



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

July 01-15, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

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July 01, 2022

Business Recorder

Wide spectrum of renewable energy projects

Chinese co shows interest in investment

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that deepening China-Pakistan economic cooperation is very important for the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan. The premier expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Chinese state-owned company, NORINCO that called on him and showed interest in investing in renewable energy and other areas.

The prime minister also highlighted the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a transformational project for the mutual benefit and development of both the friendly countries and invited the Chinese companies to invest in the huge potential of renewable energy, particularly, solar power in Pakistan. The NORINCO delegation showed keen interest in investing in the wide spectrum of renewable energy projects in Pakistan, especially in the wind corridor in Thatha whereby, a 100MW wind power project was proposed.

Investment in fiber optic along the railway lines, copper and iron ore mining at proven reserves, and infrastructure development in the big cities of the country were among the key investment opportunities highlighted by the company as potential venues for investment. Shehbaz Sharif stated that Pakistan is open to investment and that his government is taking steps to remove all impediments to further facilitation of the investors. He also thanked the Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang for their consistent and unwavering support to Pakistan, particularly in the current economic situation in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister's Office said that the premier acknowledged the company's role in the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train project and recalled that it was for the first time that open bidding took place in a government-to-government (G2G) project i.e. Lahore Orange Line. He stated that further negotiations were held with the lowest bidder, leading to a saving of US\$ 600 million, adding that it was certainly a milestone in the development history of Pakistan. The Chinese delegation was led by vice-president NORINCO International, Wang Xiaobing and CEO NORINCO International (Pakistan), Li Chen while from Pakistan's side Federal Ministers Khawaja Saad Rafique, Syed Naveed Qamar, Chauhdary Salik Hussain, Advisor to Prime Minister Ahad Cheema, Special Assistants to Prime Minister (SAPMs) Syed Tariq Fatemi, Mohammad Jahanzeb Khan, Zafarud Din Mahmood and officials from concerned ministries have also attended the meeting. Earlier, during a brief talk on state-owned TV channel along with Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its Foreign Affairs Commission, Shehbaz said that Pakistan was obliged to China for the support it provided and he still remembers Yang's visit to Pakistan in 2015 along with President XI as an important member of his delegation signed agreements for the start of CPEC.

He said that his vision and foresight have always supported Pakistan's cause on bringing the two countries together. Sharif thanked him for his outstanding role and contribution to bring the two countries together thought out his career. He said that his vision has also helped Pakistan in direction which led Pakistan to achieve CPEC as well as investment and trade.—ZAHEER ABBASI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/01/1-page/935219-news.html>

Daily Times

Karot hydropower project put into full commercial operation

Karot Hydropower Project, the first hydropower investment project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) invested and developed by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), has been put into full commercial operation, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The Karot HPP COD Ceremony was held at Power House Wednesday to inaugurate the commercial operation. At the ceremony, Dr. Munawar Iqbal, Acting Managing Director, Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) extended thanks on behalf of Pakistani government to CTG.

“In spite of COVID-19 impact, the construction progress of the project remained satisfactory, and because of such a brilliant construction, the project has started successfully delivering much needed clean and green energy to the national grid,” Dr. Munawar Iqbal said.

He added that “on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I would like to reaffirm our commitment in implementation and accomplishment of CPEC Energy Cooperation targets and facilitation towards realization of the Belt and Road Initiative.”

Wu Shengliang, Chairman, China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI) addressed the ceremony. He said that Karot Project will provide 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of cheap and clean electricity to the national grid every year to meet the energy demand of around five million local consumers. It will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3.5 tons every year.

Meanwhile nearly 5,000 job opportunities were provided to the local people by the project during the construction and 40 local students were funded to complete their undergraduate studies from CTG scholarship, Wu said, adding “Karot Project is serving as a bridge of friendship between the two countries.”

The first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report of CTG in Pakistan was issued at the ceremony.

Karot Hydropower Project is located on the Jhelum River in Pakistan's Punjab Province with a total installed capacity of 720 MW. It is one of the Prioritized Projects as well as the first large-scale hydropower investment project under CPEC. Meanwhile, Karot Project was written into the Joint Statement between the Chinese and Pakistani governments.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/960559/karot-hydropower-project-put-into-full-commercial-operation/>

PM welcomes Chinese investment in Pakistan's renewable energy sector

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday welcomed the Chinese company NORINCO for showing interest to invest in Pakistan's huge potential for renewable energy.

He expressed these views while talking to a high-powered delegation of Chinese state-owned Company NORINCO (China North Industries Corporation) led by its vice-president Wang Xiaobing and CEO (Pakistan) Li Chen.

The NORINCO delegation showed keen interest in investing in the wide spectrum of renewable energy projects in Pakistan, especially in the wind corridor in Thatha whereby a 100 MW wind power project was proposed. The company also highlighted the potential venues for investment in fiber optic along the railway lines, copper and iron ore mining at proven reserves, and infrastructure development in big cities. The prime minister said deepening economic cooperation with China was critical to Pakistan's socio-economic uplift. He highlighted the significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a transformational project for the mutual benefit and development of both the friendly countries. The prime minister also appreciated the company for its role in the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train project, which, he said, was facilitating hundreds of thousands of commuters in Lahore on a daily basis. He recalled that it was for the first time that open bidding took place in a government-to-government project i.e. Lahore Orange Line.

He stated that further negotiations were held with the lowest bidder, leading to a saving of USD 600 million, adding that it was certainly a milestone in the development history of Pakistan. The prime minister stated that Pakistan was open to investment and that his government was taking steps to remove all impediments for further facilitation of the investors. He also thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping and H.E. Premier Li Keqiang for their consistent and unwavering support to Pakistan, particularly in current economic situation in Pakistan. The delegation praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his untiring efforts to steer Pakistan out of the current economic crisis. It noted that PM Shehbaz Sharif was a great friend of China whose business-friendly policies have deepened economic cooperation and facilitated foreign direct investment in the country.

Federal Ministers Khawaja Saad Rafique, Syed Naveed Qamar, Chauhdary Salik Hussain, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, SAPMs Syed Tariq Fatemi, Mohammad Jahanzeb Khan, Zafar-Ud-Din Mahmood and officials from concerned ministries were also present in the meeting.

Earlier Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan stood ready to work closely with China for realizing the shared vision of connectivity, prosperity and public well-being. "Pakistan will continue to support Chinese investors with competitive incentives, access to high-quality infrastructure and unwavering security arrangements," he said in a meeting with Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its Foreign Affairs Commission.

Extending a warm welcome to Director Yang, the prime minister conveyed the most cordial greetings and best wishes for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. The prime minister noted that Director Yang's visit marked the continuation of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, which are the hallmark of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

He recalled his extensive conversation with Premier Li Keqiang in May 2022, during which both leaders had reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchanged views on the regional and international situation. PM Sharif underscored the significance of Director Yang's visit for accelerating the implementation of the leaders' consensus on further enhancing bilateral relations across all domains. He highlighted that economic cooperation had become a mainstay of the wide-ranging Pakistan-China partnership. He expressed satisfaction at growing bilateral trade and financial linkages with China's unstinting support playing an invaluable role in helping Pakistan offset external shocks to the global economy and demonstrating the continued resilience of Pakistan-China cooperation at a time of heightened uncertainty on the world stage. The Prime Minister particularly thanked China for renewal of the RMB 15 billion (US \$ 2.3 billion) syndicate facility.

He also thanked China for its support and assistance to Pakistan's efforts towards preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic by providing millions of vaccine doses as well as protective and medical equipment. The prime minister said that as a flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development. He reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest. The prime minister also underscored the high importance Pakistan attached to the strategic ML-I and other key projects including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalinization plant in Karachi. The CPEC and growing economic linkages had deepened the roots of the abiding friendship between the peoples of both the countries, the prime minister noted. Atop this unshakeable foundation, the Pakistan-China partnership would continue to play its valuable role as a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond. The prime minister reiterated his strong condemnation of the Karachi terrorist attack and underscored Pakistan's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhanced measures for safety, security and protection of the Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/960614/pm-welcomes-chinese-investment-in-pakistans-renewable-energy-sector/>

Pakistan Observer

Sino-Pak ties on rise

THE two-day visit of the high level delegation from China, headed by Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its

Foreign Affairs Commission, proved highly beneficial for strengthening further the model relationship between the two countries.

The delegation had intensive negotiations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, senior leadership of the Foreign Office and Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa where renewed commitment was expressed by the two countries to boost cooperation in vital fields and exchanged views on regional and global situation.

Apart from the good wishes expressed by the two sides, there was also a concrete outcome of the visit as a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed regarding announcement of China for a fresh roll over of \$2 billion to Pakistan to shore up dwindling foreign exchange reserves of the country.

In view of shortage of fertilizer, China has also decided to export 200,000 tons of urea fertilizer to Pakistan besides provision of 3,000 sets of solar home systems to help the country overcome its energy crisis through popularization of cost-effective and environment-friendly solar power.

Pakistan will export embryos to China for quarantine and health requirements for buffalo and Rhodes Grass to China.

All this showed that China was willing to extend its valuable support to Pakistan to help tackle fundamental problems of its economy and promote welfare of the people.

Already, as pointed out by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development.

Keeping in view the sluggish pace of work on CPEC projects, it is important to note that the Prime Minister has reaffirmed the resolve of his Government to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest.

In this regard, priorities of his Government were highlighted by his remarks that Pakistan attaches high importance to the strategic ML-I and other key projects including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalination plant in Karachi as all these projects are vital to accelerate the pace of socio-economic progress in Pakistan.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the two sides during meeting of the visiting Chinese delegation with the COAS with special focus on strengthening security for Chinese personnel and projects which has assumed special relevance because of attempts being made by some external forces to undermine progress on the historic initiative of CPEC.

General Bajwa, who recently visited China, has played a key role in removing apprehensions of China in this regard as all out efforts are being made to give elaborate security cover to all CPEC related projects.

We hope that the momentum in bilateral cooperation, triggered by the visit of Yang Jiechi, will be taken to new heights during the visit of the PM to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-ties-on-rise/>

The Express Tribune

Police assure security to Chinese nationals

China thanks Sindh Police for overall security measures

KARACHI: The Sindh police chief has assured the Chinese mission of providing fool proof security to the Chinese nationals working in the province.

Consul General of China Li Bijian along with a 13-member delegation met Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon at Central Police Office Karachi and discussed various matters of mutual interests including security measures for Chinese nationals, experts and other staff associated with CPEC projects and routes in detail, a statement issued on Thursday said.

The IGP Sindh said the Sindh Police is not only always alert and prepared to fulfill its responsibilities like control over the law and order situation and protection of life and property of the people but also from time to time in the implementation of security strategy and action plan consultation and suggestions.

The Additional IGP Counter Terrorism Department briefed the delegation about the Karachi University terrorist attack case and informed about the progress made so far, while DIGP Special Protection Unit/ CPEC also gave detailed information on all security issues on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

On the occasion, Consul General of China thanked the Sindh Police on behalf of the Government of China for the overall security measures being taken in the province and said, the Government of China would continue its cooperation with the Sindh Police.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364112/police-assure-security-to-chinese-nationals>

SBP's forex reserves rise \$2.1b to \$10.3b

Increase came after arrival of China bank's loan proceeds

KARACHI: The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank increased 14.7% on a weekly basis, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday.

On June 24, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$10,309 million, up \$2,071 million compared with \$8,237.7 on June 17.

According to the central bank, the increase came after accounting for the external debt repayment and the receipt of China Development Bank (CDB) loan proceeds amounting to RMB 15 billion.

Overall liquid foreign currency reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$16,195.6 million.

Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,886.6 million.

In the week ended August 27, 2021 the foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank soared to an all-time high of \$20.15 billion after Pakistan received the general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) worth \$2,751.8 million from the IMF on August 24.

On March 30, 2021, Pakistan borrowed \$2.5 billion through Eurobonds by offering lucrative interest rates to lenders aimed at building the foreign exchange reserves.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364157/sbps-forex-reserves-rise-21b-to-103b>

The Nation

All Power Projects In Pakistan Completed, Says Chinese Official

Lahore – Fan Zengrui, Deputy General Manager, China National Electric Engineering Corporation has said that all power projects in Pakistan have been completed while all power projects are also generating electricity as per the set target.

He stated this while on a visit to the offices of The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt Group. Fan Zengrui met Lt Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri, Director General Operations, Nawa-i-Waqt Group. Mr. Bilal Mahmood, Director Marketing, Mr. Khawar Abbas Sandhu, Special Correspondent and Interpreter while Kazim Husain were also present on the occasion.

Fan Zengrui said that the role played by the company in fulfilling the demands for development and prosperity of Pakistan, especially power generation was our responsibility as a friend and we are proud of our friendship with Pakistan and will continue to do so. The company will continue to play its full role and support when Pakistan needs it, he added.

Fan Zengrui highlights role of Nawa-i-Waqt Group in promoting Pak-China ties

Lt Col (R) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri said that friendship between Pakistan and China has always been fulfilled in every field and test which will last forever and is an example for the rest of the world.

He mentioned the role of The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt in promoting Pak-China friendship. Fan Zengroi said that he is well aware of the role of Nawa i Waqt Media Group and is confident that this best role will continue.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/01/all-power-projects-in-pakistan-completed-says-chinese-official/>

The News

China opposes Indian plans to hold G-20 meeting in IIOJ&K

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China has voiced its opposition to India's reported plans to hold the next year's meeting of G-20 leaders in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), echoing Pakistan's objection, and underlined that relevant sides should avoid "unilateral moves" that may "complicate" the situation.

“We have noted this latest development,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing on Thursday while replying to a question. “China’s position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear-cut. The Kashmir issue, a dispute left from the past, should be peacefully and properly addressed in accordance with the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement,” Zhao said.

He said the “parties concerned need to avoid unilateral moves that may complicate the situation. Efforts should be made to settle the dispute through dialogue and consultation so as to maintain regional peace and stability.”

Stating that the G-20 is a premier forum for international economic and financial cooperation, Zhao said, “We call on all major economies to focus on steady recovery of the world economy, avoid politicising relevant cooperation and make positive contributions to improving global economic governance.”

Asked whether China, a member of G-20, would attend the meeting to be held in 2023, he said, “We will look at whether China will attend the meeting.” To another question by an Indian media person that China is building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the (disputed) region in Pakistan’s Azad Jammu and Kashmir and India’s objections over it, Zhao said the “two matters are completely different in nature. China has undertaken some projects in Pakistan to help it grow its economy and improve people’s livelihood.”

Relevant Chinese companies conduct the relevant projects with the purpose of helping Pakistan to develop its economy and improve people’s livelihood, he said. “This does not affect China’s position on the Kashmir issue,” he underlined.

On June 25, Pakistan said it rejected India’s attempt to hold a meeting of G-20 countries in Kashmir, hoping that members of the grouping will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would oppose the proposal outright. This will be the first major international summit expected to be held in occupied area after its annexation by New Delhi.

He said it was a well-known fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory between Pakistan and India, and has remained on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for over seven decades.

Meanwhile, Zhao Lijian congratulated Pakistan on the start of full commercial operation of the Karot Hydropower Plant. The Karot Hydropower Plant is a priority project for energy cooperation and the first large-scale hydropower investment project under the CPEC. The project was listed in the joint statement of the Chinese and Pakistani governments. Workers from both countries overcame difficulties and challenges together to complete the project, a process that took them seven years.

“China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. CPEC is a key pilot project under the Belt and Road Initiative and an important platform for all-round practical cooperation between the two countries. It is guided by the concept of green, open and clean development and committed to realising sustainable, livelihood-oriented and high-standard growth. Since its launch, cooperation in various fields under CPEC has delivered fruitful outcomes. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to renew our traditional friendship, deepen all-round practical

cooperation and ensure CPEC will continue to blossom and bear more fruits and bring bilateral relations, people-to-people exchanges and economic and social development of the two countries to a new level,” Zhao Lijian added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=103268>

Jang News

سی پیک پر مسافروں اور نجی گاڑیوں کے تحفظ کیلئے عملی اقدامات کا آغاز

پنڈی گھیب (نمائندہ جنگ) سی پیک پر سفر کرنے والے مسافروں اور نجی ٹرانسپورٹ گاڑیوں کیلئے حفاظتی اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں تاکہ سفر کو محفوظ بنایا جاسکے۔ آئی جی نیشنل ہائی وی اینڈ موٹروے پولیس خالد محمود کی ہدایت پر سیکٹر کمانڈر عتیق الرحمان کی قیادت میں عملی کارروائی کا آغاز کر دیا گیا۔ سپاٹرز کی مدد سے بغیر سیٹ بیلٹ یا بغیر رجسٹریشن گاڑیوں کی خلاف ورزی اور ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کی بدولت تحفظ کیلئے اقدامات کئے گئے ہیں۔ ادھر ہر جگہ ڈی آئی خان موٹرویز پر وزن بردار گاڑیوں کی بہتات کے باعث سی پیک روٹ ٹوٹ پھوٹ کا بھی شکار ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/170802>

چینی سرکاری کمپنی کا پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی خواہش کا اظہار، وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ اتحادی حکومت سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کیلئے رکاوٹوں کو دور کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کر رہی ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی تعاون کو مزید وسعت دینا پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے اہم ہے، چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں قابل تجدید توانائی بالخصوص شمسی توانائی کے وسیع امکانات میں سرمایہ کاری کریں، گزشتہ روز وزیر اعظم آفس میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق چینی سرکاری کمپنی نورینیکو کے اعلیٰ اختیاراتی وفد نے وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات کی، وفد کی قیادت نورینیکو انٹرنیشنل کے نائب صدر وانگ شیائونگ اور سی ای او نورینیکو انٹرنیشنل (پاکستان) لی چن نے کی، ملاقات میں وفاقی وزراء خواجہ سعد رفیق، سید نوید قمر، چوہدری سائل حسین، وزیر اعظم کے مشیر احد چیمہ، وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی سید طارق فاطمی، محمد جہانزیب خان، ظفر الدین محمود اور متعلقہ وزارتوں کے حکام بھی موجود تھے، اس موقع پر وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی تعاون کو وسعت دینا پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے اہم ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ (سی پیک) دونوں دوست ممالک کے باہمی فائدے اور ترقی کیلئے تبدیلی کے منصوبے کے طور پر اہم منصوبہ ہے، وزیر اعظم نے لاہور اور نیشنل لائن میٹرو ٹرین منصوبے میں کمپنی کے کردار کو بھی سراہا جو لاہور میں روزانہ کی بنیاد پر لاکھوں مسافروں کو سہولت فراہم کر رہی ہے، انہوں نے یاد دلا یا کہ ایسا پہلی بار تھا کہ جی ٹی جی پراجیکٹ یعنی لاہور اور نیشنل لائن میں کھلی بولی لگائی گئی، سب سے کم بولی دینے والی کمپنی کیساتھ مزید مذاکرات کے نتیجے میں 600 ملین امریکی ڈالر کی بچت ہوئی، یہ یقیناً پاکستان کی ترقی کی تاریخ میں ایک سنگ میل ہے، وفد نے پاکستان کو موجودہ معاشی بحران سے نکالنے کیلئے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی انتھک کوششوں کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ شہباز شریف چین کے عظیم دوست ہیں جن کی کاروبار دوست پالیسیوں نے اقتصادی تعاون کو مزید مضبوط کیا ہے اور ملک میں براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو آسان بنایا ہے، نورینیکو کے وفد نے پاکستان میں قابل تجدید توانائی کے منصوبوں کے وسیع مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کیلئے اس شعبہ میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں گہری دلچسپی ظاہر کی۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/170750>

Nawaiwaqt News

آرمی چیف سے چینی خارجہ امور کمیشن کے ڈائریکٹر کی ملاقات

کیونست پارٹی آف چائنا (سی پی سی) کی پولٹ بیورو کے رکن اور خارجہ امور کے مرکزی کمیشن کے ڈائریکٹر یانگ جیچی دوروزہ دورے پر پاکستان میں ہیں۔ دورے کے پہلے روز انہوں نے جنرل ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں پاک فوج کے سربراہ جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے ملاقات کی۔ مسلح افواج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کے مطابق، ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی، دفاعی تعاون اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی بییک) منصوبوں پر پیش رفت سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات کے دوران آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ پاکستان خطے میں امن اور استحکام کے لیے اپنے عالمی شراکت داروں کے ساتھ تعاون کے لیے پرعزم ہے، پاکستان عالمی اور علاقائی معاملات میں چین کے کردار کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے اور پاکستان اپنی سٹرٹیجک شراکت داری کو بڑھانے کا منتظر ہے۔

یانگ جیچی نے پاکستان میں چینی شہریوں کے تحفظ، علاقائی استحکام کی کاوشوں پر آرمی چیف سے اظہار تشکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ ہر سطح پر سفارتی تعاون میں مزید وسعت لائی جائے گی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعلقات وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ مزید مستحکم ہو رہے ہیں اور خطے میں طاقت کے توازن اور چھوٹے ممالک کی فلاح و بہبود اور ترقی کے لیے تعلقات مدد و معاون ثابت ہوں گے۔ چین نے کئی مشکل مواقع پر پاکستان کا ساتھ دے کر یہ ثابت کیا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کا سچا دوست ہے۔ سی بییک منصوبہ جو خطے میں ایک گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کو ایک نئے مرحلے میں داخل کرنے کا باعث بنا۔ حکومت کو چاہیے کہ اس منصوبے کو خصوصی توجہ کا مرکز بنا کر اس کے ذریعے نہ صرف معاشی استحکام کی راہ ہموار کرے بلکہ چین کے ساتھ اپنے دوستی اور تعاون کو بھی مزید مضبوط بنائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-07-01/page-10/detail-8>

July 02, 2022

Daily Times

Karot Hydropower to promote Pak-China coop in energy sector

“Let me extend congratulations on the start of full commercial operation of the Karot Hydropower Plant. It will promote energy construction and economic and social development in Pakistan,” said the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian at a press conference. According to Gwadar Pro, Zhao made the remarks in response to the full commercial operation of Karot Hydropower Plant.

Zhao Lijian said that the Karot Hydropower Plant is a priority project for energy cooperation and the first large-scale hydropower investment project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project was listed in the joint statement of the Chinese and Pakistani governments. Workers from both countries overcame difficulties and challenges together to complete the project, a process that took them seven years.

With a total installed capacity of 720,000 kilowatts, the Karot Hydropower Plant will generate an average of 3.2 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year, which can meet the electricity demand of around five million people in the region and effectively reduce power shortage in Pakistan and improve the country's energy structure.

It is expected to save about 1.4 million tonnes of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 3.5 million tonnes per year, which will help achieve the global “carbon neutral” target and make new contributions to global climate response. Zhao added that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. CPEC is a key pilot project under the

Belt and Road Initiative and an important platform for all-round practical cooperation between the two countries. It is guided by the concept of green, open and clean development and committed to realizing sustainable, livelihood-oriented and high-standard growth.

Since its launch, cooperation in various fields under CPEC has delivered fruitful outcomes. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to renew our traditional friendship, deepen all-round practical cooperation and ensure CPEC will continue to blossom and bear more fruits and bring bilateral relations, people-to-people exchanges and economic and social development of the two countries to a new level.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/961110/karot-hydropower-to-promote-pak-china-coop-in-energy-sector/>

PM felicitates China on Hong Kong's 25th handover anniversary

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday congratulated the leadership and people of China on 25th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China.

“I extend my heartiest congratulations to H.E. President Xi Jinping, the government & people of China on the 25th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China,” the prime minister wrote on Twitter.

He said Hong Kong was the perfect example of the successful implementation of “One country, two systems”. On 1st July 1997, Britain formally handed Hong Kong back to China, ending the British Empire in the Far East.

Under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, Hong Kong was to have 50 years of semi-autonomy under ‘one country two systems’, with promises that its democratic rights would be expanded. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked China as the first power plant under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project became operational. “It gives me immense satisfaction to announce that the 720 megawatt hydal power plant in Karot has started functioning,” he said in a tweet.

PM Sharif said he was thankful to the government of China for materializing the project.

He mentioned that the project could not gain momentum during around four years of the previous government.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/961164/pm-felicitates-china-on-hong-kongs-25th-handover-anniversary/>

Dawn News

Strategy urged to tackle implications of alliances formed to contain China

PESHAWAR: Academics have expressed concern over Indian Navy's big ambitions and called for a comprehensive response strategy to cope with the implications of Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue (QUAD) and other alliances formed by the United States to contain China, for Pakistan's security.

The experts were speaking at a seminar on 'Strategic Environment in Indian Ocean Region and Policy Options for Pakistan', jointly organised by Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), an Islamabad-based think-tank, and China Study Centre, University of Peshawar, a press release issued by the think-tank on Friday said.

The speakers looked at various steps taken by the QUAD members for executing China containment through the lens of military, and other hard-power solutions and how those would contribute to the growth of Indian military might with serious consequences for Pakistani security. They also proposed various solutions in the light of those assessments.

Experts voice concern over Indian navy's ambitions

Director of SVI Dr Nasir Hafeez said that provision of state-of-the-art military equipment to India by the United States for promoting it as a counterbalance to China and projecting it as the 'net security provider' would negatively affect Pakistan's security and economic interests.

He said it was, therefore, critical that a renewed effort be made for strengthening Pakistan's capability to meet emerging challenges, protecting exclusive economic zone, and ensuring freedom of navigation.

"A comprehensive maritime policy is, moreover, necessary for tapping the potential of Pakistan's maritime sector."

Dr A. Z. Hilali of Abasyn University said Pakistan had strong geo-political reasons to challenge Indian dominance and cooperate with China in the blue water region.

Dr Amir Raza of the University of Peshawar suggested that Pakistan should develop bilateral relations with QUAD member states and their growing cooperation should not become a reason for preventing progress on this front. He also called for closer cooperation with other regional bodies.

Dr Zahid Anwar, pro vice chancellor of University of Peshawar, said that the US Indo-Pacific policy was disturbing the balance of power in the region by emboldening India to have an aggressive posture. This, he contended, would not only affect Pakistan, but other littoral states also.

Dr Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi of University of Peshawar called for more investments in development of navy and coastal areas. He said that the potential of blue economy needed to be effectively utilised. The current approach which gives little attention to navy and maritime sector, he regretted, was unhelpful.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697758/strategy-urged-to-tackle-implications-of-alliances-formed-to-contain-china>

Pakistan Observer

China's shared prosperity & changing dynamics in Pakistan

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

IN continuation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's philosophy of shared prosperity, global development & security initiatives, China's Polit Bureau member Yang Jiechi most recently visited Pakistan and held separate meetings with PM Shehbaz Sharif, FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa.

It seems that although both are iron clad brothers but lenses of the West especially the European Union and the USA are hurting both countries because of their commitments toward Russia and free world.

In this connection, both have their own vested interests and limitations too but constant liaison between the high level political leadership, policy makers and security establishment of both of them succeeded to sailing this friendship.

Some domestic protracted irritants in terms of security, bureaucratic delays in the approval and implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), tough financing & payment mechanism and Indian hegemonic designs against CPEC and its strategic partnership with the global kingmakers of power politics have strained the options of both countries.

But thanks to visionary leadership of Chinese President Xi who has been supporting Pakistan in its difficult times and supported the early completion of CPEC Phase-I and initiation of CPEC Phase-II.

Interestingly, former Prime Minister Imran Khan made a four-day visit to Beijing where he also met President Xi in the start of this year.

Afterwards, in May Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Beijing to hold meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Earlier this month a senior tri-service military delegation led by COAS Bajwa met Chinese military and government officials in Beijing which all show the closeness of Pak-China ties.

Undoubtedly, right from the beginning, China has been helping Pakistan to maintain political and economic stability.

In March this year China rolled over \$4.2b debt thus providing a major financial relief to Pakistan. Earlier this month China deposited \$2.3 billion to boost State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reserves while this also helped in enhancing rupee's parity against US dollar and supported government efforts of economic stability in the country.

Chinese visible and invisible support on FATF has now rescued us to pull through hanging sword of grey/black list.

Seemingly, the chessboard of power politics is staged to contain China, however, Pak-China friendly ties have helped contain misadventure tendencies in South Asia and beyond.

In this regard, China has been supporting Pakistan's just stance on Kashmir and encouraged both sides to resolve the issue through peaceful means.

Yang Jiechi's visit to Pakistan has opened a window of constructive dialogue between the two sides to thoroughly discuss all the punching boxes for easy and smooth sailing of pending projects of the CPEC, payment of unrealized dues of Chinese private companies, increasing fatal tendencies of terrorism and disliking against CPEC and Chinese socio-economic investments in Balochistan and Gwadar, security misappropriation, TTP, Afghanistan and formation of conflicting realities with the West.

Unfortunately, capacity building issue and indecisiveness hangover during the former regime has actually slowed down the pace of CPEC projects in the country.

Moreover, conflicting realities and contradictory statements badly damaged national narrative towards CPEC.

Ultimately dirt of national politics has swayed caravans of development and diplomacy.

Thanks incumbent government has once again accelerated the CPEC projects and removed all physical and psychological barriers associated with the early completion of CPEC Phase-I.

In this context, while meeting with Yang Jiechi Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rightly termed CPEC a flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development.

The Prime Minister assured to speed up the sluggish pace of work on CPEC projects and has reaffirmed the resolve of his Government to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest.

Furthermore during the meeting he shared and showcased strategic importance of strategic ML-I, Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalination plant in Karachi because all these projects are vital to accelerate the pace of socio-economic progress in Pakistan.

In this connection, the visiting Chinese delegation met with the COAS General Javed Bajwa during which special focus on strengthening security for Chinese personnel and projects were thoroughly discussed.

General Bajwa, recently visited China and has played a key role in removing apprehensions of China in this regard as all out efforts are being made to give elaborate security cover to all CPEC related projects.

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar said Pakistan values China's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our strategic partnership.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, defence collaboration, progress on CPEC and regional security were discussed in detail.

While meeting with the visiting Chinese delegation, the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the government is committed to fast-tracked progress on ongoing CPEC projects, and advance new projects, like MI-1 and Karachi Circular Railway, for Pakistan's development and the well-being of its people.

The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's staunch support to the "One-China" policy and all core issues of China including Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and South China Sea.

He also thanked for China's firm support to Pakistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty as well as steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Foreign Minister Bilawal stated that special focus was being accorded to increased Chinese investment in CPEC SEZs in order to catalyze industrial development and enhance employment and livelihood opportunities for the local people.

Interestingly, a formal MoU was inked regarding announcement of China for a fresh roll over of \$2 billion to Pakistan to shore up dwindling foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Furthermore, China has also decided to export 200,000 tons of urea fertilizer to Pakistan besides provision of 3,000 sets of solar home systems to help the country overcome its energy crisis through popularization of cost-effective and environment-friendly solar power.

On the other hand, Pakistan will export embryos to China for quarantine and health requirements for buffalo and Rhodes Grass to China.

To conclude, serious efforts should be started, streamlined and systemized to pay-off pending payment (Rs 230 billion) to Chinese companies.

Work on Gwadar must be accelerated as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Gwadar city has still no proper power and potable water facility.

Inclusion of affordable electric automobile production, massive hydro generation, green energies, nuclear power generation, and joint ventures in lithium battery, solar & wind panels, vaccines, health equipment, modern water conservation technologies, waste management, agricultural drones, multi-cropping system, hybrid seeds, fisheries, brown rice plantation, chills, tea and soybean should be included in the CPEC Phase-II.

There is an urgent need to form a reliable corridor of knowledge to mitigate phony and false propaganda of the West about CPEC and Chinese investment in the country.

In this regard, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) would play an important role in the country.

—The writer is Director, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies Islamabad & regional expert, China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-shared-prosperity-changing-dynamics-in-pakistan-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Chinese company to launch New Bus Service in Karachi

Provincial Minister for Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon met with a Chinese delegation at his office Friday. It was decided in the meeting that the Chinese company will launch a new bus service in Karachi on the lines of People's Bus Service. The new bus service will consist of a fleet of 500 buses. Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon gave four month time to the Chinese company to procure buses and bring buses to Karachi. Talking to the Chinese delegation, the provincial transport minister said that 500 buses should reach Karachi within four months after completing all the legal formalities.

He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah were focused on modernizing the public transport system in Sindh. 'Sindh government is trying to provide maximum modern public transport to the people of Sindh,' he added.

The Chinese delegation included Chie Chung of Shandong Hi Speed Pakistan, Zoheb Siddiqui and Chun Yusan of Kinglong Company. Secretary Transport Abdul Haleem Sheikh and Managing Director Sindh Mass Transit Authority Capt. (R) Altaf Hussain Sario were also present on the occasion.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-company-to-launch-new-bus-service-in-karachi/>

July 03, 2022

The Express Tribune

CPEC Thar coal project back in spotlight

Work on stalled priority project expected to resume soon

ISLAMABAD: Work on a stalled priority project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative in Thar Coal Block IV is expected to begin as Pakistan is exploring possibilities of utilising indigenous coal resources for producing cheaper electricity amid exorbitant prices of fossil fuels in the international market.

A consortium of Oracle Power, China National Coal Development Co and the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmad Dalmook Al Maktoum, a member of the royal family of Dubai, plans to establish a 1,320-megawatt coal-fired, mine-mouth power plant, integrated surface coal mine, and coal-to-gas and coal-to-diesel conversion facilities in Thar Coal Block IV at an estimated cost of \$4 billion. The coal-to-gas facility will produce urea fertiliser as well, according to Oracle Power.

The project remained on the back burner for several years until Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently formed a committee on coal development to cope with the electricity crisis.

Oracle Power CEO Naheed Memon was also part of the committee, which ignited hopes of progress on the massive CPEC project.

The committee held a consultative session to deliberate on the prospects of utilising Thar coal to overcome power shortages and save the foreign currency reserves spent on the import of fossil fuels.

The committee will also hold a follow-up meeting on coal gasification and coal-to-diesel conversion before putting forward recommendations to the PM.

As part of the committee, Memon will be in a better position to advance Oracle's Thar Coal Block IV project, the company said.

The company is awaiting a Letter of Intent from the Private Power and Infrastructure Board.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364426/cpec-thar-coal-project-back-in-spotlight>

The Nation

USA, China, UK Remain Top 3 Destinations Of Pak Exports

ISLAMABAD – United States remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of fiscal year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the USA during July-May (2021-22) were recorded at \$6158.171 million against the exports of \$4475.232 million during July- May (2020-21), showing a growth of 37.60 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data. This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$2543.235 million against the exports of \$1832.649 million during last year, showing an increase of 38.77 percent. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$2011.339 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1861.204 million, showing growth of 8.06 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$1681.026 million against \$1335.842 million during last year, showing an increase of 25.84 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$1572.758 million against \$1367.422 million last year, the data showed. During July-May (2021-22), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$1328.871 million against \$1010.262 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$964.469 million against \$699.770 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$1042.651 million against the exports of \$735.811 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$494.080 million against \$895.399

million during last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$783.469 million against \$551.712 million, showing growth of 42 percent, according to SBP data. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$473.083 million against \$394.877 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$648.251 million against \$519.940 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$376.371 million during the current year as compared to \$429.445 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$362.753 million against \$280.909, to Malaysia \$387.489 million against \$212.770 million. Overall Pakistan's exports to all countries also witnessed an increase of 26.73 percent in eleven months, from \$23.146 billion to \$29.333 billion, the SBP data said.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/03/usa-china-uk-remain-top-3-destinations-of-pak-exports/>

PIA All Set To Launch Flight On Islamabad-Chengdu Route

BEIJING – Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has made all arrangements to start direct weekly passenger flights between Islamabad and Chengdu, capital of China's Sichuan province, from July 6 (Wednesday).

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has accorded a formal approval to PIA to operate its weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu route, well-informed sources confirmed on Saturday. Chengdu is the third destination other than Beijing for the national flag carrier. In March, PIA was allowed to operate flights for Chinese cities of Xian and Guangzhou from Pakistan. Previously, the state-run airline was allowed to conduct flight operations for Beijing only. According to the schedule, PK-870, the first flight for the new destination, will take off from Islamabad International Airport at 8 am on July 6, which will touch down at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport at 4 pm local time after a flight duration of approximately 4 hours and 40 minutes. The same day, PK-871 will depart from Chengdu at 6 pm local time and will reach Islamabad at 8:20 pm local time after a flight of 5 hours and 20 minutes.

The final decision on resumption of direct flights between Pakistan and China operated by PIA was taken at a meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and China's State Councilor, Wang Yi in Guangzhou, China in May. The two leaders also agreed on the increase of direct flights between the two countries. PIA has already resumed its weekly passenger flights on between Islamabad and Xian. The new direct flights are expected to enhance trade and education cooperation between Pakistan and Sichuan, which already have multiple linkages. Pakistani business community and students studying in China have also expressed pleasure over the launch of flights on Islamabad-Chengdu route.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/03/pia-all-set-to-launch-flight-on-islamabad-chengdu-route/>

The News

Pak-China Friendship Forum meets

Islamabad: Chairman China-Pakistan Friendship Forum Ilyas Raza has said that China has maintained friendship with Pakistan by supporting Pakistan in every difficult time. CPEC is a testament to the great friendship between Pakistan and China. The friendship between the two countries is in the eyes of the enemy countries and he keeps looking for opportunities to strike at it, says a press release.

He expressed these views while addressing a function organised by the Pak-China Friendship Forum. The tragedy at Karachi University was a link in the same chain, but it has nevertheless failed to break the friendship between the two countries. The government under the leadership of PM Shahbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan show determination that the hostile elements against relations and uplift will be dealt with full force and they will be crushed forever. The enemies of two great nations Pakistan and China have once again targeted the soul of ties in a very vicious attack that has claimed the precious lives of Chinese and Pakistani people.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=103978>

July 04, 2022

The Nation

BRICS At The Crossroads

The 2022 BRICS Summit's theme focused on high-quality partnerships to usher in a new era for global development. The leaders of China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa reiterated the need to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue in accordance with international law while committing to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States. They also expressed commitment to the peaceful resolution of dissimilitude and expostulations between countries through dialogue. As before, the thirteen-year old BRICS, just like the UN, used familiar language to support a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan with a broad-based, inclusive and representative political structure; complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; strengthening the system of arms control and a peaceful and prosperous Middle East and North Africa. The Group also reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons.

With the ongoing war in Ukraine, it was inevitable that the Summit emphasized the need to respect the 'territorial integrity' of all States. Similarly, by focusing on having a peaceful resolution of disputes, the Summit indirectly pointed toward all international and regional disputes including Palestine and Kashmir that needed a final settlement. The Group's resolve to have reforms of the UN's principal organs once again indicated the apparent loopholes in collectively addressing global issues. The Summit also revealed its intent to reduce the IMF's reliance on temporary resources and addressed the under-representation of emerging markets and

developing countries for their meaningful engagement in the Fund's governance. Understandably, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that 'weakened the economic prospects' also came under discussion.

Many would argue that mentioning the issues is one thing, but abiding by the corresponding resolve is a totally different ballgame. Hence, the Summit Declaration was silent on the steps taken collectively or individually in addressing the Afghan issue or Iran's nuclear programme or the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula or BRICS' intentions to practically address such and other global security issues. Nonetheless, with the presence of three nuclear States in the Summit, the desire to see a nuclear-free world must be seen and appreciated as a strong message to the world. Similarly, with the presence of four of the top ten industrial countries, the Summit rightly emphasized the need to adhere to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

As peaceful countries like Pakistan would desire, the Summit emphasized that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country or shelter or train terrorists, or plan to finance terrorist acts. 'We are committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe-havens. We also look forward to further deepening counter-terrorism cooperation.' Just like any other UN document, the Summit Declaration was silent on exactly how 'we' are going to go about this extremely dangerous animal.

The Summit's message on Ukraine was loud and clear. Well, with Russia and China present, BRICS' response on a European country being Ukrained was but expected. China, India and South Africa had already made their position on the war in Ukraine clear by abstaining on the UN vote against Russia. However, Brazil's position on Ukraine was different. In February, Brazil figured among those eleven countries that voted in favour of the Resolution against Russia. China and Russia being its most important trading partners, particularly in the agriculture sector, a pro-US Brazil, however, might have felt a little uncomfortable in finalizing paragraph twenty-two of the Declaration that 'supports' talks between Russia and Ukraine besides supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and other Agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to the deserving people of Ukraine. Would the Western countries led by the US be concerned about the Summit's expressed view on having 'talks' being the only way to stop the war in Ukraine? All of us know the answer...

As one of the non-Member-States, Pakistan was due to participate in the 'Dialogue on Global Development' on the sidelines of the Summit. Pakistan could not attend the Dialogue as according to the Foreign Office, an unnamed country 'blocked' its participation even in this otherwise harmless discussion. The question is: What was the logic or diplomatic wisdom behind creating a mystery by not naming the country that blocked Pakistan's participation? The situation becomes even more contentious if the blocking country or the 'instigator' was not India. And by all calculations, if it was India, which factors restricted Islamabad from keeping the 'culprit' behind the curtain? The more serious question is: With China being the Summit's host and an

admirer of Pakistan's 'important role' in advancing the UN-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, how is it that Islamabad's diplomacy in Beijing, Pretoria, Moscow and Brasilia proved so ineffective?

Since the inaugural BRIC meeting in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg in 2009—before South Africa was made a Member—the Group remains unhindered in its endeavours of countering the West, particularly in the economic and political domains. With a combined GDP (PPP) of around \$40 trillion and producer of one-thirds of the world's food, BRICS was once sounded as the future of the world's economy, capable of creating a parallel global financial institution. As the five-Member-States have grown unequally and in the presence of multiple political, territorial and economic disputes amongst themselves, the Group has been counter-intuitive to its diplomatic and economic objectives. China is becoming a superpower while the remaining quartet keeps treading along modestly. It is then no surprise that the Group has a fair share of naysayers, particularly in view of its comparative ineffectiveness in making an impact on issues of global interest. Although BRICS finds itself at the crossroads, it remains the most important Alliance for all its five Members. Let us hope the 2023 BRICS Summit in South Africa, produce some concrete results at least for its Members if not for the world at large.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/04/brics-at-the-crossroads/>

The News

Pak-China relations in changing global scenario

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Since the adaptation of President Xi Jinping Thoughts, China is transforming. It is becoming more assertive, pro-active and high-profile country. China is not ready anymore to listen to senseless lectures or baseless accusations.

Today's China is more confident and ready to compete at global stage in any field. It is a gigantic shift. But, China is cognizant of the reality that power comes with responsibility. Thus, it is working to refine engagement policies in all the fields.

From the review of China's transformation process, we can deduce few key lessons. First, China will be sticking to core principles of peaceful co-existence. It is drawing new policies by learning from Confucius's vision of shared prosperity, Yellow Emperor's governance model and Sun Zu Security vision. However, it will not tolerate bullying. Second, China wants to become a fair and just power which treats everyone equally and does not want to acquire title of a bully. Third, China will be striving for equitable and development-oriented world. For that purpose, development linkages will be enhanced. Fourth, China will be looking to clear its backyard and forge new partnerships as it is a basic requirement to become great power. The biggest problem in the backyard is India. It is not only creating problems for China but also for other countries like Pakistan. Fifth, it is expected that historical engagements and relationships will also observe changes.

The early signs of transformational policy are now visible. For example, China expanded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, launched Global Security and Global Development Initiatives. Further, China is working to strengthen BRICS as a representative organisation of emerging and developing economies.

Since 2017, President Xi has accelerated efforts and is advocating for expansion of BRICS. China and Russia also reiterated the same at the 14th Summit. In the pursuance of expansion policy, first meeting of aspirant countries was held in May 2022.

On the other hand, high-level Dialogue on Global Development was organised on the sidelines of the Summit to make BRICS a development-oriented organisation. The Dialogue was chaired by President Xi Jinping. In addition to BRICS members, some other countries were also invited. Unfortunately, Pakistan was missing on both the occasions.

It ignited a debate in the country and many people are asking why Pakistan was not invited and what does this mean to Pakistan? It is unfortunate that the debate is going on in vacuum without understanding the changing role of China at the global level. First of all, we must understand that Pakistan did not show much interest to join BRICS. That's why it was absent from the meeting of aspirant countries. Second, BRICS, at this point of time, is working by adhering to consensus-based formula. So, it is not possible for China to take unilateral decision.

Third, Dialogue on Global Development was held on the sidelines of BRICS as the theme of Summit was "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development".

Absence of Pakistan from the Dialogue does not mean that Pak-China relationship has been comprised. The relationship is intact and is strengthening with the passage of time. It is apparent from the visit last month of Yang Jiechi, member of the politburo of Communist Party of China. Besides, China helped Pakistan to avert default and economic crisis by providing timely a loan of \$2.3 billion and rollover of \$2 billion.

It came forward at a time when we were desperately looking for help to avert default and save our population from the cruelest impacts of crisis.

China is also trying to help Pakistan on the economic front by providing more opportunities to enhance our exports in diverse fields. It is expected Pakistan's agriculture export value will exceed \$1 billion this year. So, the commitment of China is firm and nothing can shake it.

People must be rational in making judgment and ponder on two questions before giving any statement. First, why our military and security relations are strong, but economic cooperation could not yield the same results? The major reasons are; lack of understanding of Chinese economic model, political point-scoring, complicated bureaucratic system and weak implementation policies. Lack of understanding of Chinese model hindered efforts to unleash true economic potential.

The biggest victim of this failure is CPEC. For example, Pakistan is implementing CPEC for the last seven years, but still unable to operationalise Special Economic Zones which were required to foster industrialisation process. It is impacting our progress which weakens our position to be included in the groups like BRICS.

We need to rationalise our expectations and analyse the situation by keeping rising status of China at the centre. The analysis must avoid emotional slogans.

Pakistan will have to make efforts to improve its economy to become a choice for big groups like BRICS. We have opportunity in the form of CPEC and we can exploit it by adopting wise policies.

First and foremost step to achieve the purpose would be to deploy people who understand China (economy, governance, diplomacy and security) and its role in changing global dynamics. Unfortunately, it is not happening.

Although, PMLN and PPP consider themselves champion of Pak-China relations, they are also committing mistakes of the past. It is feared that immature analysis and strong vocal cords, especially among the experts and the media, will hurt our interests.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=104480>

July 05, 2022

Business Recorder

KU attack case

CM, Chinese team discuss progress in investigations

KARACHI: A 13-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy Director General CTD of China Gao Fei called on the Sindh chief minister and discussed security of Chinese nationals working in the province and progress in the investigation of suicide attack in Karachi University. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Home Secretary Saeed Mangnijo, Adl IG CTD Imran Yakoob Minhas and Special Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh.

The Chinese delegation members include Consul General of China in Karachi Li Bijian, police counsellor in China Embassy Li Qingchun, Technical Expert from Li Zhigang, CTD of MPS Li Xiaoguang, Director, technical expert from cyber–Security Ma Jingchao, Expert from Shanghai police authority Pei Lianxi, and others.

The chief minister said the data collected by the police department showed that 3,637 Chinese were working on eight CPEC projects in Sindh. He said 3,361 personnel, including 1,500 policemen, 517 Army personnel, 173 Rangers, 28 FC personnel and 1,143 private security guards have been deployed on their security.

Shah said CPEC security was being dealt with by 441 brigade of SSD and supported by the Special Police Unit of Sindh Police.

According to the CM, there are 21 government sponsored non-CPEC projects, including NED University and Karachi University and 194 are private sponsored (non-CPEC) projects where 2,879 Chinese were working. The CM said his government was also providing them security. IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon briefing on the progress of the Karachi University suicide attack case said that in the in-depth investigation of the case, technical and ground sources had been

utilized. He said with the efforts of the CTD Intelligence team an important accused had been arrested.

The details of the investigation have been shared with the Chinese authorities concerned. The Chinese delegation told the chief minister that they were technically strengthening CTD and the Special Branch of Sindh Police. The chief minister thanked the Chinese authorities for their support.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/05/2-page/935813-news.html>

Making pipes for K-IV

Crescent Steel negotiating terms with Chinese firm

KARACHI: Crescent Steel and Allied Products Limited is negotiating with China Harbour Engineering Company Limited for the manufacturing and coating of pipes, having diameters of 68 and 84 inches for the K-IV project, the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme. The value of the contract is expected to be around Rs 3.8 billion, material information sent to Pakistan Stock Exchange on Monday said.

Subject to the execution of the contract, the manufacturing is expected to commence in the second quarter of the current financial year and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of the next financial year, it added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/05/5-page/935839-news.html>

Dawn News

PTI govt responsible for delay in ML-1 project, Senate body told

Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Railways was informed on Monday that the multi-billion main line (ML-1) project of Pakistan Railways, which was to revolutionise the entire railway network of Pakistan, has been delayed due to the poor handling of the previous PTI government, and its cost has also jumped up.

Secretary Railways Syed Khalid Ali Gardezi informed the committee that certain security-related issues and uncertain situation also caused delay in the project which will now cost \$9.8 billion instead of \$6.8bn.

The completion period of the CPEC flagship project will now be seven years, he informed the standing committee meeting, chaired by Senator Mohammad Qasim. The secretary railways also blamed the statements of the previous government leaders which kept the project from implementation. The secretary says the Karachi Circular Railway project has been included in the ML-1 project.

A member of the committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain, called for supporting the project irrespective of political affiliations, and said the tradition of blame-game and statements and

counter statements on the project should now be avoided, adding that the ML-1 project will change the destiny of the country.

Project will now cost \$9.8bn instead of \$6.8bn

The standing committee reiterated its complete support for the completion of ML-1 project, and asked the government to start planning to initiate the project. The committee lauded the role of the Ministry of Railways with regard to the ML-1 project. Members of the committee were of the view that the ML-1 project will prove to be a 'game changer' for Pakistan.

Officials of the Ministry of Railways presented details of railway lands in the country, and said that during the past three years, a total of 4779 acres of land was leased out. According to details presented, 112 acres were leased in Peshawar, 621 acres in Rawalpindi, 1,344 acres in Lahore, 2.1 acres in Mughalpura, 2,425 acres in Multan, 79 acres in Sukkur, 79 acres in Karachi, and 5 acres in Quetta. Pakistan Railways has a total of 168,858 acres, out of which 10,772 acres have been leased out. Details showed that 9,291 acres were allotted for agriculture, 955 acres for residential purpose, 221 acres for commercial activities and 621 acres for miscellaneous use.

Senator Mushtaq Ahmed raised the issue of the sacking of railway patrollers, and said these people have served Pakistan Railways for about twenty years. All these staff should be restored and given permanent contract.

The secretary railways further informed the committee that Pakistan Railways has started restoring daily wagers, however, restoring patrollers and giving them permanent contract is beyond the authority of Pakistan Railways.

Patrollers can only be restored and regularised by the Establishment Division. Such staff can only be regularised if the government announces a policy of regularisation. After detailed debate on the issue, the committee recommended restoration of railway patrollers, and directed that all the daily wagers in railways should be given the rights of regular employees in the case of injuries or loss of life.

The committee deliberated the recruitment issue of ten sub-engineers by Pakistan Railways under 'Agaaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan Package'. Ministry of railways officials informed the committee that these sub-engineers were given contracts renewable every year. These employees will not be sacked, however the establishment division can award them the regular contract, but at the same time, these employees have crossed the age limit to become regular employees.

Senator Mushahid Hussain proposed that a summary should be sent to the prime minister, recommending relaxation of age so that these engineers could be regularised. On this suggestion, it was decided that a summary should be sent to the prime minister on behalf of the committee chairman and the Ministry of Railways for the relaxation of age for the ten sub-engineers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1698301/pti-govt-responsible-for-delay-in-ml-1-project-senate-body-told>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan's rice export to China hits \$277.6m

Country becomes one of major broken rice suppliers

BEIJING: Pakistan's rice export to China crossed \$277.56 million in the first five months of FY22, up 9.73% year on year.

Pakistan remained one of the major broken rice suppliers to China, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Pakistan Embassy in Beijing Commercial Counsellor Badaruz Zaman said that currently broken rice, especially Irri-6, Irri-9 and semi or wholly milled rice are the main varieties exported to China, while traders still need to work hard to capture the Chinese market for Basmati and other top varieties.

“Last year, China imported 973,000 tons of rice worth \$437 million from Pakistan. Seven new rice exporters of Pakistan have been added to the approved list, which has risen to 53,” he said.

“China relaxed import restrictions on Pakistani rice, which helped increase export to China.”

He believes that within a few years Pakistan will become the largest rice exporter to China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364672/pakistans-rice-export-to-china-hits-2776m>

The Nation

CPEC's Benefits?

Ahsan Munir

Recently, since the coming of the PML-N-led coalition government in power, a lot is being said, claimed, and regurgitated about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): its infrastructure, energy, and industrial development vision, and how CPEC is transforming Pakistan. However, all these claims are not always backed by any statistics or hard evidence to provide assurance to the readers. CPEC is a trade corridor constructed by Pakistan, with Chinese loans and grants, and the corridor extends, primarily, from the Xinjiang province of China to Gwadar port, Balochistan, Pakistan. CPEC is over 3000 kilometers and is the shortest route for China to transport its goods to the Arabian Sea for onward freight all over the world. The CPEC initiative majorly involves Gwadar, energy, infrastructure, and industrial cooperation. There are some flagship projects in each sector. The evaluation of these flagship projects could be a good indicator of the CPEC initiative and its effect on Pakistan's economy. Gwadar Port is the deepest seaport in the world, but it has still not appeared on the world map to generate revenues for Pakistan. Further, only menial jobs have been provided to the locals in this project, which has further increased resentment and deprivation in the area. Also, Gwadar is plagued by electricity and potable water shortages, indicating a huge city has been set up without the provision of basic utilities. Among the flagship projects of infrastructure is the dualisation of the railway track from

Peshawar to Karachi. But the project, for one reason or the other, has still to see the light of the day. Further, the cost incurred on the construction and maintenance of motorways built under the CPEC initiative is not being shared to weigh cost and benefits. Moreover, mass transportation networks have been developed under CPEC such as the Lahore rail transit Orange Line project. Thus, billions of rupees have been loaned to construct projects which are continuously hemorrhaging the national exchequer. Thus, the question is: with our decrepit economy, how are we going to pay the loans and interests accrued on these loans, when the projects themselves are running in the negative? Coming to energy projects, most have been fossil fuel-dependent, necessitating the importation of fossil fuels (such as coal, and furnace oil) thus increasing the import bill. Port Qasim's coal-fired power station generates about 10 percent of the power supply of Pakistan's national grid. It is reported that coal-fired station production will exceed 4.6 billion kWh. Further, the operational efficiency of these fossil fuel plants is not public information to assess their productivity and profitability, and costs to consumers. Also, the world is moving towards greener energy and our national energy policy is quite the opposite. Luckily, a few hydropower projects have been part of the CPEC initiative: and one such initiative, the 'Karat Hydropower Station' has been commissioned. Finally, under industrial cooperation, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were proposed along the CPEC route with the vision that Chinese investors will populate these SEZs, and an industrial revolution will occur in the country. Recently, PM Shehbaz Sharif hoped that Chinese investors will come to SEZs. So far, nine SEZs have been proposed but we are still looking for investors for proposed SEZs. Thus, a lot was expected from CPEC, and a lot has been invested by Pakistan on CPEC through borrowed money, but the expectations have yet to materialise. Thus, we must always reassess and renegotiate all developmental projects to make them meaningful for Pakistan, its economy, and its people.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/05/cpecs-benefits/>

July 06, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese firm shows interest in telecom JVs

ISLAMABAD: Norinco Group China has shown keen interest to further the strategic relationship between Pakistan and China by undertaking joint ventures in the field of telecommunications.

With the aim of promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan, a meeting was held with Federal Minister for IT and Telecom Syed Aminul Haque with Norinco Group China, here on Tuesday. The meeting discussed cooperation in the telecom sector in general, and Backhaul Fiber Optics Network and Safe City Project, in particular. In viewing of its long association with Pakistan, Norinco showed keen interest to further the strategic relationship between the two countries by undertaking joint ventures in the field of telecommunications. The officials/ representatives of Norinco attended the meeting included Maj General (retired) Ali

Farhan, Brig (retired) Tahir Islam, Shahid Rafique, Ding Weimin, General Manager/ Norinco Group, Zhang Jin, Senior Executive Business Department Norinco Group, and Zhang Yong, chief representative of civilian part of Norinco Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/06/13-page/936044-news.html>

Daily Times

NHA to link CPEC M-14 with Pak-Afghan border

The Government of Pakistan has decided to connect Ghulam Khan, North Waziristan, with Motorway 14 (M-14) ? a project of the western alignment route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) ? via a 184km long Motorway. According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, the National Highway Authority (NHA) on Monday issued a request for proposal (RFP) of consultancy services for the Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for the Construction of the Motorway from Ghulam Khan to Esa Khel Interchange (184 KM Approx).

The project will be financed by the Federal Government of Pakistan through PSDP 2022-23 through Separate Head/allocation.

Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on July 19, 2022, at NHA headquarters in Islamabad while procurement will be carried out by adopting the “Single Stage Two Envelops” procedure. The proposals complete in all respects in accordance with the instructions provided in the RFP document in sealed envelopes, which should reach on or before August 10, 2022.

Esa Khel Interchange is located over M-14 in Mianwali district of Punjab, which is in proximity to the Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Between Mianwali and Ghulam Khan falls Bannu district of KP. After Torkham and Chaman, Ghulam Khan is the third most important crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan has already started benefiting from Gwadar Port and the country received the first consignment of bulk cargo from the United Arab Emirates in July 2020. Ghulam Khan crossing, at the Pak-Afghan border point, is the shortest route connecting CPEC’s western route with Afghanistan, Central Asian States and beyond.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/963136/nha-to-link-cpec-m-14-with-pak-afghan-border/>

Pakistan Observer

First hydropower project under CPEC starts functioning

Sultan Mahmood Hali

On June 29, the Karot hydropower project (HPP) was put into full commercial operation. This is a major milestone in the progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), flagship of the mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by China.

While Pakistani authorities expressed jubilation and gratitude to the Chinese government for its cooperation in the completion of the 720 Megawatts Karot HPP, the Chinese side also extended their felicitations.

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry congratulated Pakistan on the start of full commercial operation of the Karot Hydropower Plant.

He reiterated that the Karot HPP is a priority project for energy cooperation and the first large-scale hydropower investment project under CPEC.

The project was listed in the joint statement of the Chinese and Pakistani governments. Workers from both countries overcame difficulties and challenges together to complete the project, a process that took them seven years.

With a total installed capacity of 720,000 kilowatts, the Karot HPP will generate an average of 3.2 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year, which can meet the electricity demand of around five million people in the region and effectively reduce power shortage in Pakistan and improve the country's energy structure.

It is expected to save about 1.4 million tonnes of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 3.5 million tonnes per year, which will help achieve the global "carbon neutral" target and make new contributions to global climate response while promoting energy construction and economic and social development in Pakistan.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, who has earlier served as Deputy Head of the Chinese Diplomatic Mission at Islamabad for many years and is a close friend of Pakistan, stated that: China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

CPEC is a key pilot project under the BRI and an important platform for all-round practical cooperation between the two countries.

It is guided by the concept of green, open and clean development and committed to realizing sustainable, livelihood-oriented and high-standard growth. Since its launch, cooperation in various fields under CPEC has delivered fruitful outcomes.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to renew our traditional friendship, deepen all-round practical cooperation and ensure CPEC will continue to blossom and bear more fruits and bring bilateral relations, people-to-people exchanges and economic and social development of the two countries to a new level.

On March 30, the Karot HPP had achieved a major landmark towards the commercial operation date (COD) as it had successfully hoisted its 4th and final rotor at the powerhouse.

The rotor was an important component used for the excitation function, which was essential to power generation. It was another major significant step toward the COD of the first CPEC HPP, which has now seen successful fruition.

Each unit can produce 180MW of Power and the total hydropower potential of Karot HPP is 720MW which has now commenced commercial operation.

The Karot HPP, located at a distance of about 76 Km from Islamabad, has a total installed capacity of Karot HPP is 720 MW with an annual electricity generation of 3,206 Gwh. The project is equipped with four state of art Francis turbines and will fulfill the needs of five million consumers throughout Pakistan.

The full commercial operation of the Karot HPP successfully, speaks volumes for the deep-rooted friendship and brotherly ties between China and Pakistan.

In the near past, detractors of China and Pakistan had been trying to drive a wedge between the two brotherly nations and spreading fake news of CPEC being shut down.

Those elements, which harbour inimical feelings towards China and Pakistan and would like to place impediments in the path of progress, fail to appreciate the depth of the relationship. They are perhaps oblivious of the strength of the bonds between the “Iron Brothers”.

Other countries may have relationships at the government level or between different political parties but the ties between China and Pakistan are between its people and irrespective of the changes in regime or government, the relationship between the people of China and Pakistan has withstood the test of time and remains steadfast.

CPEC bears testimony to this and is symbolic of the solid foundations on which Sino-Pak ties have been built.

Various governments who have come and gone in Pakistan, have reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to further deepen and strengthen Pakistan-China All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

They have endorsed Pakistan’s support to the One China Policy and the core Chinese interests. Simultaneously, they remain appreciative of the Chinese consistent support of Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, political stability and socio-economic development.

CPEC remains at the core of the people-to-people relations between China and Pakistan. If any protagonist has the wrong idea that it can sabotage or subvert CPEC, he or she is sadly mistaken.

CPEC is here to stay and its various projects have seen realization, simultaneously the quality development of the second phase of the CPEC and bilateral cooperation in areas such as industries, agriculture and information technology is the manifestation of the Sino-Pakistan multidimensional partnership. When the entire CPEC project is complete, it will add to the prosperity of the region.

The full commercial operation of the Karot Hydropower Plant successfully belie any misgivings against the mega project.

<https://pakobserver.net/first-hydropower-project-under-cpec-starts-functioning-by-sultan-mahmood-hali/>

BRI leading to peaceful development

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has emerged as a platform to build a community with a shared future for mankind, has been applauded by the international community for pushing openness and inclusiveness, promoting peace and cooperation, mutual learning and mutual benefit around the globe.

Acceptance and appreciation from the international community with people representing different ethnicities, nationalities and countries show the initiative has laid the solid foundation of development with fabulous achievements across the globe.

BRI is a platform for collaboration since it offers so many prospects, such as infrastructure upgrades and breathing room for partner countries' economies amid challenges.

According to the World Bank forecast, if all BRI transport infrastructure projects are carried out by 2030, the BRI will generate 1.6 trillion U.S. dollars of revenues for the world, or 1.3 percent of global GDP. Up to 90 percent of the revenues will go to partner countries.

The BRI could contribute to lifting 7.6 million people from extreme poverty and 32 million from moderate poverty from 2015 to 2030. It stimulates cooperation and ensures solid outcomes in sub-regions in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The signature initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping has become a symbol of green, open, harmonized, innovative high-quality and shared developments, which is consequently protecting and maintaining peace and promotes people's well-being in various sectors of life.

China's endeavor to promote multilateralism via the BRI is helping to create a harmonious world that is contrary to protecting the narrow interests of a group of countries that divide the world.

One of the significant and interesting aspects of BRI is to note down that many projects under the framework of the BRI worldwide such as the ports development, infrastructural development, and building of power projects, agricultural and industrial development including the China-Europe freight trains are benefiting the locals and boosting their countries' economy.

The participating countries are firmly supporting the BRI and working closely with China to deepen and strengthen the Belt and Road cooperation under a working mechanism of mutual consultation, joint collaboration and win-win situation.

With the passage of time, the development of BRI with its advanced shipping sector and financial services is helping member countries to get multilateral and advanced benefits in terms of commerce, trade, development and cooperation.

The greater cooperation and connectivity under BRI is also helping member countries to combat multiple challenges including climate change, pandemic and food insecurity.

In these difficult times when US wars and COVID-19 are disturbing the economic infrastructure of the international community, multilateral cooperation under BRI is the need of the hour for global economic success and development.

Similarly, this cooperation mechanism of mutual consultation is rejecting any notion of confrontation or a new Cold War mentality by promoting cooperation rather than confrontation.

The development initiative proposed by China has successfully been signed by 149 countries, including Pakistan, and 32 international organizations.

The Belt and Road Initiative has further promoted Chinese investment in participating countries and boosted the development of new models of cooperation between China and member countries.

The BRI member nations attach great importance to the development of the relationship with China, and both sides need to further strengthen cooperation in businesses, investment and tourism in the future.

International community is terming the BRI as an opportunity to leverage the economic potential of the South in the post-pandemic period as the initiative has economic grounds rather than strategic ones, reflecting China's aspirations to build a prosperous international community.

From January to May, China's trade with Belt and Road countries jumped by 16.8 percent year on year to 5.11 trillion Yuan.

China has been playing an important role in maintaining global and regional peace, security, stability and development so this is the reason the international community is joining the Chinese development initiative in a big number.

China always upholds a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and urges the world to discard Cold War and zero-sum mentalities, rejects the law of the jungle, and encourages the settlement of conflicts through peaceful ways.

Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the BRI, China is assisting Pakistan with a number of projects including energy, transportation, communication and other infrastructure projects.

The CPEC is a manifestation of the good relationship between China and Pakistan and underlining the need for proactively promoting CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development.

Pakistan is in a strategic location where huge transformations and transitions are taking place... the country is endeavoring to be the hub of regional connectivity through CPEC, by making a transition from geopolitics to geo-economics.

China remained committed to the path of peaceful development and win-win cooperation, hoping that all Asian countries would stay away from any conflict, confrontation and Cold War.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-leading-to-peaceful-development-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

CPEC-Agri Cooperation Center inaugurated at Agriculture University

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-Agriculture Cooperation Center was inaugurated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah (PMAS) Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR) during a ceremony of understanding China fellowship here on Wednesday.

Acting ambassador of China to Pakistan, Pang Chunxue and Chairman Standing Committee on Defense Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed graced the occasion.

Islamabad stock and Asian Institute of Eco Civilization Research and Development (AIERD) Chairman, Zahid Latif Khan were also among the dignitaries of the ceremony, said a press release. Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, conveyed his appreciation to both organizers and said “Pakistan is home to CPEC, thus, we feel it is high time to educate people about Chinese’s system and model”.

“Thus, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization and PMAS-AAUR have joined hands and has launched this training program with support from Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Pakistan. We hope through this training program; we will be able contributing to strengthen Pak-China relation by educating the youth”.

CEO, AIERD Shakeel Ahmad Ramey introduced the audience about the fellowship program and highlighted the importance in current scenario. Deputy Chief of Mission Pakistan in Beijing Ahmed Farooq joined virtually and highlighted the current relationship status among two brother countries.

Ambassador Pang Chunxue expressed her views about the strong bilateral Pak-China relations and emphasized the importance of “Understanding China fellowship” program as the two nations are working in close coordination on local and international issues, therefore it is direly needed to develop such understanding among youth and learn from successful community models adopted by China. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said the government cooperation in agriculture sector from China can be a real game changer for the economy and uplift of the agri sector.

He congratulated the VC for taking lead in precision agriculture development and launching of successful model in Pakistan. Director (CPEC-ACC) Professor. Dr. Muhammad Azam Khan briefed the guests about the goal and objectives of CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Center. Chairman AIERD Zahid Latif Khan emphasized the selected participants of the course to put their maximum effort in learning.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-agri-cooperation-center-inaugurated-at-agriculture-university/>

The Express Tribune

China prime market for Pakistan's sesame seed

Export surges 47% to \$50.3m in January-May 2022

BEIJING: Pakistan's sesame seed export to China surged to \$50.32 million in the first five months of current calendar year 2022, showing a growth of 47.41% on a year-on-year basis, said Badaruz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan in China.

According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), China imported 33,846.15 tons of sesame seed, an increase of 21.35% by volume, worth \$50.32 million.

In the same period of last year, the import was 27,890.873 tons worth \$34.07 million.

Pakistan's commercial counsellor told China Economic Net that normally there is a trend of cultivating traditional crops like wheat and rice. But now Pakistani farmers are getting aware of high-end and high-price products like sesame seed.

They are also learning cultivation methods, so hopefully Pakistan is going to be the top exporter of sesame seed to China in coming years, he said.

Zaman said that Pakistan's sesame seed export to China achieved a historical figure of 92,516.55 tons worth \$120.44 million in 2021, making China one of the main destinations for sesame seed export. "In Pakistan, sesame oil is not in general use. Usually, it is used in bakery products or blowouts on naan. However, the demand for the seed or its products has never stopped. The majority of sesame production has been exported to the world," he stated.

According to the GACC data, China imported 615,510.43 tons of sesame seeds worth around \$918 million from different parts of the world.

Niger has become the largest sesame seed seller to China with export of 150,037.512 tons worth \$225.34 million in the first five months of 2022, followed by Togo with \$156.12 million and Sudan with \$144.33 million.

Pakistan ranks seventh by worth, contributing around 5.47% to the total exports to China in the first five months of this year.

Overall, Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$1.605 billion in the first five months of current calendar year, up 5.42% year on year.

The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan increased nearly 19%, amounting to \$12.06 billion as compared to \$10.14 billion in 2021, which was lower due to Covid-19.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364840/china-prime-market-for-pakistans-sesame-seed>

The Nation

Frigate PNS Taimur Commissioned At China

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan Navy Ship Taimur has been commissioned at Hudong Zhonghua (HZ) Shipyard, China. Head of Pakistan Navy Mission at China, Commodore Rashid Mehmood Sheikh graced the occasion as chief guest.

PNS Taimur is the second ship of four Type 054 A/P frigates constructed for Pakistan Navy. The first 054 A/P frigate PNS Tughril has joined PN Fleet in January 2022, while another two frigates of same class are presently under construction at China.

PNS Taimur is a technologically advanced and highly capable sea asset having hi-tech weapons & sensors, latest combat management and electronic warfare system to fight under multi-threat environment. These ships will provide sustainable boost to the combat capability of Pakistan Navy and enable to meet emerging challenges in the domain of maritime security and regional peace.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest underlined that induction of state of the art Type 054 A/P frigates will significantly enhance Pakistan Navy capabilities in strengthening defence of sea frontiers. He also praised the concerted efforts made by China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), China Shipbuilding Trading Company (CSTC), China Ship Development & Design Centre (CSDDC), HZ Shipyard and PLA (Navy) for the landmark achievement by timely delivery of the well-equipped and potent frigate.

Chinese Military Product Dept's deputy director general, in his address, highlighted that Pakistan and China are cognisant of changing geo-political environment and taking effective measures to deal with the added responsibilities and evolving challenges together. He underscored that friendship between the two countries is a pillar of peace and stability in the region.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/06/frigate-pns-taimur-commissioned-at-china/>

Jang News

سی پیک پاکستان میں مذہبی اور ثقافتی سیاحت کو فروغ دینا، رپورٹ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی پیک تجارت کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان میں مذہبی اور ثقافتی سیاحت کو فروغ دے گا، بدھ مت اور گندھارا تہذیب کی سیاحت سے معیشت کو بھی فروغ ملے گا، مالاکنڈ میں بدھ مت کے 150 آثار قدیمہ موجود ہیں، سی پیک مشرقی ایشیا سے پاکستان کو جوڑے گا۔ ویلیٹھ پاک کی رپورٹ کے مطابق سی پیک شمال مغربی چین کے سنگیانگ کے خود مختار علاقے کو پاکستانی بندرگاہ گوادر سے سڑکوں کے جدید نیٹ ورک کے ذریعے جوڑے گی۔ پاکستان کے ان پسماندہ علاقوں میں اقتصادی سرگرمیاں بڑھ جائیں گی جہاں سے یہ راہداری گزرے گی۔ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جغرافیائی سیاسی اتحاد کا عکاس ہے۔ گوادر کو چین کے مغربی شہر کاشغر سے جوڑنے والی راہداری جنوبی ایشیا، وسطی ایشیا اور مشرق وسطیٰ کی منڈیوں تک چین کی رسائی کو بڑھادے گی۔ اسی طرح سی پیک پاکستان کی معیشت کو تقویت دے گا جو گزشتہ دو دہائیوں سے زائد عرصے کے

دوران دہشت گردی سے شدید متاثر ہوئی ہے۔ یہ راہداری چین کو تیل کے راستوں کو محفوظ بنانے اور تجارتی اختیارات کو متنوع بنانے کے قابل بنائے گی۔ گوادر بندر گاہ مکمل طور پر فعال ہونے کے بعد پاکستان تجارتی اور اقتصادی سرگرمیوں کا مرکز بن جائے گا۔ قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد کے آثار قدیمہ کے اسکالر حامد علی گادھی نے ولایت پاک کو بتایا کہ ہیلت اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو میں شمال مغربی چین کے صوبہ گانسو کو مغرب کے لیے کھولنے اور ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ روابط استوار کرنے کے لیے شاہراہ ریشم کو ایک پورٹل کے طور پر شناخت کیا گیا تھا۔ گانسو صوبہ سٹریٹجک لحاظ سے مشرقی اور مغربی چین کے درمیان ایک میٹنگ پوائنٹ پر واقع ہے۔ قدیم شاہراہ ریشم جسے ہیکسی کوریڈور بھی کہا جاتا ہے، گانسو سے گزرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ لنکسیا ایک مسلمان آباد علاقہ تھا جہاں کے لوگ اپنے رسم و رواج اور مذہبی عقائد کی پیروی کرتے تھے۔ پاکستان بڑی تعداد میں آثار قدیمہ کے بدھ مقامات کا گھر ہے۔ جنوب مشرقی ایشیا اور دنیا کے دیگر حصوں سے بدھ مت کے زائرین پاکستان آتے ہیں۔ اپریل 2021 میں سری لنکا سے بدھ مجیکشوں کے ایک وفد نے ٹیکسلا، لاہور، شہباز گڑھی، تخت بھائی اور سوات کا دورہ کیا خیر پختونخوا کے علاقے ہمالہ میں سوئے ہوئے بدھ کے مجسمے کی باقیات ملی ہیں۔ سی بیک کے پس منظر میں ابھرتا ہوا علاقائی رابطہ مشرقی ایشیا کو پاکستان سے جوڑ دے گا۔ یہ رابطہ سماجی و اقتصادی تعاون کے امکانات پیدا کرے گا اور بین الثقافتی تبادلے کو فروغ دے گا۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/174992>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے نوریٹکو گروپ کے وفد کی وفاقی وزیر سید امین الحق سے ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ نوائے وقت) وفاقی وزیر انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی و ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سید امین الحق سے چین کے معروف نوریٹکو گروپ کے وفد نے ان کے دفتر میں ملاقات کی۔ وفاقی وزیر آئی ٹی نے چائینیز وفد کو اپنے دفتر پر خوش آمدید کہا اور ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر گفتگو ہوئی۔ وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے، وفاقی وزیر آئی ٹی سید امین الحق نے کہا پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے وسیع مواقع اور بے پناہ حکومتی مراعات دستیاب ہیں، نوریٹکو گروپ کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے لیے ہر ممکن سہولت اور تعاون فراہم کریں گے۔ نوریٹکو گروپ نے پاکستان میں ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے مختلف پراجیکٹس میں سرمایہ کاری پر دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا، چینی گروپ نے سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ اور آپٹیکل فائبر کیبل کے منصوبوں پر بھی سرمایہ کاری کے لیے خواہش کا اظہار کیا۔ ملاقات میں وزارت آئی ٹی کے سینئر افسران بھی موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-07-06/page-8/detail-61>

July 07, 2022

Business Recorder

Belt & Road Initiative to spread stability, prosperity worldwide: speakers

LAHORE: Speakers at a conference arranged by the Punjab University said that the Belt and Road Initiative will not only bring prosperity and stability to the countries of the region but also improve the economic conditions of most of the countries of the world.

They were addressing the inaugural function of a three-day international conference on “The Significance of the Belt and Road Initiative in Regional Connectivity” organized by Punjab University Regional Integration Center (RIC) in collaboration with Chinese Embassy at Al-Raazi Hall here on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Consul General Chinese Consulate Zhao Shiren, President APNS Sarmad Ali, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof Dr Shahid Munir, President Maritime Centre of Excellence Rear Admiral Shifaat Ali Khan, President of Anakra Centre for Crisis and

Policy Studies Turkey Prof Mehmet Seyfettin Trol, former PU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, former Chief Minister Punjab Prof Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi, CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade Hassan Daud Butt and others were present.

In his address, Zhao Shiren said that the Belt and Road Initiative was a gift from China to the world and the biggest project of public good. He said that the project was purely an economic, trade and investment project which would improve the economic conditions of most of the countries. He said that the President of China Xi Jinping wanted prosperity and peace in the world. He said China was strengthening relations with the government and people of Pakistan at all levels.

He said that CPEC would create excellent opportunities for foreign direct investment in Pakistan. He said that there was a need to eradicate negative propaganda about CPEC and create national consensus.

APNS President Sarmad Ali said that the people of the countries of the region can be connected through media. He said that media should play its role in eradicating negative propaganda against Belt and Road Initiative. Dr Shahid Munir said that CPEC was the biggest project for economic and social development of Pakistan which should be accompanied by Knowledge Technology Transfer Corridor. He said that due to cheap labour in Pakistan, China could set up industries here which could reduce transportation and production cost. He said that the establishment of a common currency would strengthen the countries of the Belt and Road Initiative economically.

Rear Admiral Shafaat Ali Khan said that the West used the sea for its expansion and occupy the world while China used it to promote economic and social relations. “We need to strengthen our narrative to counter the negative propaganda against us,” he said. Prof Mehmet Seyfettin Trol said the Belt and Road was a project of peace and prosperity. “It’s a time of hybrids and proxy wars,” he said, adding the Belt and Road Initiative could boost ties among Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and other countries. He said that Turkey would always stand by Pakistan and would never leave it alone. Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi said that it was the era of multi powers instead of one super power. He said that China was focusing on promoting economic ties instead of military ties. He said that China’s plan would strengthen various countries of the world economically. He said that there was a need to create awareness about the benefits of Belt and Road Initiative. He said that CPEC project must be completed as soon as possible. Presenting a model of regional cooperation, Hassan Daud Butt said that Pakistan could not miss this initiative. He said that now Asian countries were in a position to make economic decisions in the world. He said that Pakistan needed to improve its human resource capabilities. “Now there is a need to promote globalization,” he said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/07/7-page/936135-news.html>

Daily Times

PM orders probe into criminal delay in Gwadar breakwater project

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said he had ordered an inquiry into the criminal delay in Gwadar breakwater project as the Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf's government had ignored it despite availability of grants.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said \$445m grant, \$484m soft loan and feasibility were available but it baffled the mind as to how the previous government ignored the project. From energy to infrastructure, every project suffered costly delays under the PTI regime, he added. "In a meeting today, I ordered inquiry into criminal delay in Gwadar breakwater project. It baffles mind how PTI govt ignored it despite availability of \$445m grant, \$484m soft loan & feasibility. From energy to infrastructure, every project under PTI suffered costly delays," the prime minister posted a tweet.

Earlier, the prime minister chaired a meeting to review different development projects in Balochistan and Gwadar. He directed the PM's Inspection Commission chairman to submit a comprehensive report over such criminal negligence within one week. In a related tweet, he stressed that time for presentation was over as it was time for action. He said Gwadar was not just about infrastructure development, being part of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), it had political, economic and strategic value.

He further resolved that turning Balochistan's backwardness into prosperity was his mission and their collective responsibility. "Time for presentations is over. Time for action is now. Gwadar is not just about infrastructure development; being part of CPEC, it has political, economic & strategic value. Turning Balochistan's backwardness into prosperity is our collective responsibility & my mission," he posted a tweet. Briefing the prime minister in the meeting, the secretary maritime affairs said the breakwater project at the Gwadar port under concession agreement had to be constructed for which \$445 million grant and \$484 million loan was provided by the Chinese government but it hit the snags. The prime minister said due to its location, the Gwadar port was an important and most suitable hub for the global trade. Through the port, they would have to ensure supply of imported goods to the upper and northern areas of the country.

He said for the purpose, there should be best and efficient road and railway infrastructures, adding that through hard work, they would have to move ahead and remove all the deprivation of the province. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail, Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Sabzwari, Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir, Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique, PM's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and other high officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister also directed for taking of all the steps to ensure Chinese investment in Gwadar. so as to promote exports and provide employment opportunities to the people, especially the residents of the area. In this regard, the prime minister directed the Balochistan chief secretary and the secretary

planning to formulate a feasible plan for investment in food, agriculture and petrochemicals in consultation with the Chinese companies.

The Balochistan chief secretary, secretary maritime affairs, secretary railways, National Highway Authority (NHA) chairman and China Overseas Port Holding Company Pakistan (COPHC) chairman apprised the prime minister of the progress on different uplift projects. The NHA chairman briefed the prime minister about the access of upper and northern areas of the country to the Gwadar port through CPEC's eastern and western routes. The prime minister also directed the NHA, and ministries of maritime affairs and planning to submit after Eid, a joint review report, regarding ensuring supply of trade goods.

The COPHC chairman apprised that a plant with capacity of 1.2 million gallons water would soon arrive Pakistan and start functioning by the end of current year. The chief secretary further briefed the prime minister that out of the total 35,500 households in Gwadar, 31,000 were on-grid whereas 4,500 others had been off-grid. To meet requirements of the on-grid homes, a mini solar park on the basis of built, operate and transfer (BOT) basis in collaboration with the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and private sector was being installed. NEPRA (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority) would issue a power purchase agreement in that regard, he added.

For the supply of power to the off-grid households, the secretary said, 3KW solar home stations were being installed with an amount of Rs1.8 billion. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to complete the entire process through transparent tendering. He advised that the solar system providing company should be made responsible for a three-year after sale service to facilitate the public. He directed the secretaries concerned to form a complete strategy in that regard.

Besides, the prime minister also directed the chief secretary to ensure security of the staff working on different projects in the province and mapping of all the uplift projects.

He asked for formulation of a comprehensive security plan in collaboration with the interior ministry and law enforcement agencies, adding that the dream of economic prosperity could not be materialized without peaceful environment. The secretary railway briefed the prime minister over the linkages between Gwadar and other cities of the country and the progress on the new railway tracks. The prime minister directed to ensure all the possible and effective steps in that regard.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/963708/pm-orders-probe-into-criminal-delay-in-gwadar-breakwater-project/>

Education and agriculture key areas in Pak-China cooperation

A launching ceremony of the Understanding China Fellowship was held at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration of China and Pakistan in the field of education and agriculture by involving both countries' youth.

Senator Syed Muhshahid Hussain, Chairman, Standing Committee on Defense was the chief guest while Pang Chunxue, Acting Ambassador of China was the guest of honour at the ceremony. PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman, Mr Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman Islamabad Stock Exchange, Mr Ahmad Farooq, Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistan, Dean, Directors, Faculty Members and other management staff were also present on the occasion.

In his address, Syed Muhshahid Hussain said that PMAS AAUR is one of the eminent universities in Pakistan, leading the country's agriculture sector and education to a new peak. While highlighting the new aspects for strengthening both countries' friendship he said that education and agriculture are the key areas which can make Pak-China cooperation and collaboration to another height.

Talking about the importance of Understanding Fellowship China, he said that it would allow Pakistani students to study all the fields of China closely which has left it behind the developed countries of the world.

While showing the pleasure of participating in the event, Pang Chunxue in her address said that this initiative of PMAS AAUR will take the Pak-China friendship to the next level.

She said that China and Pakistan are trusted and iron friends who supported each other in all matters and it is the need of the hour that we should more use of this friendship by enhancing and strengthening cooperation to overcome our issues.

This fellowship will enable Pakistani students to learn about the Chinese economic and social models to This fellowship will enable Pakistani students to get to know the economic and social models of China, which has led to progress in all its fields, she said.

Welcoming all on the Launching Ceremony of Understanding China Fellowship Prof. Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman said that Pakistan & China stood firmly to stand behind each other, in all weathers and testing times never compromised on their bilateral relation at any cost.

It is very unfortunate that despite such deep ties with China, Pakistan today is on the brink of economic collapse and despite being an agricultural country, we are forced to export a lot of food, thus it is high time for Pakistan to educate people about Chinese's system and model, he said.

Appreciating the initiative of the university's CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Center he further said that this joint venture between the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization (AIERD) and PMAS-AAUR will further strengthen the Pak-China ritual as well as will help youth to understand the basics of China's development which will not only help them to brighten their future but also contribute to the country's development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/963673/education-and-agriculture-key-areas-in-pak-china-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

Why is CPEC phase 2 crucial for Pakistan?

CPEC has attracted attention owing to its potential to generate 700,000 jobs and multiple business opportunities

The CPEC project has entered its second phase. This phase is aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development all across Pakistan through engagement in various fields ranging from agricultural growth to expansion of tourism industry and enhancing technical educational and healthcare facilities, besides joint ventures between China and Pakistan to counter the climate change threat. This phase will also focus on poverty alleviation through agricultural and industrial cooperation.

In view of the prevailing economic crisis in the country where the debt burden and subsequent increasing inflation has taken a toll on the common man's life, the CPEC phase 2 seems promising for ordinary citizens provided the government is able to devise a strategy to tap its potential focussing on public welfare.

CPEC has attracted attention owing to its potential to generate 700,000 jobs and multiple business opportunities. However, there has been little focus on socio-economic benefits of CPEC, especially its impacts on health and education sectors. During the first phase of CPEC, the Community Investment Plan (CIP) for socio-economic uplift of the communities living in the areas of the project has remained a key feature of various CPEC projects. But since those programmes were limited in focus and scope, they failed to produce a trickledown effect.

The tide can be changed in the ongoing second phase. The government needs to devise a strategy to associate the individual CPEC projects with community development and public good in order to uplift their socio-economic profiles in both rural and urban areas. In pursuit of this target, the government should take certain important steps, as follows:

First, there is need to prioritise the socio-economic development projects that have already been identified by the joint cooperation committee (JCC) of CPEC for its phase 2. They included 27 projects in six sectors including agriculture, health, education, drinking water supply, poverty alleviation, and vocational and technical education. Effective development communication and engagement with local communities is not only important for the cogency and long-term success of CPEC projects but also crucial for addressing the socio-economic needs of the common people.

There is a need to incorporate 'community development' especially in health and education sectors as core of all individual projects. As mentioned, the CIP has remained part of CPEC projects but not utilised to the maximum. For example, under the CIP, 11 projects, both in Punjab and AJK, have been carried out for the shared benefit of the local community around the Karot Hydropower Project in which a school and an emergency unit at a local hospital have been constructed. There is a need to adopt such a policy of constructing new schools and health units

especially in SEZs and larger industrial units. The connection that such initiative will create between the locals and the project would make the gains of CPEC long-lasting.

Last but not least, a smart approach in this context can be to synchronise the CPEC projects with the UN SDGs. Pakistan was among the first few countries to adopt the SDGs for sustainable development and poverty reduction in 2016. However, Pakistan is facing challenges in achieving these goals due to a lack of resources, and its ranking has dropped on the global SDGs index from 115 in 2016 to 134 in 2020. Pakistan needs to focus more on the achievement of SDGs due to the abysmal state of its socio-economic development landscape. Pakistan's performance on health and education sectors has remained miserable where its infant mortality rate hardly stands around 50% and literacy rate barely 30-40%.

Both CPEC and SDGs are two important components of Pakistan's development policy. Hence their interplay in the urban and rural settings provided a unique and distinctive account of actual socio-economic situation in the project location of CPEC. This approach would save both energy and money invested separately in achievement of SDGs on the one hand and CPEC development goals on the other. Especially during this second phase of CPEC, investment policies and planning must be aligned towards clearly identified SDG targets especially in health and education sectors for the benefit of common people.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2364969/why-is-cpec-phase-2-crucial-for-pakistan>

The Nation

The G7 And BRI

Waseem Shabbir Arain

Recently, the G7 summit was held in Germany's Schloss Elmau on June 26, 2022. The big development that came to the fore this time is the proclamation of a mega project named the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), by G7 countries including the US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the European Union. The launching of this partnership is the continuation of G7's last year's scheme, unveiled at the Cornwall summit labelled, "Build Back Better World" (B3W), but in a new package.

The prime objective of both of these initiatives is to become an alternative to China's globally expanding project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

All G7 countries have pledged to collectively make a huge investment of USD600 billion for the next five years up to 2027. The US itself will contribute USD200 billion alone. As a countermeasure against China's BRI, this humongous amount will be invested in developing countries solely to improve their infrastructure. The projects to be funded under the "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment" initiative fall into four broad categories—clean energy, health systems, information and communications technology and gender equality. Major investment in all the above-mentioned projects has been announced below.

First, an investment of \$2 billion for a solar project in Angola has been committed. It will cover solar mini-grids, home power kits and solar for powering telecommunications.

Second, \$600 million was pledged for a US company which would build a submarine telecommunications cable that will connect Singapore to France through Egypt and the Horn of Africa, delivering high-speed internet. Third, for the World Bank's Childcare Incentive, funds of \$50 million have been announced from the US. This would also be supported by Canada, Australia and numerous other foundations. Fourth, the Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal would get funds worth \$3.3 million for the development of an industrial-scale and multi-vaccine manufacturing facility in the country. In partnership with G7 nations and the European Union, this would produce Covid-19 vaccines among others.

The US National Security Adviser Jack Sullivan, who is an important member of this newly launched project stated at a strategic event hosted by the Centre for New American Security last week, that the US-initiated partnership will lay a focus on global infrastructure, physical health, and digital structures which would provide an alternative to what China's BRI is offering. It will be one of the hallmarks of the Biden administration's foreign policy over his remaining tenure.

Corresponding to Jack Sullivan's statement, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin also said at a regular press briefing in Beijing that China welcomed G7 efforts to promote global infrastructure development via (PGII) provided that Biden's initiative was based on a "Zero-sum game approach".

If a sane and prudent comparison is made between BRI and PGII—BRI stands as a much broader project before this (PGII) initiative. This flagship project (BRI) spans over 71 countries primarily from Asia, Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East. The infrastructure corridors in the above-stated regions will cost an estimated USD 4 to 8 trillion that is expected to touch the figure of 30 trillion up to 2035; whereas, the US under PGII is merely intending to deploy a meagre amount of \$600 billion to invest in developing countries collectively from the top-7 economies as opposed to spending in trillions from China alone.

According to official data, China had invested USD 139.8 billion by 2020 in BRI projects including USD 22.5 billion alone last year. This includes the BRI flagship project of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in which Beijing has so far invested over \$25 billion in December 2021, contrary to the minute amount of USD 2.8 billion that the G7 under (PGII) will invest in the first go, in a few countries.

Unlike PGII's projects, the projects of BRI are mainly focused on hard infrastructure which includes building bridges, spreading a network of rail and roads, mining, constructing seaports, and laying oil and gas pipelines across Asia, Europe and the Middle East with the sole objective of expediting global connectivity and this is what PGII entirely lacks.

Critically examined, the initiation of such schemes by the US-led G7 is not something unheard of previously. Embarking on the policy of containment of China, the US has always strived to

launch projects like B3W and now PGII. It is only China's rise that has compelled and pressed the US and its allies to announce these initiatives.

It is an undeniable truth that the new world order is rapidly evolving from unipolar to bipolar, which is blatantly countering US unilateralism. Both China's economic might and Russia's military resurgence are posing a great threat to US hegemony all over the globe. More than any other resurgent power, China alone, as the second-largest economy in the world, is becoming a rival for the US.

The US has left no stone unturned and has practised all kinds of stratagems to counter China's rise. The US besides B3W and PGII, also forged military alliances termed AUKUS and QUAD with her allies including India, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom specifically to diminish China's influence and hinder its progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

Moreover, in an attempt to get the upper hand over all other economic and social blocs, the G7 nations in their last summit, declared this group as an international society which was later on heavily criticised by China's foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian. He said, "a bloc representing merely 777 million of the global population could not dictate global terms as opposed to the BRICS, which represents over 3.2 billion people."

Thus, it is likely that the G7 bid wrapped in this newly announced initiative of PGII is too frail to counter China's BRI.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/07/the-g7-and-bri/>

July 08, 2022

Daily Times

Sajid Turi wants Kurram linked with CPEC

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and PPP senior leader Sajid Hussain Turi has demanded that Kurram district be connected with the motorway and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by expanding it from Issa Khel to Mir Ali to Kharlachi. "Any other route if excludes district Kurram shall neither be feasible nor acceptable," he stressed.

Sajid Hussain Turi said that the Kharlachi border area of Kurram district is currently the busiest commercial center after Torkham for trade with Afghanistan. He added that the commercial importance of the Kharlachi border is 200 years old which is the easiest, shortest and safest trade route to reach Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. He said that in the CPEC Western Alignment, the route from Issa Khel through Karak, Banda Daud Shah, and Tall till Ghulam Khan and Kharlachi borders or from Issa Khel to Tall and Mir Ali from where a route to Ghulam Khan and the other to Kharlachi be included. He said that by including these routes in the Western Alignment, Districts Hangu, North Waziristan, and Kurram could be easily connected to the motorway and CPEC so that people from all these mentioned districts and adjoining areas could be benefited from the national projects equally without any discrimination.

The Federal Minister stated that the Prime Minister has already issued several directives regarding the connection of Kurram with Motorway and CPEC which need to be implemented. He urged the National Highway Authority to plan the Western Alignment Route in such a way that the people of all adjoining areas including Tall, Hangu, North Waziristan, and Kurram would benefit equally at the same time.

Sajid Turi said that any such project in which the route of the Kharlachi border area of Kurram is not included would be considered against the rights of the people there and would not be acceptable. He said that he had always demanded that it was the need of the time to connect all the merged tribal areas with motorways and central national highways so that the process of development could be accelerated and employment opportunities could be created there.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/964230/sajid-turi-wants-kurram-linked-with-cpec/>

Dawn News

Key CPEC projects back on track as confidence restored

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China's ties are back on track after Pakistani security forces successfully smashed the terrorist cell and nabbed the mastermind involved in an attack that killed three Chinese teachers at Karachi University, a source told Dawn on Thursday.

The Main Line 1 (ML-1) upgradation project, the largest in China's Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan, has been revived after the temporary halt caused by the April 26 suicide attack, the source further said. The project had previously been delayed due to financing related issues.

Pakistan's railways ministry and China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) recently held a meeting on the project and the two sides are currently working on the financial modalities.

The ML-1 project, the source said, would be the centre-piece of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) second phase.

Mushahid Hussain says Pakistan opposes any 'new cold war' between Washington and Beijing

After the Karachi University attack, Beijing had not only linked progress on CPEC to security for their personnel working in Pakistan and the arrest and prosecution of the attackers, but the entire relationship had virtually come to a standstill over this one sticking point.

This view was strengthened by Senate Defence Committee Chairman Mushahid Hussain Syed, who told Dawn that success in tracing and capturing the culprits behind the Confucius Institute bombing had "reassured and restored China's faith" in the Pakistani security apparatus's ability to protect Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

"Our eastern neighbour, irked by Pakistan-China camaraderie centered now on CPEC, has been working overtime to undermine and sabotage this bond, using both information warfare as well as kinetic warfare through local proxies, Senator Mushahid added.

The Chinese frustration over the slow pace of investigations into the attack is said to be the major reason behind Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif avoiding a trip to Beijing, even though China has been one of the first foreign destinations that new Pakistani prime ministers head to, owing to the close strategic ties between the two countries.

Progress in the case was made public this week when Pakistani authorities on Tuesday claimed that alleged facilitator and planner of the Karachi attack, which was jointly executed by terrorist groups BLA and BLF, had been arrested. The accused identified as Dad Bux has been presented before an anti-terrorism court in Karachi.

Though law enforcement agencies claimed that the arrest was made a day earlier (on Monday), the source said that he had been in custody for weeks.

Security forces in Balochistan had eliminated six suspected terrorists in the Central Mekran Range around June 19, while two others are said to be on the run.

Chinese counterterrorism officials also worked closely with Pakistani agencies on this case.

“A Chinese team was in Pakistan closely coordinating with their local counterparts on the investigation,” the source said.

Welcoming the progress in the case, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lijian Zhao, in Beijing, said: “We appreciate the strong efforts made by the Pakistani side. At the same time, further investigation is still underway.”

“We hope the Pakistani side will... ensure the safety of Chinese projects, personnel and institutions in Pakistan,” he added.

The source said that visit of high ranking Chinese politician Yang Jiechi, seen as personal envoy of President Xi Jinping, was made possible after this breakthrough.

Gen Bajwa had weeks earlier visited Beijing and offered “iron clad security guarantees” on security for Chinese and vowed to track down the perpetrators of Karachi attack.

The source said that Mr Yang had privately reassured Pakistan government that both CPEC and bilateral ties were now back on track.

No to ‘new cold war’

Separately, speaking at a conference on Thursday, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stressed the need to balance ties with the US and China, saying that a new cold war was not acceptable to Islamabad.

“Washington itself needs to balance its role and relations with India and Pakistan,” he told participants of ‘Significance of BRI in Regional Connectivity’, held at the Punjab University in Lahore.

He also rejected Nato’s planned expansion into Asia as ‘unnatural’ as it was beyond its stated mandate.

The senator said the US tilt towards India had led to a credibility gap in American regional policies, as the US condemned Russian annexation of Crimea while it condoned Indian annexation of Kashmir.

Zulqernain Tahir also contributed to this report

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1698795/key-cpec-projects-back-on-track-as-confidence-restored>

Pakistan Observer

G-7 Infrastructure plan to counter BRI

Waseem Shabbir

IN recent times, G-7 summit was held in Germany's Elmau on June 26, 2022. As usual, this summit was again focused on crafting anti-China policies, agreements and nexuses.

However, the gigantic development came to fore this time is the proclamation of a mega project named "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment" (PGII) unanimously by G7 countries including USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and European Union.

Actually, the launching of this partnership is the continuation of the same G7's last year's scheme unveiled in Cornwall's summit labelled as "Build Back Better World" (B3W) but in a new packing.

The prime objective of both of these initiatives is starkly to give an alternative to China's globally expanding project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

All G7 countries have pledged to collectively make a huge investment of USD 600 billion for next five years upto 2027.

The US itself will contribute USD 200 billion alone. As a countermeasure against China's BRI, this humongous amount will be invested in developing countries solely to improve their infrastructure.

The projects to be funded under "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment" initiative fall into four broad categories — clean energy, health systems, information and communications technology and gender equality.

The major investment on all above mentioned projects has been announced as below. First, investment of \$2 billion for a solar project in Angola have been committed.

It would be covering solar mini-grids, home power kits and solar for powering telecommunications.

Second, \$600 million pledged for US company which would build a submarine telecommunications cable that will connect Singapore to France through Egypt and the Horn of Africa, delivering high-speed internet.

Third, for World Bank's Childcare Incentive, funds of \$50 million has been announced from the US.

It would also be supported by Canada, Australia and numerous other Foundations. Fourth, the Institute Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal would get funds of worth \$3.3 million for the development of an industrial-scale and multi-vaccine manufacturing facility in the country.

In partnership with G7 nations and European Union, this would produce Covid-19 vaccines and others.

The US National Security Adviser Jack Sullivan who is an important member of this newly launched project, uttered at a strategic event hosted by Centre for New American Security last week that the US-initiated partnership will lay a focus on global infrastructure, physical health, and digital structures which would provide an alternative to what China's BRI is offering.

It will be one of the hallmarks of Biden Administration foreign policy over his remaining tenure.

Corresponding to Jack Sullivan's statement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, also said at a regular press briefing in Beijing that China welcomed G7 efforts to promote global infrastructure development via (PGII) provided that Biden's initiative was based on "Zero-sum game approach".

If a sane and prudent comparison is made between BRI and PGII, we will come to know — BRI stands out to be a broader project before this tiny (PGII) initiative.

This transcontinental long-term plan termed (BRI) is spanning over 71 countries primarily from Asia, Europe, Eastern Africa and Middle East.

The infrastructure corridors in the above stated regions will cost an estimated USD 4 to 8 trillion that is expected to touch figure of 30 trillion up to 2035; whereas, the US under PGII is merely intending a meagre amount of \$ 600 billion to invest in developing countries collectively from 7 top economies as opposed to the spending in trillions from China alone.

According to official data, China had invested USD 139.8 billion by 2020 in BRI projects including USD 22.5 billion alone last year.

This includes the BRI flagship project of USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in which Beijing has so far invested over \$ 25 billion in December 2021 contrary to minute amount of USD 2.

8 billion G7 under (PGII) will invest in first go merely in a few countries. Unlike PGII soft projects, projects of BRI are mainly focused on hard infrastructure which includes building bridges, spreading network of rail and roads, mining's, construction of sea ports, and laying oil and gas pipelines across Asia, Europe and the Middle East with the sole objective of expediting global connectivity & this is what (PGII) entirely lacks.

Critically examined, initiation of such schemes by US-led G-7 is not something unheard previously.

Embarking on the policy of containment of China, US has always strived to launch the projects like B3W and now PGII.

It is only the China's rise that has compelled and pressed the US and its allies to announce these initiatives solely to counterbalance China's BRI.

Otherwise bloc of G7 has nothing to do with the betterment, prosperity and infrastructural development of third world countries.

The nefarious designs of western powers to trap developing countries in their inescapable net of IMF is not clandestine from anyone.

Therefore, these initiatives by the West aimed at ameliorating life of the people in poor countries is absolutely unjustifiable.

It is an undeniable truth that a new world order is rapidly evolving from unipolar to bipolar which is blatantly bullying the US unilateralism.

Both the China's economic might and Russia's military resurgence are posing a great threat to the US hegemony all over the globe.

More than any other resurging and resuscitating power, China alone, being the second largest economy in the world is becoming a molesting pain for the US, which might replace US as superpower soon, if it keeps rising and progressing with the same pace and momentum.

The US has left no stone unturned and has practiced all kinds of stratagems to counter China's rise. In fit of virulence against China, the US, besides B3W and PGII, had also forged military alliances termed as AUKUS and QUAD with her allies including India, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom specifically to diminish China's influence and hinder its progressivism in the Indo-Pacific region.

Moreover, in a foil attempt to get upper hand over all other economic and social blocs, the G7 nations in their last summit haughtily declared this group as an "International Society" which was later on heavily criticized and mocked by China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian. He said, "bloc representing merely 777 million population could not dictate the global terms as opposed to the BRICS that represents over 3.2 billion population".

Thus, it is proved that G7 bid wrapped in this newly announced initiative of (PGII) is too frail to counter China's BRI— a vigorous economic project.

<https://pakobserver.net/g-7-infrastructure-plan-to-counter-bri-by-waseem-shabbir/>

CPEC focuses on infrastructural development: Chinese Counselor

Commercial Counselor, Embassy of China Li Yong has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor focused on the infrastructure in the first phase of its development while the second phase worked for the betterment of industry, agriculture, and socio-economic cause.

Li Yong delivered the key remarks on the seminar organized by the China Study Centre of COMSATS University Islamabad. The seminar titled “CPEC Practical Cooperation: Challenges and Prospects” comprised of inaugural and technical sessions.

Li Yong mentioned that 114 countries signed the document of CPEC in the joint construction of BRI.

He said that the first phase of CPEC focused on the infrastructure while the second phase worked for the betterment of industry, agriculture, and socio-economic cause.

Li brought up different socio-economic developmental projects while focusing on Karot hydropower plant that will produce electricity at cheaper rates. He said that we must overcome the domestic challenges and promote high quality production.

At the event, Dr. Tahir also highlighted the key investments done by China in different sectors of Pakistan. He suggested that the policy makers should look forward to the model of restructuring and must encourage research based on evidence.

Dr. Tahir while delivering his keynote speech mentioned the importance of social development and human resource for CPEC. He also announced that CUI is also working on the development of Pak-China media and digital corridor with the embassy. While discussing the future plans of CSC he stressed on utilizing the incomparable human resource of alumni of Chinese universities in Pakistan. Dr. Hassan Daud, CEO – KP Board of Investment and Trade, joined through video link and delivered a keynote too. He stressed on the process of globalization to enhance global growth which is beneficial for the GDP of China.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-focuses-on-infrastructure-development-chinese-counselor/>

Nawaiwaqt News

گوادر بندر گاہ۔۔۔ گیم چیلنجز منصوبہ خصوصی توجہ کا متقاضی

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان کی تعمیر و ترقی ملک سے غربت و افلاس کے خاتمے اور پائیدار امن کی بحالی کے لیے بے حد ضروری ہے۔ گوادر سمیت پورے بلوچستان کو ترقی کے سفر میں دیگر علاقوں کے ہم پلہ کرنا ہم سب کا قومی فریضہ ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے بلوچستان اور گوادر میں جاری مختلف ترقیاتی منصوبوں سے متعلق جائزہ اجلاس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر سیکرٹری وزارت بحری امور نے وزیراعظم کو بتایا کہ گوادر پورٹ پریکٹس واٹر پراجیکٹ ”کنسیشن ایگریمنٹس“ کے تحت تعمیر ہونا تھا۔ اس کے لیے 445 ملین ڈالر کی گرانٹ اور 484 ملین ڈالر کا قرض چینی حکومت نے فراہم کر رکھا ہے۔ لیکن یہ منصوبہ تعطل کا شکار رہا ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے اس مجرمانہ غفلت پر برہمی کا اظہار کیا اور چیئرمین وزیراعظم معائنہ کمیشن کو ہدایات جاری کیں کہ وہ اس مبینہ غفلت کی تحقیق کر کے ایک ہفتے میں جامع رپورٹ پیش کریں۔

گوادر بندر گاہ اپنے محل وقوع کے علاوہ دفاعی، سیاسی اور معاشی اعتبار سے عالمی تجارت کے لیے انتہائی موزوں اور اہم ہے، ہمیں اس بندر گاہ کے راستے ملک کے بالائی اور شمالی علاقہ جات سے درآمدی سامان کی ترسیل کو یقینی بنانا ہے اس مقصد کے لیے گوادر سے ملک کے بالائی علاقوں تک سڑکوں اور ریلوے لائنوں کا بہترین اور فعال نیٹ ورک کا ہونا بہت ضروری ہے۔ گوادر بندر گاہ صوبہ بلوچستان میں بحیرہ عرب پر واقع گرم پانی اور گہرے سمندر کی ایک بڑی بندر گاہ ہے جو خلیج فارس کے دہانے پر واقع ہے۔ اس بندر گاہ کی وجہ سے پاکستان کی جیو سٹریٹجک پوزیشن پورے خطے میں خاص اہمیت حاصل کر چکی ہے۔ اس سے جنوبی ایشیائی، مغربی اور وسطی ایشیائی کی ریاستوں کے درمیان تجارتی نقل و حمل، تیل اور گیس کی پائپ لائنوں کی تنصیب سمیت دیگر صنعتی اور

تجارتی شعبوں کو متحرک کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ عظیم الشان بندرگاہ جو قیام پاکستان کے وقت سلطنتِ اومان کے زیر کنٹرول تھی 1958ء میں اس وقت کے وزیر اعظم ملک فیروز خان نون اور بیگم وقار النسوان کی کوششوں کے باعث پاکستان کو حاصل ہو گئی۔ جنرل ایوب خان کے دور میں گوادریڈ بندرگاہ بنانے کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا لیکن یہ منصوبہ بوجہ عملی طور پر شروع نہ کیا جاسکا۔ برسوں کی طویل خاموشی کے بعد 2002ء میں سابق صدر جنرل پرویز مشرف کے دور میں اس بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کا آغاز ہوا۔ جس کی تکمیل کے بعد 2007ء میں اس کا افتتاح کیا گیا۔ 2013ء میں اس بندرگاہ کا ٹھیکہ چین کی ایک کمپنی کو دے دیا گیا، جس کے بعد حکومت چین نے اس میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا اور اس مقصد کے تحت چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کے حوالے سے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان 2015ء میں ایک معاہدہ طے پا گیا، جس کے بعد اس منصوبے پر کام شروع ہو گیا اور یوں اس عظیم الشان بندرگاہ کی صورت میں ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ہوا۔

کس قدر افسوس کا مقام ہے کہ چین نے گوادریڈ بندرگاہ کو سمندری طوفانوں سے محفوظ بنانے کے لیے بریک واٹر منصوبہ بنایا اور اس مقصد کے لیے 445 ملین ڈالر کی گرانٹ جبکہ 484 ملین ڈالر کا آسان قرض مہیا کیا لیکن چار سال کا عرصہ گزر جانے کے باوجود اس منصوبے پر باقاعدہ کام نہیں کیا گیا۔ حیرت انگیز اور افسوس ناک بات یہ بھی ہے کہ جب اس منصوبے کے لیے ضروری فنڈز دستیاب تھے اور کوئی اور رکاوٹ بھی نہیں تھی اس کے باوجود اس منصوبے پر عملدرآمد میں تاخیر کی گئی۔ جس سے نہ صرف پاکستان کو نقصان ہوا بلکہ چین نے بھی سخت ناراضی کا اظہار کیا۔ اس سے قبل جنرل ایوب خان کے دور میں جب اس بندرگاہ کے لئے کام کا بیڑا اٹھانے کا اعلان کیا گیا تو کبھی فنڈز کی عدم دستیابی اور کبھی ملکی ویرانی دباؤ کی بنا پر اس پر کام میں رکاوٹ پیدا ہوتی رہی لیکن اب جبکہ فنڈز کی عدم دستیابی کا مسئلہ بھی حل ہو گیا تو اس کے باوجود اس منصوبے پر عمل نہ ہونے کا ذمہ دار کون ہے۔ اس قومی نقصان پر ذمہ داری کا تعین کرنے کے لئے تحقیقات از حد ضروری تھی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے اب اس مجرمانہ غفلت کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے اس کی تحقیقات کا حکم دے دیا ہے اور چیئرمین وزیر اعظم معائنہ کمیشن کو اس ضمن میں ایک ہفتہ میں رپورٹ پیش کرنے کی ہدایت دے دی ہے۔

اس میں کسی شک و شبہ کی گنجائش نہیں کہ گوادریڈ بندرگاہ اپنے مثالی محل وقوع کے اعتبار سے ملک کے لئے گیم چیلنجر کا درجہ رکھتی ہے۔ اس کے ذریعے پاکستان کے لئے بحری راستے سے تجارت کی جو غیر معمولی سہولت مہیا آسکتی ہے اس سے ملک کی قسمت بدل سکتی ہے۔ عوامی جمہوریہ چین نے ”ون بلیٹ ون روڈ“ کے عظیم الشان منصوبے کے تحت ”چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری“ کے جس منصوبے کا آغاز کر رکھا ہے۔ اس میں گوادریڈ بندرگاہ کی تعمیر و ترقی کلیدی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ حکومت نے اس مقصد کے تحت گوادریڈ پورٹ اتھارٹی بھی بنا رکھی ہے جو بظاہر کئی سال تک غیر فعال رہی ہے۔ اس کی بھی تحقیقات کی ضرورت ہے۔ کیونکہ سی پیک کا حصہ ہونے کی بنا پر اس کی سیاسی، اقتصادی اور سٹریٹجک اہمیت مسلمہ ہے جس سے نہ صرف پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کی راہ ہموار ہو سکے گی۔ بلکہ بلوچستان کی پسماندگی کو بھی دور کر کے اسے خوشحالی کی منزل سے ہمکنار کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ گو کہ گوادریڈ بندرگاہ کی تعمیر مکمل ہو چکی ہے لیکن اس کو جس طرح فعال ہونا چاہئے تھا اس طرح فعال نہیں ہو سکی۔ اس کی وجہ ہماری قومی قیادت کی عدم توجہی اور غلط ترجیحات کا تعین ہے۔ مقام شکر ہے کہ وزیر اعظم نے اس نظر انداز کیے جانے والے اہم ترین قومی منصوبے کے حوالے سے ہونے والی بے ضابطگیوں کا نوٹس لیا اور اس کی باقاعدہ تحقیقات کا حکم دے دیا ہے۔ اب اس رپورٹ کو پبلک بھی کیا جانا چاہئے تاکہ قوم جان سکے کہ ملک کی معاشی ترقی کے حامل اس منصوبے کو سبوتاژ کرنے والے کون تھے اور پھر ان کو قانون کے کٹھن میں بھی لایا جانا چاہئے۔ ہمیں اس ضمن میں ہونے والی مجرمانہ کوتاہیوں کا بہر صورت ازالہ کرنا ہے اور آگے بڑھنا ہے۔ اب اس مزید کسی کوتاہی کی گنجائش نہیں ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-07-08/page-10/detail-10>

July 09, 2022

Daily Times

CPEC development needs new momentum: Chinese consul general

Zhao Shiren, Consul General China in Lahore has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is more than a gift that China gave to Pakistan, it must be deemed as a joint venture, a

shared undertaking, a common endeavor. The current circumstance requires us to have a sense of urgency and inject new momentum into the CPEC development.

While addressing a key note speech at the conference on “Significance of the Belt and Road Initiative in Regional Connectivity”, Zhao said that Solidarity, stability and security (3s) in the hosting country ensures the timely and quality implementation of CPEC.

A three-day international conference was organized by the Punjab University Regional Integration Centre (RIC) in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy at Al-Raazi Hall.

Zhao said that foreign investment, trade and the expedition of CPEC projects preconditions on social unison, predictable and stable policy, and safe and business-friendly environment.

China develops its brotherly relations with Pakistan not only for the sake of the government, but is more for the people, the country and the nation, he said.

Government and party might change quite often, while people and nation prevail. No matter which political party is in power, we are of the view that the iron-clad relations and CPEC will sustain, he noted.

Government should make policy deliverable based on consensus, while political parties have to put national interests before their partisan ones, he mentioned in the remarks.

He also told that CPEC is more than a gift that China gave to Pakistan, it must be deemed as a joint venture, a shared undertaking, a common endeavor. And the Pakistani people have the (co)-ownership of the projects.

While implementing the Belt & Road Initiative, we Chinese always seek extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits with partners and stakeholders. This principle also applies to the CPEC. Ownership means taking the driver seat, boldness and responsibilities. Zhao said.

We invite Pakistani brothers to converge our development strategies and have close policy dialogues.

We spare no effort to make CPEC more resilient, vibrant and mutually beneficial. After of all, the future of CPEC is ultimately in Pakistanis’ hand, we hereby ask for more initiatives from our Pakistani partners, he elaborated.

He mentioned that we must bring all stakeholders on board and launch a CPEC-related publicity offensive in particular.

In addition to creating a favorable policy, security and business environment, a friendly public opinion is required to cement CPEC growth.

CPEC, like the BRI, has won along its way more and more friends and partners from the region and around the world, it is also met with a handful of opponents and adversaries.

As CPEC is transforming from Phase I to Phase II and renewing pace, some false narratives, negative propaganda and vicious rumors are also on the rise, Zhao addressed.

Misperceptions about CPEC projects' aims, utilities and scopes are there, misinformation and disinformation are disseminated in social media platforms. Chinese projects and institutions on CPEC were targeted, and some Chinese workers were attacked and brutally killed by terrorists.

In this context, we should make joint efforts to reach out to a wide sector of Pakistani society, launch a CPEC awareness campaign to build up national consensus.

We should invest more on messaging accurate, precise and truthful information about CPEC projects, and further engage media outlets, so as to form positive narratives and depict soft image of CPEC projects and Chinese investment, mitigating fake and fictional news, counteracting the negative propaganda and consolidating the CPEC process.

At the end he said that, China and Pakistan enjoy a long history of friendly relations and brotherhood, which has been uplifted into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/964691/cpec-development-needs-new-momentum-chinese-consul-general/>

Pak-China medical AI cooperation to boost chronic disease screening

China-Pakistan medical AI (artificial intelligence) cooperation will boost local chronic disease screening, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Lately, at the first international “Medical Conference and Exhibition for Next Generation Healthcare” was held in Islamabad, where Chinese medical AI leader Airdoc Technology and Pakistan’s well-known medical device import and distribution company Dynamic Medical Company (DMC) officially signed a cooperation agreement to work together to promote the application of Airdoc retinal imaging AI products in Pakistan.

The Special Technology Zones Authority Chairman Amer Hashmi, ex-Surgeon General of Pak Army, Lt-Gen (r) Asif Mumtaz Sukhera, Health Services Academy VC Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, former Ambassador to China Ms Naghmana A Hashmi, Advisor to GoP on Health Dr Ghazna Khalid, and numerous other professionals from public health sector attended the conference.

One of the major objectives of this conference was sensitizing the participants, the general public and the government to hereditary or genetic disorders, its timely diagnosis and available treatments. In his speech HAS VC Dr Khan said that Pakistan is ranked among the countries having high alert of genetic disorders, adding that majorly the increased incidence and prevalence of the genetic disorders are associated with lack of pre-natal testing facilities in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/964655/pak-china-medical-ai-cooperation-to-boost-chronic-disease-screening/>

Pakistan Observer

Global, regional challenges to Pak-China relations can be proactively tackled: IPS

A proactive, solution-oriented and forward-looking approach with due consideration to changing domestic, regional, and international scenarios is required to analyze and tackle current challenges and issues in Pak-China relations, while strengthening policy communication, and safeguarding CPEC projects.

The ideas were generated during an in-house session at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), which was addressed by Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman Malik, senior research fellow at IPS, and joined by IPS' research team and associates.

Khalid Rahman gave a comprehensive overview of the current status of Pak-China relations concerning the latest developments, i.e. the BRICS meeting and the visit of Yang Jiechi, member Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs China. The discussion was laid in the context of the ongoing presumptions, the change of Pak-China relation's equation, CPEC, political scenarios affecting CPEC, security issues, and global outlook.

Another issue, significant in the context of the Pak-China relationship, is the security of Chinese nationals engaged in development projects, specifically CPEC. Incidents of targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan are naturally a cause of concern for the Chinese government and raising questions about the efficacy of special security arrangements that Pakistan has made for the Chinese companies and workers engaged in various projects here.

With this context in mind, Khalid Rahman concluded that the non-participation of Pakistan in the BRICS meeting should not be regarded as a matter of big concern if seen through certain ground realities and the technicalities involved in decision-making in such fora. Along with continuously changing and disturbed domestic scenario in Pakistan and the depleted economic situation that Islamabad is currently facing, plus the difference in governance styles and development models of the two countries and Beijing's balancing approach in the emerging global scenario are some of the factors that should be kept in view while moving forward.

Concerning Yang Jiechi's visit, he stated two aspects of it for China i.e., the possibilities of having a Chinese security force in Pakistan for the protection of Chinese nationals, and to understand and assess the domestic political situation of Pakistan.

Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman was of the view that the mishap for Pakistan at the BRICS summit and Yang Jiechi's visit are indicators that Pakistan's domestic scenarios have their manifestations in regional as well as global politics.

Regarding the first, i.e. non-invitation to Pakistan in the BRICS meeting despite China's wish, he highlighted that it shows how China is acting in a bigger canvas and trying to balance things. It also indicates a need for Pakistan to see its diplomatic standing at the

international level and neighborhood diplomatic preference for China vis-à-vis India.

<https://pakobserver.net/global-regional-challenges-to-pak-china-relations-can-be-proactively-tackled-ips/>

The Nation

Recession In The BRI States

A recession is a significant decline in economic activities that last more than a few months. In other words, anything less tips us into a recession. Recessions are inevitable due to recurring phases of the business cycle. Since World War II to date, there have been 13 recessions. Among these recessions, 10 were in the last century, and 3 were in the two decades of the 21st century (according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.). The recession of the 21st century was the recession of 2001, 2008, and 2020. If the momentum of recession recurring remains in place, then 15 recessions are expected in the current century.

The recession of 2023 is expected, as Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi and Nathan Sheets working in Citigroup stated that the probability of a recession is 50 percent within the next two years. The recession of 2023 is expected due to the compounding damage from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It raises the risk of stagflation—defined as a situation of high inflation and unemployment rate—with potentially damaging effects on low- and middle-income economies. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has led Brent oil prices to soar to a 14-year high of \$140. The surge in energy prices ultimately raises the price of energy-related commodities, which lower the real incomes, increase production costs, constrain macroeconomic policy, and tighten the financial conditions, particularly in the energy-importing economies.

A recession worsens the financial market—forex, capital, and money market— by making it more unstable. Any policy measure to stabilise the financial market is subject to softening the adverse effect of recession. The stability of the financial market mainly depends on the forex market. However, the forex market stability is subject to the level of forex reserves; the higher the import coverage reserves, the more stable the forex market will be. The stability of the foreign exchange market is indispensable because more than \$5 trillion is traded on average every day, which is 25 times more than the volume traded in the equity market. This trading volume will be more than two-fold during the recession because investors demand foreign currency by considering it a recessionary hedge.

During the recession, the capital market remains under pressure due to economic slowdown, which reduces the firms' revenue and consequently lowers the dividend. The lower dividend is a source of a bearish market and brings about an investment "crowd in" the forex market by the investor to diversify risk. However, a stable forex market can potentially reduce the investment "crowding out" from the capital market by enhancing investors' confidence. Most of the low- or middle-income BRI member states are holding marginal imports covering the level of forex reserves. These forex reserves further dwindled amid the recession and made the forex market

more unstable. Furthermore, compounding the damaging effect of recession also by raising the import prices due to the depreciation of the local currency. It implies that policy measures are required to uplift forex reserves in the low- and middle-income BRI member economies amid the recession.

Although the recession is a short-term slowdown of economic activities, a raft of short-term and long-term policy measures are required to curtail the adverse effect of the recession. A recession is inescapable, but its damage can be descended by economic cooperation. For this purpose, the Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) project can provide a platform for economic cooperation among the 72 BRI member nations to soften the effect of recession.

On the other hand, long-term policy measures are also required for the general acceptability of the Renminbi (RMB). Currently, the RMB stands fifth in the ranking of the reserve currency. China is the largest exporter, accounting for almost 15 percent of global exports and 35 percent export share in the total exports to BRI states. But RMB cannot be explicitly recognised as a vehicle currency as its share in the global reserve currency stalled at 1 to 2 percent. Therefore, steps need to be undertaken to ramp up the share of RMB in the global reserve currency. Mounting RMB as a reserve currency will benefit the BRI states by making a pool of forex reserves comprising RMB. The forex reserves in RMB reserve currency among the BRI states are more governable than other vehicle currencies. The Chinese government is a sovereign issuer of the RMB, and the government could always create money and never run out of money or be forced into default.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/09/recession-in-the-bri-states/>

The News

Belt & Road Project a useful model of prosperity: minister

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain has said that the Belt and Road Project is a new and useful model of prosperity and development of the countries of the region.

He was addressing the closing ceremony of a three-day international conference on "Role of Belt and Road Project in Promoting Regional Liaison" organised by Punjab University Regional Integration Center (RIC) in association with the Chinese Embassy at Al-Raazi Hall on Friday.

Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek A Usmanov, Deputy Head of the Mission of the Azerbaijan Embassy Tamerlan Khalilov, Dr Saleem Mazhar, Vice Chancellor Mian Nawaz Sharif Agriculture University Faisalabad Dr Asif Ali, Executive Director Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future Communication University of China Khalid Taimur Akram, Director RIC Dr Fouzia Hadi Ali, faculty members and a large number of researchers from 18 countries and 20 leading Pakistani universities were present on this occasion.

In his address, Chaudhry Salik said that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would connect Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Russia. He said that the

relations between the countries of the region need to be strengthened for socio-economic development. He said the project would improve public and cultural ties between the countries of the region. The Belt and Road Initiative was a hope for a better future for the region, he added.

Ch Salik said that Turkey was using modern means of agriculture and Pakistan also needed to adopt modern technology to enhance agricultural exports.

Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio said that the geographical location of Indonesia and Pakistan was important and both countries should promote trade cooperation. He said that in the current era, it was necessary to increase ties among the regional countries. Kazakhstan's ambassador Yazrhan Kastafen said that Kazakhstan is a landlocked country but the BRI can create the best opportunities for countries to connect with each other. Azerbaijan's Deputy Head of Mission Temirlin Khalilov said that bilateral ties would further boost socio-economic development and tourism through this unique project and Azerbaijan is fully prepared to join the BRI project. Dr Saleem Mazhar said that for the first time a large number of delegates from Central Asia were attending the conference. He said that universities are an important source of socio-economic development. He said that relations between the countries of the region should be promoted on priority basis.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=106064>

July 10, 2022

Daily Times

PowerChina's role in protection of ancient rock carvings hailed

While acknowledging its contribution to the protection of rock carvings at Diamer-Basha Dam Project (DBDP) site, PowerChina has received a "letter of thanks" from the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), the Chinese company said, according to Gwadar Pro. "This has laid a solid foundation for joint protection of the historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan," stated PowerChina.

In 2020, WAPDA started the implementation of Cultural Heritage Management Plan in the project area to protect prehistoric rock carvings and inscriptions from being submerged in water reservoirs. For this purpose, the authority started setting up a museum and promoting cultural tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, particularly in Chilas and its suburban areas. The state-of-the-art Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Diamer Basha Dam Project has been devised by international experts. As per details of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, about 5000 most important rock carvings and inscriptions ranging from the 7th millennium B.C. to the 16th century A.D are to be 3-D scanned, documented, replicated, and relocated.

Protective treatment is also planned to be applied for important carved rock surfaces in the water reservoir drawdown band in addition to the on-site protective mitigation through barriers, screens, signage, bracing, etc. Preservation of rock carvings would not only provide an insight into the history of various people with different social, cultural, and political traditions as well as religious beliefs but also exhibit the strategic importance of the region.

WAPDA has strategized the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan side by side with construction activities on Diamer Basha Dam Project. DBDP is being constructed on River Indus, which is scheduled to be completed in 2028-29. PowerChina in a JV with Frontier Work Organization (FWO) is constructing MW-1 Dam as part of DBDP. The Project will have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 MAF to irrigate 1.23 million acres of additional land. With an installed power generation capacity of 4,500 MW, the project will provide more than 18 billion units per annum to the National Grid.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/965109/powerchinas-role-in-protection-of-ancient-rock-carvings-hailed/>

Dawn News

CPEC resumption

IT appears that a recent counterterrorism breakthrough has greatly helped restore Chinese confidence in Pakistan's security apparatus and paved the way for the restoration of bilateral ties as well as CPEC-related activities, which had been on ice since late April.

Work has reportedly resumed on the Main Line 1 (ML-1) upgradation project, the largest component of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan and the centerpiece of the second phase of CPEC.

The importance of what this breakthrough represents cannot be overstated.

Beijing — an all-weather friend and one of our strongest allies — had all but pulled the plug on its development activities in Pakistan after a brazen terrorist attack on the grounds of Karachi University left three Chinese teachers dead. It was well known that Beijing had been quite upset for some time at the impunity with which its people were being attacked on Pakistani soil. After the KU attack, it simply suspended all work on the CPEC front till the time those responsible were nabbed and security for its personnel in Pakistan assured.

The gravity of the situation can be judged from the fact that recently army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa himself had to travel to Beijing with guarantees in a bid to win the Chinese over.

It is unclear what the army chief offered to the Chinese authorities, and what terms were set for the future.

The recent busting of a terrorist cell linked to Baloch extremists BLA and BLF, however, has thawed the ice considerably. The operation reportedly came in coordination with a group of Chinese investigators who had arrived here and were working with the Pakistani team tasked with the case.

This unusual arrangement reflects a lack of faith on the Chinese side. It would have been much better had there been more clarity about the role of this team and whether we should expect similar arrangements in the future, as has been rumored in some quarters.

Be that as it may, it appears that Chinese authorities are for now satisfied with the progress made and wish to resume their work. It is now up to our government and security forces to make sure there is no further incident which may imperil goodwill between the two countries again. However, there also needs to be greater transparency in our dealings with Beijing so that there is greater visibility of the progress being made under CPEC and how the project may affect the security of both foreigners working in Pakistan and the Pakistanis living here.

It is irregular for so much to continue to be negotiated behind closed doors while such a major, transformational project is being executed on our soil. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and China are not the exclusive domain of just one branch of the state that terms continue to be negotiated by it at the exclusion of all others.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1699156/cpec-resumption>

The Express Tribune

China industries relocate elsewhere

Study highlights hurdles in Pakistan like law and order, labour productivity

KARACHI: There was talk all around that world's second largest economy China would relocate its labour-intensive industries like textile to Pakistan to take advantage of reduced production cost. The move would create job opportunities for the low-cost labour in Pakistan and help boost export earnings.

However, Pakistan has so far failed to woo Chinese industries as many have gone to Cambodia, Laos and even Ethiopia, though their cost of labour is higher than the cost in Pakistan and their markets are far smaller in terms of population.

Pakistan Business Council (PBC) – a business policy advocacy platform – has published a detailed study titled “Catalysing Private Investment in Pakistan: Leveraging Chinese Investment in CPEC” in May 2022 to highlight the hurdles to foreign investment in Pakistan.

Pakistan may yet welcome some Chinese industries – and foreign investment from other global destinations – as Beijing is shifting its industrial units beyond borders to remove the “Made in China” label from many products to win back US markets.

Washington has increased import duty on scores of Chinese products under a trade war.

The PBC study says it is aimed at providing guidance to policymakers on addressing the fundamental issues, which have resulted in low investment in Pakistan.

It makes comparison of key indicators with Pakistan's peer economies and highlights the obstacles faced by Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

The study says Chinese manufacturers appear to have moved part of their capacity offshore to avoid the “Made in China” label, most notably to the countries in Southeast Asia such as Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

“Smaller countries in the region, such as Cambodia and Laos, also appear to have received significant amounts of Chinese FDI (foreign direct investment).”

The trend of relocating offshore among Chinese manufacturers presents a significant opportunity to Pakistan. This opportunity (of attracting Chinese factories) is centred round textile and apparel manufacturing.

However, a range of other industries – from auto parts and light engineering to mobile phone assembly/ manufacturing – can also be the potential targets for relocation if the right environment is created.

China’s investment in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries has grown steadily since 2013. Its total investment in these countries amounted to \$139.5 billion between 2013 and 2020.

“Pakistan’s share in China’s OFDI (outward foreign direct investment) in BRI countries since 2013 stood at 5.1%, with total gross inflows amounting to \$7.1 billion over this period,” said the study.

The report highlights a number of broad issues hindering investment decisions in Pakistan. These include the political risk impeding long-term investment, an unfriendly tax and regulatory regime for businesses, low labour productivity, weak intellectual property rights, uncompetitive energy prices, high logistic costs, limited comparative advantage in accessing external markets through bilateral or regional trade agreements, etc.

The flow of FDI into Pakistan has remained low as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) and in relation to its market size compared to the surge in investment in peer countries.

Pakistan attracted FDI worth \$1.8 billion in 2020 compared to \$5.1 billion by Laos, \$3.6 billion by Cambodia and \$5.5 billion by Vietnam. Bangladesh, however, received lower FDI at \$1.5 billion, according to the study.

PBC CEO Ehsan Malik said China had been the largest foreign investor in Pakistan over the past two to three years amid CPEC projects.

“The flow of FDI from Beijing, however, has slowed down in the wake of growing unfavourable working environment in Pakistan,” he said.

The flow of foreign investment was on the wane in the wake of law and order situation (particularly the security threat to Chinese nationals), low productivity of labour and lack of free trade agreements with the potential trading partner countries and regions, Malik said.

“Low-cost labour is no more a sound indicator for attracting investment while labour productivity is a major drag.”

Pakistan's labour productivity has continued to deteriorate for quite a long time. Now, it is less than the level in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Laos. When compared with China and Vietnam, the productivity level is far lower.

Secondly, Pakistan lacks the attraction for becoming a regional production base for any high potential investor.

“To become a regional base, it is a must to get market access across the region, like Vietnam, which has struck free trade agreements ... with eight to ten countries and regions including the US, European Union, the UK (after Brexit) and Central Asian Republics while it is also a member of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership).”

Pakistan is lagging behind in a number of investment parameters and the gap has widened over the years with the peer nations.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2365457/china-industries-relocate-elsewhere>

The Nation

Chinese Telecom Carrier Helps Bridge Digital Gap In Pakistan

BEIJING – In recent years, Pakistan has accelerated the construction of its mobile communication facilities, with companies like China Mobile Pakistan (CMPak) playing a significant role in the local market and network. Companies in Pakistan are now looking to provide services to allow people from all over the world to work from their homes. With the advent of online services in recent years, the trend has been gaining traction and platforms like CMPak are playing a big role in realizing the dreams of young Pakistanis when it comes to jobs. Since 2014, the company has been involved in the construction of 4G networks in Pakistan, with more than 14,000 4G base stations and the largest 4G network in the region. Li Li, director of network planning at CMPak told CGTN that now the company is serving 44m local customers, helping Pakistan eliminate the digital divide. People here can enjoy high-speed internet services anytime, anywhere. To help local communities better bridge the digital gap and enable more people to find new opportunities in the digital age, the company is working to provide communication facilities and network services to more people in Pakistan. They also offer technology solutions to provide free health promotion activities and online medical consultation to people in remote areas of Pakistan. Li also said that CMPak is actively taking part in the Belt and Road Initiative and is providing communication services for 26 CPEC projects and more than 200 Chinese-funded enterprises. It is undertaking the political, economic and social responsibility for promoting the development of China-Pakistan cooperation. Currently, the development of the digital economy is bringing changes to all industries in Pakistan. In the future, CMPak will continue working closely with local industry partners to promote the digitalization of thousands of industries in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/10/chinese-telecom-carrier-helps-bridge-digital-gap-in-pakistan/>

July 13, 2022

Business Recorder

China always stands by Pakistan in difficult times: Zaka Ullah

PESHAWAR: Provincial Secretary Information Zaka ullah Khattak on Tuesday said that the friendship between Pakistan and China was a source of pride for the people of both the countries. China has always stood by Pakistan side in difficult times and Pakistan has never disappointed its great neighbour. He expressed these views during a visit to China Window, a Chinese Cultural and Information Center here.

During his visit, Provincial Secretary Information Zaka Ullah Khattak visited various galleries, penned his impressions in the guest book and signed on the Friendship Wall.

Zakaullah Khattak said: “CPEC is an important project for Pakistan’s economic development and a new era will begin after the establishment of Rashakai Economic Zone, where employment opportunities will be available, and products made in this special economic zone can be imported to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries”.

Secretary Information said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also has vast opportunities for religious tourism that need to be tapped.

“We also need to further improve people-to-people contacts to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries”, Zaka Ullah Khattak added.

Calling the establishment of China Window in Peshawar an important step, the Information Secretary said: “After coming here, it feels like you are in China”.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/13/4-page/936465-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistanis celebrate Eid in Lanzhou

Pakistanis celebrated Eid Azha in Lanzhou, China, with traditional fervor, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. Lanzhou is a land of ancient silk roads and the capital city of Gansu province, northwest China where many Pakistanis and foreigners are studying and running business. Pakistani researchers (Dr. Sufyan Javed, Dr. Adnan Akram, Dr. Kamran Malik, Dr. Akram, Dr. Athar Khaliq, and Saamat Ali Saghar) who are serving at Lanzhou University, shared their Eid celebration experience and story with China Economic Net (CEN). They told CEN that their experience might be very useful for those Muslim people who have doubts about coming to China and for those people who are afraid of leaving home and being all alone in another country.

Dr. Sufyan Javed noted, “Today is Eid al-Adha here in China and it is our first experience of animal sacrifice (Qurbani) in China”. Eid al-Adha or Festival of Sacrifice is a major religious festival celebrated by Muslims across the world. Muslims observe this day to reminisce the Sunnah of Prophet Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, for the sake of God. “We woke up in the early morning and wore traditional dress to offer Eid prayer and went to Masjid.

Then, we went to sacrificed animals designated place Xiaoxihu (a local Muslim area of Lanzhou) to purchase the goat for sacrifice.

After that, we brought sacrificed goat meat to our community and distributed a major portion to the Pakistani Muslim students of Lanzhou University, China. Then, we cooked a lot of Pakistani food and we savoured them until our stomachs could not stretch anymore”, he stated. Dr. Athar Khaliq and Saamat Ali Saghar said that in the evening, they went to a beautiful, historical, and natural place Zhongshan Qiao (a famous bridge on the Yellow River). “We enjoyed the fresh air, boating, and walking on the bank of the Yellow River. At night we came back to our apartments”, he said.

They further said that Eid day in China is a great one although they are thousands of miles away from home. “It’s all because of wonderful friends. Long live Pak-China friendship”, some of them exclaimed. “We are expected to share our food with the less fortunate. Traditionally, meat is divided into three equal parts: one for home; one for family, friends, and neighbours; and one for the poor. Another important thing is that we are expected to make donations to charity to mark the festival. Every time we arrange a grand lunch and dinner on the first day of the festival and exchange gifts with each other. I try to visit all my friends around and wish them Eid greetings”, Dr. Adnan Akram added. Dr. Kamran Malik said that the second and third day of the festival is also busy with different activities like eating together, spending time, and going out to play with friends here at Lanzhou University and outside the campus.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/965496/pakistanis-celebrate-eid-in-lanzhou/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC & Kazakhstan Evolving Economic Interest in South Asia

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is re-gaining momentum in the country which has further brightened its role as a connecting bridge between Central Asia and South Asia Regions.

Moreover, the incumbent government is working on a policy to enhance trade and connectivity with Central Asia through Afghanistan and Iran and has already taken several measures to materialise this policy. Most recent policy decision to import coal from Afghanistan has given new impetus to the concept of greater regional connectivity.

In this connection, the Russian decision to block Kazakhstan’s oil supply has further enhanced chances of sustainable and diversified greater regional connectivity.

Thus the government of Kazakhstan is striving hard to promote constructive dialogue with Pakistan in terms of diverse sectors of economy, trade & commerce, joint ventures, agriculture, infrastructure development, energy cooperation, sport goods, pharmaceutical, textile, rice and fruits etc.

Moreover, even Kazakhstan's evolving economic interest in South Asia has a security paradigm shift.

The increasing military cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan clearly indicates convergence of their mutual security preferences and priorities in the region and beyond in terms of peace and stability in Afghanistan, anti-terrorism, anti-drugs, money laundering and anti-human trafficking.

Thus economic integration, social cohesion and political consultation of both sides would be vital to achieve the dreams of greater regional connectivity.

In this context, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin the ambassador of Kazakhstan in Islamabad has been pursuing diversified and innovative diplomatic tools to further enhance the mutual trade up to US\$ 1 billion.

Interestingly, China has become a trustworthy and strategic partner to Central Asia in terms of investment, connectivity, transport, joint ventures, digitization and infrastructure development.

In this connection, Chinese One Belt & One Road has revolutionized regional economies in terms of diversification of resources, means of survival, productive channels and of course connectivity. Furthermore China+Central Asia (C+C5) format has become a policy dialogue mechanism for further strengthening of bilateral and trilateral partnerships.

On the other hand, the government of Pakistan's transition from geo-politics to geo-economy has further consolidated prospects of greater regional connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia.

In this regard, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar said Pakistan and Afghanistan have finalised and implemented the main operational part of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA 2021) which would ensure free movement of trucks between the two countries.

Good thing is that transit trade agreements are also being negotiated with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan while the Pak-Uzbekistan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed on March 3rd, 2022.

In this connection, Pakistan and Kazakhstan have great potential to enhance cooperation in many fields and if both countries facilitate their private sectors, the annual bilateral trade volume could surge from the current level of below \$25 million to \$500-1000 million.

While visiting, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Kazakhstan ambassador Kistafin pointed out that many Pakistani products including fruits, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments and leather goods had a great potential in his native country.

He pleaded that Pakistani exporters should step up efforts to enhance exports of these products to the Kazakhstan market. He shared numerous good opportunities with Pakistani companies for joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Kazakhstan's economy.

It is suggested that a proposed railway link, built between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran, could be extended to Pakistan to promote bilateral trade and people-to-people contact.

The leadership of both countries has agreed on a roadmap; promoting trade is the key component of this roadmap. Thus amalgamation of BRI and CPEC is necessary for forming a strategic partnership between two sides.

Both countries should focus on establishing air, road and railway links in order to boost two-way trade.

Regular exchange of trade delegations and holding single-country exhibitions on a reciprocal basis is vital to identify new potential areas of mutual cooperation.

Interestingly, the relations of Pakistan and Kazakhstan have now entered into a new chapter of mutual cooperation with prime focus on commerce, trade and regional connectivity.

The prospects of stability in Afghanistan, the emerging multi-polar world order, the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Central Asia and South Asia are healthy signs for bilateral trade and investments.

So CPEC is the flagship project of BRI that offers the Central Asian countries access to the warm waters of Gwadar and Karachi sea ports. Over 120 projects of BRI are operating in Kazakhstan for its significance as a global transit hub and 1300 Chinese companies are working in Kazakhstan. Thus both countries have the same Chinese benchmark to work jointly in the days to come.

Mutual trade cooperation has been on the rise since the arrival of Kazakhstan ambassador Kistafin in Pakistan. Lots of MOUs have been signed between many private companies to further enhance bilateral trade between two countries.

In this connection, during 2021 Habib Syndicate, LLP Aktobe Rail and Section Work, LLP Intra Construction and JSC Kazak Exports signed a joint venture of US\$ 500 million to carry out track rehabilitation from Sukkur to Karachi. Moreover, mutual cooperation in the field of pharmaceutical is gaining momentum.

Serious negotiations are being carried out to excel in this sector between private sectors of both sides. LLP S.K. Pharma, the main procurement company and single distributor in Kazakhstan, and the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Association with its 42 representatives had a very comprehensive and constructive dialogue. Hopefully it would further enhance mutual cooperation in the sector of health capacity building, surgical equipment, pharmacy and other associated fields.

Kazakh-Pakistan Business Forum, Joint Business Council (JBC) and lots of expos and exhibitions, have been arranged to further enhance mutual cooperation in pharmaceutical products, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, as well as other diverse sectors of the economy.

After a trade volume of USD 65 million between Pakistan and Kazakhstan in 2019, a growth of 58 percent was observed in 2020 with a trade of USD 103 million.

Now, in only first six months of the current financial year, trade quantum of USD 101 million has been reached. However, it is far below the real potential.

Availability of smooth and diversified trade routes through road, rail, air and sea would be most effective in achieving true potential of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

According to Kazakhstan official data (December 2021), in 2021, more than 1 million containers with 23.8 million tons of transit cargo passed through Kazakhstan, indicating that it is advancing its Eurasian transit hub role which would also further stimulate its diversification of trade and route policy towards South Asia.

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium pipeline which ends in Russia's port of Novorossiysk, accounts for 80 percent of Kazakhstan's oil exports.

Thus, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is aggravating efforts by Central Asian governments to broaden ties with other neighbouring regions and to overcome infrastructural, trade and socio-cultural limitations. Thus the role of BRI & CPEC is a befitting proposition.

The start of direct flights from Karachi to Almaty this year would boost people to people contact between the two friendly countries. Initially two flights in a week would be started from Karachi to Almaty and the number will increase up to 5 in coming months. Moreover, cooperation in tourism and sports could bring two nations even closer.

Most recently a large exhibition of Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan) products was arranged in the largest metropolis Almaty. Moreover, various business groups, tourist groups visited Pakistan and Kazakhstan was keen to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding tourism with Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-kazakhstan-evolving-economic-interest-in-south-asia-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Road projects under CPEC in Balochistan

Faridullah Farid

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive bilateral project to improve infrastructure within Pakistan for better trade with China and further regional integration, was officially launched on April 20, 2015, when Chinese President Xi Jinping and the then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed 51 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding worth

multibillion dollars, providing new chances for the Pakistani people, particularly those in Balochistan.

However, the project, which is a true game changer for Pakistan's economy, was quickly found to be under attack from anti-Pakistan factions within the country as well as other governments, particularly India.

There is an obvious disparity in growth between Balochistan and other provinces of the country, and there are several causes for this, but the most important factor is the poor role, performance, and policies of Balochistan's local public officials.

Despite the fact that they stayed part of every government, they consistently prioritized entrenched interests and worked for self-promotion and benefits rather than for the development and betterment of the province and the welfare of Baloch people.

The state has always played the role of a mother, looking after all of its citizens equally across the country, but it is unfortunate that there is still a lack of corruption-free leadership in Pakistan, who truly works for the development of its people with honesty, bringing forward policies that will benefit the people and contribute to the state's overall development.

Since its inception, the project has been subjected to broad misinformation in order to make it controversial and irreversibly derail it as a prosperous and developed Pakistan standing on its feet, always winking in the eyes of our enemies.

According to recent anti-CPEC propaganda, "the project has nothing to do with the development and prosperity of Balochistan, and it benefits primarily Punjab, KP and Sindh." A detailed examination of the facts and data about CPEC, on the other hand, exposes something utterly different from the opponents' rhetoric.

The state's initiative of CPEC is a fantastic endeavour. The goal of the CPEC is to modernize Pakistan's road, rail, air and energy transportation systems, as well as to connect Pakistan's deep-sea ports of Gwadar and Karachi to China's Xinjiang province and beyond.

The other three pillars of CPEC are energy, infrastructure, and industrial growth, and Gwadar is one of them.

Pakistan, and particularly Balochistan, will profit greatly from the strengthening of all four pillars along the western route that will pass through Balochistan.

The CPEC's linchpin is Balochistan in general, and Gwadar in particular. The initiative will then help the overall development of the province and address a variety of Balochistan's economic and social issues.

CPEC is part of China's bigger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was unveiled in 2013 to promote connectivity, trade, communication, and collaboration among Eurasia's countries.

Despite anarchist propaganda and militant attacks to halt the mega development projects in Balochistan, 70 percent of the planned work in Balochistan has been completed successfully,

according to facts and figures available on the official website of the ‘CPEC Authority’ Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

Surprisingly, they are now falsely claiming that Balochistan lacks a motorway. According to the CPEC Authority, there are six mega road infrastructure projects in Balochistan, including the 305-km Zhob-Quetta (Kuchlak, N-50), 106-km Khuzdar-Basima Road (N-30), 146-km Hoshab-Awaran Road Section (M-8), 235-km DI Khan (Yarik)-Zhob, N-50 Phase-I, 168-km Awaran-Khuz. The major goal of CPEC is to connect Balochistan to international trade channels in order to strengthen the province’s economy.

The development of the Chaman, Quetta and Karachi Motorways, the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, a six-lane urban highway and the Quetta-D.I.Khan motorway among others, speaks volumes against them.

The province will be better connected to other parts of the country because of this new road network.

Hostile forces and anti-state anarchists, on the other hand, are attempting to isolate Balochistan and its people from the rest of the country and the rest of the world by periodically attacking development sites. Attacks against railway lines are carried out in order to disrupt communication links.

The state institutions, on the other hand, are determined to counter such attacks by ensuring the safety and security of the workers and engineers involved in all development works/projects under CPEC.

Because of the positive involvement and unrelenting efforts of the country’s security forces, 70 percent of all development projects in Balochistan have been completed.

Because both Pakistan and China are facing violent assaults on Chinese officials and projects, the public disclosure of project specifics and funding is kept to a minimum for security reasons.

According to government data, around 4000 km of roads have recently been built in Balochistan with plans in place to build another 4000 km in the near future.

The above-mentioned facts and data about development projects in Balochistan, particularly road infrastructure should serve as a wake-up call to all propagandists, particularly anti-state anarchists, who sell their conscience against the state for naught but shame and embarrassment.

<https://pakobserver.net/road-projects-under-cpec-in-balochistan-by-faridullah-farid/>

The Express Tribune

China’s clarion call

G20’s resolve under Biden to foment a parallel fund of \$600b in next five years to browbeat the Chinese BRI initiative

China has spelt out a vision of order for the new era. It rightly has underscored the need for non-partisanship in international affairs, and especially urged the developing states to stick to their national interests rather than becoming a ploy in the hands of major powers. The thrust of this doctrine is that it equally applies to Beijing's clout too, but it is unmindful and unconcerned as it canvasses a just order based on the principles of non-interference, upholding of sovereignty and equal development opportunities for all.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, addressing his ASEAN compatriots in Jakarta, insisted that countries of the region, and elsewhere, should avoid being used as 'chess pieces', which inadvertently poses grave risks to the new geopolitical order that is in the making. The hint was, of course, at Washington which is proactive in sowing the seeds of camp politics in Asia, in an attempt to curtail the growing influence of China. Wang's emphasis on non-alignment in the geopolitical premise has come close on the heels of two developments.

One, his extensive brain-storming with US State Secretary Antony Blinken wherein apparently an attempt was made to dissuade Washington from going over the brink in South China Sea and Taiwan. Two, the G20's resolve under President Joe Biden to foment a parallel fund of \$600 billion in next five years to browbeat the Chinese BRI initiative. Beijing sees it as an attempt to polarise the world once again, and that too at a time when the global economy is struggling and the Ukraine war has pushed the world to the point of a major conflagration.

Washington's overt and covert attempts to prevail over struggling states to toe its line has for long acted as a discord. This is, indeed, the essence behind camp politics and marginalisation of regions. What has changed the perspective of developing states is the sense of participation and growth opportunities since the BRI was unveiled a decade ago. The US is out to torpedo it. China's clarion call for decency in world politics is worth-pondering.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2365665/chinas-clarion-call>

Express News

پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 251.30 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں

جون 2022 میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات 251.30 ملین امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہیں۔: اسلام آباد

ٹریڈ پالیسی اتھارٹی پاکستان کی ماہانہ رپورٹ کے مطابق جون 2022 میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات گزشتہ سال کے اسی مہینے کے مقابلے میں 8 فیصد اضافے کے ساتھ 251.30 ملین امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہیں جب کہ جون 2021 میں یہ 232.74 ملین امریکی ڈالر ریکارڈ کی گئی تھی نیز مئی 2022 کے مقابلے میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات نے 22.38 ملین امریکی ڈالر کی مالیت حاصل کر کے مثبت اشارے دکھائے ہیں۔ مئی میں چین کو کل برآمدات 228.92 ملین امریکی ڈالر ریکارڈ کی گئیں۔

گواہی کے مطابق یو اے ای، اٹلی، ہالینڈ، برطانیہ، سپین، بنگلہ دیش، تھائی لینڈ، کینیڈا اور فرانس کو بھی پاکستان کی برآمدات میں جون 2021 کے اسی مہینے کے مقابلے میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ جون 2022 کے دوران پاکستان کی برآمدات 2,887 ملین امریکی ڈالر ریکارڈ کی گئیں جو جون 2021 کے اسی مہینے کے مقابلے میں 5.83 فیصد زیادہ ہیں جب کہ مجموعی تعداد 2,728 ملین امریکی ڈالر تھی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2347480/6/>

July 14, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan to participate in 13 trade exhibitions in China

Pakistan to participate in 13 trade exhibitions in China during 2022-23, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. In line with Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) Annual Business Plan (ABP), Pakistani officials, experts, importers, and exporters will participate in exhibitions and fairs in different Chinese cities during this period.

The exhibitions will cover a variety of topics including textile, leather, agro & food, exports of rice, mangoes, and meat to China, etc. Apart from exhibitions, the authority has also planned export promotional conferences, webinars, workshops, and delegations to and from Pakistan during this period. The 7th China-Eurasia Expo under the category of International Markets Development Division (IMDD) will take place from August 25 to 30 in Urumqi, China. Similarly, Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics will be organized from August 29 to 31, 2022. From September 16 to 19, the China-ASEAN Expo will take place in Nanning, China under the IMDD category while in October 2022, Seafood and Fisheries Expo will take place in Hongdao, China.

China Int'l Import Expo (CIIE) has been planned for November 5-10 2022 in Shanghai under the category of IMDD while Wenzhou 4th Intl Import Expo will be organized on November 18-21 in Wenzhou. The Western China International Sourcing Fair will take place on November 19-21 in Xi'an, China. In March 2023, the Xiamen Stone Fair will take place in Xiamen, China. Pakistan's Engineering & Minerals Division will participate to showcase the country's marble sector.

During the same month, Pakistan's Textile and Leather Division will exhibit the country's apparel and fabrics at 'Inter Textile Shanghai Fabric' in China. In April 2023, China Import & Export Fair (Canton Fair) will take place in Guangzhou in the category of IMDD while the Textile and Leather Division of Pakistan will showcase the country's articles of leather at APLF Hong Kong.

From May 25 to 27, the textile and leather division will participate in the Domotex-Shanghai exhibition in Shanghai China. In June 2023, Pakistan will participate in China Int'l SME Fair which will take place in Guangzhou.

As per the business plan 2022-23, 10 Pakistani delegates associated with ready-made garments and hosiery will visit China while four Chinese delegates (quarantine inspectors in meat) will visit Pakistan. Several seminars and webinars/B2B Sessions and interactions are also planned wherein importers and exporters from both countries will participate. For example, in August 2022, a webinar titled 'Replacing imports from China due to US sanctions/tariff increase' will take place to understand the market dynamics of China after US sanctions.

In September 2022, another B2B interaction on replacing imports from China will be organized to understand the market dynamics of China after US sanctions. In November 2022, a webinar/B2B session will take place to introduce Pakistani citrus products to the Chinese market.

The stakeholders of the B2B are TIO China, TDAP, PFVA, SCCI, fruits and vegetable association of China.

In December 2022, a webinar titled ‘Market awareness on China under CPFTA, Potential and Issues of the Plastic Sector and Prospectus of Plastic Exports to China under CPFTA’ will take place. In January 2023, a webinar/B2B session will take place to introduce Pakistani mango products to the Chinese market. The stakeholders of the B2B include TIO China, TDAP, PFVA, fruits & vegetable association of China. In January 2023, a B2B interaction of local exporters with major buyers of the world-leading dry fruit importer will take place to secure more shares in the Chinese market.

In March 2023 a webinar/B2B, Pakistan-China Tobacco Trade, Trade Mission China TDAP, business community in China and business community in Pakistan will explore the potential of Pakistan- China Tobacco Trade as China is among top 10 largest exporters of Tobacco

A seminar on CPFTA-II will be held in April 2023 in Karachi to disseminate information regarding the utilization of the FTA with China and tapping into unused potential and tariff lines. In April 2023, another webinar/B2B session regarding exports of rice to China will be organized by the Trade Mission at Beijing and Shanghai and Rice Importers. Some seminars and webinars on the topics of ‘Market Opportunities for packaging industry of Pakistan’, ‘Pakistan-China Sports Goods’, ‘Export of Gemstones’ ‘Market penetration, creation of linkages of surgical firms with Chinese counterparts’ and interaction regarding Chinese prefabricated-low-cost housing to Housing sector of Pakistan have also been planned.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/966026/pakistan-to-participate-in-13-trade-exhibitions-in-china/>

CPEC exemplar for Pakistan’s energy scenario

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power plants we have are the most efficient in Pakistan, noted Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik.

These plants sent an exemplar for Pakistan’s energy scenario, he said in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN). Again, Pakistan’s energy sector is hanging in balance this summer due to inefficiencies, burgeoning circular debt, massive dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The energy crisis in the country inevitably brought a direct impact on economic activity and hit lower-income citizens the hardest.

The minister said that due to CPEC, the efficiency and productivity of the energy sector has increased in Pakistan, and investment has also come to the country, yet more needs to be done. The more efficiently we generate electricity, the more the price of electricity will gradually decrease, he said.

Musadik Masood Malik highlighted that the solution to Pakistan's problems is to continuously increase Pakistan's power, gas and petroleum infrastructure. CPEC projects like run-of-river project are very important for our national interest and security, the minister noted.

He pinpointed the significance of hydropower stations in the country as Pakistan has a body of water that flows through the Himalayas and down to the sea. In between there are many places where the government can set up hydroelectric power plants like Karot, he added.

As you can see from Mangla Dam Project and Tarbela Dam Project, after running for twenty to twenty-five years, the cost of generating electricity from them is just the cost of operating a turbine. The cost of new power plants, especially the hydropower ones, is very high, but over a period of time it is in our interest to use indigenous resources. Water flows here, we don't even have to lose foreign exchange for it, Musadik Masood Malik told CEN.

On top of hydropower plants, the minister also attached importance to other CPEC power projects. The problem we are facing in Pakistan at the moment is that we have to import fuel on which most of our power plants run. This import puts a heavy burden on our treasury.

That is why we have been thinking for a long time that we should focus on all the assets that are being produced in our country, he said. Listing Thar as one of the models, the minister appreciated a lot the role Thar plays in Pakistan's energy scenario.

There are a lot of projects being implemented in Thar, because we need our own indigenous resources, and Chinese companies have invested heavily there as well. We will generate additional energy from our own resources, through coal produced in our country.

Thar at the mine mouth, where coal is being extracted, a number of plants can be set up, which will also lead to development in the region, increase electricity in the country and we will be able to transmit from there, Musadik Masood Malik pointed out, further saying such a formation of an energy cluster in Thar can lead to three things: the improvement of the region, the improvement of the country, and the improvement of the people living there.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/966384/cpec-exemplar-for-pakistans-energy-scenario/>

Dawn News

Witness identifies suspect in KU blast case

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department on Wednesday claimed to have made another important progress in the Karachi University suicide blast case as it seized explosives on a lead provided by a held suspect.

CTD official Raja Umer Khattab told Dawn that a prosecution witness had identified the held suspect, Dad Bux, during an identification parade held before a court.

He added that on his lead, the CTD conducted a search at his home in Niharo Goth in Gulshan-i-Iqbal where 'extremely important evidence' were collected.

Besides, two grenades and other equipment were also seized for which a separate case had been registered against him.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1699445/witness-identifies-suspect-in-ku-blast-case>

Pakistan Observer

PR explores ‘Gateway of Prosperity’ under CPEC to boost Railways

Pakistan Railways was expanding the scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to explore the “Gateway of Prosperity” for both countries and the region at large through the advancement of the Railways sector.

The department considered CPEC as a long-term development project as it has the potential to serve as a corridor with multiple doors connecting China with Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, said an official document issued here.

It said the Chinese and Pakistani workforce, in a large number, was employed to ensure timely completion of the infrastructure projects. There were also new projects launched such as Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6), Peshawar-D.I.Khan Motorway (M-14), KKH Alternate Route (Gilgit-Shandor-Chitral), Swat Expressway (Phase-II), Dir Expressway, and Karachi Circular Railways.

Pakistan Railways was providing one of the key modes of transport in the public sector which promoted national integration and economic growth, it added. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pr-explores-gateway-of-prosperity-under-cpec-to-boost-railways/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC a model for energy scenario

Minister says energy sector efficiency has increased, but more needs to be done

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power plants are the most efficient in Pakistan and they are an exemplar for Pakistan’s energy scenario, said Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik.

Pakistan’s energy sector is hanging in the balance this summer due to inefficiencies, burgeoning circular debt and massive dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The energy crisis had a direct impact on economic activity and hit lower-income citizens the hardest.

However, due to CPEC, the efficiency and productivity of the energy sector has increased and it has also brought investment to the country, “yet more needs to be done”, the state minister said in an interview with China Economic Net.

“The more efficiently we generate electricity, the more the price of electricity will gradually decrease,” he said.

Malik highlighted that the solution to Pakistan’s problems is to continuously develop the power, gas and petroleum infrastructure.

“CPEC projects like Karot run-of-the-river project are very important for the national interest and security,” the minister noted.

He pointed to the significance of hydroelectric power stations as Pakistan has a body of water that flows through the Himalayas and down to the sea. In between, “there are many places where the government can set up hydroelectric power plants like Karot”.

“As you can see from Mangla Dam and Tarbela Dam projects, after running for 20 to 25 years, the cost of generating electricity from these two is just the cost of operating a turbine,” cited Malik.

Furthermore, the cost of new power plants, especially the hydropower ones, is very high, “but over the period of time, it is in our interest to use indigenous resources. Water flows here, we don’t even have to lose foreign exchange for it”.

In addition to the hydroelectric power plants, the minister also attached importance to other CPEC power projects.

“The problem we are facing in Pakistan at the moment is that we have to import fuel on which most of our power plants run. This import cost puts a heavy burden on our treasury. That is why we have been thinking for a long time that we should focus on all the assets that are being produced in the country,” he said.

Highlighting the indigenous resources, the state minister said Thar plays an important role in Pakistan’s energy scenario as a lot of projects are being implemented in the region where Chinese companies have invested heavily.

“We will generate additional energy from our own resources, through coal produced in the country,” he affirmed.

“In Thar, at the mine mouth, where coal is being extracted, a number of plants can be set up, which will also lead to development in the region, increase electricity production in the country and we will be able to transmit from there,” Malik pointed out.

In addition to this, such a formation of energy cluster in Thar can lead to three things – improvement of the region, improvement of the country and improvement of the people living there.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2365804/cpec-a-model-for-energy-scenario>

Express News

چینی کمپنی کا سندھ میں پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ بسوں کا پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ

چینی کمپنی یوٹونگ بسز چائنہ سندھ میں پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ پلانٹ لگانے پر آمادہ ہو گئی، یہ پلانٹ کراچی یا حیدرآباد میں لگایا جائے گا۔ : کراچی کی ملاقات میں ہوئی۔ Paul Zhang سندھ حکومت کے مطابق یہ اہم پیش رفت وزیر اطلاعات و ٹرانسپورٹ سندھ شرجیل انعام میمن سے یوٹونگ بسز چائنہ کے کنٹری مینجر بھی ان کے ہمراہ تھے جبکہ افسران میں سیکریٹری ٹرانسپورٹ عبدالحلیم شیخ، ایم ڈی سندھ ماس ٹرانزٹ اتھارٹی کیپٹن Wayne Wang اس ملاقات میں سروس ہیڈ یوٹونگ (ر) الطاف حسین ساریو اور این آر ٹی سی پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر صہیب شفیق بھی موجود تھے۔

ملاقات کے دوران آئندہ ہفتے تک اس ضمن میں ٹھوس پروپوزل تیار کرنے پر اتفاق ہوا اور طے پایا کہ پلانٹ 15 سے 18 ایکڑ اراضی پر لگایا جائے گا۔ شرجیل میمن نے کہا ہے کہ محکمہ ٹرانسپورٹ کی بھرپور کوشش ہے کہ سندھ میں پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ کا پلانٹ لگایا جائے، پلانٹ لگنے سے پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ کے شعبے میں بہتری آئے گی، ملک میں بیرونی سرمایہ کاری ہوگی اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2348104/>

July 15, 2022

Business Recorder

87pc of investment in Solar PV plants has come from China

BEIJING: Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in Solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Among the 530MW cumulative generation capacity in Pakistan, 400 MW (75%) is generated from Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power plant capable of generating solar energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government and built by China Tebian Electric Apparatus Xinjiang New Energy Co.

With 400,000 solar panels spreading over 200 hectares of flat desert, the plant was initially launched with a capacity of generating 100 MW of power for Pakistan.

Since 2015, there has been the addition of 300 MW power generation capacity with 3 new projects, and there are numerous planned projects reported for the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park by AEDB with a cumulative capacity of 1,050 MW, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Chinese companies are also major suppliers to many PV Projects in Pakistan such as Mini Solar grids in KP and ADB Access to Clean Energy Program.

The solar mini-grid stations in Jandola, Orakzai, and Mohmand tribal districts are in the final stages of their completion and soon the business community will get uninterrupted, cheap, green, and clean energy.

Pakistan Solar Energy Market is expected to record a CAGR of 2.5% from 2022 to 2027. Up to now, the average utilization rate of the operational Solar PV plants is merely 19%, far from the over 95% utilization rate in China, representing huge opportunities to be tapped.

As experienced PV Plants investors in Pakistan, Chinese companies are more likely to further leverage their learning in the solar industry.

They can also benefit from China's pledge to move away from coal-based energy generation and promote green energy in developing countries.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani government has set ambitious targets for Solar PV Capacity under the Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) of 2021.

Therefore, Chinese companies can expect a supportive government attitude to investment in Solar PV Plants in Pakistan and the cooperation would complement both countries' commitment to the socio-economic development of the whole region.

In Pakistan, the insufficiency of power which leads to surging electricity tariffs and foreign exchange expenditure on imported energy is aggravating the necessity for the country to be more self-sufficient in power generation.

Currently, thermal power still takes the bulk chunk in Pakistan energy mix, accounting for 59% of the total installed capacity.

Importing the fuel on which most of our power plants run has put a heavy burden on our treasury. That is why we have been thinking for a long time that we should focus on the assets that are being produced in our country.

If solar is installed on every roof, those who suffer from heat and load shedding can generate their own electricity at least all day, and if some surplus electricity is generated, they can sell it to the grid.

They can also support their children and serve elderly parents, Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State (Petroleum Division) said in an interview with CEN.

As a renewable energy source without fuel requirements, Solar PV is significantly cost-effective when compared to imported energy, RLNG, and gas.

According to World Bank, Pakistan requires only 0.071% of its total land area (mainly in Baluchistan) to achieve the benefits of solar power. If this potential is utilized, all of Pakistan's current energy needs can be met with solar power alone.

An increasing number of companies and organizations are catching the tide as shown by the robust growth trend of Pakistan's solar consumption.

As of March 2022, AEDB Certified Solar System Installers grew by around 56%. Net Metering Based Solar Installations and Power Generation grew by 102% and 108% respectively.

According to KASB analysis, it represents both government support and consumer demand & supply.

Since late 2016, the solar panel has been installed in 10,700 schools in Punjab and more than 2,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Punjab schools that were fitted with solar power collectively save around Pakistani rupee PKR 509 million (~USD 2.5 mn) annually, which represents around PKR 47,500 (USD 237.5) being saved on a per school basis annually. Currently, the installation of solar panels in 4,200 schools in Punjab and over 6,000 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa solar panels is in progress, a KASB analyst told CEN.

As per the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP), in May 2021, Imported Coal accounted for 11% of total installed generation capacity, RLNG (Regassified Liquefied Natural Gas) accounted for 17%, whereas solar only accounted for around 1%.

It is expected that the reliance on solar energy will increase to 13% and the reliance on imported coal and RLNG is expected to decrease to 8% and 11% respectively.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/15/3-page/936714-news.html>

Daily Times

Farmers urged to adopt Chinese technologies for bumper crops

Chairman Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday urged the farmers to use ultra-modern Chinese agricultural technologies for getting bumper crop production to make Pakistan self-sufficient in food.

In a statement issued here today he said cultivators must acquaint themselves with new technologies like mechanised direct-seeded rice (DSR) which saved sufficient quantum of water by 50pc and labor ranges from 13-37pc. He said DSR is technically and economically feasible, eco-friendly alternative to conventional puddled transplanted rice. He said development of new rice varieties for direct seeding along with proper management practices can help in adoption of DSR.

He said seed priming technology can help to get rid of the problem of poor establishment of crop and can be further improved. He said Pakistan is among top ten producers of rice in the world and contribute around eight pc to world rice trade. He feared that non availability of timely supply of water and power will affect the target of 8.6m tons of rice set by the federal committee on agriculture.

Shahzad Ali Malik urged the rice growers to sow the best quality hi tech hybrid seeds for better yield to export for earning maximum profitability. He said China during first quarter of last fiscal year imported more than 601.575 tons of different varieties of rice worth more than \$255.52m from Pakistan. He said Chinese technology helped Pakistan increase yield in rice processing and maintain quality. He said exports of rice to China is increasing substantially every year. He said broken rice are also in great demand in Chinese markets.

He said 53 Pakistani rice enterprises are on approval list of China's General Administration of Customs and it would further boost local exports of rice.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/966836/farmers-urged-to-adopt-chinese-technologies-for-bumper-crops/>

Express News

پاک چین مشترکہ بحری مشق سی گارڈیز 2022 کا انعقاد

پاکستان اور چینی بحریہ کے مابین دو طرفہ بحری مشق سی گارڈیز 2022 چین کے شہر شینگھائی میں منعقد ہوئی۔: کراچی

ترجمان پاک بحریہ کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے مابین بحری مشقیں سی گارڈینز دو طرفہ مضبوط عسکری تعلقات کا مظہر ہیں جو خطے میں محفوظ اور پائیدار بحری ماحول کو فروغ دیتا ہے۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ مشق سے دونوں بحری افواج کی پیشہ وارانہ مہارتوں اور باہمی تعاون کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔ پاک بحریہ کی طرف سے دو طرفہ اور کثیر القومی مشقوں کا باقاعدہ انعقاد سمندر میں امن و امان برقرار رکھنے اور تمام دوست بحری افواج کے ساتھ قریبی تعلقات کے عزم کا مظہر ہے۔

ترجمان پاک بحریہ کے مطابق چین کے ساتھ مشترکہ بحری مشق سے دونوں ممالک بالخصوص بحری افواج کے مابین دو طرفہ تعلقات اور تعاون کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2348611/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائینز کی سکیورٹی کو فول پروف بنایا جائے گا، آئی جی اسلام آباد

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) سی ٹی ڈی اسلام آباد نے اہم پولیس عمارات سیکرٹریٹ ایون، تھانہ آئی ٹاؤن، اے وی ایل سی، تھانہ سبزی منڈی اور پولیس لائنز ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا از سر نو سکیورٹی سروے کیا اور سکیورٹی میں مزید بہتری کیلئے تجاویز دیں اسی طرح سی ٹی ڈی نے عید الاضحیٰ پر غیر قانونی طریقے سے کھالیں جمع کرنے والے 15 کیس رپورٹ کئے اور متعلقہ تھانہ جات کو قانونی کارروائی کے لئے بھجوائے جن پر قانونی کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی اسی طرح اسلام آباد میں مقیم چائینز کی اہم عمارات اور چائینز ایمبسی کا از سر نو سکیورٹی سروے مکمل کیا گیا اور جہاں جہاں کمی تھی اس کو مکمل کر لیا گیا آئی جی اسلام آباد نے کہا کہ چائینز کی سکیورٹی کو فول پروف بنایا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-07-15/page-3/detail-17>

