMENT

"As manifested by the Asia-Pacific experience, an economy thrives in openness and withers in seclusion," Xi said, urging his Asia-Pacific colleagues to oppose any attempt to politicize, weaponize, or impose security implications on economic and trade issues.

"We must remain unwavering to promote regional economic integration, accelerate the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, fully implement the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, and share in the opportunities of open regional development," Xi said.

APEC is a group of economies along the Pacific Ocean's rim "committed to treating each other as equals in order to promote trade," said Victor Gao, vice president of the Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based non-governmental think tank.

Politicizing trade issues and putting an ideological spin on fair and equitable trade is posing a threat, warned Gao, also chair professor of China's Soochow University. He urged leaders from the region to do their best to make sure that APEC remains a cooperation-oriented organization with the sole goal of promoting trade with each other.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have benefited from bilateral cooperation with China, said former Peruvian Ambassador to China and Asia expert Juan Carlos Capunay.

As the world's second-largest economy and the largest trading partner for many APEC members, China never attaches political conditions to its cooperation with others, said Capunay, expecting China to continue to be a significant force supporting free trade and opposing protectionism.

ON GREEN DEVELOPMENT

Given the increasingly grave challenges, APEC should accelerate the transition to green and low-carbon development, and see to it that reducing carbon emissions and mitigating pollution operate in parallel with expanding green transition and promoting economic growth, Xi said.

"We must deliver on the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, making 'green' a defining feature of Asia-Pacific growth," he added.

Noting that China remains determined to pursue green development that prioritizes eco-environmental conservation and protection, Xi said that China has put forward initiatives for cooperation between APEC member economies in green agriculture, sustainable city development, green and low-carbon energy transition, and marine pollution control and prevention.

Thailand is committed to the application of green energy, said Wirun Phichaiwongphakdee, director of the Thailand-China Research Center of the Belt and Road Initiative, noting that in recent years, many Chinese new energy vehicle companies have invested in and established factories in Thailand, bringing new energy vehicle technology and management expertise to the country.

This has enabled Thailand to gradually develop into the manufacturing hub for new energy vehicles in Southeast Asia, he added.

China has spared no effort in lifting its people out of poverty while also placing a strong emphasis on environmental protection, said Ang Teck Sin, a political commentator in Singapore.

Actively promoting green technology and fostering innovation in sustainable industries, China has witnessed a surge in scientific and technological advancements, said Ang, adding that all these tangible efforts have visibly elevated the standard of living for the Chinese people.

ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Noting that global development now faces severe challenges and the development divide is getting wider, Xi called on all parties to "develop greater synergy in our development strategies and work together to resolve the global development deficit."

"China welcomes participation by all parties in the Global Development Initiative to deepen cooperation in poverty reduction, food security, industrialization and development financing and build a global community of development so that the fruits of modernization are shared by people across the world," Xi said.

"APEC is useful because it is an inclusive arrangement," said James Laurenceson, director of the Australia-China Relations Institute.

"It includes all the big players ... as opposed to some other arrangements which are more exclusive, such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)," Laurenceson said.

As part of U.S. "Indo-Pacific strategy," the IPEF, together with the so-called "Chip 4 Alliance," constitutes a "parallel system" of supply chain alliances that exclude China.

"The mood of the region is that (deliberately carving out China) is not a particularly helpful approach," said Laurenceson, stressing that the Asia-Pacific economies want to see major players of the region focus on inclusive arrangements rather than exclusive ones.

In the era of globalization, unilateralism and exclusionary thinking have "all harm and no benefit," said Kazuteru Saionji, a visiting professor at Higashi Nippon International University.

Given the expansion in China-U.S. and China-Japan trade during the last 40 years, it is clear that China's development has benefited not just itself but also developed countries, said the scholar.

International cooperation, whether bilateral or multilateral, should respect variety and involve as many compromises as possible, he said, adding that this exemplifies the ancient Asian concept of "seeking common ground while preserving differences."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1118/c90000-20099509.html>

November 19, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan's Serene Air launches flights from Karachi to Beijing Daxing airport

Serene Air, a private carrier from Pakistan, launched a route from Karachi to Beijing Daxing International Airport on Sunday, a further move to increase personnel exchanges between China and Pakistan.

With a stop at Islamabad, the service will be offered with an A330 on Wednesdays and Sundays.

"The opening of the new route shows our determination to continuously expand our international route network, and it is also a symbol of the friendship between China and Pakistan," according to Yang Yunchun, chairman of the carrier.

In the past, trips to Pakistan meant flying from Beijing Capital International Airport with Air China, so the opening of this route provides us with another choice, said a passenger surnamed Liu, who took the maiden flight.

The flights between China and Pakistan are on a fast recovery track. In June, China Southern Airlines resumed its route from Urumqi, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city. China and Pakistan just celebrated the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a BRI flagship project. Analysts said that the CPEC, which has helped Pakistan's economic and social development, will bring more benefits to local people as the two countries further deepen their cooperation.

Data from the Ministry of Commerce showed that trade between China and Pakistan reached \$27.82 billion in 2021, a year-on-year increase of 59.1 percent. Chinese exports to Pakistan totaled \$24.23 billion, up 57.8 percent, while imports from Pakistan stood at \$3.59 billion, up 68.9 percent.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1302110.shtml>

November 20, 2023

People's Daily

Summit charts clear course for China-US ties

By Xu Weiwei, Xing Yi and Zheng Wanyin

Optimism seen by experts as Xi, Biden exchange views at critical juncture

The summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden in San Francisco has been hailed as positive and successful, paving the way for practical bilateral exchanges and benefits for the two peoples and the world.

In a candid and in-depth exchange of views on Wednesday, the two heads of state reached agreements on strategic and overarching issues critical to the direction of relations between China and the United States.

"My view is that the meeting between presidents Xi and Biden was fairly successful," Colin Mackerras, a sinologist and emeritus professor at Griffith University in Australia, said.

He pointed to well-grounded reasons for optimism of the leaders' first face-to-face talks in a year.

First, Mackerras said it is good to hold such a meeting at all. Second, the atmosphere, from what he saw, was friendly and positive. Third, the content was quite positive. And fourth, there were some agreements and practical actions from the meeting, such as on the environment and cultural exchange.

Mackerras said Xi was quite right in his remarks that the world is big enough for two countries to succeed, hence any "competition should be manageable and not aimed at blocking China's rise".

He added that the meeting has contributed to an improved relationship and it gave him hope for more progress in the coming months.

The two presidents put forward guiding principles on the most prominent issues between the two sides, such as properly managing differences and strengthening dialogue and cooperation.

Saud Faisal Malik, editor-in-chief of the Observer Diplomat magazine in Pakistan, said both leaders are committed to the prevention of conflict, identification of common ground and the resumption of regular talks.

Though the meeting might not lead to a complete reset of US-China relations, Malik said the two presidents seized the chance "to establish the foundation for a future marked by collaboration, comprehension and mutual achievements".

He also emphasized that the general optimism surrounding these high-level discussions is indicative of a shared desire for a world in which countries cooperate for the benefit of all, regardless of differences.

Keith Bennett, co-editor of Friends of Socialist China and a London-based senior analyst on international affairs, said Xi traveled to San Francisco as a peacemaker and as a responsible statesman and visionary leader concerned not only for his country, but the world.

As Xi pointed out, conflict between these two great countries should be unthinkable and the results would be catastrophic, Bennett added.

"It is essential to stabilize the relations between the US and China, prevent further deterioration and look for ways and areas for cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two countries and all humanity," he said. "Climate change is a key example and with the Dubai summit coming up, the agreement here is very welcome."

Good sense to prevail

Bennett said a more stable and constructive relationship between Washington and Beijing can, therefore, also contribute to better relations between the United Kingdom and Europe on the one hand and China on the other.

"The UK now has a foreign secretary (David Cameron) who knows China well, so we must hope that good sense might start to prevail," Bennett said.

Xi also called on the two countries to jointly provide more public goods for the world, keep their initiatives open to each other, or coordinate and connect them for synergy, to benefit the world.

Jose Felix Valdivieso, chairman of IE China Center at IE University in Spain, said the face-to-face summit is good news for the whole world, as he believes that relations between countries are like those between people. "A smooth relationship between China and the US means a smoother relationship for the world," he said.

As for him, any meeting between these leaders is of global importance and has global repercussions. "Wouldn't it be great for everyone if the two powers simply decided to resume military contact?" he said, adding that the two leaders' consensus on the resumption of military contact will be the first step on a great journey together.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1120/c90000-20099670.html>

November 21, 2023

People Daily

Xi's APEC speech seen as a masterstroke of diplomacy

By Xu Weiwei

President Xi Jinping emphasized openness, inclusivity, green development and innovation in his speech during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting, which reflects China's profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the region and the world, experts said.

"President Xi's speech was a masterstroke in diplomacy... echoing the principles of inclusivity and sustainability," said Maarij Farooq, deputy editor-in-chief of the Daily Ittehad

Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net, referring to Xi's address at the meeting on Friday in San Francisco in the United States.

Xi not only underlined China's commitments on key global issues, but also positioned the Asia-Pacific as a front-runner in shaping a balanced and equitable world order, Farooq said.

He said the call for innovation-driven development is particularly significant, as the world is rapidly transforming through technology, and Xi's vision of embracing scientific advancements and digital transformation offers a blueprint for sustainable growth.

The most remarkable aspect of Xi's speech was his commitment to inclusive development, Farooq said, adding that in a world where inequality is rampant, "this focus on a development paradigm that benefits all is necessary".

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute in Islamabad, said that Xi's speech highlighted China's inclination to engage with the US "on an equal basis, with mutual respect".

The key points that Xi underscored in his speech show that China wishes to engage constructively in terms of connectivity and development, and it wishes to have a people-centered approach, Sayed said.

Xi's speech referred to green development, low-carbon development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the World Trade Organization-centered multilateral trading regime, and all these share a common thread, he said.

These are linked by globalization and engagement, without politicizing, without containment and without a Cold War mentality, he said. "It is based on pure commerce, connectivity, engagement and prosperity, which is shared at a time when the world needs connectivity more than ever."

According to Sayed, China is growing and finding its own, rightful place in the world and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which is happening under President Xi and which actually coincides with the 45 years of reform and opening-up, should be a reminder for the US to feel secure.

The US must understand that "the only way forward" is to engage with China, he said, adding that the Sino-US relationship is "the most important relationship in the world".

Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, an independent think tank, also hailed Xi's speech. "I think all these proposals are very positive and forward-looking."

Oh said that China should take the initiative, including sponsoring pilot projects in relevant fields, in order to efficiently implement Xi's suggestions.

Dicky Budiman, a public health researcher at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia, said that Xi's speech reflects the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and is relevant for many APEC economies.

His suggestions on how to deal with climate change, environmental pollution and global health challenges are particularly significant, Budiman said, noting that without the

collaboration of APEC members, it will be hard to achieve the global goal of reducing carbon emissions.

During his speech, Xi appealed to APEC economies to "fully deliver on the Putrajaya Vision of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community for the prosperity of all our people and future generations", as incorporated in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration at the 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Malaysia in 2020.

Karori Singh, former director and emeritus fellow of the South Asia Studies Centre at the University of Rajasthan in India, said that Xi reemphasized the importance of innovation-driven development, openness in development and commitment to green and inclusive development, which is beneficial for all.

Singh said the Belt and Road Initiative and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership are very important mechanisms in realizing the goals and the vision of APEC.

"All these measures collectively and in a complementary manner are contributing to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda (for Sustainable Development)," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1121/c90000-20100137.html>

November 22, 2023

Global Times

BRI offers common development: officials from partner countries

By Liu Yang and Zhao Juecheng in Fuzhou

The China proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has brought the vision of "heart connectivity" to reality, and it is a path to common development, multiple ambassadors and officials from BRI partner countries said on Wednesday during a roundtable held in Fuzhou, East China's Fujian Province.

"The BRI has brought changes in the mind of the world," said Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, Ambassador of Nepal to China, noting that the initiative focuses on connectivity, not only in transportation, but also in minds and hearts.

"This vision and concept have now become possible to access," Shrestha continued. Nepal has benefited a lot from the BRI, and there are different projects that have been completed in Nepal, including railways and roads, which have energized bilateral cooperation and allowed the country to continue to develop, he said.

Shrestha made the remarks during a roundtable on the Belt and Road Global Chambers of Commerce and Association Conference, which is the world's first international cooperation and exchange platform with chambers of commerce, industry associations and other social organizations as the main participants. The conference, which is held annually, aims to harness the resources of chambers of commerce as the BRI cooperation advances, and to explore new international cooperation opportunities.

"The BRI gives an opportunity to the world that is connected now, and the potential for the initiative is unlimited," Awale Ali Kullane, Somali Ambassador to China, said during the

roundtable, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the process, but it has also shown the importance of such a global initiative.

Kadiramu Kandasamy Yoganaadan, chargé d'affaires of Sri Lanka's Embassy in China, enumerated a number of infrastructure construction projects under the BRI including ports, airports and expressways.

Taking the Colombo Port project as an example, Yoganaadan said that it is being built with the modern sustainable design and smart city concept, providing investment opportunities in the IT industry, financial services and shipping logistics.

"The BRI has generated many direct and indirect job opportunities in Sri Lanka, and we are expecting more direct investment flows. Sri Lanka is among the countries ready to join the second phase of the BRI," Yoganaadan noted.

Minister of Economic Affairs of the Embassy of Malaysia in China Unny Sankar Ravi Sankar said that China has been Malaysia's largest trade partner for 14 consecutive years and the biggest source of foreign direct investment as well.

The two countries have established two industrial parks under the BRI, and more projects are expected next year, he said.

Minister of Economic Affairs of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, China Aslam Chaudhary said that Pakistan is among the first countries that joined the BRI.

"During the last 10 years, we added 2,500 kilometers of motorways to the existing network of rural transportation and added 10,000 megawatts of generation capacity to the national grid.

We also added 4,000 electricity transmission lines to the existing network," Chaudhary noted.

Chaudhary added that the major focus of the BRI during its first 10 years has been cooperation between countries to build infrastructure, promote economic development and investment. In the second phase, business-to-business collaboration will become increasingly important.

Ahmed Chouaib, chargé d'affaires of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Beijing, said that Arab countries participating in the BRI are demonstrating a high degree of engagement with China.

This initiative represents the power of international cooperation, a power of interconnectivity that crosses national and ethnic boundaries.

Chouaib noted that strengthening people-to-people communication between China and Arab countries has also become an integral part of the BRI, and cultural, tourism and artistic cooperation have all emerged.

The BRI is a symbol of unity between China and Arab countries. As well as building roads and bridges, it can also create more interconnected, prosperous and harmonious cooperation, said Chouaib.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1302334.shtml>

9th China International Copyright Expo to open in SW China

Metaverse exhibition highlight of event

[Chen Xi](#)

The 9th China International Copyright Expo, scheduled to take place in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, from Thursday to Saturday, promises a myriad of digital experiences and interactive showcases. Among the innovative features of this edition is the first introduction of an online metaverse exhibition that offers live broadcasts from the expo and forums.

This metaverse initiative not only provides a virtual rendition of the expo but also enhances the interactive experience with digital applications. Leveraging digital guides, it creatively showcases and promotes industry cases related to copyright infrastructure, content creation and copyright operations. This includes services such as work registration, copyright certification and supply-demand matchmaking - a pioneering approach fostering the transformation and development of the digital copyright industry.

With active participation from 81 exhibitors nationwide, more than 1,000 digital copyright works spanning games, animation, film, intangible cultural heritage, cultural relics and arts are set to be showcased at the expo.

A focal point in the digitization of cultural heritage is the "China Wenbao Chain" project. Cui Wei, head of the project, told the Global Times on Wednesday that taking aim at the inheritance, popularization of Chinese culture, intellectual property protection in cultural relics, and the commercial development of the cultural and creative industries, this project strives to establish a robust digital system for preserving and digitizing outstanding Chinese cultural relics.

The chain extends its services to various digital application platforms, including digital publishing distribution, digital exhibition showcasing, digital cultural tourism, digital cultural relics and museums, metaverse scenarios and digital asset transactions. It offers authoritative and trustworthy digital certification services to society at large.

Looking ahead, Cui said the cultural heritage chain is poised to align with the country's cultural digitization strategy, implement the essential elements of building a strong intellectual property country, and contribute to the high-quality development of new museum infrastructure. It aims to construct a National Cultural Heritage Comprehension Service Platform to aid in the protection, dissemination and utilization of world cultural heritage.

Under the theme "New Era of Copyright, Empowering New Development," the expo adopts a blended approach of online and offline integration, featuring four pavilions and five major exhibition areas, covering an offline exhibition area of 52,000 square meters.

Encompassing more than 20 countries and international organizations, including the EU, East Asia, ASEAN and Central Africa, this expo will witness the participation of officials from copyright management authorities of various countries, such as Cambodia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal and Japan. This broadens the scope, fields and depth of international copyright exchange and cooperation, further enhancing China's international influence and

promoting alignment between China's copyright industry and the world. This, in turn, elevates the nation's cultural soft power and the influence of Chinese culture globally, China Central Television reported.

Another highlight of this year's expo is the Capital Copyright Society's capital copyright exhibition area. Notably, this section will feature a dedicated area showcasing the achievements of the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty one year after its adoption in China.

Wo Shuping, chief editor of China Braille Press, told the Global Times on Wednesday that visitors can explore accessible copyright products, including Braille books, computers for the visually impaired, and accessible font libraries. Through on-site sharing, interactive performances and public welfare promotion, the exhibition aims to raise awareness and care for the visually impaired community.

Another focal point is the emphasis on cultural heritage, allowing visitors to experience the power of copyright when it comes to cultural inheritance and sharing compelling stories of contemporary China.

For instance, the Anhui exhibition area will display exquisite folk art such as the "Four Treasures of the Study," an expression used to denote the brush, ink, paper and ink stone used in Chinese calligraphy, and Huizhou carvings. Meanwhile, Guangdong's exhibition hall is set to feature folk art performances unique to the Lingnan region, including martial arts and Chaozhou-style kung fu tea, a Chinese tea brewing practice that emerged in Chaozhou during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

As the only comprehensive, international and national-level professional expo in the field of copyright in China, the China International Copyright Expo, organized by the National Copyright Administration since its inception in 2008, has successfully held eight editions, becoming a key platform for the exchange and development of the country's copyright industry.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1302316.shtml>

November 23, 2023

People's Daily

Cooperation with China to bring huge potential to Pakistan in developing its space program: astronaut

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 22 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has a huge potential to develop its space program if it works with China in the field of aerospace technology, the first Pakistani astronaut Namira Salim has said.

Addressing a joint press conference with Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi here on Tuesday, Salim said Pakistan is working towards the development of a space program and many considerations and programs are underway in this regard.

The astronaut told Xinhua that China is on the top of Pakistan's list for cooperation in the development of its space program, as China has made tremendous achievements in the domain, and the two friendly countries have been collaborating and cooperating in many fields along with the transfer of technology and sharing of research and development.

Salim was officially recognized as the first Pakistani astronaut by the government of Pakistan in 2006.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1123/c90000-20101407.html>

Xinhuanet News

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<https://english.news.cn/20231123/f8d6b5d6a1be4e01918a7d85f029c807/c.html>

November 24, 2023

People Daily

Pakistan confirms making formal request to join BRICS

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 24 (Xinhua) -- The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said Pakistan has made a formal request to join BRICS, saying it is an important group of developing countries.

"We have taken this decision after having noted the BRICS proclaimed openness to inclusive multilateralism," the ministry's spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told a weekly media briefing on Thursday.

By joining the group, Pakistan can play an important role in furthering international cooperation and revitalization of inclusive multilateralism, she said.

Pakistan enjoys friendly ties with most of the members of BRICS, as well as the newly invited group of countries, the spokesperson added.

"We also hope that BRICS will move forward on Pakistan's request in line with its commitment to inclusive multilateralism," she said.

BRICS is a group of emerging economies that are currently membered by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

At the 15th BRICS Summit in South Africa in August, Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had been invited to join the bloc, and their memberships would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1124/c90000-20102238.html>

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<https://english.news.cn/20231124/1bcc074941284faa869e57408983f98b/c.html>

November 25, 2023

Global Times

Chinese envoy calls for intergovernmental discussions to address AUKUS risks at IAEA meeting

Intergovernmental discussions at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be conducted to address proliferation risks posed by the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal, China's permanent representative to the IAEA said on Friday.

Li Song told a meeting of the IAEA board of governors that the AUKUS collaboration has a serious impact on the security of the world and the Asia-Pacific region, and poses grave challenges to the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA safeguards system.

"Such cooperation runs counter to the purpose and objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is a typical example of double standards," Li said.

Under the trilateral AUKUS alliance, which was announced in September 2021, Australia will be able to build nuclear-powered submarines with related technology provided by the US and the UK.

The AUKUS deal, which involves political, security, legal and technical issues, will create an important precedent and have a significant impact on the improvement and development of the IAEA safeguards system and relevant safeguards practices, he noted.

"All these are major issues that must be taken seriously, considered deeply, and handled properly by (IAEA) member states," Li said.

He also stressed that before the IAEA member states reach a consensus on the AUKUS issue, relevant safeguards arrangements should not be interpreted and decided only by the AUKUS countries and the IAEA Secretariat.

"We believe that member states have enough wisdom, patience and determination to properly respond to the AUKUS-related proliferation risks through intergovernmental discussions," Li said.

The IAEA board meeting on Friday marked the 11th time that the AUKUS issue was on the formal agenda of the quarterly meeting at China's proposal.

Representatives from Russia, Egypt, Algeria, Pakistan, Iran and Cuba also voiced support for the proposal of further intergovernmental discussions over the AUKUS issue at the IAEA board meetings and general conferences.

China will continue to push forward the intergovernmental discussion processes responsibly and uphold the authority and efficacy of the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA safeguards system, Li said.

At Friday's meeting, Li also voiced China's firm opposition to Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean, urging Japan to fully comply with strict international supervision.

"Ignoring the doubts of the international community and the strong opposition from relevant countries, Japan has obstinately launched and continuously pushed forward the Fukushima wastewater discharge plan," he said.

He pointed out that the Fukushima wastewater discharge is an unprecedented artificial release of contaminated water from nuclear accidents into the ocean, and there are a lot of uncertainties about the cumulative effect caused by the release of large quantities of radionuclides into the sea.

"China always firmly advocates for, and actively promotes the strengthening of international supervision over Japan's wastewater discharge plan to continually improve the long-term international supervision arrangements for the plan," Li said.

He urged the IAEA Secretariat to uphold an objective, impartial and scientific attitude, boost communication with member states and continually strengthen the international monitoring arrangements for Japan's discharge plan.

China urges Japan to continue its discussions with the IAEA Secretariat and member states in a responsible and constructive manner and fully comply with strict international supervision, Li said.

To prevent Japan's wastewater discharge from causing long-term harm to the marine environment and public health, he said that China is willing to work with all relevant parties to support the IAEA playing a leading role over the Fukushima issue and actively join in efforts to strengthen independent, long-term and effective international supervision arrangements.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1302482.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Chinese envoy calls for intergovernmental talks to address AUKUS-related risks

VIENNA, Nov. 24 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese envoy on Friday called for intergovernmental discussions at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to address the proliferation risks posed by the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal.

Li Song, China's permanent representative to the IAEA, told a meeting of the IAEA board of governors that the AUKUS collaboration has a serious impact on the security of the world and the Asia-Pacific region, and poses grave challenges to the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA safeguards system.

"Such cooperation runs counter to the purpose and objectives of the NPT (the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) and is a typical act of double standard," Li said.

Under the trilateral AUKUS alliance, which was announced in September 2021, Australia will be able to build nuclear-powered submarines with technology provided by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Li said that the AUKUS deal, which involves political, security, legal and technical issues, will create an important precedent and have a significant impact on the improvement and development of the IAEA safeguards system and relevant safeguards practices. "All these are major issues that must be taken seriously, considered deeply, and handled properly by (the IAEA) member states," Li said. The Chinese envoy noted that the development and improvement of the IAEA safeguards system has historically been achieved through consensus-based and member state-driven processes, with broad participation of member states. "Such a tradition has ensured that the IAEA safeguards system keeps pace with the time, on the basis of general acceptance and support of member states," Li said. "Upholding

this tradition is in the common interests of all member states." Li stressed that before the IAEA member states reach a consensus on the AUKUS issue, relevant safeguards arrangements should not be interpreted and decided only by the AUKUS countries and the IAEA Secretariat. "We believe that member states have enough wisdom, patience and determination to properly respond to the AUKUS-related proliferation risks through intergovernmental discussions," Li said. Friday's IAEA board meeting marked the 11th time that the AUKUS issue was on the formal agenda of the quarterly meeting at China's proposal. During the meeting, representatives from Russia, Egypt, Algeria, Pakistan, Iran and Cuba also voiced support for the proposal of further intergovernmental discussions over the AUKUS issue at the IAEA board meetings and general conferences. Those representatives agreed that the AUKUS deal involves severe proliferation risks, and should be properly addressed through an intergovernmental process with the participation of the member states, instead of being decided behind closed doors by the AUKUS countries and the IAEA Secretariat. Li told reporters after the meeting that the AUKUS deal concerns the common interests of all IAEA member states, and that the AUKUS countries should not force other member states to take sides or politicize the states which express different views. Noting that more and more IAEA member states, having recognized the complexity and gravity of the AUKUS issue, have participated in the discussion processes, the Chinese envoy urged the AUKUS countries to respond to the concerns of the international community and conduct dialogue and communication with all parties on the basis of equality and mutual respect. China will continue to push forward the intergovernmental discussion processes responsibly and uphold the authority and efficacy of the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA safeguards system, Li added.

<https://english.news.cn/20231125/73350ede61154e588d4a84937bffbfff/c.html>

November 29, 2023

Global Times

China becomes world's top clean energy consumer, equipment manufacturer: official

By Chi Jingyi and Ma Jingjing

China has become the world's largest clean energy consumer and equipment manufacturer, with sectors including hydropower, wind power, photovoltaic (PV) facilities and nuclear power units under construction all ranking No.1, Zhang Shaogang, vice chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said at the ongoing China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Beijing.

With the advantage of scale production in the new energy industry chain, China is actively strengthening international cooperation in clean energy and steadily promoting the construction of the "green" Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Zhang said.

He said China has carried out green energy cooperation with more than 100 countries and regions. China-made PV modules and wind turbines hold more than 70 percent of the world

market, making the country an important force in stabilizing global clean energy industry and supply chains, according to Zhang.

China's progress in the clean energy sector, which covers the entire industry chains of PV, wind power and new-energy vehicles, provides practical, cost-effective and mutually beneficial solutions for the global green transformation, Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

"China's clean energy technologies are as advanced as those of developed countries, and practical cooperation between China and other countries will boost technological advances," Lin said, noting that certain Western countries' crackdowns on China would have a negative impact on the world's green energy transition.

As a responsible large country, China earnestly acts on the vision of green development, supports the green and low-carbon construction and operation of infrastructure facilities, and enhances international cooperation in climate response.

The construction of the Al Dhafra PV2 Solar Power Plant in the United Arab Emirates, built under contract by a Chinese company, has been fully completed.

China has undertaken other clean energy projects, such as the Sachal wind power project in Pakistan, the Noor III solar-thermal power plant in Morocco, the Al Kharsaah PV power station in Qatar and the Garissa PV power plant in Kenya, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

Having the Baihetan hydropower plant and Kela PV power station - the world's largest hydro-PV complementary power station - Southwest China's Sichuan Province has drawn much attention at the CISCE with its clean energy transition. The province signed multiple international cooperation agreements on clean energy with a total value of 1.8 billion yuan (\$254 million).

Turkish Ambassador to China Ismail Hakki Musa said at the CISCE that the clean energy transition is one of the priorities of Turkey, and "we need to build a more sustainable and greener future. We're ready to conduct in-depth cooperation with China," media reported on Wednesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1302706.shtml>