



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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July 16, 2022

Dawn News

IT companies urged to participate in CPEC projects

Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: There is a need to encourage local IT companies to participate in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects for eventual entry into the Chinese market, the Advisory Council on Information Technology (IT) and Digital Economy said on Thursday.

At the first meeting of the advisory council, it was stressed that there must be consistency in government policies to be attractive to local and international investors.

Chairing the meeting, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Syed Amin-Ul-Haque said that Chinese investors were vying to establish another optic fibre link from Khunjerab to Rawalpindi and along the railway line to Karachi.

The meeting was informed that the objective was to link Karachi with Gwadar and carry the cable onwards under sea, towards the Persian Gulf region.

Minister says Chinese investors want optic fibre link stretching from Khunjerab to Persian Gulf

The minister said the government held a high-level meeting with the companies involved in CPEC projects.

“The target was to have market access for Pakistani companies in the Chinese market,” he added.

He highlighted the steps identified to achieve this target, which include facilitating Chinese IT companies in establishing offices in Pakistan.

“We can harness Pakistan’s position in the region to make Pakistan a cloud regional hub, and we need collaboration with Chinese counterparts on cloud initiatives,” Mr Haque said.

Talking about the ambitious target to export IT services to Chinese markets, the minister said that most Pakistani firms involved in IT exports started as sub-contractors for large companies in the West and other areas.

“Now we have stable IT exports while the freelancers’ base is also strong. Now is the time to ask Chinese companies to outsource projects to the Pakistani IT industry,” he said, adding, “It has been agreed that Chinese firms will start involving Pakistani experts in projects within China.”

The council meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muftah Ismail, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima, Senator Afanullah Khan, representatives of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and council members from the public and private sector.

The advisory council was formed on June 5 and is headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with the view of promoting the IT industry and enhancing the digital economy of Pakistan.

The council decided to form committees for IT Export, Personal Data Protection, and Telecom Sector Growth.

The three committees will finalise their recommendations in a week, which will be presented to the PM and the Chairperson of the Advisory Council.

The committee for IT Exports is led by former secretary IT Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui; the committee for Personal Data Protection Rules by Senator Afnanullah Khan; and the Telecom Committee is chaired by Jazz CEO Amir Ibrahim.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1699873>

Belt and Road Initiative opened gateway to new opportunities: Nust rector

ISLAMABAD: National University of Sciences and Technology (Nust) Rector Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari on Friday said in the past few years the Belt and Road Initiative of China, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has brought about fresh opportunities while opening new intellectual vistas of excellence at Nust.

He said this while addressing participants of a virtual meeting on the ‘Silk Road International Alliance of Architectural and Technological Universities’. Senior management and faculty of Nust and Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology (XAUAT), China, were present.

Prof Wang Shusheng, president of XAUAT, was also among the speakers.

The proposed alliance has a mandate to build a knowledge library, information hub and talent base in the fields of architecture and technology to extend support for the urbanisation of countries along the Silk Road.

“We are truly excited to work closely with XAUAT on the ambitious Silk International Alliance of Architectural and Technological Universities,” Mr Bukhari said and added that he was highly optimistic that this alliance would result in significant value addition to knowledge ecosystems and help improve quality of programmes and research through mutual learning.

He said these initiatives had tied together Pakistan and China into a partnership of great mutual benefit with shared destiny and prosperity for the people of both countries.

Prof Wang said he looked forward towards strengthening bilateral cooperation with Nust and achieving objectives of the alliance in particular.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1699804>

The Nation

Chinese Companies Show Increasing Interest In Investing In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – China and Pakistan have always shown interest in further promoting their bilateral relations for greater economic benefits.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a manifestation of this close economic relationship. The increasing interest of Chinese firms in Pakistan has opened new avenues of closer ties amidst changing global and regional contours. Recently, a delegation from Chinese state-owned company NORINCO showed interest in investing in Pakistan during a visit to the country. While speaking to WealthPK, an official from the Ministry of Commerce said the Chinese giant company NORINCO (China North Industries Corporation) is willing to invest in renewable energy and infrastructure sectors in Pakistan.

The official said that the company is particularly interested in investing in solar and wind power projects that will help in overcoming energy crisis. Earlier in May, Chinese company Sinovac expressed interest in setting up a joint venture to diagnose, prevent and treat diseases in Pakistan. A delegation of Sinovac met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in which he was briefed on the vaccine provided by the company to Pakistan. In another development, a leading Chinese textile company has procured 100 acres of land on Lahore-Kasur Road to establish a textile cluster. Describing it as an important initiative, the official said this project envisages an investment of \$250 million and is estimated to provide 20,000 job opportunities. Similarly, in February, a consortium of three Chinese companies showed inclination to establish a metal and paper reprocessing park in Gwadar. The official said this Chinese project envisages investment of about \$3.5 billion, and the consortium wants to establish the park in a matter of two to three years.

Speaking to WealthPK, Dr Zafar Mahmood, a prominent economist, said Chinese companies have been extensively interested in investing in Pakistan, especially after the CPEC initiative. “The rising interest of Chinese public and private companies to invest in Pakistan is destined to uplift Pakistan’s industry and overall economy,” he said. Dr Zafar said that investment by Chinese energy companies in Pakistan will resolve Pakistan’s incessant problem of energy crisis. Pakistan’s non-renewable energy sources accounted for over 70% of power generation in May. This ratio needs to be replaced with renewable energy generating sources such as solar and wind energy. The remaining energy is made up of renewable sources, with a generation of only 90kWh last month. Among the renewable sources, hydroelectric power led the way with 24% of power generation, wind accounted for 5%, while solar power contributed only 1% to the country’s energy needs. This increasing investment interest of Chinese firms is definitely a good omen for Pakistan’s economy.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/16/chinese-companies-show-increasing-interest-in-investing-in-pakistan/>

The News

Pak-China navies hold joint exercise in Shanghai

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan and Chinese navies conducted a joint naval exercise, ‘Sea Guardians-2022’, in Shanghai, China, the spokesman of Pakistan Navy said on Friday.

This was the second exercise of its series, as the first exercise was held in Karachi in 2020. The newly-commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship, Taimur, participated in the exercise along with the Chinese Navy assets, including frigates, corvettes, submarines, fighters, surveillance aircraft and auxiliary ships.

The ‘Sea Guardians’ series of the naval exercises are a manifestation of strong bilateral military relations between Pakistan and China, aimed at promoting safe and sustainable maritime environment in the region.

The exercise provided an opportunity to both the navies to further hone their professional skills, mutual learning and interoperability. The bilateral and multi-national exercises, held regularly by the Pakistan Navy, are indicative of the PN’s resolve to maintain good order at sea and close relations with all friendly navies.

It is expected that the joint naval exercise with China will further enhance bilateral relationship and cooperation between the two countries in general and the navies in particular, the spokesperson said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=107881>

Govt eyes access for local ICT firms in Chinese market

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: The government is exploring options for obtaining market access for Pakistani information and communications technology (ICT) companies in Chinese market under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“There is need to explore possibilities for using Pakistan’s position in region to make Pakistan a cloud regional hub in collaboration with Chinese counterparts on Cloud initiatives,” a PM’s advisory council meeting on IT and Digital Economy on Friday stated.

“There is also need of facilitating Chinese IT Companies to establish offices in Pakistan,” it added.

The meeting discussed Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB), 2022 which is to govern collection, processing, use and disclosure of personal data and to establish and making provisions about offenses relating to violation of the right to data privacy of individuals by collecting, obtaining or processing of personal data by any means.

The objective of the PDPB is to protect the data of Pakistani citizens so that unauthorized leakage of personal data is stopped. It imposes obligations onto data controllers and data processors along with penalties in case of data breaches.

According to the bill, “Data Subject” means a natural person who is the subject of the personal data. “Data Controller” means a natural or legal person or the government, who either alone or jointly has the authority to make a decision on the collection, obtaining, usage or disclosure of personal data.

“Data Processor” means a natural or legal person or the government who alone or in conjunction with other(s) processes data on behalf of the data controller.

The bill will be holding both public and private data controllers responsible in case of any data breaches. It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

It shall come into force not falling beyond two years from the date of its promulgation as the federal government may determine through a notification in the official gazette providing at least three months’ advance notice of the effective date.

The bill addresses key areas pertaining to protection of personal data are; definitions of sensitive and critical personal data, scope, security requirements, cross-border data management framework, roles and obligations of data controllers and data processors, rights of data subjects, and breach notifications.

It also addresses processing of sensitive and critical personal data, funds management, automated processing including profiling, complaints and penalties, rules and regulations establishment and powers of the commission and exemptions, etc.

The commission will have the authority to make rules and regulations according to the bill regarding powers and performance of its functions, internal working, appointment, promotion, termination and terms and condition of its employees etc.

Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) prepared the initial draft of the bill and uploaded it on ministry’s website in second week of April, 2020 for stakeholders’ (both local and international) feedback.

A total of 61 entities provided their feedback which was compiled. After analysis of the feedback, consultation sessions were held with over 100 companies and the draft of bill was updated after the consultation sessions.

IT minister Syed Amin-Ul-Haque has said that for enhancement of the country's digital economy, it’s necessary to solve problems of the IT and Telecom industry and give them maximum relief.

The ministry of IT and telecom constitutes three committees for IT export, personal data protection and telecom sector growth. The committees will finalise their recommendations in a week time, which will be presented to the PM who is the chairman of the advisory council.

The advisory council stressed the need for consistency in government policies to attract local and international investors, saying that industry and investors become uncertain due to the changing situations, which hurts efforts to promote the digital economy.

Agreeing, Haque said the purpose to constitute the advisory council was to formulate workable proposals to address issues of IT and telecom industry, make the industry more functional in the national economy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=107569>

July 17, 2022

Business Recorder

Transmission services

China's PMLTC agitates against imposition of 17pc GST

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Company Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) has agitated on imposition of 17 percent GST on transmission service charges, official sources told Business Recorder.

CEO/President of the company, Zhang Li, in a letter to Managing Director PPIB stated that he is bringing it to the latter's notice that amendments to the Finance Act, 2022 and Sales Tax Act, 1990, would have severe financial implications on Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (Private) Limited.

As per the amendment to the definition of "Goods" as provided under Section 2(12) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, "goods" now include production, transmission and distribution of electricity. Moreover, clause (e) "production, transmission and distribution of electricity" has been inserted under definition of "supply" as provided under Section 2(33) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990.

"Since the aforesaid provisions have become effective from July 01, 2022, based on which PMLTC will be required to charge federal sales tax at 17 percent to NTDC on the monthly transmission service payment invoice," said CEO of the company said.

He further brought to the notice of PPIB the following financial implications: (i) PMLTC will now charge 17% sales tax to NTDC as part of the monthly transmission services payment invoice. Based on the same, and as per the provisions of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, PMLTC will be required to submit monthly Sales Tax Return on the principal of input/output basis. Since Input Tax is negligible (approximately 3%), PMLTC will be required to deposit such output sales tax charged to NTDC with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on a monthly basis at the time of filing sales tax returns, irrespective of whether it has collected the same from NTDC or not; (ii) keeping in view that NTDC is currently settling the Transmission Services Payment with a delay of 4 to 5 months, it will create a huge financial burden on the Company particularly where more than 97% of such 'output sales tax' charged will not have a corresponding 'input sales tax' to offset against. It is apprehended that the current overdue payment would further escalate as a result of imposition of General Sales Tax. Both NTDC and PPIB are already under "Purchaser Event of Default" pursuant to Section 16.20b) of TSA dated May 14, 2018 and "GoP Event of Default" pursuant to Section 14.16(i) of Implementation Agreement dated May 14, 2018, respectively; and (iii) 17 per cent will unnecessarily further burden the power sector by adding to the deficit and delay payments due to market players and shall increase cash flow constraints of public sector entities. This will also hamper the settlement of Transmission Service Payments on a timely basis, which is already engulfed with severe liquidity issue and circular debt.

The Company further contended that such provision in the Finance Act, 2022 and Sales Tax Act, 1990 may be amended by withdrawing the applicability of sales tax on Transmission Service Charge on the basis that Transmission Service Charge is equivalent to Capacity Purchase Price, as applicable in case of Independent Power Producers, and such Capacity Purchase Price invoiced by Independent Power Producers to Power Purchaser does not attract sales tax provisions. As per Section 2(46)(h) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, as applicable on independent power producers and Wapda, energy purchase price only is included within the value of supply which typically comprises recovery against operation and maintenance expenses such as fuel procurement, operating costs and maintenance costs while capacity purchase price is specifically excluded from the definition of “value of supply”.

The relevant portion of the aforesaid provision is reproduced as follows: (46) “value of supply” means:-(h) in case of supply of electricity by an independent power producer or Wapda, the amount received on account of energy purchase price only; and the amount received on account of capacity purchase price, energy purchase price premium, excess bonus, supplemental charges etc. shall not be included in the value of supply.”

The CEO PMLTC has requested Managing Director PPIB to play his due role as a one-window facilitator and intervention in the matter is of abundant importance as the Company cannot sustain, especially in current liquidity crisis (and urged that discussions maybe entered into) with the FBR and other government institutions on the underlying matter, as the Company understands that FBR will create a liability and seek funds from it.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/17/1-page/936930-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Deputy SCO Sec Gen attends 28th China Lanzhou Investment & Trade Fair

Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Sohail Khan led a SCO Secretariat delegation at the opening events of the 28th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair in China’s Gansu Province.

The delegation met with the leadership of the province and Lanzhou City, as well as Yury Senko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the People’s Republic of China, on the sidelines of the fair, according to SCO Secretariat here.

The five-day event was held in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China’s Gansu Province that featured business negotiations and forums aimed to boost economic and trade cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road.

Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates have been invited as the guests of honor at this year’s fair, and representatives of business associations and commercial establishments from countries including Pakistan, Australia, Spain, Thailand and Indonesia were also attending the event.

First held in 1993, the fair has become an important platform for the opening up of northwest China and a major event for Belt and Road economic and trade cooperation. Gansu saw rapid

growth in trade revenue with countries along the Belt and Road this year, rising 24 percent year on year in the first five months and accounting for nearly half of the province's total foreign trade revenue during the period.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/deputy-sco-sec-gen-attends-28th-china-lanzhou-investment-trade-fair/>

The Naion

Chinese Investment In Solar PV Plants In Pakistan Accounts For Nearly 87pc

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.

Solar mini-grid stations in Jandola, Orakzai, and Mohmand tribal districts are in final stages of completion

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.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/17/chinese-investment-in-solar-pv-plants-in-pakistan-accounts-for-nearly-87pc/>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2022-07-17

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2022-07-17

July 18, 2022

Business Recorder

Gwadar Free Zone

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Irked by rupee slide, Chinese for accounts in RMB

ISLAMABAD: Disturbed with frequent depreciation of the Pak Rupee (PKR), Chinese investors in Gwadar have sought permission to maintain their bank accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without converting their money into Rupees, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

This issue was raised by Chairman, China Port Holding Company Limited (COPHCL) at a meeting of Federal Steering Committee on Gwadar Initiatives held on July 6, 2022 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

“Most important issue that deters Chinese investment in Gwadar relates to currency devaluation. Chinese Investors should be allowed to maintain accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without getting their invested money converted into Pak Rupee,” sources quoted Chairman COPHCL who attended the meeting as saying.

Prime Minister, sources said, desired that the Finance Minister and Governor SBP meet Chairman COPHCL and try to resolve the matter on priority. He also desired for a report in this matter to him.

The meeting discussed 16 issues in detail, after which Prime Minister issued directions to the concerned authorities in each individual matter. The details of meeting and decisions taken are as follows:

(i) Delay in the commencement of the project for the construction of Breakwater at Gwadar Port. The Prime Minister expressed his displeasure on delay in the construction of breakwater despite availability of funds from the Chinese government in the shape of grant and soft loan. He directed Chairman Prime Minister's Inspection Team to conduct an inquiry to find out the reasons and fix responsibility for delaying the materialization and execution of the project for construction of breakwater at Gwadar Port.

Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Economic Affairs have been directed to facilitate the conduct of the inquiry by ensuring timely availability of the information and documents required for the inquiry.

(ii) With respect to construction of breakwater at Gwadar Port, Prime Minister was informed that the PC-1 for construction of breakwater at Gwadar Port is ready for placement before the CDWP and on its clearance to ECNEC. The Prime Minister desired that the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Ministry of PD&SI ensure that the PC-1 of the project is placed before the CDWP for consideration in its next meeting. He also desired that Ministry of Maritime Affairs should ensure that the project is awarded to a qualified and reputed contractor after proper prequalification and tendering in a transparent manner and its quality execution is ensured through regular monitoring and third party evaluation. He also desired that all efforts be exhausted to complete the project within two years.

(iii) For maintenance, dredging of the Gwadar Port Secretary Maritime Affairs apprised the PM that tender was floated on July 5, 2022 and international bids will be called on August 8, 2022. On the request of the Secretary, Prime Minister approved notification of a Steering Committee with representative of Ministry of Maritime Affairs as convener and representatives from the Ministry of PD&SI and Pakistan Navy as members besides any other member(s) the Committee may require co-opting to oversee the project and verify quantities of dredging. He desired that Ministry of Maritime Affairs should notify the Committee immediately. The Prime Minister directed Ministry of Maritime Affairs to do the pre-qualification process and ensure third party evaluation of the whole contracting process to ensure transparency.

(iv) For 1.2-MGD Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant Prime Minister was apprised that Chinese contractor (CHEC) has been mobilized and work has started and as per contract; the project is due for completion in March, 2023. Prime Minister was further informed that on his direction the contracting firm has been asked to make concerted efforts for completing the project by October 30, 2022. Chairman, COPHCL assured the Prime Minister that he will do his best to complete the project within the stipulated timeline. Prime Minister appreciated the effort and desired completion of the project by October 30, 2022 without any compromise on quality.

(v) On-Grid and Off-Grid solar solutions for Gwadar Chief Secretary, Balochistan informed the Prime Minister that companies capable of doing solar and desalination projects have been invited

to Karachi on July 18, 2022 to finalize modalities for providing on-grid and off-grid solar solutions besides setting up of small sized desalination plants where provision of drinking water through pipes is not feasible. The Prime Minister desired that Government of Balochistan should expedite project proposal finalization and its execution. Secretary Power advised the Chief Secretary to identify lands near grid stations for on-grid solar projects to facilitate power evacuation. Prime Minister desired that the Power Division should be taken on board particularly on the on-grid solar projects and that the Power Division ensures that requirements at the Federal end for execution of the projects are expeditiously finalized and completed.

(vi) For provision of boat engines to poor fishermen in Gwadar, Prime Minister was informed that bids for procurement of 2000 boat engines have already been invited for July 20, 2022 and these engines will be distributed to the fishermen through a transparent mechanism for which criteria has already been developed. Prime Minister directed that Secretary, Maritime Affairs, Chief Secretary, Balochistan and Secretary PD&SI will review and finalize the criteria for distribution of boat engines among fishermen in a transparent manner.

Prime Minister also desired that Ministry of Maritime Affairs shall ensure institution of a mechanism for third party validation for securing quality of the procured boat engines.

(vii) For cross stuffing for Afghan Transit Trade containers at Gwadar Port Secretary Maritime Affairs apprised that regulatory framework to allow cross stuffing at Gwadar Port is ready and FBR be asked to indicate the date of inauguration. The Chairman FBR noted that cross stuffing rules are pending in Law & Justice Division for vetting besides software for managing cross stuffing is under preparation. He assured that cross stuffing will be ready for inauguration after 1st August, 2022. Prime Minister desired that Law Division should expedite vetting of the draft rules while FBR should ensure completion of all regulatory and operational requirements for making cross stuffing of containers possible by August 1, 2022.

(viii) In Oil blending facility through ship-to-ship transfer at outer anchorage of Gwadar Port Secretary Maritime Affairs apprised the Prime Minister that stakeholders have agreed to facilitate implementation of the project; however, Pakistan Navy had reservations and desired to vet the final proposal. Prime Minister desired that Secretary Maritime Affairs follows up with Pakistan Navy and try to address its concerns and expedite the approval process for extending oil blending facility through ship-to-ship transfer in consultation with stakeholders within the next 15 days.

(ix) In cultivation of king grass for export Chairman, COPHCL presented business plan for population of Gwadar Free Zone. He emphasized the need for inclusive development in the context of local population. He shared that his company is supporting local population in cattle farming by giving them free seeds to cultivate king grass. He further contended that cultivation of king grass on a least 5000 acres can provide enough fodder to sustain a large cattle population and that existence of large cattle population is essential for exporting meat to China without disturbing local demand. He also briefed the Prime Minister on his plans to provide technical support to the local population through establishment of small sized desalination plants and

provision of off-grid solar solutions. Prime Minister appreciated Chairman, COPHCL for his efforts in making Gwadar Port successful. He urged the Chairman to exhaust efforts in catalyzing relocation of labour intensive and export oriented industries from China to Gwadar.

On the proposal of growing king grass, the Prime Minister desired that Secretary NFS&R with input from Chief Secretary Balochistan and other stakeholders should have a feasibility conducted on the proposal on priority basis and intimate progress in the next meeting. The Prime Minister also asked the Chairman COPHCL to prepare a proper business plan/ feasibility on the economic and financial viability of growing king grass to support extensive cattle farming and export of meat and share it with Ministry of NES&R.

On the issue of off-grid solar plants and small sized/ mobile desalination plants, Prime Minister desired that Chief Secretary, Balochistan should take input from the Chairman, COPHCL and ensure execution of these projects on ground.

(x) For establishment of a 5-MMT per annum oil refinery and other petrochemical project at Gwadar Chairman, COPHCL in his presentation informed the Prime Minister that investors from China are keen to invest in establishing an oil refinery and other petrochemical projects in Gwadar. Secretary Petroleum informed the Prime Minister that he has already held a meeting with Chairman, COPHCL and asked him to share details of the investors and their proposal with the Petroleum Division.

Prime Minister desired that Chairman COPHCL immediately provide details of potential investors and their proposal to the Petroleum Division and Secretary Petroleum should try to attract and facilitate investment in oil refinery and other petrochemical projects.

(xi) With respect to law and order in Balochistan during the presentation, Chairman NHA pointed out the vulnerabilities in the law and order situation of the province. He highlighted incidents where contractors were assailed and kidnapped. At this juncture, Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecom also narrated incidents where telecom-related contractors had to suffer at the hands of miscreants. The gravity of the situation received further corroboration when Secretary Railways also pointed out some unfortunate events concerning Railway's contractors. Prime Minister directed the Chief Secretary to map sites of all the major development projects in progress across the province and take measures to provide foolproof security to the personnel working on those sites. He directed Ministry of Interior to immediately constitute a Committee with Minister Interior as convener and Secretary Interior, Chief Secretary Balochistan, IGP Balochistan, and representatives of other law enforcement agencies as members with the remit to review the law and order situation in Balochistan and ensure measures for its improvement. This Committee should also look at the project sites mapped and take measures for ensuring safety and security of the work force. The Committee shall submit its report to the Prime Minister within 15 days.

(xii) On connectivity of Gwadar with Up-North via Eastern, Central and Western alignments of CPEC routes Chairman, NHA apprised the Prime Minister on the award of contract on Naal-

Awaran sections and shared that it would be completed within three years. Prime Minister urged that the project may be expedited and completed within two years. Chairman, NHA further shared that road connectivity from Gwadar Port to Up-North already exists through the Western route besides Gwadar is also connected to the Eastern route through Gwadar-Hoshab- Basima-Khuzdar-Ratodero-Sukkur road segments.

Chairman, COPHCL shared that Basima- Khuzdar segments of the road are incomplete and not available. The Chairman, NHA assured that the Basima-Khuzdar segments of the road are traffic pliable although some sections of the road are under completion and will be completed by the end of September.

Prime Minister directed that Secretary, Communications/ Chairman, NHA to ensure that a team comprising of representatives from Ministry of PD&SI, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and NHA conducts a holistic route survey from Basima to Khuzdar to assess quality of road. He shared that survey report should also include a video of the route visit which should particularly highlight the quality of road segments where they are dilapidated or are under construction and shared with his office soon after Eid holidays.

(xiii) With respect to rail connectivity with Gwadar Port Secretary Railways briefed the Prime Minister on the initiatives Railway Division is taking to connect Gwadar with existing rail network. He apprised that land acquisition is the main challenge that is thwarting speedy project execution. He particularly highlighted that despite making payment, GDA has not mutated land measuring 165 acres required for the freight terminal. DG, GDA noted that the land for use of Railway has been identified and changed as per integrated Gwadar Master Plan and; therefore, the matter needs further deliberations for resolution. Prime Minister desired that CS Balochistan and Secretary Railways should closely coordinate and together ensure resolution of all pending issues that are slowing the progress of the project.

(xiv) With respect to illegal trawling by the fishermen in Gwadar Minister Maritime Affairs apprised the Prime Minister that he will be scheduling a meeting of the Committee constituted to resolve matters regarding illegal trawling shortly and would take steps for its early resolution. Prime Minister desired that the meeting be scheduled within one week after Eid holidays and all issues be resolved to address the complaints of illegal trawling.

(xv) With reference to Foreign Exchange currency issues of COPHCL in Gwadar Free Zone Chairman, COPHCL briefed the Prime Minister that the most important issue that deters Chinese investment in Gwadar relates to currency devaluation. He requested that Chinese investors be allowed to maintain accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without getting their invested money converted into Rupees.

Prime Minister desired that the Finance Minister and Governor SBP meet Chairman, COPHCL, and try to resolve the matter on priority. He also desired a report in this matter within next seven working days.

(xvi) With respect to prequalification of contractors and third party evaluation after the presentation of Secretary/ Chairman, NHA, Prime Minister stressed the ways and means to ensure quality of the executed work. He urged the Ministry of PD&SI to take measures to ensure that all big projects are awarded to contractors who pass through the process of prequalification to ensure that only serious contractors capable of quality work participate in the bids. He further emphasized that Ministry of PD&SI ensure that in all such projects system of third party evaluation is introduced for ensuring quality of the executed work. Prime Minister Office has directed all the concerned Ministries/ Divisions/ Provincial Government to share progress on priority.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/18/1-page/937000-news.html>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China discuss extending CPEC to Afghanistan

FO statement says two sides exchanged views on the political and security situation in the war-ravaged country

ISLAMABAD: The senior officials of Pakistan and China on Monday discussed the possibility of extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan in order to promote economic development and prosperity in the war-ravaged country.

The idea to extend the flagship programme of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was discussed during a meeting between China's special envoy on Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at the Foreign Office in Islamabad.

An official statement said the two sides exchanged views on the political and security situation in Afghanistan, humanitarian assistance by Pakistan and China to Afghanistan, and other matters of mutual interest.

“In the context of regional connectivity, both sides exchanged views on extension of CPEC to Afghanistan to promote economic development and prosperity,” read the statement.

The foreign secretary underscored Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable, prosperous and connected Afghanistan. He highlighted the provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan including Pakistan's relief efforts in the wake of devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on June 22, 2022.

The foreign secretary also stressed the importance of de-freezing of Afghanistan's foreign reserves and facilitation of banking operations to ease the economic hardships of the Afghan people and help build a sustainable economy.

The foreign secretary further underlined the importance for the Afghan side to address the international community's expectations regarding inclusivity; respect for the rights of all Afghans, including girls' education; and effective counter-terrorism measures. He underscored that the international community's focus should not be diverted from the dire situation in

Afghanistan owing to events taking place elsewhere. While emphasising continued constructive engagement and practical cooperation with the interim Afghan authorities, the foreign secretary highlighted the central role of platforms such as Troika Plus and Six Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan in advancing shared goals.

Chinese Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong appreciated the important and constructive role played by Pakistan in the context of Afghanistan. Both sides agreed that only a peaceful, stable and connected Afghanistan could act as a fulcrum for enhanced regional trade and connectivity.

Earlier, the Chinese special envoy held talks with his counterpart, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq. Both sides took stock of the evolving situation and discussed humanitarian assistance, infrastructure development, as well as trade and transit initiatives.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2366540/pakistan-china-discuss-extending-cpec-to-afghanistan>

The Nation

China Uses Advanced Tech To Develop Eastbay Expressway

ISLAMABAD – China has transferred advanced technology and skill to Pakistan to develop Eastbay Expressway project that would ensure quality of construction, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

According to Lt Col (Retd) Naveed Ahmad Shami who has been working with the project for about seven years, the Chinese used advanced technology, known as Revetment and Pilling Technology, and engineering for the first time in Pakistan. He is the coordinator of the 19km long Eastbay Expressway project and he is proud that almost 4km of the area is reclaimed from the sea by using this technology. Shami revealed that the initial time for the project was about three years but they had to build three bridges for the fishermen.

Now the fishermen can cross the road easily and they can also transport their boats and luggage through these bridges. Although the project was delayed for one more year, this shows how much the Chinese are concerned about the facilitation of the local people. The main aim of the Eastbay Expressway project is to ease the transportation of the heavily loaded cargoes from the port to the CPEC artery. Although some elements tried to damage the project, fortunately, no mishap happened during the project due to the very tight security guards and around-the-clock security given by the Pakistani Army.

China has not only transferred technology and machinery for the development of Gwadar in particular and Pakistan in general, but also transferred it to the people of Pakistan in the most remote areas. According to Naveed Shami, the Chinese have constructed training institutes all over the region. When an industry is developed, there will be the highest job opportunities for local people. During all these projects, Chinese companies will prefer local people like Baloch and local people from Gwadar. It is very right to say that it would be a game changer, said Naveed Shami.

It is a welcoming thing that the Chinese are making sincere efforts for the modernisation and development of the local people. They have established vocational institutes and introduced 26 subjects for the locals which have more than 300 capacities. They have boarding, lodging, and other systems which are not going to charge any money from the Pakistani government.

Shami is hopeful that the transfer of technology and skills will bring prosperity and development for the Pakistanis, especially for the people of Balochistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/18/china-uses-advanced-tech-to-develop-eastbay-expressway/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک، پاکستان کی مستقبل کی اقتصادی سمت کا تعین کریگا: ڈاکٹر ندیم الحق

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) نہ صرف پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ دے گی بلکہ ملک میں ٹرانسپورٹ سے متعلق مسائل کو حل کرنے میں بھی مددگار ثابت ہو رہی ہے۔ ویلٹھ پاک کی ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق حال ہی میں ایک چینی کمپنی نے کراچی میں پیپلز بس سروس شروع کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ نئی پیپلز بس سروس میں 500 بسوں شامل کی جائیں گی جو 4 ماہ کے اندر پہنچ جائیں گی۔ سندھ حکومت نے بسوں کی خریداری کے لیے چینی کمپنی کو چار ماہ کا وقت دیا ہے۔ حکومت نے سی پیک کے ایک منصوبے کے تحت شمالی وزیرستان کے ضلع غلام خان کو موٹر وے 4 سے جوڑنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ ممتاز ماہر معاشیات اور پاکستان انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف ڈویلپمنٹ اکاؤنٹسٹس پائیز کے وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر ندیم الحق نے ویلٹھ پاک کو بتایا کہ پاکستان کو شہروں کے پھیلاؤ کے ایک بڑے مسئلے کا سامنا ہے۔ ملک میں دیہاتوں سے شہروں کی جانب نقل مکانی کے مسئلے نے ٹرانسپورٹ سے متعلق بہت سے مسائل کو جنم دیا ہے۔ سی پیک کا انفراسٹرکچر پاکستان کی مستقبل کی اقتصادی سمت کا تعین کرے گا۔

چینی کمپنیوں کے حالیہ اربن ٹرانسپورٹ کے منصوبے ملک میں، خاص طور پر کراچی میں شہری ٹرانسپورٹ کے مسائل کو کم کر دیں گے۔ اس کے علاوہ سی پیک کے تحت بڑے پیمانے پر ٹرانسپورٹ نیٹ ورک تیار کیے گئے ہیں، جن میں لاہور ریل ٹرانزٹ اور نیشنل لائن منصوبہ شامل ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت پہلے اس ٹرانسپورٹ منصوبے کا افتتاح 2020 میں کیا گیا تھا جو 2.2 بلین ڈالر سے زیادہ کی لاگت سے چھ سالوں میں مکمل ہوا۔ سی پیک پاکستان میں تجارت اور ٹرانسپورٹ کے شعبوں میں کارکردگی لائے گا۔ سی پیک کے تحت شروع کیے جانے والے منصوبوں سے تاجروں کو اپنے سامان کو کم کر ایہ پر کم وقت میں لے جانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ یہ منصوبے بڑی تعداد میں سیاحوں کو راغب کرنے کے علاوہ لیبر مارکیٹ کے جغرافیائی حجم میں بھی اضافہ کریں گے۔ سی پیک کے ایک سینئر ریسرچ ایسوسی ایٹ عدنان خان نے ویلٹھ پاک کو بتایا کہ ملک میں شہری نقل و حمل میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری سے پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ پر بوجھ کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ "اس سے بڑے شہروں میں ٹرانسپورٹ سہولیات پیدا ہوں گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان میں لاجسٹکس کو بہتر بنانے میں بھی مددگار ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔"

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-07-18/page-10/detail-33>

July 19, 2022

Business Recorder

RLNG-fired project

CMEC seeks PM's help in getting more funds from China

ISLAMABAD: M/s China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), which established 1,263 MW RLNG-fired project at Jhang, has sought help from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to resolve its issues and raise more funds from China.

CMEC President Fang Yanshui, in a letter to Prime Minister has shared major concerns of the project, expecting a consistent support for the project. He said on July 1, 2022 a successful seven-day reliability test was run of GT1 with a shared effort between the Government of Punjab, Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Limited and CMEC. Especially with the great support from PTPL and their CEO, Dr. Salman Zakaria, the project has achieved significant milestones. According to the company, uptill now the project is into its 58th month since its beginning in Sep, 2017.

However, the project faces prolongation mainly because of the delay in arrangement of the Concession Agreements and Financial Close, which were caused internally by the former government after the Federal Government change in 2018.

Such arrangement delay led to the project prolongation for more than 3 years, during which, CMEC, as a Chinese state-owned entity, has insisted on inputting tremendous additional resources (manpower, material and financial, etc) and efforts that were more than its contractual responsibility to maintain continuous construction, as well as overcome various difficulties during the implementation of the project.

The CMEC kept approaching the Government of Punjab and PTPL for early completion proposal of the project and settlement with respect to major concerns, including permission of extension of time and additional costs settlement.

The company maintains that project prolongation to CMEC has not yet been permitted, which means, simultaneously, CMEC may also suffer from huge amount of Liquidated Damages (LDs) for delay in completion, which causes critical impact and worries and undermines CMEC's confidence in the project. The company maintains that due to the project prolongation, CMEC has suffered from huge cost overrun of which it is fully aware.

“We have paid high attention on the project completion at soonest if the major concerns can be settled amicably among the related parties with win-win situation and it will bring confidence and expedite the project progress if Prime Minister and the federal government could intervene, coordinate and provide more funds support on this project,” he said, and proposed that to ease the financial burden of PTPL at this stage, an additional deferred payment compensation scheme (USD or RMB) during 2-3 years after COD would enable the company to borrow more funds from China to achieve the completion of the project. President CMEC hoped that the project will gain more progress and achieve the commercial operation soon, and that reasonable requests from all concerned parties will be fully considered.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/19/4-page/937157-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

101 years of CPC: A spectacular success

Brig Tariq Khalil (R)

THE other day, China celebrated 101 founding days of Communist Party of China (CPC). 100 years of founding for the party to sustain itself alive and also continue transforming with the changing times to meet the challenges facing it is indeed a daunting task.

The Communist Party of China proved itself a success against the opinion of western analysts and critics, who after the break-up of the Soviet Union had predicted the death of CPC or at least its fast decline.

They have been proved wrong. The party founded on July 1st 1921 in Hong Kong in a small house in the French Concession.

They were originally five main people out of the 57 who took mission to steer and organize this party from beginning.

Chairman MOE was member but he became chairman in 1949. This indicates how difficult to rise to top in the party. It took him more than 20 years.

The transformation of the CPC in the last 100 years is amazing. The first quarter after its founding, the party remained embroiled in struggle against imperialism, the second quarter was engaged in the civil war, and the third in the rectification of the party to take it back to the original founding principles.

The last 25 years, we see the transformation from conventional to modernism encompassing technology to accelerate the China's progress.

There's no doubt over the years these were very testing times for the party. During this period the world saw a series of wars engulfing the whole globe.

The founding members set four principles; first hard work to seek the truth, second the hard work, the sacrifice, and the third, and the four was the principle of simple living.

These four fundamental guiding principles empowered the CPC to penetrate into the hearts and minds of people and this made it possible for the transformation of the party in every decade to ensure that it engulfs them changing times.

The party leadership soon realized the power of the peasantry. It was the primary approach of the party to penetrate first into the peasantry, strengthen its hold in the country's rural areas, consolidate the base of the party and then expand outward toward the urban centres.

This policy allowed the party to strengthen itself and succeed in a series of wars. This was followed by the rectification, under which the party ensured that it does not deviate from the founding principles.

At the same time it prepared itself for social and technical development required in the last 50 years.

Under Chu en li the party adopted the approach to modernize itself and for that emphasis was in three major areas: Hundreds and thousands of students were sent to America and Europe for higher studies who on their return changed the complete spectrum of Chinese education to embrace the technological revolution of the modern advancements.

Second, the emphasis was laid in the integration of technology with the conventional methods.

The thrust has been on research. The doors of Chinese mainland were opened for foreign investment under a sustained government policy.

It allowed the quick turnover of the Chinese economy and soon it narrowed the gap with USA during the period of President Xi.

Chinese leadership realized that economic power is the foundation of the military power thus both these aspects were taken care of simultaneously.

The transformation of the military took place spectacularly in the last 25 years. The transformation is accomplished along with the convention of conventional asset improvement, cyber warfare and researching the space.

They achieved this goal based on hard work, sacrifice, simplicity in living and ensuring excellent art of governance.

Merit is the criteria in China, people are appointed on positions on merit, it automatically ensures success.

It be noted the governance of 1.3 billion people, 57 ethnicities spread in thousands of miles is not an easy task.

The party thus ensured to strengthen at the grass root level to train people for the top positions.

Merit is the only criteria to reach the top. The principle of the best for the job was adopted. There is no space for the incompetent to go to the high places.

The founding principles of Communist Party are the hard work, sacrifice, simple living and zero tolerance for corruption.

The uplift of 700 million people above the poverty line as I mentioned above was not an easy task.

How it was achieved, and what methodology was adopted is amazing. A dual approach was adopted by creating connectivity through super-fast railway systems and road networks in the entire spectrum of China.

Far off regions were thus connected and industrial development ensued. The mesh of education and autonomy to regions enabled them to attract investment.

Supportive transformation of the party enabled multi-dimensional development in every sector from commerce, industry and military.

The development brought prosperity and social development of the people. Great leaps in the field of technology were based on sharing the prosperity within and with other nations.

Peace not the war has been the party's principle. Over one and half million people went abroad as tourists and came back, this portrays the strength of the Chinese system.

China thus is now an economic superpower, with reserves more than three trillion US\$. Economic prosperity enabled China to develop its military prowess.

Chinese strategy has been to mesh military technology in conventional warfare with evolving modern technology.

As Modern Warfare is the combination of conventional forces the physical aspect is integrated with modern technology.

China has been stressing on the celestial and space technology acquisition, and it admitted that China achieved the goal within a short period of last decade.

Let there be no doubt that the sacrifices made by the Chinese people enable them to overcome the difficulties, shed the shackles of imperialism and move forward under the banner of CPC in the last 100 years.

The achievement of economic supremacy by China enabled it to exercise bold but soft diplomacy which is backed by modern army and robust steadfast leadership.

In diplomacy China's strategy has been to use soft power rather than going for force unlike US strategy.

In this BRI is the fulcrum of the economic development at the global level. There is no parallel to this strategy in the last 100 years.

Chinese influence increased tremendously not only in the developing world but also in the African Continent where the countries has been suffering from the colonial yoke for the last over hundred years.

BRI integrated these countries on the course of development unparalleled so far.

Naturally, it hit US objectives; thus, it opposed the BRI and has been pressuring the countries who has been joining the BRI, more than 120 in number by now.

CPEC is the flagship project of BRI which traverse through the Pakistani territory linking Gwadar Port with China and thus creating a gateway to gulf.

CPEC is also a flagship project of Pakistan and there is no doubt that this project when completed will usher Pakistan in new era of industrialization and prosperity.

No wonder it is to be opposed by the status quo powers and supported by many an element within Pakistan.

The transformation of CPC in last 100 years offer a lesson for Pakistan. It should look inward and usher structural reforms with zero tolerance for corruption.

—The author is a senior decorated veteran of 1965 and 1971 wars and backed by 26 years of Corporate Experience. A senior TV Analyst opinion writer. He is member of Karachi Editors Club.

<https://pakobserver.net/101-years-of-cpc-a-spectacular-success-by-brig-tariq-khalil-r/>

July 20, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese firm serves notice on CPPA-G

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: China Huaneng has served notice of non-payment to Central Power Purchasing Agency Guaranteed (CPPA-G) pursuant to guarantee within 30 days.

In a letter to Managing Director, Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Chinese company's Vice President, Fan Jinda says that pursuant to section 1.5.1 of guarantee signed between Huaneng Shandong Ruri (Pakistan) Energy (private) Limited (HRS) and PPIB on January 23, 2017, HRS is notifying the Government of Pakistan through PPIB about non-payment by the CPPA-G of the overdue amount.

The company, in a letter written on July 15, 2022, had made a demand for payment of over Rs 86 billion on immediate basis.

The company has cautioned CPPA-G that in case overdue amount is not settled within 30 days from the submission of letter, it will have no alternative but to demand the amount from the Government of Pakistan under the guarantee.

According to HRS, the total amount of overdue invoices on account of energy payments and capacity payments as on July 14, 2022 was Rs 70,889,690,499 with an additional amount pertaining to delayed payment interest being Rs 15,387,545,709. Thus, the overall overdue amount is Rs 86,277,236,208. After including undue amounts, total receivable outstanding amount was Rs 94,605,704,431 which is the record receivable outstanding balance position since the commissioning of the project pushing the company on the verge of suspension and inability to sustain further operations. "Settle the entire overdue amount of Rs 86,277,236,208 on an urgent basis," said Vice President HRS, warning that consequences/ damages of any shut down of the power plant due to inadequate coal will need to be borne by CPPA-G. The company has also shared its letter with Chinese embassy in Islamabad, Chairman CEPC Authority and other senior officials of concerned Ministries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/20/1-page/937262-news.html>

Daily Times

China Road & Bridge Corporation chief decorated with civil award

On behalf of the President of Pakistan, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque conferred Pakistan's civil award 'Sitara-e-Quaid-i-Azam' upon Lu Shan, Chairman and Party Secretary of China Road and Bridge Corporation, in a special investiture ceremony held here on Tuesday at the Embassy of Pakistan.

The event was attended by the senior officers of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), representatives of media organizations and officers of Pakistan Embassy.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque paid tributes to Chairman Lu Shan's contribution towards Pakistan-China friendship and his role for successful completion of many vital infrastructure projects in Pakistan including Khunjerab-Raikot section of Karakorum Highway and KKH realignment projects at Attabad Lake and Havelian-Thakot sections.

Ambassador Haque highlighted that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a central pillar of Pakistan's socio-economic development and that the two countries would ensure its smooth and steady implementation as envisaged by their leadership.

In his remarks, Lu Shan expressed his gratitude to the government and peoples of Pakistan for the conferment of civil award.

He reiterated that China's leading state owned enterprises would continue to develop Pakistan transport and infrastructure network for nation's socioeconomic development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/969041/china-road-bridge-corporation-chief-decorated-with-civil-award/>

G7 Infrastructure Plan to counter BRI

Waseem Shabbir

The 48th summit of G-7 was held in Germany's Schloss Elmau last month. As usual, this summit was again based on crafting anti-China policies, agreements and nexuses. However, the gigantic development that came to the fore this time was the proclamation of a mega project named "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment" (PGII) unanimously by G7 countries, including the US, UK, Canada, and 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 new packing. The prime objective of both of these initiatives is starkly to give an alternative to China's globally expanding project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

All G7 countries have pledged to collectively make a huge investment of USD 600 billion for the next five years up to 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 the "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 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 would be covering 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 World Bank's Childcare Incentive, funds of \$50 million have been announced by 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 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 new world order is rapidly evolving from unipolar to bipolar, which is blatantly bullying the US unilateralism.

The US National Security Adviser Jack Sullivan who is an important member of this newly launched project uttered at a strategic event hosted by the Centre for New American Security last week that 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." However, in his announcement, Biden made his motive clear, "It's an investment that will deliver returns for everyone, including the American people and the people of all our nations."

Now, the question that emanates in my mind is that "Would G7's PGII be able to actually counter China's trillion dollars BRI project?"

Let's make a prudent comparison between PGII and BRI to ascertain which stands out as a broader project out of the two — PGII or BRI. The BRI is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program spanning over 71 countries primarily from Asia, Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East commenced in 2013. It aims at developing infrastructure corridors in the above-stated regions that would cost an estimated USD 4 to 8 trillion, which is expected to touch the 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 a minute amount of USD 2.8 billion G7 under (PGII) will invest in the first go merely in few countries.

Unlike PGII soft projects, projects of BRI are mainly focused on hard infrastructure which includes building bridges, spreading a network of rail and roads, minings, constructing seaports, 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. Under BRI, China is

completely focused on accelerating the economic integration among countries along the historic Silk Road via six corridors including New Eurasian Land Bridge Corridor, China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, China-Central Asia- West Asia Economic Corridor, China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, Bangladesh- China- India- Myanmar Economic Corridor and China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Moreover, connecting China to the Middle East, the African continent and Europe via maritime routes extending from the Pacific Ocean to the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea and finally to the Mediterranean sea is also part of the BRI project. Hence, it can easily be assessed from the above discussion that the quantum and size of the BRI scheme are much bigger before the tiny initiative of PGII. Critically examined and analysed, 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 the 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 solely to counterbalance China's BRI. Otherwise, the bloc of G7 has nothing to do with the betterment, prosperity and infrastructural development of third-world countries. The nefarious designs of Western Powers behind trapping developing countries in their inescapable net of IMF are not clandestine from anyone. Therefore, these initiatives by the west aimed at ameliorating the lives of people in poor countries are absolutely unjustifiable.

It is an undeniable truth that the new world order is rapidly evolving from unipolar to bipolar, which is blatantly bullying the US unilateralism. Both 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 the US as a superpower soon if it keeps rising and progressing at the same pace and momentum. The US has left no stone unturned and has practised all kinds of stratagems to counter China's rise. In a fit of virulence against China, the US besides (B3W and PGII) had also forged military alliances termed AUKUS and QUAD with her allies inclining 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 the 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, "a bloc representing merely 777 million population could not dictate the global terms as opposed to the BRICS that represents over 3.2 billion population that makes 40% of the world population". In addition, BRICS nations collectively account for 25% of the global economy, and 18% of the world trade and contribute 50% to the world economic growth.

Thus, it is proved that the G7 bid wrapped in this newly announced initiative (PGII) is too frail to counter China's mega-project and G7 is making its international mockery by launching PGII, which is just a pinch of salt before the BRI- a vigorous economic project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/968977/g7-infrastructure-plan-to-counter-bri/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC's extension to Afghanistan

DURING a meeting in Islamabad, China's Special Envoy on Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood discussed the idea of extending China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to Afghanistan which indeed will entail immense benefits not only for the war-torn country to rebuild its economy but also ensure flow of goods in the region up to the Central Asian States.

During a visit to Kabul, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had also expressed the willingness to push for extending the CPEC to Afghanistan. Indeed, China has the resources to build the necessary road and rail infrastructure to make connectivity smoother between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

This will be win-win cooperation as whilst ensuring regional connectivity it will promote local trade.

Both Afghanistan and the Central Asian States which are landlocked countries will then also be able to benefit from the ports of Gwadar and Karachi for their trade with the rest of the world.

Given its immense benefits, there should not be any delay in execution of the extension project after deliberations with the Afghan authorities.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have already envisaged construction of a five billion dollars rail line which will link Peshawar and Tashkent via Kabul.

If China becomes part of this project, this will help ensure its early completion. Then there is also dire need to upgrade the rail infrastructure of Pakistan Railways from Karachi to Peshawar as this will prove to be an important connectivity route for cheap transportation of goods from the markets in Afghanistan and Central Asia to Pakistan and to onward places.

Hence, obstacles in the way of ML-1 should be removed to reap its true benefits.

We believe that the CPEC's footprints in Afghanistan will also have a spillover effect in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan.

This will definitely encourage the Chinese companies to make their investment in different sectors of Afghanistan's economy.

This path of development in fact is the way forward to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan which will have a salutary impact on the entire region.

We once again commend Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of shared prosperity and we are confident that this path will be pursued with much more vigour and determination in the months and years ahead to bring a real change in the life of the people of this region.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-extension-to-afghanistan/>

CPEC and Pakistan Energy Pursuits

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Easy and smooth supplies of energy resources have become the mantra of every country in the world.

Emerging complex and complicated geopolitics has further increased the doctrines of food & energy security and Pakistan is not any exception.

In this rapidly changing scenario, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) , a flagship project of the BRI, has further streamlined, systemized and strengthened the capacity building mechanism of the country's energy production.

In this context, right from the beginning it initiated an integrated and holistic policy to pull the country from the darkness of long and painful load shedding and gradually increased its overall energy production chain in the country.

CPEC power plants are the most efficient in Pakistan and they are an exemplar for Pakistan's energy scenario. Unfortunately, Pakistan's current energy sector is badly affected because of inbuilt chronic inefficiencies, burgeoning circular debt and massive dependence on imported fossil fuels. However, current coal imports from Afghanistan have provided some relief.

Energy has a direct economic correlation. In this regard, the energy crisis has a direct impact on economic activity and hit lower-income citizens the hardest.

Even industrial production has been compromised due to supply of adequate energy in the country.

CPEC has been one of the key economic dominators, stimulators and drivers of Pakistan's macro-economy due to which the efficiency and productivity of the energy sector has increased and it has also brought investment to the country. Hopefully further investments to develop power, gas and petroleum infrastructure will enhance its potential and production capacity.

In this connection, CPEC's most recently inaugurated hydropower project Karot is very important for the national interest and energy security. It will decrease energy production price and provide a cheap energy source in the national grid.

It will be a giant step towards de-carbonization and climate change. It will provide cheap electricity to five million houses.

The government of Pakistan has already selected many sites where many hydropower plants may be built.

Good thing is that Mangla Dam and Tarbela Dam projects, being mega hydropower plants after running for 20 to 25 years, the cost of generating electricity from these two is just the cost of operating a turbine.

Moreover, the initial cost of new proposed hydropower plants is very high, but it seems that over the period of time, it is in the country's interest to use indigenous resources.

Because of high prices in the international markets the imported fuel has been a great worry and burden on the national treasury. Thus there is an urgent need to transform the country's mix and gradually move towards hydro and renewable energy sources.

Thar has great potential to play 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. Pakistan may generate additional energy from its own resources, through coal produced in the country.

In Thar, coal is being extracted during nine month due to which 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.

Furthermore, such a holistic production chain mechanism in Thar can lead to overall socio-economic uplift of the region, improvement of the country and improvement of the local population.

The CPEC has been doing a great job to transform the energy outlook of the country by initiating, implementing and completing numerous energy small, medium and mega projects in the country.

720 MW Karot Hydropower Project, AJK/Punjab, 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant, 1320MW Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim Karachi, 1320MW China Hub Coal Power Project, Hub Balochistan, 660MW Engro Thar Coal Power Project, 1000MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park (Bahawalpur), 50 MW Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Gharo, Thatta, 100MW UEP Wind Farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, 50MW Sachal Wind Farm ,Jhimpir, Thatta, 100MW Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Project, Matiari to Lahore ± 660 KV HVDC Transmission Line Project, 1320 SSRL Thar Coal Block-I 7.8 mtpa & Power Plant (2 \times 660MW) (Shanghai Electric), 330MW HUBCO Thar Coal Power Project (Thar Energy), 330MW HUBCO Thal Nova Thar Coal Power Project, 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, KP, 300MW Coal-Fired Power Project at Gwadar, 1124MW Kohala Hydropower Project, AJK, 700.7MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project, AJK/Punjab, 1320 MW Thar Mine Mouth Oracle Power Plant & surface mine, 50MW Cacho Wind Power Project, 50MW Western Energy (Pvt.) Ltd.

Wind Power Projects are the numerous energy projects under the flagship of CPEC which has actually further consolidated energy potential, production and energy plants in the country.

On its part to control and substantially reduce the energy deficit which is now at 4,848 megawatts, the incumbent government has reopened some of the closed plants. At the start of June, citizens reeled under 12-hour-long prolonged power outages as the electricity shortfall increased to 6,690 MW.

Then earlier this month, PM Shehbaz had ordered authorities to reopen closed power plants to ease the electricity crisis in the country.

Chairing a meeting in Lahore on the power situation, he had also sought an explanation for the prolonged spells of electricity outages.

The power shortfall in the country back then had reached 7,787 MW, because of which electricity outages of up to 16 hours were being carried out in different parts of the country.

However, the situation is becoming better now as the power outages in the major cities of the country have reduced to around two to three hours a day.

The sources said the total production of electricity was 20,152 MW against the demand of 25,900 MW.

6400 MW electricity was being generated from hydropower sources and government thermal plants were producing 1,233 MW.

The total production of private sector power plants is 9,500 MW. Wind power plants are generating 500 MW and the contribution of solar energy stands at 113 MW. Biogas-powered plants are producing 121 MW and nuclear fuel is generating 2,285 MW.

The water supply situation has started improving in the country after the recent spell of rains as was evident from increased flow in rivers.

A Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) shared details of Pakistan's reservoirs, showing an improvement in the inflows.

The water inflow in Tarbela Dam was 89,700 cusecs and the outflow was 12,000 cusecs. The inflow in Mangla stood at 30,700 cusecs and outflow is 15,000 cusecs.

The inflow in Chashma is 233,500 cusecs and outflow 219,900 cusecs. At Head Marala, the inflow of water into the Chenab River is 68,700 cusecs and the discharge is 43,600 cusecs.

The inflow of water into the Kabul River in Nowshera is 59,600 cusecs and the outflow is 59,600 cusecs.

To conclude it is high time to completely transform the energy outlook of the country in terms of investment, production methods, cycles and means. More focus should be given to develop and build hydropower plants in the country in which CPEC Phase-II would be a game changer.

Keeping in view, regional rivalry with India, looming threat of non-state actor of climate change and increasing prices of fuels in international market, it is suggested that public-private partnership in the country and new business model of production and profit sharing with Chinese private companies may be a good omen for further production of hydropower and development of renewables in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-pakistan-energy-pursuits-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC leading jobs creation

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has emerged as a symbol of peaceful development in Pakistan and most importantly known as a cornerstone for job creation in the country.

Pakistan, being a close neighbor and with having a brotherly relationship with China, is lucky enough to get the best cooperative agreement under BRI that has laid the foundation of infrastructural development, building of energy projects and industrial zones, modernization of agricultural infrastructure, development of Gwadar port and many other significant achievements has been recorded.

The very latest development recorded shows that Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$1.605 billion in the first five months of 2022, up 5.42% year on year.

Pakistan Embassy Commercial Counsellor in Beijing Badaruz Zaman said that "China-Pakistan free trade agreement will create more space for service trade. Bilateral trade between the two countries will cross \$50 billion within the next five years. This year, the trade volume will cross \$32 billion.

It shows that since the launch of CPEC trade activities between two sides have also geared up and cultivated the benefits for the people on both sides effectively.

"Employment outlook of CPEC: A meta-analysis" research study shows that CPEC has generated 80,000 jobs so far in different projects commenced since 2013, and has a potential to create a total of 1.2 million direct jobs through its currently agreed projects.

Moreover, with the inclusion of new projects under the CPEC long-term plan in sectors like agriculture, tourism, mineral processing, oil and gas and services, the job portfolio is likely to be enhanced manifold.

Developing countries, on the other hand, are undergoing the phase to just identify the number of jobs which will be created in the near future rather than classifying the skills required.

This leads us to start from the first phase in order to illustrate and highlight the future of direct jobs in Pakistan while keeping in contrast the current market scenario.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), CPEC is estimated to create 400,000 jobs in the country, while according to the estimates of Applied Economic Research Centre, the mega-initiative would provide around 700,000 direct jobs between 2015 and 2030. The Planning Commission's data shows even more promising results, with CPEC generating around 800,000 jobs in the next 15 years.

The study also claims that Navigant Consulting USA (2009) has estimated 5.10 Jobs per MW, while, in a recent study of ILO (2017) 4 direct jobs per MW have been estimated.

According to future job estimation of the Gilgit-Baltistan Government (GB-WAPDA), the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government (AJK Hydro Electric Board) and the Private Power and infrastructure Board (PPIB), 11.66 Per/MW jobs are projected at construction phase and 3 jobs per/MW at Operation and Maintenance phase (O & M) (ILO-Pakistan, 2015).

These benchmarks suggest a number of 40,000 to 50,000 expected jobs through CPEC hydro power projects.

CPEC includes the Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park located in Bahawalpur, Punjab with a capacity of 1,000 MW, out of which 300 MW is in production.

According to the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA, 2017) PV module manufacturing creates 3-7 direct jobs and 12-20 indirect jobs per MW installed. Thus this facility has the potential of 7000 direct and 20000 indirect job creation.

EWEA report (2008) suggests that solar energy projects would require seven jobs/MW and has similar O&M job creation as that of coal and Hydroelectric projects. Four wind projects are underway with respect to CPEC energy projects, each of which is 50 MW.

The Global Wind Energy Council (2012) has estimated that the global average of employment generation is fourteen individuals per MW in one person year. This estimation includes component manufacturing, wind farm development, construction and maintenance, whereas in the operations and maintenance, the average employment generation is 0.33 Per MW per plant yearly.

Thus the number of direct job potential for CPEC wind is calculated as 2800 during CIM and 66 jobs per year during O & M phases. EWEA report (2008) suggests that wave energy projects would require 10 jobs/MW and has similar O&M job creation as that of coal and Hydroelectric projects.

Coal projects have a large share under CPEC energy projects with an estimated investment of \$5.8 billion as a part of early harvest. Singh & Fehrs (2001) suggested that 0.18 employment production per MW is expected during the O & M phase from an average coal-fired power plant. In addition, immense jobs are created during the transportation of inputs and mining operations.

Despite the estimates of Sign & Fehrs (2001), the estimates calculated by the Coal Industry Advisory Board (2014) are relatively more recent, whereas an advanced 3960 megawatt (MW) coal project, the Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) is considered as a better source for future estimations. According to this study, 1.26 & 0.16 direct jobs per MW are created during CIM and O&M phases respectively.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-leading-jobs-creation>

The Nation

SCO SG Arrives In Islamabad Tomorrow

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD – The Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Zhang Ming is arriving in Islamabad on July 21 on a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Diplomatic sources told The Nation that it would be the first-ever visit by SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming to Pakistan.

He is visiting Pakistan ahead of the SCO Foreign Ministers Conference taking place on July 28-29 in Tashkent.

During his visit Zhang Ming would meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Islamabad. He would also deliver a lecture at Islamabad Institute of Strategic Studies on July 22.

Zhang Ming who is a seasoned Chinese diplomat was elected to a three-year term in January this year and assumed his responsibilities on January 1 2022.

SCO FM Conference

Meanwhile SCO Foreign Ministers Conference in Tashkent on July 28 would be represented by Pakistan as well.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would lead Pakistani delegation in the SCO FM moot.

He would also meet foreign ministers of the participating countries on the sidelines of the conference.

Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers may face each other on the sidelines of the conference.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/20/sco-sg-arrives-in-islamabad-tomorrow/>

Chinese Company To Operate Two Units Of PTPL Thermal Power Plants In Jhang, Punjab

BEIJING – China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) will operate two units of thermal power plants of Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Ltd (PTPL) in Jhang district of Punjab province. PTPL has signed an operations and maintenance agreement with CMEC in this regard, CEN reported. “As we move closer to achieving simple-cycle Commercial Operations Date (COD), we have signed a simple-cycle O&M agreement with CMEC,” the Punjab government-owned company said. CMEC is also the EPC contractor of the power plant, which has two RLNG-based units of 410MWs each, and a steam unit of 443 megawatts. On the same day, CMEC put the second gas turbine (GT2) to a 7-day reliability test run, which will conclude on July 22. GT1 has already passed the reliability-run test and is currently undergoing performance tests. The two units are expected to achieve COD on August 1, a CMEC official said. Both units will start contributing

820MWs of electricity to the national grid from next month, he said. On the other hand, work on the steam unit is also almost complete, but will take around six months in achieving COD, as it involves complicated pre-commissioning procedures including chemical cleaning of the boiler, the official said. According to PTPL, the power plant has already contributed over 100 million units of electricity during the commissioning and testing phase.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/20/chinese-company-to-operate-two-units-of-ptpl-thermal-power-plants-in-jhang-punjab/>

Jang News

پاکستان اور چین کو دور نہیں ہونا چاہئے

پاکستان اور چین دونوں اہم ملک ہیں، دونوں کی ابتدائی قیادتوں کو آنے والے حالات کا اندازہ تھا اس لئے دونوں نے دوستی کا بندھن باندھا، دونوں ایک دوسرے کے اتنے قریب ہوئے کہ یہ دوستی مثال بن گئی۔ یہ بھی کہا گیا کہ یہ دوستی سمندروں سے گہری ہے، ہمالیہ سے بلند ہے اور شہد سے زیادہ میٹھی ہے۔ تاریخ اس سچائی پر مٹی نہیں ڈال سکتی کہ چین کی تیرہ ملکوں سے سرحدیں ملتی ہیں اور چین کا اپنے ہر ہمسائے کے ساتھ کسی نہ کسی دور میں تنازع رہا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کی محبت ہمیشہ ہی سے قائم ہے۔ خنجراب کی طرف سے پاکستان کی سرحدوں سے ملتی تھی اور روس ہر قیمت پر گرم پانیوں تک رسائی چاہتا تھا، رسائی کا یہ راستہ بند کرنے کیلئے پاکستان نے وہاں سے کچھ علاقہ چین کو دے دیا جبکہ چین نے ایک اور طرف سے کچھ علاقہ پاکستان کو دے دیا۔ چین جب دنیا کے لئے بند تھا اور امریکی چین سے ملنے کیلئے بے تاب تھے تو دونوں ملکوں کا ملاپ پاکستان نے کروایا۔

چین کو پاکستان کی ترقی عزیز ہے اس لئے کچھ سال پہلے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا آغاز ہوا۔ عام طور پر آپ سی پیک کا تذکرہ سنتے ہیں۔ یہی وہ منصوبہ ہے جو پاکستان کی اقتصادی حالت بدل دے گا مگر کیا سمجھئے کہ اس منصوبے کے پیچھے پورا جہان پڑا ہوا ہے۔ اس نازک مرحلے پر دونوں ملکوں کی قیادتوں کو چاہئے کہ وہ اپنے منصوبے کو سست روی کا شکار نہ ہونے دیں۔ اس سلسلے میں حکومت پاکستان کو ہی نہیں ریاست پاکستان کو بڑا کردار ادا کرنا چاہئے۔ کیا یہ بات درست نہیں کہ شمال میں قراقرم کے بلند و بالا پہاڑوں سے لے کر بحیرہ عرب کے نیلے پانیوں تک بہترین سڑکوں کا جال ہونا چاہئے۔ اس سلسلے میں گزشتہ آٹھ سال میں خاطر خواہ کامیابی ہوئی۔ سی پیک کے تحت بننے والی شاندار سڑکوں نے فاصلوں کو سمیٹا، اس وقت پشاور سے کراچی جانے کے لئے کم از کم سکھر تک شاندار سڑک ہے، سکھر سے حیدر آباد اور پھر حیدر آباد سے کراچی تک شاندار سڑک بن گئی تو ایک انقلاب برپا ہو جائے گا۔ اسی طرح اسلام آباد کے نزدیک ہیکلہ سے ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان تک شاندار سڑک نے فاصلوں کو کم کیا ہے۔ یہ شاندار سڑکیں ہی ہماری اقتصادی حالت بدلیں گی کیونکہ صنعتی اور زرعی پیداوار کو پاپیہ پختیل تک پہنچانے کیلئے سڑکوں کا شاندار ہونا ضروری ہے۔

شاید آپ کو یاد نہ ہو کہ جب گوادر میں بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کی بات چلی تو چینی قیادت نے ہمارے سامنے چار چیزیں رکھیں۔ اول یہ کہ گوادر میں بندرگاہ تعمیر ہوگی، دوئم، اس بندرگاہ کو کامیاب بنانے کیلئے سڑکوں کا شاندار منصوبہ ہوگا اس لئے کہ خالی سڑکیں روزگار فراہم نہیں کرتیں سو چینوں نے تیسرے نمبر پر کہا کہ آپ کے صنعتی زون بنیں گے۔ پھر سوال یہ تھا کہ جس ملک کو ازبجی کی کمی کا سامنا ہو وہاں صنعتی زون کیا کریں گے تو چینوں نے چوتھی بات یہ کہ ہم پاور پلانٹس لگائیں گے تاکہ ازبجی کی کمی کا احساس نہ ہو۔ اس طرح لوگوں کو روزگار ملے گا۔ چین تو زرعی شعبے میں بھی ہماری مدد کو تیار ہے تاکہ ایک صاف ستھرا، سبز اور ہر ابھر پاکستان نظر آئے۔ مثلاً چین گوادر میں صنعت کیلئے فری زون قائم کرے گا، گوادر میں شاندار ہوائی اڈا تعمیر کر کے چین گوادر کو دنیا سے ایک اور طرح سے جوڑنا چاہتا ہے۔ چین گوادر میں شاندار اسپتال قائم کرے گا، چین گوادر میں روزگار کے اور منصوبے بھی قائم کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

گزشتہ سال نومبر میں کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور اسٹیشن نے کام شروع کر دیا۔ یہ منصوبہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا شاندار منصوبہ ہے۔ چین پاکستان میں ڈیموں کی تعمیر کے سلسلے میں بھی مدد کر رہا ہے۔ ظاہر ہے جب ڈیم بنیں گے تو سستی بجلی مہیا ہوگی اور دوسری طرف پاکستان کا یہ آبی ذخیرہ ہماری بنجر زمینوں کو آباد کرے گا۔ یہ زمینیں سونا آگلیں گی۔ پچھلے کچھ عرصے سے پاکستان میں پانی کی مسلسل کمی ہو رہی ہے۔ نئے ڈیموں کی تعمیر سے نہ صرف پانی کی یہ کمی دور ہوگی بلکہ اضافی پانی بھی ہمارے پاس ہوگا۔ ہمیں اپنی زراعت کو جدید بنانے کیلئے بھی چین سے مدد لینا چاہئے تاکہ ہماری زرعی پیداوار میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہو۔

چین پاکستان میں ایسے صنعتی پارک آباد کرنا چاہتا ہے جو آلودگی سے پاک ہوں تاکہ پاکستان میں صاف ستھرے ماحول رہے، اس طرح وطن عزیز ماحولیاتی آلودگی سے بچ جائے گا۔ دونوں ملکوں کو ایک دوسرے کی اہمیت کو سمجھنا چاہئے کیونکہ دونوں ملک ایک دوسرے کیلئے انتہائی اہم ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان کو اپنی دوستی بد نظروں سے بچانی چاہئے۔ خطے میں دونوں ملکوں کی مضبوطی ہی پائیدار عالمی امن کی ضمانت ہے۔ بقول شکیل بدایونی

مجھے دوست کہنے والے ذرا دوستی نبھا دے

یہ مطالبہ ہے حق کا کوئی التجا نہیں ہے

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1114326>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی بیک ترقی کا پیش خیمہ، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز اقتصادی ترقی کے ضامن

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی بیک ترقی کا پیش خیمہ، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز اقتصادی ترقی کے ضامن، پاکستانی تاجروں کیلئے کاروبار کے وسیع مواقع، چینی سرمایہ کاری سے معیشت مستحکم ہوگی۔ روزگار کے لاکھوں مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ لوگ سی بیک روٹ پر ورکشاپس، ریٹیل، ہول سیل کی دکانیں، ریسٹوراں اور ہوٹل قائم کر سکتے ہیں۔ ویٹھ پاک کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت ملک میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں سے پاکستانی تاجروں نے بڑی توقعات وابستہ کر رکھی ہیں۔ صنعتکاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ سی بیک منصوبے اور خصوصی اقتصادی زونز ملک میں تجارتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دیں گے۔ یہ منصوبے مقامی تاجروں اور تاجروں کو اپنے کاروبار کو وسعت دینے کے وسیع مواقع فراہم کریں گے۔ چینی سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان کو کاروبار کے لیے سازگار ماحول پیدا کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ معاشی سرگرمیوں میں اضافے سے ملک بھر میں لاکھوں ملازمتیں پیدا کرنے کے علاوہ مقامی کاروباری افراد کو بھی فائدہ پہنچے گا۔ سی بیک کے تحت منصوبے مقامی کمپنیوں کو غیر ملکی فرموں کے ساتھ شراکت داری کرنے کے قابل بنائیں گے۔ پاکستانی کمپنیاں دنیا کے دیگر ممالک میں اپنے گاہکوں کے ساتھ کاروبار کرنے کے لیے چینی فرموں کے ساتھ مشترکہ منصوبے بھی شروع کر سکتی ہیں۔ نئے کاروبار قائم مزید سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کریں گے اور پاکستان میں صنعت کاری لائیں گے۔ چین کی بیفٹی یونیورسٹی آف ٹیکنالوجی میں پوسٹ ڈاکٹریٹ اسکالرشپ کے حصول کی تحقیق کے مطابق صنعت کاری ملک میں معاشی ترقی کا انجن ہے۔ کاروباری افراد مارکیٹ کی ضروریات کو سمجھتے ہیں اور منافع بخش کاروبار کی نشاندہی کرتے ہیں۔ شمسہ کنول نے ویٹھ پاک کو بتایا کہ تحقیق کے دوران 255 سو الٹاناموں کے نمونوں کا استعمال کرتے ہوئے سی بیک کے بارے میں مقامی صنعت کاروں کے رویے کا مطالعہ کیا گیا۔ سروے کے نتائج سے ظاہر ہوا کہ سی بیک کی وجہ سے مقامی نقل و حمل اور شہروں تک رسائی میں بہتری نے تاجروں اور صنعت کاروں کے رویے پر مثبت اثر ڈالا ہے۔ ہماری تحقیق سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ سی بیک کی ترقی کے ساتھ مقامی نقل و حمل کے بنیادی ڈھانچے میں بھی بہتری آئے گی اور چھوٹے گاؤں بڑے شہروں سے منسلک ہوں گے۔ یہ مقامی کمیونٹی کو سی بیک روٹ کے ساتھ مختلف قسم کے کاروبار میں مشغول کرنے کے قابل بنائے گا۔ لوگ سی بیک روٹ پر ورکشاپس، ریٹیل، ہول سیل کی دکانیں، ریسٹوراں اور ہوٹل قائم کر سکتے ہیں۔ وہ چینی صارفین کو مقامی سامان فروخت کر سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پالیسی سازوں اور متعلقہ حکام کو چاہیے کہ وہ سی بیک منصوبوں کے فوائد کو عام کریں۔ مقامی تاجروں اور صنعت

کاروں کو سی پیک کی اہمیت اور خطے کی ترقی پر اس کے اثرات سے آگاہ کیا جائے۔ ایک آگاہی مہم شروع کی جائے اور ملک بھر میں کانفرنسوں کا اہتمام کیا جائے جس میں متعلقہ حکام اور سکالرز تاجر برادری اور مقامی لوگوں کو سی پیک کے تحت پیدا ہونے والے مواقع سے آگاہ کر سکیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-07-20/page-12/detail-1>

July 21, 2022

Business Recorder

‘CPEC offers huge opportunity to local logistic companies’

KARACHI: CPEC offers a huge business opportunity to Pakistan’s logistic companies in the areas of truck operations.

Speaking to the media roundtable on Wednesday, Haris Jamali CEO TCS Private Limited has said the government is working along with the private sector to enhance the logistic network via road links among the regional countries to tap into the potential of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the Central Asian Countries.

He said that CPEC offers a huge business opportunity to Pakistan’s logistic companies with the focus to provide them access to Central Asian countries till Uzbekistan hence the policy framework is being finalized to kick start the operations of enhancing connectivity within the region.

Haris further pointed out that various pilot projects of cargo transportation have been completed successfully between Pakistan and Uzbekistan with private companies including TCS Pvt. Ltd. Pakistan needs to focus on the protection of local players to open the borders with Uzbekistan keeping in mind the trade balance which should maintain a surplus in values to contribute positively to the economy, he added.

Speaking to the media about the courier’s business countrywide, he said with the growing e-commerce business, the business of the courier may grow at the rate of 5-6 percent per annum despite issues and challenges to the economy. “We are working closely with our international partner to provide them with speedy logistic services in different countries to enhance the export volume of the country in different sectors including Daraz and Alibaba”, he mentioned. In this regard, he said that there are multiple challenges to streamlining logistic channels in Pakistan with different countries which may take time to proceed but it will ultimately enhance the reach of Pakistan brands and products in different countries.

CEO TCS said that the cost of operations of the logistics operators increased by 50 percent due to the increasing prices of petroleum products in the country but the companies did pass on the prices by 3-4 percent at a local level.

He said that being the largest market player in Pakistan, TCS is introducing innovations and environment-friendly business practices which will include the use of electric bikes and vehicles,

the launch of drones, and the utilization of digital channels and means to reduce the use of papers in the operations.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/21/3-page/937423-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese firms invited to explore Pakistan for future investments

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moinul Haque has invited the Chinese technology enterprises to come and visit Pakistan and explore the country for their future businesses and investment and asked them to take advantage of incentives being offered by the government, Gwadar Pro reported. “We are promoting establishment of Chinese industries, manufacturing units in special economic and technologies zones and facilitating their exports also beyond Pakistan to the neighbouring regions,” he made these remarks while addressing the participants of China Pakistan Technology Investment Conference.

Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA) hosted the conference in collaboration here with Pakistan Embassy. Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan’s young population presents a great potential and opportunities for the Chinese companies to establish their businesses in Pakistan and use huge skilled human resource in the field of IT and software development.

Pakistan can also serve as a very important regional hub for the Chinese companies to do business with the Central Asia, Middle East and onwards to Africa, he added. He said that the Chinese enterprises were being offered special incentives and tax rebates as well as other facilities to set up their businesses.

Ambassador Haque mentioned the presence of a number of Chinese technologies companies particularly Huawei which have a very old association and important business with Pakistan. He pointed out that other Chinese companies like Alibaba, Tencent, Xiaomi, ZTE, Oppo and Haier as well as automobile and electric vehicle manufacturing companies were now looking Pakistan as their future investment destination.

While highlighting the special and unique nature of the China-Pakistan friendship, he said that it was an all-weather strategic partnership and iron brotherhood, which has been nurtured over the years by successive generations of our leaders and people, adding, this relationship is deeply rooted in the hearts of our people. He remarked that cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, investment and technology has become a very important part of bilateral agenda and one of the manifestation of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is the flagship project of President Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative.

He said the two countries have already constituted a joint working group on science and technology. Last year, both countries also established a new working group in the field of information technology, which would give a strong boost to our cooperation in the areas of, for example, artificial intelligence, robotics, cloud computing, bio medical engineering, smart industries, and semiconductor industry as well.

“We have also established China-Pakistan digital corridor with the aim to promote and strengthen our cooperation in the field of digitalization and emerging technologies,” he added.

While appreciating China’s progress in the field of science and technology and IT, he said that China was now leading in many new technologies and “We will be very keen to develop a close relationship with Chinese state institutions and private sector and we are learning from Chinese expertise and experience in these fields”, he said. Ambassador Haque said that the two countries were also promoting very close collaboration besides the technology companies, the Chinese technology universities and “we are very grateful to many Chinese universities for helping Pakistan in the field of academics and research”, he said.

He termed the holding of conference very important first step towards strengthening China-Pakistan cooperation in IT sector and expressed the confidence that it would be able to bring forward new ideas and very important suggestions promote cooperation and bring investments. He also assured the participants of his full support for making this cooperation more productive, fruitful and win win for both countries.

Chairman, STZA, Amer Hashmi delivered a keynote address while Cao Zhouhua, First Secretary, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and officials of STZA also spoke on the occasion. It may be mentioned that the conference was a great success as nearly 1000 enterprises and companies joined it. The conference aimed to target collaboration in the areas of technology, academics, research, and skill development programs.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/969660/chinese-firms-invited-to-explore-pakistan-for-future-investments/>

The Nation

Pak-China Research Centre To Be Set Up At Swat University

ISLAMABAD- The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has allocated funds for the establishment of the Pak-China Research Centre of Economic Development (PCRCED) at the University of Swat, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

With an estimated cost of Rs1,230.540 million, the project will be completed in five years. In its budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023, KP has allocated Rs56.420 million, while the balance will be released in the coming years.

The proposed Pak-China Research Centre will facilitate the study and research on diverse arts, cultures, history, and politics of China and the Swat valley.

Through exchange programmes, the centre can further enhance people-to-people contact between Swat valley and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. They already have centuries-old cultural and business ties, as geographically Swat valley and Xinjiang are not far from each other, only Gilgit-Baltistan lies between them.

“PCRCED will serve as a think tank and research centre for research studies on matters of mutual interest between Pakistan and China,” the University of Swat Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Hassan Sher told Gwadar Pro, adding that the centre is expected to “contribute immensely to the students, people of the areas and the country.”

According to the VC, the University of Swat is located on the main route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), thus increasing the value of the proposed institute.

“The centre will also develop a mechanism to prepare graduates to fully exploit opportunities arising out of CPEC and related projects,” he said. In the context of the ‘Pakistan Vision 2025’ which emphasises indigenous resources for economic development, Dr Hassan Sher said that the centre would use local resources for the development of the local community and Pakistan as a whole. Even as an idea, PCRCED is creating enthusiasm among the people of Swat. Once operational, it will not only help the development of Swat and neighbouring areas, but also will give youth the great opportunity of working, earning, and remaining in their ancestral areas rather than undertaking internal or external migration which comes at great personal and national cost.

There are countless ways via which the centre can contribute: training and developing local human resources required down the road in the implementation of CPEC long-term plan; and developing the capacity of other Pakistani universities to provide useful policy inputs to the government relating to the CPEC long-term plan. The centre can play an important role in understanding the history, culture, and governance systems that have made possible the “Chinese miracle” – how in some seven decades, China lifted itself out of poverty to become a world power.

PCRCED wants to become a model mini-flagship project in the larger CPEC and BRI context and plans to be in touch with the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad in the near future, to revive and expand its centuries-old ties with China.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/21/pak-china-research-centre-to-be-set-up-at-swat-university/>

The News

Chinese cooperation open to all in Pakistan: Zhao Shiren

Mian Saifur Rehman & Asif Mehmood

LAHORE: Unlike some developed countries like those in G-7 and similar blocs, China is a South to South development partner of many developing countries, including those of the region, and it will continue collaborating with Pakistan regardless of which party rules it.

These views were expressed by Consul General of China, Lahore, Mr Zhao Shiren, during an exclusive panel interview with The News and Jang.

The Consul General was asked as to why China preferred to consider itself a developing country despite having attained mammoth economic growth. The envoy replied that, in this manner,

China continues to aim high to attain maximum, sustainable growth. At this juncture, the CG also drew a clear-cut comparison of China's economic ties at the international level with the economic ties of the North or the developed world with the countries of the Third World or South. "We are not donors like these developed countries; we are development partners".

Unfurling China's economic story, Mr Shiren told The News and Jang that China became the second largest economy of the world in 2010, surpassing Japan and, at present, China's GDP stood at 1.77 trillion US Dollars, with its per capita income standing at 12,000 Dollars per annum. It overcame the absolute poverty level not only according to Chinese standards but also on the basis of UN benchmarks of poverty through a sustained poverty alleviation programme. He added, "In our latest Economic Development Plan, we aim to achieve the GDP growth rate of 5.5 which is quite challenging. It is our conviction that China will become the world's number one economy in the next five to six years or so".

When asked to enumerate a few keys to such a marvelous success, he stated that Security, Sustainability, Continuity and Harmonisation (among different tiers of the system of governance) were the main factors leading to China's economic stability although "We did face certain challenging moments but the sustainability, continuity and harmonisation factors in our system worked wonders to overcome these odds and difficulties putting China back on the trajectory of growth".

Explaining these factors one by one, the envoy told these scribes that once a policy was formulated after thorough deliberations at and among different tiers, the policies are never abandoned by the state office-holders as well as the officials replacing the former functionaries who continue to come and go in usual routine. These constitute sustainability and continuity factors. As for harmonisation, "it is a smooth structural arrangement among the Centre and different provinces of China". The CG gave an example of China's National Power (Energy) Grid that has a well-coordinated system with all the provinces.

Giving further information about the CPEC projects, the diplomat also mentioned Orange Line Train and appreciated its smooth operations to the satisfaction of thousands of Pakistani commuters who pay very low fare for a 27-kilometer journey. When the envoy was informed about criticism on the man behind this project, Shehbaz Sharif, because of subsidy involved from the government side, the envoy added, "Governments give subsidies on projects of public welfare like Orange Line Train, in several parts of the world, including China. I must add here that media also needs to share the responsibility of removing wrong conjectures and misconceptions about the projects beneficial to the public at large".

The News and Jang wanted to know whether the Chinese companies, under the CPEC umbrella, faced any hiccups or difficulties, the CG responded: "One such company i.e Sahiwal coal plant has been facing difficulties in the timely receipt of payments that created complications for the company to redeem its debt that it owed to the Chinese banks. It is, however, for the hosting countries of collaboration projects to provide facilitation and remove the bottlenecks and discrepancies, whatever.

Before concluding, Mr Shiren also appreciated Pakistan's role that it played in the past by acting as a bridge between China and United States.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=109580>

CPEC contributing to socio-economic uplift

Islamabad: Officials insist the multibillion dollars' worth of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project is significantly contributing to Pakistan's socio-economic development.

According to them, the CPEC includes a variety of projects, including a deep-sea port, road and railway networks, solar farms, coal mines and fibre-optic cable projects.

In recent years, the total value of CPEC has increased from \$46 billion to \$62 billion, which is equivalent to 20% of our country's current economic aggregate.

The impact of CPEC on our country has not only been limited to the economic field but also has a significant impact on other fields.

Although our country has been importing Chinese goods for more than a decade, the CPEC project and the relaxation of trade policies have strengthened the commercial relationship between the two countries and imports have continued to grow.

The officials told 'The News' that Pakistan imported more than half of its electrical appliances, equipment and machinery from China and also imports nuclear power plants, high-tech industrial machinery, steel, silk and garlic.

They said the electronics market used to be dominated by Japanese brands, which were high in quality but expensive. Chinese brands began to provide substitutes for these Japanese brands at relatively low prices, and China filled this gap by providing substitutes for high-priced Japanese and German products.

"Brand loyalty has become a thing of the past, emerging global brands are recognized, especially by consumers who are very picky and who use social media," said Humayoun Bashir, marketing manager of a Chinese multinational company.

"Many people feel that this wave of cheap imports is bad for local industry. The actual import figures are much higher than the official import figures provided by SBP.

Pakistan's imports from China are second only to those from the United States, and China may be Pakistan's second largest importer after the United States, but Pakistan's exports to China account for only 60pc of its imports, with a trade deficit of 40pc and it is expected to expand in the coming years.

Many Pakistanis believe this model of high imports from China as a new opportunity for Pakistan's retail trade, "said Mohammed Ahmed, owner of a small and medium-sized enterprises. It has been shown that the development of transportation infrastructure will promote the thriving real estate industry, while real estate values along CPEC will rise sharply in suburban and rural areas.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=109345>

Nawaiwaqt News

گواہ کی ترقی کیلئے چین کی ٹیکنالوجی، مشینری پاکستان منتقل

لاہور (این این آئی) چین نے گواہ کی ترقی کے لیے نہ صرف ٹیکنالوجی اور مشینری کو پاکستان منتقل کیا ہے بلکہ اسے پاکستان کے دور دراز علاقوں کے لوگوں تک بھی منتقل کیا ہے۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق چینی باشندوں نے پورے خطے میں تربیتی ادارے بنائے ہیں جب کوئی صنعت ترقی کرے گی تو وہاں مقامی لوگوں کے لیے روزگار کے سب سے زیادہ مواقع ہوں گے۔ ان تمام منصوبوں کے دوران چینی کمپنیاں بلوچ اور گواہ کے مقامی لوگوں کو ترجیح دیں گی۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ چینی مقامی لوگوں کی جدید کاری اور ترقی کے لیے مخلصانہ کوششیں کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے پیشہ ورانہ ادارے قائم کیے ہیں اور مقامی لوگوں کے لیے 26 مضامین متعارف کرائے ہیں جن کی صلاحیت 300 سے زیادہ ہے۔ ان کے پاس بورڈنگ، قیام اور دیگر نظام ہیں جو پاکستانی حکومت سے کوئی رقم وصول نہیں کر رہے ہیں۔ ٹیکنالوجی اور ہنر کی منتقلی پاکستانیوں خصوصاً بلوچستان کے لوگوں کے لیے خوشحالی اور ترقی لائے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-07-21/page-10/detail-11>

July 22, 2022

The News

Pakistan's import tax set to apply brakes on gasoline flows from China

Beijing: Pakistan's decision to slap a 10 percent duty on gasoline imports from China is set to dry up flows from the North Asian supplier to the South Asian buyer in the coming months, with these cargoes potentially heading to Southeast Asian markets, analysts and trade sources told S&P Global Commodity Insights.

In fact, there were no flows in June following three straight monthly falls from a record high 574,000 mt, or 157,000 b/d, in March, data from China's General Administration of Customs showed July 20.

But Pakistan's import tax is unlikely to impact China's transport fuel outflows, which has been thin due to limited quota availability as well as weakening export margins.

The Pakistani government, having decided to impose a 10 percent duty on gasoline imports from China effective July 1, has halted, at least for now, the trend of rising inflows to Pakistan from China, that started in mid-2020.

One regional trader said: "Besides the new tax on Chinese gasoline, I believe a major factor limiting Pakistani gasoline imports is that they are facing some financial issues at the moment."

Earlier, gasoline imports from China were exempted from any duties under phase-II of the China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, whereas domestically produced gasoline was subjected to a deemed duty of 10%, thus making imports of gasoline from China economically attractive for Pakistan.

Following a change in Pakistan's import specification and a tax incentive, Chinese gasoline exports to Pakistan have skyrocketed since mid-2020. Trade flows were almost nil prior to that, Shreyans Baid, analyst for South Asia at Platts Analytics said.

China's gasoline exports to Pakistan jumped 93.8 percent year on year to 1.56 million mt, or 11.6 million barrels, over the first half of 2022 despite outflows drying up in June. This made Pakistan the second-biggest destination for Chinese gasoline cargoes then, behind regional trading hub Singapore, the GAC data showed. It was also the only destination that recorded steady growth among China's top five gasoline recipients.

PetroChina was the main supplier of Chinese gasoline to Pakistan, according to market sources and the oil giant's previous press releases.

However, China is unlikely to be impacted by the shutting of this export outlet as the country sets to reduce its oil product exports to ensure domestic supply and cut carbon emission, while export margins narrow, trading sources said.

Overall exports of the auto fuel from China, meanwhile, fell 41.6 percent year on year to just 5.59 million mt over the first half, according to the GAC data.

"I expect to see a little over 600,000 mt of gasoline exports come out of China in July as we are expecting domestic demand to recover," a Singapore-based trader said. China exported 726,000 mt of gasoline in June.

On paper, the export margin for gasoline declined to about \$15/b as of July 19 from slightly over \$30/b in early July, a Shanghai-based trader revealed.

As Pakistan was absent from the destination list in June, China lifted its gasoline exports to Malaysia by 406.7% from May to 181,000 mt, although flows were 11.1% lower from a year earlier.

The recovery in gasoline exports to the Southeast Asian country reflected the renewed demand from Malaysia on the back of easing COVID-19 restrictions and post Eid al-Fitr festivities, which typically feature an uptick in interstate travel, market sources said.

"With the imposition of [a] duty on Chinese gasoline imports, the flow is expected to reduce, and these cargoes are likely to head to Southeast Asian markets instead," Baid said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=109618>

July 23, 2022

Daily Times

Eastbay Expressway bridges save Gwadar from sinking

Amidst flash flood criticality spelling disaster in many parts of Gwadar, three bridges of Eastbay Expressway, one of CPEC's modern roads, have saved the eastern part of the coastal city from sheer sinking. According to a Gwadar Pro' report on Friday, they have prevented many

casualties and destruction to residential and commercial infrastructure. At the stretch of the over 19-kilometre-long state-of-the-art Eastbay Expressway, the opening of the three bridges played a role of water outlets, allowing torrential rainwater to flow downward to sea.

Imam Buksh Bozenjo, who worked as a project director of Eastbay Expressway from the side of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) told Gwadar Pro that if these three bridges (underpasses) were not assimilated into the final construction design of Eastbay Expressway in collaboration with Chinese engineers, the eastern part of Gwadar would be inundated completely, causing death toll, catastrophic destruction to homes and infrastructures. “With construction of Eastbay Expressway known as technology road, not only about 4 kilometers of the area is reclaimed from the sea through ‘Revetment and Piling Technology’ but also high-tech inventive for these bridges were specially built,” he added.

Besides their primary purpose to facilitate local fishermen to tow their boats to ashore for fishing allowing them to earn their livelihood, these bridges crafted another meaning to local people of Gwadar. Mohsin Baloch named them “bridge of lives” while talking to Gwadar Pro during a survey of the area. “We are saved and credit goes to China for furnishing the favor,” he added. These bridges are around 30 meters high and 45 meters wide. As per Gwadar topography, it has a sunken nature in the center that makes it very vulnerable for accumulation of water when it rains. Since the center of Gwadar is lower-lying than the surrounding areas, water does not naturally drift away from the area. Nevertheless, water keeps flowing inward and causes water collection.

At least three bridges of Eastbay expressway have fixed the issue in the eastern part of Gwadar that starts from Fish Harbor and ends at Coast Guard. If looked back in history, when rainy spells used to lash out at Gwadar, tide of sea used to inflict damage to boats and houses. Now with barrier board and 4.34km anti-wave breast wall to make the 4.34km revetment, the embankment is saved from onslaughts of sea waves.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/970713/eastbay-expressway-bridges-save-gwadar-from-sinking/>

Dawn News

Police release sketch of KU blast ‘mastermind’

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department on Friday released a sketch of the purported mastermind of the Karachi University suicide attack that had claimed life of three Chinese teachers and their local driver.

CTD official Raja Umer Khattab said that they considered the suspect, Zaib Brohi alias Zoib, as the ‘mastermind’ of the deadly suicide blast carried out by a woman and whose responsibility was claimed by the banned Balochistan Liberation Army.

He said with help of CCTV footage and held suspect Dad Bux, the investigators had got prepared the sketch of Zaib by an artist.

“Zaib is an important character of the KU blast... in fact, he is the mastermind,” he said.

Suspect Dad Bux, who facilitated the blast, was trained by Zaib in Afghanistan. “It was Zaib who has prepared the suicide jacket used in the blast,” the official added.

In April, a female suicide bomber, Shari Baloch, detonated herself outside KU’s Confucius Institute killing three Chinese teachers and their local driver.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1701027>

Pakistan Observer

A review on the story of China in Pakistani School Books

Dr He Meilan

STATEMENTS on China-Pakistan relations such as ‘iron-brothers’, ‘Pak-Cheen Dosti higher than the Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey’, etc. , are so familiar to us, a few people think of what is told about China in Pakistani school books.

Pakistani textbooks here refer to Oxford History for Pakistan and Geography Alive written by Peter Moss, a well-established writer of primary and secondary level textbooks on a variety of subjects both in the UK and abroad.

The two series form a complete social studies course at secondary level, and are among the popular textbooks for Pakistani school inside and outside the country.

An overall picture of China from ancient time to the present has been presented in these series.

But there are a few arguments which, in my opinion, need to be clarified and revised. Firstly, the story of the Silk Road has been missed in the History book.

As we all know, the ancient Silk Road served as a bridge in connecting the Chinese civilization and other Asian and European civilizations.

Thus, the China story without this milestone event is not a complete one. Secondly, I hardly agree on the argument that Chinese people turned inward and tried to shut themselves off from the rest of the world between Song and Qing dynasties.

Instead, the historical facts show that there were frequent overseas trading activities between China and the states in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and those along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the same period.

One typical example is the exploration by the well-known Admiral Zheng Ho of Ming dynasty around the Indian Ocean region.

On China from the early modern time to the democratic movement period, the History book has made some reasonable judgments.

Just to mention some of them, China is viewed as a more advanced civilization than the West in the 16th century, and a relatively backward country by the 18th century.

The Anglo-Chinese Opium Wars are fairly interpreted that ‘the British government declared war on China and invaded under a false pretext.’

But then, a few lines are written about the new China’s establishment by Mao Zedong in 1949 and the Opening-up policy and its practice since early 1980s.

Besides, China during the reformation period has been misinterpreted like ‘Today China is rapidly moving towards capitalism’.

This statement absolutely goes against the Constitution of China, which regulates that P.R. China is a socialist country.

Geography Alive (Book 3) has gone further in the distorted narratives of Taiwan’s sovereignty.

Taiwan is ascribed as a ‘non-member state’ of the United Nations. In addition, Chinese communist government is criticized in a veiled way, saying ‘its rigid communist government controls everything’.

I must say these accounts are the violation of One-China Principle, and they must be revised.

A few points may explain such kind of China narratives. The textbooks have been revised in a longer span of time, or perhaps no revision at all.

The author is an Englishman and his British education background has more or less left an influence on his writing, which to some extent, has resulted from the Western view of history and historical theory.

Above all, the current Pakistani education system, the English medium private schools in particular, is a major successor of British schooling system.

Being under the British colonial rule for about one hundred fifty years, Pakistani upper and middle classes had been learning and following the British educational system without any doubting or questioning.

Thus, the China story in Pakistani schoolbooks neither represents the official views of the Pakistani government and people, nor were they deliberately made by Pakistani textbooks compilation department.

Instead, it can be understood as the impact of the British colonial education mechanism. At this point, I feel the need to clarify that the paper is not aimed at criticizing the Pakistani textbook editorial department and the writer.

Rather, it appears very necessary to bring the issue into notice of the related departments when thinking of what might be the possible impact of such Chinese narratives on Pakistani students.

As mentioned above, these sets of textbooks are commonly used in the English medium private schools of Pakistan, of which the children come mainly from the upper-middle class families, and they are the core force of Pakistani society.

Logically, it may be understood that these textbooks are exerting influences upon the most important social force of Pakistan in the coming two to three decades.

We all know, history textbooks are meant to be very important instruments in shaping students' values, and they are essential in cultivating the citizen's patriotism in the context of a national state.

For now, we cannot say that the Western ideology guided China narratives will eventually lead Pakistani pupils to a misunderstanding of China and Chinese people, for it will take a longer time to form a perception.

But it is better to prevent the negative impact ahead of time. Both China and Pakistan are confident that our historically tested relations and friendship will not be damaged by such China related narratives.

Nevertheless, there exists the need to consider how to present a fair and true China image in Pakistani textbooks, and it is particularly essential to strengthen China-Pakistan relations at the current occasion when China has become the world's second largest economy and the world is undergoing the unseen changes.

—The writer works as a senior researcher at He Bei Normal University, China.

<https://pakobserver.net/a-review-on-the-story-of-china-in-pakistani-school-books-by-dr-he-meilan/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC and attainment of SDG 4 in Pakistan

An appropriate way out of the current fiscal crisis is to adopt a smart and sustainable approach in policy making

The UN Millennium Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a component of Pakistan's development agenda, with the aim of eradicating poverty and uplifting the socio-economic profile of the people. Within this context, SDG 4, which relates to quality education for both boys and girls, was adopted as a 'priority goal' by the Government of Pakistan. However, attainment of SDG 4 has yet to reach a momentum where it can start delivering at grass-root level for the benefit of the masses.

According to the SDG status report of 2021, the progress on SDG 4 has remained stagnant overall with the national literacy rate remained at 60% from 2015 to 2020. There is a need to draw up an effective strategy to ensure quality education for all across Pakistan. However, the question arises as to how this objective can be achieved keeping in view the current financial crisis and subsequent impact on every sector, including education.

The education sector in Pakistan is faced with multiple problems ranging from gender gap in the ratio of school enrolment for both boys and girls to the availability and utilisation of funds for running various schools, colleges and universities. The issue of lack of technical training at the

college level for ensuring employment after degree completion, presence of thousands of ghost schools with ghost teachers, lack of training for teachers associated with both the private and public educational institutions, and the resultant appalling standards of education are just a few of the major issues that Pakistan's education sector currently faces.

An appropriate way out of the current fiscal crisis is to adopt a smart and sustainable approach in policy making at various levels. In terms of socio-economic development there is need to club together some of the projects and plans with similar kinds of development goals. One key project which has been the focus of attention in Pakistan and all across the world is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is a \$65 billion mega project which has entered its second phase. In its ongoing second phase, the project has come up with a new focus and emphasis upon the education sector in Pakistan, like opening of technical education institution and initiating and strengthening student exchange programs. Keeping in view the requirements of youth bulge in Pakistan, there is a need to put more emphasis upon construction of new schools, technical and vocational training centres, and higher education institutions — while at the same time upgrading the old ones.

If aligned with SDG 4, CPEC can help enhance the quality of education across Pakistan. While working on the attainment of SDG 4, the federal government has tried to facilitate provincial governments to improve the recruitment of teachers and student enrolment ratios, especially with regard to girls, for improving the overall literacy rate of the country. On the other hand, CPEC has also worked in the same direction, where the need for better technical education facilities was realised in remote areas like Gwadar and FATA. As of now, 25 solar schools have been set up to help facilitate the local communities.

All the steps taken either for the attainment of SDG 4 or as part of the CPEC project for promoting better education facilities need to be synchronised with each other. If the money and resources, which have been spent separately, are combined, it would not only strengthen the resolve to promote quality education but it would also prove to be cost effective. The only need is to start thinking on along these lines with a clear road map and priority list.

Some key areas of focus in this regard can be the insurance of free primary education, the emphasis upon promotion of girls' education, prioritising IT and other technical skills, and promoting the culture of research and development. With the increasing inflation and high poverty rates, free primary education can bring respite to the large swathes of population who cannot afford to send even a single child to school. The construction and upgradation of primary schools with basic services such as the availability of the books and stationary should be mandatory in the vicinity of all CPEC projects, and the outcome of such initiatives should be counted in the attainment of SDG 4.

It is commendable that CPEC has focused on promoting technical and vocational training to meet the requirements of projects in various fields such as energy, transportation and infrastructure by building a localised skilled labour force. There is a need to associate the gains from such initiatives with the attainment with SDG 4 as well. This can be further broadened to

expand on research and development component in higher education institutions — a field relatively neglected in the domain of Pakistan’s socio-economic and development policies. Furthermore, keeping in view the requirements of this technologically advanced era, the CPEC-SDG collaborative mechanism should focus on the fields of information technology and climate change — areas that have huge employment potential for the youth. The women folks should be given incentives and special attention in CPEC projects and there should be a special quota for female students in technical and vocational schools. They should be given priority in any employment opportunity created under CPEC.

These small steps can not only address the woes of the common people across Pakistan by giving them opportunities and exposure, but can also save human resources and financial capital required in the attainment of SDG 4 in particular and other SDGs in general.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2367284/cpec-and-attainment-of-sdg-4-in-pakistan>

Pakistan’s exports to China swell 11% in H1

Data reveals shipments cross \$1.9 billion in Jan-Jun 2022

BEIJING: Pakistan’s exports to China crossed \$1.918 billion in the first half of current calendar year, up 10.97% from \$1.728 billion in the same period of previous year, which continue to increase on a yearly basis, shows official data of the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC).

According to sources, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, bilateral trade has increased significantly. In the first half of 2022, the total volume of trade between the two countries increased nearly 15%, amounting to \$14.39 billion as compared to the same period in 2021, when it was \$12.55 billion.

Compared to data of the first half of 2021, this year Pakistan’s exports to China in January increased 17.80%, amounting to \$382.22 million, in February they were up nearly 30%, crossing \$287.65 million, and in March they increased 7.23%, amounting to \$367.71 million.

Covid-19 impacted Pakistan’s exports in April, causing a decline of 21.15%, standing at \$283.53 million, in May they increased nearly 3%, reaching \$280.97 million while in June they increased nearly 54%, crossing \$316.36 million.

Juwai IQI Chief Economist Shan Saeed told China Economic Net that increasing exports from Pakistan to China are a good sign for both countries. It clearly signifies that the deep-rooted trade and commerce momentum has been generated through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“China has really opened up the market for Pakistani goods. Both countries can benefit from long-term relationships. Pakistan can export further as China is the second largest economy in

the world. Pakistan's geography is very germane for China and the global macroeconomic landscape," Saeed added.

He said that Pakistan can become a food basket for China as Chinese market is huge and has good buying power, therefore Pakistan should take advantage of its good relationship with the country and China can help relocate its industries and technologies to Pakistan to increase its exports to China and around the globe.

In the first six months of this year, major products that witnessed trade growth between the two countries include rice, cotton yarn, refined copper products, sesame seeds, pine nuts, textiles, seafood, and other agricultural products. This has encouraged Pakistan's economic recovery.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2367355/pakistans-exports-to-china-swell-11-in-h1>

July 24, 2022

Business Recorder

Power sector

Chinese investors accuse govt of violating agreements

ISLAMABAD: Accusing the Government of Pakistan (GoP) of breaching the provisions of agreements, Chinese power sector investors say huge amount of arrears, coupled with the accelerated depreciation of the PKR in recent years, has significantly reduced the nominal return on investment, which has exposed such Chinese enterprises to high audit risks in the future, besides greatly dampening the enthusiasm of other Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan. This situation has been conveyed by, Zhang Jun, Chairman Energy Investment of All- Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEAP) , in a letter to Chinese ambassador to Pakistan and other authorities of GoP, including Planning Minister, Finance Minister, Power Minister, Minister for Investment, Secretary to Prime Minister, heads of PPIB and CPPA-G.

More than ten Chinese investors, who have invested in power projects in Pakistan have established an Association, i.e., Energy Enterprise Association (EEA) on the pattern of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and have shared their issues, concerns, demands and future proposals.

Recently, Chinese investors, who invested in Gwadar, requested the government to allow them maintain their bank account in RMB due to frequent depreciation of Pak Rupee.

The EEA, in its letter stated that since 2014, the total investment made by Chinese enterprises in power projects under CPEC has reached \$19.961 billion, with a total installed capacity of 10,876 MW of which 5,887 MW has already been put into operation. The annual power generation capacity of these power projects is 35.86 billion kWh, which accounts for one-third of the total power generation (about 130 billion kWh) of Pakistan's main grid in recent years.

The average tariff of CPEC power projects which are in operation is about Cents 8.97 /kWh, while coal-fired power plants' tariff which are in operation is about Rs. 13.05 per kWh (Cents

8.7 /kWh) calculated at an average exchange rate of Rs 150 per dollar in recent years). The tariff of CPEC power projects is much lower than the system average.

Commenting on return of energy investors under CPEC, the Association maintained that in 2013, NEPRA announced an upfront tariff for imported coal-fired power plants inviting investors from across the world, which turned out to be unattractive to the investors given the high risk in Pakistan. In 2014, NEPRA revised the upfront tariff and adjusted the Return on Equity (RoE) to 27.2% for imported coal-fired power plants. Therefore, three coal-fired power plants under CPEC were put into operation one after the other since the end of 2017. By 2022, Huaneng Sahiwal Power Plant is in operation for about 5 years; Port Qasim Power Plant for about 4 years; China Power Hub for about 3.5 years. However, as the operation phase keeps progressing, especially after the new government came into power in 2018, these coal-fired power plants started accumulating more and more losses due to increase in arrears at an alarming rate and the sharp depreciation of the PKR. So far no dividends have been distributed to the shareholders by these coal-fired power plants since Commercial Operation Date (COD), and the actual investment income is zero. On the contrary, the shareholders of each power plant have injected millions of dollars to operate these projects.

In addition, due to the arrears, the inventory of coal for the power plants has seriously depleted resulting in huge amount of liquidated damages for each plant, and the financial losses have seriously affected the ability of the companies to service the debt, which is very likely to lead to a company/ sovereign default.

Commenting on return of hydro and wind power projects, the EEA said that according to the relevant Power Policies, the IRR (Internal Rate of Return) of hydropower and renewable power projects is 17%, but in fact, due to the difference in cost determination between China and Pakistan, the nominal IRR for Chinese investors is just around 15%, which is slightly higher than the return rate of national treasury bond of Pakistan.

For example, the first wind power project of the China Three Gorges Corporation (TGF) has been in operation for 8 years since 2014. The arrears are piling up day by day due to the serious circular debt of the Pakistan power sector. Coupled with a huge amount of arrears, the nominal IRR has been less than 10% due to the depreciation of the rupee. Therefore, judging from the above ground realities, the nominal RoE of Chinese investors is much lower than 30% .

The EEA contended that the management of all Chinese power investors is facing tremendous pressure from their respective headquarters due to huge amount of arrears and no dividends after COD for several years.

The huge amount of arrears, coupled with the accelerated depreciation of the PKR in recent years, has significantly reduced the nominal return on investment, which exposes such Chinese enterprises to high audit risks in the future, and has greatly dampened the enthusiasm of other Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan.

Zhang Jun, in his letter, explains that due to the huge amount of arrears from power purchaser, the three coal-fired power plants injected about \$ 600 million to ensure continuous power supply. However, due to delay in payments by Pakistani agencies adequate amounts could not be

remitted in US dollars to the coal suppliers, which resulted in no further supply of coal, and the power plants faced the risk of shutdown.

“ With respect to the project investment agreements, the Government of Pakistan has already breached the provisions of the agreements and the relevant coal-fired power plants have the right to stop power generation and take corresponding legal measures,” he said adding that considering the friendship between China and Pakistan, the Chinese enterprises are still trying their best to operate the power plants and help Pakistan overcome the current power crisis even though the cash flow is marginal and not even close to adequate.

He says, unfortunately instead of cooperating, the power purchaser deducted the capacity payments of the projects on the grounds that the projects cannot meet the dispatching requirements regardless of the fact that underlying reasons for no dispatch is actually caused by poor payments by power purchaser.

As of to-date, (July 20, 2022) the projects are still suffering from a huge deduction of capacity payment of about \$ 500,000 per day for a single unit, which has further aggravated the bankruptcy risk of each project.

For projects which have recently achieved COD, the significant depreciation of rupee in recent years, the US dollar tariff is less than half based on the current exchange rate as per the EPC stage tariff (Korat HPP), which is not sufficient to meet the operation maintenance cost and debt service expenses causing great pressure for operation and maintenance guarantee and debt repayments. ‘It is hoped that NEPRA will approve the COD tariff for such projects, as soon as possible, and give the medium-term tariff relief in time.’

Meanwhile, NEPRA issued tariff true-up decision for China Power Hub Power Company in June 2022, which is not in line with the Upfront Tariff Policy of 2014, particularly with respect to construction period, fixed RoE, incremental cost of European Boiler. In the upfront tariff announced by NEPRA, the construction period for the generation facility of 660 MW is 48 months, the Return on Equity shall be 27.2%, and incremental cost of European boiler is @ US\$ 0.1 million per MW.

The EEA claims that all Chinese investors of power projects are facing a lot of difficulties; hence, they request Government of Pakistan to resolve the following problems as early as possible: (i) set up a revolving account in accordance with the CPEC agreement; (ii) ensure availability of foreign exchange, as and when requested by Chinese investors according to signed agreements;(iii) relevant Institutions to implement the recent directions of the Prime Minister in letter and spirit, and not to deduct the capacity payments due to the huge arrears and return the deducted capacity payments to each Project Company; and (iv) NEPRA to approve the COD tariff for projects, which are in operation, as soon as possible, and give the interim relief of tariff in time.

Commenting on future energy investment from China , the EEA has suggested that from the perspective of power supply and demand balance, Pakistan needs hydro, solar and local coal-fired power projects to replace the 6500 MW of oil and gas-fired power plants, which are expected to retire shortly.

“Four projects under CPEC have so far not achieved financial close, because Sinasure has not approved the guarantee, due to the problems faced by the existing projects by Chinese investors,” it concluded.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/25/2-page/937867-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC to play vital role in Pakistan’s future economic development:

Ambassador Haque

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a vital role in the future economic development of Pakistan, with the Gwadar port as the main component.

“The CPEC is one of the most important flagship projects of the five corridors launched under Belt and Road Initiative.

Half of its projects have already been executed, he said in an interview with CGTN Radio.

Ambassador Haque said, under the first phase of the CPEC, several major energy projects including hydro, wind and solar projects were executed.

“The second component of the CPEC is infrastructure, highways, waterways and bridges which have been built across Pakistan, improving the communication and road infrastructure, he added.

The important part of physical infrastructure was laying the fibre optic link from Chinese border to Pakistan to help the communication network.

Ambassador Haque remarked that the third important component of the first phase was the Gwadar port which is almost complete and functional.

The other infrastructure projects like recently inaugurated East Bay Express were inaugurated and the work was under progress on International Airport and many of the allied infrastructure industry.

About special Economic Zone being set up in Gwadar, he said, a large number of Chinese companies were setting their businesses there.

The country was entering into phase two which was even more important and focused on industrialization, agriculture, social well-being of the people, poverty alleviation and green economy.

“We have also launched recently China-Pakistan healthcare corridor, digital corridor, green corridor,” he added.

He said “Under Green Corridor, we are focusing on the agriculture and food security, and in digital corridor, we are benefiting from China’s experience and expertise in the IT sector and industry.

“The government is developing special economic zones and encouraging relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan not only to help the domestic market, but also to the region and exporting to other countries,” he added.

Terming the CPEC a broad framework of economic development for Pakistan and also for the region, Ambassador Haque said, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has rightly linked it with the economic future of Pakistan.

This year marks the 71st anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

Ambassador Haque said the “China-Pakistan relationship is unshakable,” adding that the relationship between the two countries remains constant, “no matter which government has been in Pakistan or China, no matter how the international political landscape changes.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/971506/cpec-to-play-vital-role-in-pakistans-future-economic-development-ambassador-haque/>

Modern urban transport facilities in Pakistan to get boost with China’s help

Along with China’s investment in Pakistan, great support and progress were continuously seen in the infrastructure sectors. When it comes to infrastructure, one of the top items that stands out is the public transport sector.

China has exceptionally helped Pakistan in this sector. And its investors are constantly helping Pakistan with new projects in this sector to bring Pakistan on par with the modern world.

Recently Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated two new projects of running buses in Islamabad in order to improve the urban facilities. The buses running on these routes are Green Line and Blue Line. Buses for this project have been imported from China. The reason for importing buses from China is that in the past, in Islamabad Rawalpindi Metro Bus Service, where Chinese capital was used for this project, the buses were also imported from China and these buses proved to be very standard and low cost in terms of their durability. For this reason, buses for Green Line and Blue Line have also been imported from China, according to an article published by CEN.

Chinese buses and investments have previously been seen in public transport projects in Lahore and Multan. While the masterpiece project of further innovation in the form of Orange Line in Lahore stands as a manifestation of modern facilities

In the field of transport, Chinese cooperation is not only available in Islamabad, but also in Karachi, the capital of Sindh. A wonderful project, namely, People’s Bus Service is being worked on urban transport. The first phase of the project has started and Karachi and Larkana have been included in it. In the first phase of this project for Karachi, 130 buses have started running on the roads of Karachi, while in this project, two hundred and forty buses on seven routes will be running on the roads as a symbol of Pakistan-China friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/971504/modern-urban-transport-facilities-in-pakistan-to-get-boost-with-chinas-help/>

Pakistan Observer

Zhang for greater connectivity

DELIVERING a speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Ming on Friday termed Pakistan's geo-strategic ideal for connecting Central Asian countries with the sea routes, stressing that the transport corridors in the region stand to benefit all the member states of SCO, leading to a win-win cooperation.

The geo-strategic importance of Pakistan is a reality which nobody can deny. The very statement of the SCO Secretary General has also reminded us of the words of an American Political Scientist Stephen Philip Cohen, who in his book *The Idea of Pakistan*, says: "Whilst history has been unkind to Pakistan, its geography has been its greatest benefit.

" Absolutely geo-strategic importance plays a lot more than we actually think. As far as Pakistan is concerned it is situated at the doorway to the oil-rich countries of the Middle East and Central Asia and, therefore, it has great potential of becoming a transit economy.

However, unfortunately, our successive governments failed to correctly visualize the importance of its geographical location.

Therefore, it could not effectively sell the idea of transnational connectivity, and a cost-effective economic corridor for Russia, Afghanistan and the Central Asian States.

The launch of multibillion dollar CPEC under Belt and Road Initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, has however provided an excellent opportunity to Pakistan to cash in on its geostrategic location.

Under the corridor, a state-of-the-art road infrastructure in the form of motorways has almost been completed which provides direct link to our ports, especially the Gwadar Port.

Now most recently, both Pakistan and China have also expressed interest to extend the CPEC to Afghanistan.

If this happens, it will go a long way in unleashing the trade and economic potential of this particular region.

Improving connectivity is the key which will bring the regional countries and their peoples closer to each other.

We are confident that under the leadership of Zhang Ming, the SCO will move forward on transport corridor or connectivity projects be it rail, road or air in order to achieve the true objectives of such regional platforms.

Connecting the landlocked Central Asian countries with Pakistani ports will accrue great economic gains and open the whole region for investors and entrepreneurs. Peace in Afghanistan is a must to realize this long cherished dream.

<https://pakobserver.net/zhang-for-greater-connectivity/>

July 25, 2022

Daily Times

Modern Gwadar int'l airport to be operational by 2023

The most modern and the largest \$246m New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), built at an area of 4,300 acres, would be operational by September 2023 to welcome local and international flights at the port city.

According to an official source, the development of the airport was at different stages as the passenger terminal building of the project would be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control by March 2023, while the overall construction of the airport would be finished before September 2023.

The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) was being managed and operated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which was owned by a tripartite venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China that would handle domestic and international operations.

The airport development is a part of the gigantic China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) project, which is a cornerstone of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative.

The biggest in Pakistan, the NGIA would also become the nation's second airport capable of handling A380 aircraft upon its commissioning in 2022.

It will stimulate the development of the Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China, hence transforming the geopolitical status of the region into the geo-economic hub of investment and trade opportunities.

The airport would be operated and developed as per the open sky policy under the guidance of the CAA. The New Gwadar International Airport project was initiated as an early harvest high-priority project of the CPEC program in 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the project of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in January 2015 which was being funded through a grant agreement signed between China and Pakistan in May 2017.

The Airport development also included soil testing on the project site that was started in January 2018 and also involved drilling of 300 boreholes at various locations.

The groundbreaking of the airport was held in March 2019.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/971669/modern-gwadar-intl-airport-to-be-operational-by-2023/>

Pakistan, China soon to deal in RMB/PKR

Pakistan and China are closing in to deal in Renminbi (RMB) and Pakistani Rupees (PKR) as Pakistan faces financial challenges. Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain told Gwadar Pro that the talks between Pakistan and China were ongoing to finalize the matter. “We can soon be dealing in RMB along with the US dollars. Both options can be utilised (side by side),” he added. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to hold meetings with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Bank of China for use of RMB/PKR for bilateral trade between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz gave the instructions to SBP during a meeting with the Chinese businessmen held on May 30 this year. RMB is the official currency of China and one of the world’s reserve currencies. It is also the eighth most traded currency in the world. For the promotion of trade in the Chinese currency, a pilot project encompassing the introduction of ‘RMB pricing’ will be introduced in the first phase. In the second phase, RMB settlement and financing policies will be focused on. The exchange rate for the currencies of both countries will be set in the China Foreign Exchange Trading System (CFETS) and in authorized banks declared as cross-border currency markets in China and Pakistan, according to the official details.

China and Pakistan share strong economic ties. Pakistan has largely imported machinery, transport equipment, iron, steel, yarn, and textiles from China. Meanwhile, China imported textile yarn, resource-based products, and fabrics from Pakistan. Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that Pakistan and China will soon find a way out on the use of RMB/PKR. He maintained that this would boost trade ties between the two friendly nations. CPEC has given a strong boost to Pakistan’s economic growth and livelihood improvement and has delivered positive economic effects. Pakistan’s rice exports to China crossed \$225.25 million in the first quarter of the year 2022. According to the General Administration of the Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), the sales of broken rice increased up to 40.27% as compared to last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/971660/pakistan-china-soon-to-deal-in-rmb-pkr/>

The Express Tribune

China model and lessons to learn

Pakistan over emphasizes on taxes which weakens state’s financial health

ISLAMABAD: China is preparing for the 20th National Congress of Communist Party of China (CPC), which will be organised in the last quarter of 2022.

It is happening at a critical juncture due to various reasons. First, it is the first meeting of National Congress after completion of 100 years of the establishment of CPC and achieving the first goal of century.

After achieving the goal of eliminating poverty, now China is entering into a new era under the guidance of CPC and leadership of President Xi Jinping.

Although CPC did a marvelous job by establishing modern China and turning the country into second biggest economy of the world, the new era has its own dynamics.

China has become the great power, which has been accompanied by new responsibilities. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Chinese leadership at the 20th National Congress will be pondering on how its economic model can assist the world by applying the philosophy of economic governance.

Second, China is facing immense negative propaganda and western countries are hell bent on criticising the Chinese model of economy and governance. Besides, they are also very critical of the role of CPC in national governance and economic management. It is turning to be an ideological rivalry.

Unfortunately, there is less focus on understanding the China model and more concentration on maligning the country. There is a need to reverse this process.

There is no second opinion that the Chinese model is different from the existing model of capitalism. It is also different from the USSR's communism.

China has built its own model, which follows the principles and values of socialism by adhering to the main thoughts of communism and wisdom of 5,000 years. A deep dive into the model highlights that there are five distinct characteristics, which make it different from the other model.

First, the real strength of the Chinese model is the structure of economy. The economic structure is a blend of state and non-state economic actors. It has created a fine balance between the role of state actors (state-owned enterprises) and private sector.

The role of tax and non-tax revenue is also well-defined and balanced. The role of non-tax revenue makes it different from capitalism, which over emphasizes on tax revenue.

Although right now the private sector is the engine of growth, still state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are playing a decent role in national economy. For example, in 2021, the share of SOEs was almost 32% in the national GDP. Second, since the start of reforms, China is applying the blend of philosophy of openness by Deng Xiaoping and birdcage philosophy by Chen Yun.

Chen Yun was a great supporter of Deng Xiaoping reforms and contributed immensely to develop and implement the reform agenda. However, his philosophy of birdcage earned him distinction.

He was of the view that cage should not be so small that it suffocates bird, neither it should be so open that the bird fly away. So, the bird (economy) must be free to fly but within the cage (overall plan of country).

It is believed that Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun's philosophy helped China to move on the path of growth and development during the most testing times.

Third, the economic model of China revolves around the people. Chinese leadership has adopted the slogan that policy must keep people at the centre and front.

This philosophy not only helped China to grow at a greater pace but also helped to tackle the issue of poverty.

As, we know in 1980, almost 82% of population in China was living below the poverty line. Now China is the only country in the world, which has zero poverty. President Xi made it a cornerstone of his leadership. Fourth, China devised a unique model of reform by following the old Chinese proverb “cross the river by feeling stones”. It means gradual reforms, in accordance with your own needs and problems.

Fifth, the most important element of the success of Chinese economic model is the continuity of policies, system and commitment of CPC leadership to the people.

Since the reforms started in 1978, China is committed to them, without any ifs and buts. Apart from that, the CPC leadership kept people’s welfare at the centre, which helped to mobilise societal support for reforms.

Despite global pressure and criticism, China remained committed to reforms and the welfare of people, which helped them to turn around the fate of people and country.

Third, the leadership tried to seek truth from facts, data and applied scientific methods for policy formulation and execution.

Lessons

From the above discussion, we can infer three key lessons for Pakistan. First, the structure of economy does matter and Pakistan needs to redefine its economic structure.

At present, we over emphasize on tax revenue, which is not a sustainable policy. It weakens the financial health of state, which impacts the ability of state to serve people.

Moreover, due to the lack of resources, the state cannot offer any exemptions or credit to the private sector. Also, reforms and openness must be comprehended properly and tailored according to the domestic needs.

The key lesson from the Chinese model is that first enhance capacity, both production and human, through favourable policies and investment. Then go for openness according to the production capacity and development status.

Continuity and commitment of the leadership also matters, rather than defining success or failure.

These lessons are also relevant for the global community, especially for the developing and least developed countries. The good thing is that China is ready to share its experience and economic opportunities, as President Xi Jinping has reiterated Beijing’s resolve to contribute to tackle global challenges on many occasions.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2367677/china-model-and-lessons-to-learn>

July 26, 2022

Business Recorder

China to cooperate in developing dairy industry: PCJCCI chief

LAHORE: The cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China will provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's dairy industry, said Wang Zihai, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) during a think tank session held on Monday at PCJCCI Secretariat.

He said that we've learned that Pakistan is the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia; whereas Chinese technologies are low-priced if we adopt the techniques and technology used by China, Pakistan could advance in this industry.

President PCJCCI added that we are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it. From 2011 to 2022, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3%, and the demand is still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in high demand in the Chinese market.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that currently, China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44%), the Netherlands (17.15%) and Australia (7.38%). Our government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk. He further added that the local farmers are facing many problems, such as lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk, and cold storage; the government should come forward to train and educate them with the modern technology. In this way, Chinese consumers' demands for high-quality dairy products will be satisfied. Meanwhile, Pakistan's economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension can be expected in the process.

Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI said that animal husbandry is one of the pillar industries in Pakistan. Specifically, Balochistan, where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is located in, is with unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows. He added that the construction of epidemic-free area in Gwadar Port is progressing in an orderly way. If the industrial chain of China can be extended to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve win-win outcomes for the dairy industry of both countries.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI said that Pakistan is among world's top five largest milk producers, with over 60 million tons of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/27/4-page/938125-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC a game-changer in region: Samina

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Monday said that there are wide and attractive investment opportunities for national and foreign investors in Balochistan.

She expressed these views while talking to a delegation here. She said that Allah Almighty has enriched Balochistan with many natural treasures and the world's most abundant natural resources are found here.

She said that the people associated with industry and trade have bright prospects for increasing national production and providing wide employment opportunities and accessing the commercial markets of neighboring countries.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri said that Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo is paying full attention to the vision of bringing Balochistan at par with other provinces and the same rapid development in all areas of the province is the first priority.

“We have to give full attention to the functioning of technical institutions in the province and to teach modern skills to the new generation so that the industrial and commercial sectors can be developed on modern lines”, she added.

Senator Samina said that China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game-changer in the region from which Balochistan will have to use all its resources properly to benefit from the fruits of CPEC.

She said that Balochistan will benefit the most from the recent Reko diq Agreement, this project will provide innumerable employment opportunities for the people of Balochistan in a few years and at the same time, the share received by Balochistan will help Balochistan to go on the path of rapid development.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri told the delegation that Balochistan has a vast sea, which can be used to earn a large foreign exchange and by developing fisheries related issues on better and modern scientific methods.

There are also attractive opportunities for foreign investors in this sector which will not only benefit the people involved in this sector but also earn a lot of foreign exchange for Pakistan and Balochistan

Apart from this, there are many sectors in Balochistan in which there are excellent and attractive opportunities for investment. Investment in these sectors will not only provide employment to the local people of Balochistan, but also new ways of long-term and rapid development in Pakistan and Balochistan will open, she concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/972183/cpec-a-game-changer-in-region-samina/>

Pak-China olive cooperation possesses immense potential

As one of the main olive producing areas in China, the processing industrial chain in Fujian Province is still far from perfect.

The supply of high-quality olives is in short supply; besides, the by-product market also contains unlimited potential. Namely, the market space is huge.

In the future, if we can introduce excellent olive varieties from countries along the Belt and Road, including Pakistan, and carry out planting and processing technology exchanges with them, undoubtedly it will be a win-win situation,” noted Chen Rui, General Manager of Fujian Baihejiang Industrial Development Co., Ltd., in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net. Edible olives are rich in nutrients, providing protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus, iron and other minerals.

Its content of vitamin C is 10 times that of apples and 5 times that of pears and peaches. Pakistan, which has a large area of land suitable for growing olive trees, can produce about 1,500 tons of olive oil and 830 tons of table olives per year, all of which are consumed domestically.

Now, Pakistan is the only South Asian country to be included in the International Olive Council. Farhan Pasha, the science officer in charge of the olive program at the Barani Agricultural Research Institute, told CEN that the main areas in Pakistan fit for olive cultivation are Balochistan, KPK and Punjab, etc. Pakistan has 10m acres of land suitable for olive cultivation, which is almost twice as much as Spain, the world’s largest olive oil producer.

Nevertheless, the cultivation and processing of edible olives in Pakistan is facing a series of challenges, which also brings opportunities for agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan in this field.

According to Farhan Pasha, Pakistani olive growers often need to use costly imported fertilizers or pesticides when faced with pests and diseases, but this is beyond the purchasing power of most ordinary farmers.

Therefore, if China provides effective measures to increase production or control pests and diseases, this will be the most ideal result. Chen put forward a specific plan for this, Bio pesticides are our best choice due to ordinary pesticides may cause soil hardening or pesticide residues. Even the most common biological materials such as well-proportioned ginger and pepper spray can have a very good sterilizing and insecticidal effect. In terms of pest control, we use breeding beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, to kill pests.

As for fertilizers, Chen emphasized that in most cases, his olive orchard chooses organic bio-fertilizers, such as chicken and sheep manure, which are of great help in increasing production. At present, there are two main varieties of edible olives, in his orchard, with a total planting area of about 2,500 mu (about 166.67 hectares).

In the past five years, the annual output has been about 500,000 kilograms, and the annual output value can reach 50m yuan. Among them, Meixiang No. 2 has outstanding yield, with each tree can bear 250-400 kilograms during the annual picking season in August. Under the framework of CPEC, we have cooperated closely with China in many fields, so in this respect they can provide high-level support in terms of agricultural technology.

At present, in our olive growing area, when the orchard is too humid due to climate and other reasons, pests always arise freely. So, if we can collaborate, we need to transform advanced technology learned from high-level agricultural jargon into easy-to-understand knowledge that can be conveyed to our farmers, mentioned Dr. Ramzan Ansari, who is in charge of olive research at the Barani Agricultural Research Institute. Experts believe, as agriculture is one of the key sectors in Pakistan economy, both countries should deepen and expand cooperation in the agriculture sector under CPEC. Pakistan can adopt the latest Chinese technology for the cultivation of olive plants. Against the backdrop of successful cultivation of cash crops such as chili peppers, a joint venture between China and Pakistan for olive cultivation and processing is also a viable solution. Inam ul Haq, who works as a horticulturist at the Barani Agricultural Research Institute in Chakwal, has included Chinese investment in his plans.

In the future we plan various joint ventures with Chinese counterparts as we can take advantage of their expertise, since the world understands their knowledge and praises them.” Dr. Ramzan Ansari suggested that some areas with high agricultural potential, including the Potohar region, could become exclusive agricultural zones under CPEC. In addition, professionals from both China and Pakistan have high expectations for the olive by-product processing industry.

Taking Fujian as an example, main olive by-products include juice, syrup, honey, preserved fruit, tea, vinegar, beverage. Among them, olive tea is made from olives and black tea with ingredients such as ginger and olive salt, which is very popular with the local people. In addition, the olives can increase the aroma of the tea, making the aroma more lingering, Chen told CEN. The processed products of olives have very high added value, such as pickled olives, olive tea, olive sugar, and the like.

The residue left after processing olives can also be used for livestock feed. We can cooperate with Chinese research institutes or enterprises, and I hope our government can play an active role in policy guidance and industry support.

By now, we have introduced pickled olives to some Chinese dealers, who are very interested in it and expressed that they will seize the opportunity to promote cooperation between the two parties, Syed Yousaf Ali, an owner of olive orchard at Sehgal farmhouse Kallar Kahar, echoed confidently.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/972446/pak-china-olive-cooperation-possesses-immense-potential/>

China-Pakistan welcome third-party participation in CPEC development: Zhao Lijian

China and Pakistan have agreed on participation of third parties in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and exchanges among media and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with the existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday.

During the third meeting of Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination under the CPEC held last week, both sides agreed to well grasp the general direction of development of the CPEC, he said during his regular briefing held here. He said the two sides agreed to properly cope with risks and challenges to accumulate positive energy for, inject new impetus into, and provide a strong guarantee for the development of CPEC. The relevant CPEC meeting held via video link and co-chaired by China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood exchanged views and reached common understandings on the participation of third parties in CPEC, exchanges among media and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan.

The spokesperson said that the two sides also agreed to continue to deepen media cooperation and do a good job in telling a CPEC stories, and innovate and expand cooperation among think tanks to provide more public support and insights for the development of CPEC.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to follow through on the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner to better benefit the two countries and two peoples, he added.

Meanwhile, in a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the third meeting of CPEC JWG on International Cooperation placed emphasis on high-quality development of CPEC. As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened by CPEC, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/972448/china-pakistan-welcome-third-party-participation-in-cpec-development-zhao-lijian-2/>

Pakistan Observer

E-custom clearance system installed in Gwadar Free Zone

In order to give a strategic boost to commercial activities, an e-custom clearance system “Web Based One Custom” (WeBOC) has been installed in Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. It is a milestone development in the history of Gwadar Port Free Zone consisting of the South Free Zone (Phase I) and the North Free Zone (Phase II).

Now all foreign and local companies already registered or to be registered in Gwadar Free Zone will observe a phenomenal growth of their businesses enjoying paperless, ultra-fast, cost-effective and transparent processes and procedures. It will be an impetus to foreign investors always asking for the activation of E-custom functionality in Gwadar Free Zone. After fulfilling the prerequisite, foreign investment is highly likely to come, which is desperately needed for the struggling Pakistani economy in the current scenario.

The game-changing e-initiative aims to facilitate companies in Gwadar Free Zone to get integrated with Gwadar Port, customs, NLC, FBR, banking channels and other institutions to increase efficiency and reduce the time taken for processing in various departments.

WeBOC in Gwadar Free Zone will help with the automation, standardisation and harmonisation of all trade procedures and logistic services related to land, air and sea routes under the Pakistan Single Window (PSW).

China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) official said that investors and operators of the Free Zone have hailed the development as a watershed moment in the progress of Gwadar Free Zone. “It will increase the efficiency of consignment processing,” they added.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani said that since trade activities have been picking up momentum in Gwadar Free Zone, there is an acute need to put in place a vibrant system of E-Custom to help bolster entire manual business activities.

“WeBOC installation in Gwadar Free Zone will put trade management and business administration into high gear,” he added. “It will also pave [the] way for end-to-end logistics solutions,” he mentioned.

A local businessman Agha Hayat said that a large number of government departments and organisations have prescribed multiple “Registrations, Licenses, Certificates and Other permits (RLCOs)” for establishing and operating businesses. Many of these RLCOs envisage cumbersome processing through manual application procedures. The launch of the mega initiative in Gwadar will reduce the compliance burden on businesses, he said.

“This will enhance ease of doing business in Pakistan and as a result, it will improve the country’s image and attract foreign direct investment,” Muhammad Ali Baloch, another local businessman said. —INP

<https://pakobserver.net/e-custom-clearance-system-installed-in-gwadar-free-zone/>

Express News

کراچی کے دو تعلیمی اداروں میں چین کی جانب سے ای کامرس اور ٹیکنالوجی کورس کا اجرا

چین کے تعاون سے کراچی کے دوسرے تعلیمی اداروں نے نوجوانوں میں چین جیسی کاروباری صلاحیت اور استعداد پیدا کرنے کے لیے ای کامرس سمیت مختلف کورسز شروع کر دیئے ہیں۔

آن لائن شروع کیے جانے والے ان کورسز میں ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ چینی اساتذہ اور کاروباری شعبہ کے ماہرین نوجوانوں کو چین کی کاروباری دنیا میں رسائی کے طریقے، چینی مصنوعات دنیا بھر میں فروخت اور پاکستانی مصنوعات کے دنیا میں دروازے کھولنے کے طریقے سکھا رہے ہیں جس سے نوجوانوں میں دنیا کے کاروباری رجحانات سے آگاہی ہوگی بلکہ وہ عالمی سطح پر کاروبار کرنے کے طریقے بھی جان سکیں گے۔

سندھ ٹیکنیکل بورڈ کے چیئرمین ڈاکٹر مسرور شیخ نے اس سلسلے میں ایکپریس میں ایکپریس کو تفصیلات بتاتے ہوئے کہا ٹیکنیکل بورڈ اور داؤد انجینئرنگ یونیورسٹی مشترکہ طور پر چین کے ہنان کیمیکل اینڈ ووکیشنل ٹیکنیکل کالج کی مدد سے یہ کورسز کر رہے ہیں اس کورسز سے نئے تعلیمی تقاضوں کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے ڈیزائن کیا گیا۔

ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ نوجوانوں کو چینی زبان سکھانے کے ساتھ چین کی کاروباری دنیا میں رسائی کا طریقہ سکھایا جا رہا ہے یہ کورس نہ صرف نوجوانوں کے اندر کاروبار کرنے کی جستجو پیدا کرے گا بلکہ کم سرمائے سے آن لائن کاروبار کرنے کے گرسکھانے کا باعث بنے گا جس کی رسائی چینی یونیورسٹی میں بھی ہوگی۔

چائنا کے باہمی تعاون سے ای کامرس، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آر آئی) بزنس انٹرپرائیزور شپ کے لیے ایک آن لائن پروگرام شروع کر دیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ جہاں چینی کمپنیوں کی ضرورت روز بروز بڑھتی جا رہی ہے کہ وہ زیادہ سے زیادہ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی تربیت یافتہ انگریزی بولنے والے افرادی قوت کام کر سکیں۔

چینی مصنوعات اور خدمات کی مارکیٹنگ کے لیے بی آر آئی نیٹ ورک میں آنے والے 152 ممالک میں ان کی آن لائن فروخت اور سرحد پار ای کامرس آپریشنز کے لیے ریڈھ کی بڑی کے طور پر کام کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نوجوانوں کی بے روزگاری کا خاتمہ اور ان کے لیے بیرون ملک میں روزگار کے مواقع مہیا کرنے کے لیے اور پاک چائنا کے

تعلیمی اداروں کے روابط اور مضبوط کرنے کے لیے سندھ بورڈ آف ٹیکنیکل ایجوکیشن اور داؤد یونیورسٹی آف انجینئرنگ اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی نے چین کے ہنان کیمیکل اینڈ ووکیشنل ٹیکنیکل کالج کے ذریعے ای کامرس، بی آر آئی بزنس انٹرپرائیزور شپ کے لیے ایک آن لائن ٹریننگ پروگرام کا باقاعدہ آغاز کر دیا جس کی کلاسز 19 جولائی سے داؤد یونیورسٹی آف انجینئرنگ اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی میں شروع ہو گئیں ہیں جس میں 3 ماہ کے 3 کورسز جس میں ہر کورس میں 32 گھنٹے آن لائن اور 32 گھنٹے فزیکل کلاسزلی جاری ہیں۔

ایک بیچ میں 45 طلبہ و طالبات ٹریننگ لے رہے ہیں ہمارا ہدف ہے کہ 10 ہزار داخلے دیں اور اس کو مزید آگے تک پھیلائیں۔ ان کا مزید کہنا ہے کہ حال ہی میں ماڈل سائنوپٹک ڈویلپمنٹ ووکیشنل اینڈ ٹیکنیکل جو انٹ ایجوکیشنل پروگرام پر مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے گئے ہیں۔ ہم چاہتے ہیں طلبہ و طالبات اس پروگرام کے لیے تیار ہو جائیں تاکہ چین میں کاروبار کر سکیں۔

چائینیز زبان کے ساتھ چائینا میں کاروبار، چائنا کے قانون اور چائنا کے کلچر کو سیکھنے کے لیے نئے کورسز متعارف کروائے گئے ہیں جس میں طلباء کو طور طریقہ سمجھنے میں آسانی ہوگی اور مزید آسانی سے کاروباری کام پاک چائنا کے درمیان شروع کر سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چین کے ہنان کیمیکل اینڈ ووکیشنل ٹیکنیکل کالج تین ماڈیولز پر مشتمل ہے جن میں چینی زبان، چینی ثقافت اور چینی کاروبار شامل ہیں، جنہیں ہنان چین کی فیکٹی نے ڈیزائن کیا ہے تاکہ پاکستانی طلباء کو چینی کاروبار، کلچر، زبان کی آگاہی ہو اور ان میں مہارت ہو جائے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ پروگرام چائینیز یونیورسٹی، انڈسٹری کے روابط کی ایک بہترین مثال ہے جہاں مطالعہ کے دوران ہر طالب علم کو ای کامرس گیٹ وے اور کنسورشیم کے ذریعے 50 چینی کاروباروں تک آن لائن مفت رسائی کے ساتھ انٹرپرائیزور شپ پر مبنی جسمانی تربیت فراہم کی جائے گی۔ تربیت کی تکمیل کے بعد ہر ٹرینی کو فری لانس سیلز مارکیٹنگ کی صلاحیت بڑھ جائے گی اور وہ اپنا کاروبار چین میں بخوبی کر سکتے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2351005/508/>

K2 Daily News



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

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Daily Times

Pakistan rice export to China witness increase in H1-22

Pakistan's rice export to China in the first six months of this year is worth around US\$345m, compared with the US\$ 258m in the same period last year, according to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Pakistan's rice exports witnessed a 23pc growth in the fiscal year 2021-2022 and reached US\$2.511b compared with the US\$2.041b in the fiscal year 2020-2021. As per official statistics, Pakistan exported 4.877m tonnes of rice in the fiscal year 2021-22 against 3.684m tonnes in the fiscal year 2020-2021, showing a growth of 32.35pc. Over the last couple of years, areas under rice cultivation have been on the rise. The crop was sown on 3,537 thousand hectares, showing an increase of 6.1pc against 3,335 thousand hectares last year. The record high output of rice stood at 9.323m tonnes during 2021-2022, higher by 10.7pc than the previous year's production of 8.420m tonnes, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

In addition to the increase in acreage, the increase in rice production is another important factor contributing to the surge in Pakistan rice exports. The renewal of good varieties and the use of advanced technology are essential factors to promote high yields. Hybrid rice from China has replaced some backward local varieties. Longping South Asia Seed R&D Centre has bred high-yield varieties with strong stress resistance in Pakistan, the yield of which is as high as 150 monz/ac. Shahzad Ali Malik, Chairman of the Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) maintained that the regular use of high-tech hybrid seeds in agriculture could contribute a lot to achieving an ambitious US\$35b export target with a slogan of Grow More-Export More. Long Chunjiu, Chief Scientist of the R&D Centre said in a recent interview that

Pakistan has a great potential for rice export, in which hybrid rice seeds can play a critical role. High-tech hybrid seeds are producing double yield[s] as compared to other conventional seeds.

In Pakistan, almost 200 hybrids are approved/recommended by the variety evaluation committee. More than 60 hybrids are available on the market. If high-tech hybrid seeds are applied to all major crops, it will help a lot to achieve our ambitious export targets, said Abdul Rasheed, a PHHSA member. In addition to the increase in Pakistan's rice exports to China, the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of rice seeds has also intensified progressively. Long believes that China-Pakistan seed industry cooperation is of great significance. We should make better use of local germplasm resources such as Basmati and give full play to local high-quality meteorological conditions to help locals achieve grain self-sufficiency and export foreign exchange earnings; through the cooperation platform between the two countries, China's domestic seed companies can cooperate and develop with local enterprises with solid strength to provide high-quality technical services and varieties and improve local farmers passion for planting, he explained. While continuing to work on breeding high-yield hybrid rice for stress resistance, Long Chunjiu is also working on breeding hybrid Basmati varieties and japonica rice. One or two new varieties will be authorized this year, and we hope to commercialize hybrid Basmati and Japonica rice as soon as possible, Long Chunjiu said. As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) moves into its second phase, cooperation between China and Pakistan in the core of agriculture, seed, is a top priority. We look forward to establishing a Technology Transfer- Product Process- Export model for seed cooperation with Chinese partners. These include storage of agricultural produce, livestock breeding, research and development, and a high yield variety of hybrid seeds, Abdul Rasheed concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/972795/pakistan-rice-export-to-china-witness-increase-in-h1-22/>

PCJCCI keen to export dairy products to China

The cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and demand for high-quality dairy products in China will provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's dairy industry.

Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai expressed these views at a think-tank session, held here at the PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday. He said, "We have learned that Pakistan is the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia, whereas Chinese technologies are low-priced. If we adopt the techniques and technology, used by China, Pakistan could advance in this industry." The PCJCCI president said that China was willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if it had the opportunity to be part of Pakistan in the sector. From 2011 to 2022, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 per cent, and the demand was still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in high demand in the Chinese market.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry said that currently, China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 per cent), the Netherlands (17.15 per cent) and Australia (7.38 per cent). Pakistan's government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk.

He asserted that the local farmers are facing many problems, such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transportation of milk, and cold storage; the government should come forward to train and educate them with the modern technology. In this way, Chinese consumers' demands for high-quality dairy products will be satisfied.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension can be expected in the process.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfaraz Butt said that animal husbandry is one of the pillar industries in Pakistan. Specifically, Balochistan, where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is located in, is with unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows. He added that the construction of epidemic-free area in Gwadar Port is progressing in an orderly way. If the industrial chain of China can be extended to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve win-win outcomes for the dairy industry of both countries.

Joint Chambers Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif said that Pakistan is among world's top five milk producers, with over 60m tons of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/972792/pcjcci-keen-to-export-dairy-products-to-china/>

Dawn News

FO rejects 'preposterous' remarks by India on CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday categorically rejected as baseless and misguided the remarks made by the official spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), calling it an effort to politicise the project.

In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson said CPEC was a transformational project and a harbinger of stability, mutual cooperation and shared development for the region.

As a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and hallmark of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, CPEC provides a vehicle for the people of the region to break from zero-sum approaches, he remarked.

He said China's investment in CPEC had helped Pakistan overcome the energy and infrastructural bottlenecks that once constrained growth and development.

Attempts to cast aspersions over CPEC show India's insecurity as well as the pursuit of a hegemonic agenda that has held back socioeconomic development in South Asia for decades, he commented.

While rejecting India's fallacious assertion that CPEC impinges on its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the spokesperson pointed out that it was in fact India that was illegally occupying the state of Jammu and Kashmir for over seven decades.

He said India's attempts to mislead the international community about the status of Jammu and Kashmir and to hide its atrocities against the Kashmiri people would never succeed. India was cautioned to desist from falsehoods and baseless claims over a territory that it continued to illegally occupy through brute force, he added. The spokesperson said the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remained an internationally recognised dispute on the United Nations agenda and "its solution lies in exercise of the right of self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1701762/fo-rejects-preposterous-remarks-by-india-on-cpec>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese BRI and Kyrgyzstan: The Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Chinese One Belt & One Road (BRI) has been improving business, economic, investment, joint venture and connectivity potential of Kyrgyzstan since 2013.

Kyrgyzstan is strategically located between Europe and Asia and its business environment, its global presence and its trade and investment conditions/potential have enabled it to become a base for larger production, procession and commodity distribution and transshipment in the Central Asian Region in which BRI would play an important role in the days to come.

Kyrgyzstan and China have already built strong trade and economic ties. China, under the flagship of the BRI, carries numerous projects in Kyrgyzstan in road and energy infrastructure rehabilitation, urban development, mining, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy due to which the economic collaboration and bilateral trade between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to come.

Kyrgyzstan has been among the earliest supporters and participants of BRI and the two countries are expected to deepen their mutual cooperation in areas like agriculture, infrastructure development and connectivity as well as trade and investment facilitation.

China's interest in Kyrgyzstan was further strengthened with the operationalization of the BRI in 2013.

Kyrgyzstan, which is flanked by China to the east and Uzbekistan to the west, is strategically important to the BRI.

Its location separates China from the rest of Central Asia and further afield to West Asia and the easternmost borders of Europe and thus is key to opening and securing trade routes to the region.

Thus completion of numerous projects of infrastructural development under the aegis of BRI in Kyrgyzstan would further diversify trade routes and greater regional connectivity options of China. Moreover, it would provide a win-win proposition for both the countries.

Obviously, Kyrgyzstan's macro-economy is relatively open, and supportive. It has a competitive corporate tax rate of 10 percent (among the lowest in the region), low labor costs (lowest in the region) and relatively cheap electricity (cheapest in the region) as a result of its abundant hydroelectric resources.

Major flows of FDI to Kyrgyzstan started in the 2000s, benefitting mainly the country's gold industry and FDI has since concentrated on mining industries.

In terms of the business environment, Kyrgyzstan ranks 80th in the World Bank's 2020 Ease of Doing Business Report.

Constant structural and legislative reforms of the government have institutionalized the global best practices on tax administration; permits, technical regulations and inspection which have created a relatively strong regulatory environment.

Thus its economic stability and sustainability would be counter-productive for the rapid growth of BRI in the country.

According to the 2020 World Investment Report released by the United National Trade Conference (UNCTAD), in 2019, Kyrgyzstan received US\$209 million in FDI flows and by the end of 2019 the country attracted a total of US\$5.59 billion of FDI inflows.

Obviously, China is the largest source of investment to Kyrgyzstan, accounting for almost half of the FDI inflows. It is also Kyrgyzstan's largest creditor, holding more than 40 percent of Kyrgyzstan's large external public debt.

China has been Kyrgyzstan's largest trading partner for imports as well as the fastest growing import market over the past 10 years.

For exports, China is Kyrgyzstan's sixth largest trading partner in 2019. In 2019, the trade volume between China and Kyrgyzstan reached US\$6.37 billion, up by 13.15 percent year-on-year, according to the data from the General Administration of China Customs.

China exported US\$6.31 billion worth of goods to Kyrgyzstan in 2019. The main categories of China's exports include apparel and clothing accessories, shoes, boots, leg warmers, and their parts, cotton, chemical fiber filament, machinery tools and parts, etc.

In return, Kyrgyzstan exported US\$65.96 million to China, mainly goods like ore, slag and ash, copper, rawhide and leather, mineral fuels, mineral oil, wool and other animal hair, fruit, etc.

Interestingly, Chinese sponsored 261 projects have been financed in the Central Asian region within the BRI or bilaterally.

Specifically, according to CADGAT report, Kyrgyzstan has been implementing 46 projects, Tajikistan 44 projects, Uzbekistan 43 projects, whereas Kazakhstan has the largest penetration of

Chinese investment with 102 projects in comparison with 26 in Turkmenistan that has the lowest number of projects in the region.

Overall, 237 bilateral and 24 multilateral projects are being carried out in Central Asia with Chinese investment, out of which 209 are local and 52 are regional

The development of a railway line heading West over the Kyrgyz Tan Shan, to Osh and along the Ferghana Valley through to Uzbekistan and to link up with connections there through to Iran and the International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC) is dream project of China under the flagship of BRI.

Such a line would provide the first trans-Central Asian railway from East to West and would also link up with Central Asian lines heading North-South, the proposed Trans-Afghan route from Uzbekistan south to Pakistan and the Arabian Sea Ports at Gwadar and Karachi, as well as spurs leading into Tajikistan.

Hopefully, successful completion of this mega project would bisect Central Asia to the four corners of the world for the first time and has seaport access important for counties like Kyrgyzstan that are completely landlocked.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan (CKU) railway is open for business and the first cargo, US\$2.5 million worth of electrical goods left Lanzhou in China's western Gansu Province to Kashgar and onto Tashkent in June last year.

To conclude, Kyrgyzstan has become an ideal service hub in Central Asia. Its exports are estimated to be worth about US\$2 billion, and include gold, cotton, wool, garments, meat, mercury, uranium, electricity, machinery and footwear.

It imports about US\$4.5 billion worth of goods, including oil and gas, machinery and equipment, chemicals and foodstuff. Thus the flourishing national economy of Kyrgyzstan is a good omen for the BRI.

Moreover, the Kyrgyz economy has been among the more liberal and open among Central Asian countries.

It was the first Central Asian country to become a WTO member in 1998 and its trade share in GDP is the highest in the region.

Its flourishing cross-border trade with its large markets at Dordoi and Kara-Su, transshipping large volumes of goods: importing goods through both formal and informal trade systems, mainly from China, and re-exporting (in few cases with some value-addition) to other regional economies are changing the economic landscape of the country.

Chinese BRI investment has now reached US\$5 billion in Kyrgyzstan mainly in valuable manufacturing and transit projects.

In this connection, the Bishkek-Naryn-Torugart highway, the Bishkek-Osh highway, while an alternative road connecting the country's north and south is currently under construction

providing road links between Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. These are already the largest construction infrastructure projects in Kyrgyz history.

Appropriate fiscal tax, custom incentives, more business and investment friendly policies would further enhance its potential of trans-shipment and trans-trade.

Moreover, revisiting of its strategy of Special Economic Zones, further diversification of FDI, rigorous commercial diplomacy, persuasion of green development, vast network of SMEs, micro-financing, digitalization and last but not the least development of qualitative human capital may be beneficial for the BRI as well as in the macro-economy of Kyrgyzstan.

Drastic improvement in the efficiency of the supply chain and transit, as well as the development of the transport sector would further foster the drivers of the competitiveness of the economy and integration into the world economy for the country.

There should be sincere efforts to realize its potential of becoming the transit and logistics hub in the region, a “bridge” between Europe and Asia.

The development of transport and logistics as the main factor of stimulating industrial growth and the development of the competitive economic system should be initiated.

The further integration of the regional transport systems and the development of the multimodal transport and efficient supply chains require an integrated approach to the development of transport services, infrastructure and logistics of Kyrgyzstan.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-bri-and-kyrgyzstan-the-way-forward-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC & Xinjiang top cornerstones of BRI

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, recently inspected the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in north-western China and visited officials and the general public of different ethnic groups.

Xi stressed that with the country opening wider to the world, the western region being further developed, and the Belt and Road Initiative being materialized, Xinjiang has changed from a relatively closed inland region to a frontier of opening up.

The region should develop the core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt, incorporate its regional opening-up strategy into the overall layout of the country’s westward opening up, innovate the system for an open economy, speed up the construction of major opening-up corridors, so that it can make better use of international and domestic markets and resources and actively serve and integrate itself into the country’s new pattern of development.

BRI is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program which aims at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the route of the historic Silk Road.

The Initiative was unveiled in 2013 by Chinese President Xi Jinping and until 2016, was known as OBOR – One Belt One Road.

On March 28, 2015, the official outline for the Belt and Road Initiative was issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), with authorization of the State Council.

According to the official outline, BRI aims to “promote the connectivity of Asian, European and African continents and their adjacent seas, establish and strengthen partnerships among the countries along the Belt and Road, set up all-dimensional, multi-tiered and composite connectivity networks, and realize diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable development in these countries.”

Under the umbrella of the BRI, domestic and foreign financial institutions have been pouring into northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, looking for opportunities under China's BRI.

Experts say that there are abundant opportunities in the infrastructure sector, as major investment is planned, and that will attract even more companies into Xinjiang.

Xinjiang is the starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which links the region with the Gwadar port in Pakistan. The CPEC is estimated to draw infrastructure investment of \$62 billion.

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region plans to invest 70 billion Yuan (8.4 billion US dollars) on 30 major projects in the next five years.

According to local officials, funds will mainly come from central and regional governments. Most of the 30 projects are expected to be completed before the end of 2005.

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region will spend 30 billion Yuan on expanding basic industries and infrastructure, mainly in transport, telecommunications, water conservancy, agriculture, energy development and raw material.

It shows the significance of CPEC as Xinjiang, being a starting point of one of the main corridors of BRI, is focusing on infrastructural development.

The infrastructural development in Xinjiang will complement the construction of CPEC that will hugely benefit the goals and aims of the greater version of the economic corridor.

Pakistan, being a very close neighbour of China and bordering with Xinjiang region, has huge potential to get maximum benefits from the infrastructural development of Xinjiang.

Xinjiang is investing on expanding basic industries and infrastructure, mainly in transport, telecommunications, water conservancy, agriculture, energy development and raw material, so Pakistan got the splendid opportunity to take maximum benefits from this development in these specific areas. The Urumqi International Land Port Area in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is well on its way to become an important growth pole powering the region's opening-up and economic development.

By June 2022, the land port area had operated more than 5,900 China-Europe freight train trips via 21 routes linking 26 cities in 19 European and Asian countries and regions. The trains carry over 200 categories of goods, ranging from daily necessities and garments to mechanical equipment and building material.

The Belt and Road Initiative, which initiated a new prospect for China's opening up, has also provided unprecedented opportunities for Xinjiang which is located at the heart of the ancient Silk Road. The region posted over 67.4 billion Yuan in foreign trade value in the first five months of this year, up 30.9 percent year on year.

Pakistan through CPEC may expand its trade linkages with Central Asian and European countries through Xinjiang that offers more quick and affordable trade routes in a more peaceful and sustainable way. Pakistan may evolve more dynamic strategies and explore more options to expand CPEC through Xinjiang for opening up its trade linkages in a greater way that will be beneficial for the domestic economy and trade boom.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-xinjiang-top-cornerstones-of-bri-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

Pakistan rice export to China witness increase

Pakistan's rice export to China in the first six months of this year is worth around US\$345 million, compared with the US\$ 258 million in the same period last year, according to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Pakistan's rice exports witnessed a 23% growth in the fiscal year 2021-2022 and reached US\$2.511 billion compared with the US\$2.041 billion in the fiscal year 2020-2021. As per official statistics, Pakistan exported 4.877million tonnes of rice in the fiscal year 2021-22 against 3.684 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2020-2021, showing a growth of 32.35%.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-rice-export-to-china-witness-increase/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC extension to Afghanistan discussed

Meeting reviews preparation for 11th JCC huddle expected next month

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal presided over a pre-Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on Tuesday to review the

progress made in preparation for the 11th JCC meeting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is expected to be convened next month.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood apprised the meeting of the third International Cooperation and Coordination Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held virtually on July 22.

He was quoted as saying that China appreciated Pakistan's efforts to provide a safe and smooth business environment and the leadership's commitment to building CPEC with "Pakistan speed".

The meeting discussed third-party participation and extension of CPEC to Afghanistan. It was pointed out that cooperation between think tanks on both sides should be encouraged to further deepen the strategic economic cooperation under CPEC.

The minister was apprised of the activities that were planned to promote the CPEC narrative at the national and global levels.

During the meeting, the Power Division highlighted the agenda for the forthcoming ninth JWG on energy meeting scheduled to be held in the first week of August.

It was informed that 1,124-megawatt Kohala and 700.7MW Azad Pattan hydropower projects as well as 1,320MW Thar coal power plant would be taken up with the Chinese side in the next scheduled JWG meeting.

Furthermore, a joint study for future development of Thar coal has also been made part of the agenda.

The minister underlined that measures had been taken to provide sufficient power for Gwadar city and stressed the need for renewable energy projects for Gwadar city development in the future.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication briefed the meeting on the agenda of the forthcoming second JWG on IT with focus on ICT infrastructure development, policy and regulations, human resources development and cyber security.

The planning minister stressed the need for cooperation with China in the IT sector, as China had emerged as a leader in artificial intelligence, and cooperation with China in the field promised enormous benefits to Pakistan.

In addition to that, the meeting also discussed projects in the agriculture and socio-economic sectors for the forthcoming 11th JCC huddle.

It was underlined that that China's expanding agriculture market provided significant potential for Pakistan's exports.

It was emphasised that modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture should be carried out in Pakistan in the context of CPEC, as well as other measures should be taken to enable agricultural development and tap into the Chinese market for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) and quarantine issues were explicitly marked as important hurdles in the way of meat export to China. However, a representative of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research informed the meeting that they were being addressed on a priority basis with Chinese assistance.

The minister concluded the sitting by laying stress on the importance of people-to-people exchange programme between China and Pakistan and how it may contribute to the economic development of the country.

He told the planning secretary to devise a plan to boost exchanges under CPEC so that emerging leaders in every field could experience the development in China and internalise it for the development of Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368065/cpec-extension-to-afghanistan-discussed>

The News

China keen to explore Pakistan's dairy sector for mutual benefits

LAHORE: Cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector.

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai on Tuesday said the Chinese learned that Pakistan was the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. Chinese technologies were low-priced he said that "if we adopt the techniques and technology used by China, Pakistan can advance in this industry".

Pakistan is among the world's top five largest milk producers, with over 60 million tonnes of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

"We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it. From 2011 to 2022, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 percent, and the demand is still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in high demand in the Chinese market," Zihai added.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry said that currently China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 percent), the Netherlands (17.15 percent) and Australia (7.38 percent). "Our government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk."

He further added that the local farmers were facing many problems, such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk, and cold storage, and to get rid of these, the government should come forward to train and educate farmers about modern technology.

In this way, demand from Chinese consumers for high-quality dairy products would be satisfied. Meanwhile, Pakistan's economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension can be expected in the process.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfaraz Butt said that animal husbandry was one of the pillar industries in Pakistan, "specifically, Balochistan, where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is located".

Balochistan has the unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows. He added that the construction of epidemic-free area in Gwadar Port was progressing in an orderly way.

"If the industrial chain of China can be extended to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve win-win outcomes for the dairy industry of both countries," Butt added.

It should be noted that Pakistan's domestic dairy sector remains marred by low productivity and weak supply chain.

The dairy sector's trouble and toil in keeping pace with milk demand would likely continue in 2022-23, thanks to government's failure in creating an enabling environment based on innovative cost-cutting initiatives.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=111290>

July 28, 2022

Business Recorder

PM promises swift completion of stalled Chinese projects

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has asked his Special Representative Zafaruddin Mehmood and Additional Secretary Nadeem Chaudhry to support the Chinese company, Shanghai Electric, in the early completion of the Thar Coal Project.

A Chinese delegation led by President of Shanghai Electric Liu Ping met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and informed that the 1,320MW Thar Coal Power Project had been delayed for the past few years, but work had been expedited due to support provided by the government. The prime minister was informed that the project would be completed in the first quarter of 2023. More than 7,000 local people were provided employment due to the project.

The meeting was also informed that Shanghai Electric was deeply interested in further investment in generation, transmission and distribution in Pakistan, which was welcomed by the PM. The president of Shanghai Electric thanked the PM and his team for their support for the completion of the project.

The PM said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing an important role in the development of Pakistan and the welfare of its people.

"The entire nation is thankful to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese leadership for helping Pakistan in every difficult phase," he said, adding that because of Chinese cooperation and

investment, Pakistan's infrastructure, development of public transport and power crisis had been lessened to a large extent.

He further stated that the ongoing development projects with Chinese cooperation would not be allowed to be delayed any longer and the government was taking serious steps to increase cooperation and investment with Chinese companies. All necessary steps were being taken to protect engineers and workers of Chinese companies, added the prime minister.

The premier regretted that the Thar Coal Power Project, which should have been completed a long time ago, was deliberately delayed by the incompetence of the previous government. With its completion, it will be possible to supply 1,320MW of electricity from local coal to the public very soon.

The meeting was attended by former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Federal Minister for Electricity Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, special assistants, Zafaruddin Mahmood, Dr Jahanzeb Khan, and concerned senior officials.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/28/1-page/938237-news.html>

Daily Times

Bilawal to lead Pakistan at SCO-CFM in Tashkent

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead Pakistan's delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) meeting in Tashkent on July 28-29.

The invitation to attend the SCO-CFM was extended by the acting Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Vladimir Norov, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Wednesday. In the CFM meeting, the SCO foreign ministers would deliberate upon important regional and international issues as well as approve the decisions and documents to be presented to the Heads of State at the SCO Summit in Samarkand in September this year. The foreign minister will also hold bilateral meetings with a number of his counterparts from SCO member states on the sidelines. Besides Pakistan, SCO member states include China, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. SCO's major objectives include promoting mutual confidence and good-neighbourly relations among member states; strengthening regional peace, security and stability; and creating a framework for effective cooperation in the political sphere, trade and economy, culture, science and technology, education, energy, transportation and connectivity, tourism, and environmental protection.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/973443/bilawal-to-lead-pakistan-at-sco-cfm-in-tashkent/>

Gwadar Free Zone to begin exports next year

In a major development, exports have been set in motion for the first time in Gwadar Free Zone under the backdrop of exemption from all sorts of taxes and customs duties in the Free Zone for a period of 20 years.

Along with exports to foreign countries, Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ, both South and North) have also kick-started supplying trade articles and manufacturing items for the local market of Pakistan.

” Both phenomenal steps aligned with E-Custom (Web-based one custom WeBOC) system aim to help Pakistan realize its dream to become a high-performing export-oriented country in the international trading landscape, ” China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Agvon, an enterprise incorporated in Gwadar North Free Zone that deals in fertilizer import and processing claims to export 20,000 tons of potassium sulphate to Pakistani and international markets.

It is expected to start its production facility by the start of next year.

For this purpose, Agvon has already acquired 10 acres of land and the manufacturing setup is under construction.

Moreover, another industry operating in GFZ, HK Sun Corporation will export its consignment to the tariff area in Pakistan.

” As per this module, functionalities pertaining to import and export from Gwadar and vice versa that have been introduced include import from abroad to GFZ through transshipment via both Karachi and Gwadar Port, export to tariff area and abroad from GFZ. Additional modalities are expected to be introduced in the coming week as stated by a document of Pakistan Customs,” says a GFZ official.

He said that export from GFZ to tariff area and abroad and vice versa through WeBOC would provide an impetus to the industrialization drive and enhance commercial activities in Gwadar and the region.

” It will accelerate logistic services as well,” he added.

Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone are two different entities with different functionalities.

Before Gwadar Free Zone is operationalized for exports, Gwadar Port initiated process for exports on December 15, 2019. Then a vessel, carrying three fish containers worth \$50,000 each, for a Far-Eastern country started the seafood exports through Gwadar port.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/973234/gwadar-free-zone-to-begin-exports-next-year/>

Pakistan Observer

PM Shehbaz assures Chinese delegation of workers’ security

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the incumbent government is taking concrete steps to promote cooperation with Chinese companies to attract investment.

Talking to a Chinese delegation, led by President of Shanghai Electric Liu Ping, he said all necessary steps were also being taken for the protection of workers and engineers of the Chinese companies.

The premier noted that China Pakistan Economic Corridor project is playing an important role in the development of Pakistan and welfare of its people.

Expressing his gratitude to the Chinese leadership for extending support to Pakistan in every difficult hour, Shehbaz Sharif said the Chinese cooperation and investment has helped improve infrastructure and public transport system besides addressing the electricity crisis to a great extent.

He said the development projects being executed in cooperation with the Chinese cooperation will not be allowed to face any further delays.

PM Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the Chinese companies for ensuring completion of projects on fast track basis.

Regretting delay in Thar Coal Power Project, PM Shehbaz Sharif said its completion will help generate 1320 megawatts of electricity from the local coal.

The meeting was informed that work has been accelerated on Thar Power Project by the present government and this will be completed in the first quarter of next year. The project will provide seven thousand jobs to the local population.

The meeting was further informed that Shanghai Electric is showing special interest for investment in electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-assures-chinese-delegation-of-workers-security/>

CM's special assistant visits proposed Daraban SEZ

Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Abdul Karim Tordher on Industries and Investments visited the proposed site for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Daraban D I Khan.

Ac-companied by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) Javed Iqbal Khattak, he was welcomed by Tehsil Mayor, Umer Amin Gandapur. CEO-KPEZDMC briefed him on the master plan of the zone and recent developments made regarding land of the proposed SEZ.

Located within close proximity to the main CPEC route (M- 14 Hakla, D I Khan Motorway, M14) and Mainline Package 1 of rail-track dualization (ML 1), Daraban proposed SEZ lies within the limits of KP provinces but has easy access to two provinces of Pakistan i.e. Punjab and Balochistan, he was in-formed.

The proposed SEZ is being developed and managed by KPEZDMC with the provincial government's vision of promoting the industrial sector in the province of KP.

<https://pakobserver.net/cms-special-assistant-visits-proposed-daraban-sez/>

The Express Tribune

Energy payments to top JWG agenda

Security of Chinese nationals also bottleneck in way of putting CPEC on fast track

ISLAMABAD: Foolproof security for Chinese nationals and clearance of over Rs250 billion worth of outstanding energy payments remain the key bottlenecks in the way of putting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project on a fast track, as the government seeks to hold the strategic planning committee meeting next month.

Diplomatic and government sources said Pakistan would have to come up with a clear plan to address the Chinese security concerns and for the protection of Chinese investment under the CPEC framework.

Chinese authorities have already asked Pakistan for expeditious completion of investigation into the attacks on Chinese nationals in Dasu and Karachi.

They added that the two issues would have to be sorted out, if Pakistan was keen to have meaningful progress on CPEC.

Foreign affairs ministry has recently informed the government that safety of the Chinese nationals was the “overarching concern” for CPEC’s continued success and progress on Pakistan’s priority areas.

But despite these concerns, China has not completely backed off from cooperation with Pakistan. It was open to the proposal of holding remaining meetings of the Joint Working Groups – the expert panels set up for different areas of cooperation.

Meetings of the working groups were a prerequisite for convening a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) – the strategic decision-making body of CPEC – in August.

Sources said China had floated a proposal to allow private Chinese security personnel to protect its nationals in Pakistan, which Islamabad did not agree to.

After attacks on Chinese nationals in Karachi, China had pressed Pakistan to ensure the security of its nationals and swiftly bring to justice those behind the bombing that killed three Chinese teachers.

A senior planning ministry official said Pakistan had further beefed up security of the Chinese nationals after the recent attack, which was appreciated by the Chinese officials.

Timelines for the clearance of CPEC energy payments would be one of the issues on top of the meeting agenda of the Joint Working Group on Energy.

Pakistan has so far not been able to give a clear roadmap due to fiscal constraints and also because of the International Monetary Fund’s loan strings.

“Pakistan is walking a tightrope and we are trying to resolve all the issues, which was also acknowledged by the Chinese ambassador during a recent meeting,” said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Iqbal said payables to the Chinese independent power producers (IPPs) had decreased to around Rs250 billion, which indicated the government’s commitment to resolve the issues.

Sources said Pakistan had proposed holding the next Joint Working Group on Energy meeting in August and was waiting for the response of the Chinese side.

Chinese investors have been facing problems in the execution of 1,124-megawatt Kohala hydropower project, 700MW Azad Pattan hydropower project, 1,320MW Thar coal power project and 300MW Gwadar coal power project.

These projects have also been affected by the delay in making energy purchase payments to the existing operational power plants.

Pakistan is also seeking next meeting of the energy planning expert panel but it has not yet got the confirmation. The meeting will discuss the issue of change in financing terms of CPEC projects in light of the suggestions agreed in the eighth Joint Energy Working Group meeting.

Recently, Pakistan has assured the IMF that it will try to renegotiate the CPEC energy deals or will attempt to change financing terms of the debt taken for the energy projects.

It is believed that the IMF’s concerns about CPEC are one of the reasons behind the delay in convening the IMF board meeting. The IMF has linked the clearance of CPEC energy payments with Beijing’s ability to renegotiate these deals.

But the IMF publicly denies that it is putting pressure on Pakistan to renegotiate the CPEC deals.

Sources said Pakistan also wanted the conversion of three imported coal-power projects to local coal. After a spike in coal prices, the Chinese power plants run off both money and inventory. The Chinese IPPs had to temporarily shut down some of the units of these plants.

Pakistan is also trying to buy Afghan coal to run the Chinese IPPs to avoid stress on its balance of payments position.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368208/energy-payments-to-top-jwg-agenda>

Pakistan plans dairy products export to China

Chinese technology, techniques key to success of dairy industry

LAHORE: Cooperation between China and Pakistan in the dairy industry and China’s enormous demand for high-quality dairy products will provide a path for development of Pakistan’s dairy industry.

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai expressed these views at a think-tank session held at the PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday.

“We have learnt Pakistan is the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. Pakistan’s dairy industry could progress, if we adopt the techniques and technology used by China,” he maintained.

The PCJCCI president underscored that China was willing to explore more opportunities in Pakistan’s dairy industry. From 2011 to 2022, China’s dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth rate of 12.3%, and the demand was still expanding.

Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are in high demand in the Chinese market.

Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry said that currently China’s dairy imports mainly came from New Zealand (40.44%), the Netherlands (17.15%) and Australia (7.38%).

“Pakistani government supports this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk,” he said.

He pointed out that the local farmers were facing many problems, such as the lack of education and facilities for storage, transportation and cold storage.

The government should come forward to train and educate them with modern technology. That way, Chinese consumer demand for high-quality dairy products would be fulfilled, he emphasised.

Meanwhile, Pakistan’s economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension can be expected in the process.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfaraz Butt said that animal husbandry was one of the pillar industries in Pakistan, specifically in Balochistan, where Gwadar Port under CPEC was located. “There are unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows.”

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368212/pakistan-plans-dairy-products-export-to-china>

The Nation

Bilawal Leaves For Tashkent Today To Attend SCO FMs’ Conference

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD – Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would leave for Tashkent today (Thursday) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation foreign ministers conference scheduled for July 28-29.

This would be Bilawal Bhutto’s first-ever foreign engagement in any multilateral forum since he took over as Foreign Minister in May this year.

Despite heavy political engagements back in Islamabad Bilawal would be travelling to Tashkent to attend SCO FM conference.

According to diplomatic sources, the Foreign Minister would address the forum and present Pakistan view point on regional situation, economic cooperation and connectivity.

On the sidelines of the conference he would also meet his counterparts from member countries including Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He is also expected to meet the Russian Foreign Minister as well.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry through a statement also confirmed that its Foreign Minister Jaishankar is also participating in the conference.

According to diplomatic sources, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi would be sharing a table with Pakistani Foreign Minister and Indian FM on the sidelines of the meeting over lunch. So there would be an informal discussion between Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers on bilateral as well as regional situation in the presence of Chinese Foreign Minister.

However there is no separate sideline meeting between Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers is planned.

Diplomatic sources confirmed that neither Pakistan nor India made any request for a meeting between their foreign ministers.

Sources in the Foreign Office confirmed that SCO foreign ministers would finalise the documents and agenda for SCO summit to be held in September in Samarkand.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/28/bilawal-leaves-for-tashkent-today-to-attend-sco-fms-conference/>

Chinese Envoy Resumes Duties After Long Leave

ISLAMABAD – Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, who was on long leave in China, has returned to Pakistan after a break of more than six months and resumed his ambassadorial duties.

Credible diplomatic sources told The Nation that the Chinese government has sent its ambassador back to Islamabad with a message for Pakistani leaders on CPEC and Pak-China bilateral ties.

The Chinese envoy paid his first call on to the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto and discussed bilateral ties and CPEC related issues.

Ambassador Nong Rong would meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other government ministers in the coming days.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/28/chinese-envoy-resumes-duties-after-long-leave/>

Protecting CPEC

The proposed involvement of Turkey's participation in CPEC, along with the project's expansion to Afghanistan, prompted India to protest even when it has no right to. The BJP-led government claimed that such developments are illegitimate and violate territorial integrity which is rather ironic considering that it has been illegally occupying the disputed region of Kashmir for decades. Perhaps the state should focus more on addressing the countless human rights violations against it rather than on making attempts to broadcast its stance.

In response to the baseless statement made, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the claims made and condemned India for needlessly politicising the issue. With heinous crimes being committed in the disputed region by India itself, this seems like an attempt to deflect attention from the illegal occupation. Plus, it reflects the state's insecurity regarding its position in the region.

The fact of the matter remains, progress on CPEC is ongoing and the hopes are that the second phase will be completed smoothly as well. Involving third parties will be beneficial since it will expand the scope of the corridor and bring in more investment and spearhead a new socio-economic era for the region in the future. There were some barriers that we faced after the attack on Chinese officials at the Karachi University but confidence has been restored.

On July 21, the Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination meeting was held and both sides, China and Pakistan, agreed upon expediting work on several projects. Accordingly, the Main Line 1 upgradation project was revived, and now the focus is on establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Nine were decided upon but not a single one has been completed as of yet. These are monumental tasks and we are getting external help through third-party involvements, there is no problem with that. It will be advantageous for the region and bring in more investment that will ensure that the corridor is all-encompassing. In the meantime, our government must be transparent about why there is a holdup and what the hurdles are in the way of CPEC development.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/28/protecting-cpec/>

The News

Pre-qualified Chinese bidders start due diligence, PSM visits

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: Three Chinese pre-qualified bidders contesting to win upto 74 percent stakes in Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation (PSMC) have started their due-diligence processes and on-site visits to the country's largest non-functional industrial unit. These parties were interested to revive this stalled entity and increase its production capacity to three million tonnes.

They were granted access to Virtual Data Room (VDR) in March 2022. And the parties have been visiting PSMC for inspection/assessment of the steel plant, jetty, etc. The government is

offering at least 51 percent or up to 74 percent shares capital of Steel Corporation together with management control through a bidding process.

Officials of the Privatisation Commission on Wednesday apprised Federal Minister and Chairman Privatisation Abid Hussain Bhayo in a meeting about the privatisation process of various public entities, including the steel manufacturing entity. Officials told the meeting that the process of the meetings with the pre-qualified parties was underway and discussed various matters pertaining to PSM's privatisation.

“PC (Privatization Commission) should focus in order to resolve all the pending matters for the early revival of PSMC, as it is one of the biggest entities on the active privatisation list, and has incurred huge losses to the national exchequer since 2015,” the minister said.

It should be noted that the government has finalised three Chinese companies as pre-qualified bidders, of which one would be given the stakes in PSMC. These bidders are Bao Steel Group Xinjiang Bayi Iron & Steel Co Ltd, (China), Tangshan Donghua Iron and Steel Enterprise Group Co Ltd (China), and Maanshan Iron and Steel Co Ltd.

The government has also appointed two firms, including Pak-China Investment Company and Bank of China International Co Ltd, as joint advisers for the transaction.

In the 1970s, the Soviet Union (now Russia) built this facility. It has not produced steel at its 19,000 acre facility since June 2015. It also owns 1,229 acres of land.

The PSM last posted a profit of Rs9.5 billion in financial year 2007-08. After that its financial health crumbled and the entity accumulated huge losses. Ultimately, in June 2015, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government closed this major industrial unit.

In the review meeting, the transaction status of National Power Parks Management Company Limited (NPPMCL) was also discussed. It targets to divest up to 100 percent of its shareholding in NPPMCL under which, two power plants, including 1,230MW combined cycle power plant Haveli Bahadur Shah in Jhang and 1,223MW combined cycle Balloki in Kasur, are operating.

A series of meetings with stakeholders have been held on the debt and equity matters. For that purpose, a plan of action has already been agreed upon regarding debt-refinancing for the plant from local and commercial banks. Once the debt-refinancing and recapitalisation are finalised, the sale of equity shares will quickly follow, the minister was informed.

In March 2022, a syndicate of banks offered Rs100 billion worth of commercial loans to replace its excess equity and loan in NPPMCL. The bank syndicate comprised of eight conventional and Islamic banks including Habib Bank, Meezan Bank, National Bank, Faysal Bank, Bank Alfalah, Bank of Punjab, BankIslami, United Bank, and a development finance firm namely Pak Kuwait Investment Company.

The minister also reviewed the privatisation of House Building Finance Corporation Limited (HBFCL) and First Women Bank Limited (FWBL).

The privatisation of HBFCL would likely be completed in the current fiscal year, as national and international investors have shown keen interest in it. The expression of interest (EOIs) for FWBL would be published after completion of the audit of its financials up to June 2022, the minister was briefed.

The privatisation of power distribution companies (DISCOs) was also discussed. The working group formed for the revival of DISCOs had already given its proposals and subsequently, the Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) approved the concession model and management contract model for the privatisation of 10 DISCOs.

The role of local and provincial governments in salvaging the DISCOs was also discussed as it has become more crucial after the National Electrical Policy-2021.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=111675>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: پاک چین تجارتی حجم میں اضافہ، درآمدات بڑھ گئیں

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی پیک کے بعد سے پاک چین تجارتی حجم میں اضافہ، درآمدات اور برآمدات بڑھ گئیں۔ چین کا حصہ کل درآمدات کا 60 فیصد تک پہنچ گیا، چین نے جاپان اور امریکہ سے ہماری درآمدات کو پچھاڑ دیا، چین نے اعلیٰ قیمت والی جاپانی اور جرمن مصنوعات کے متبادل فراہم کر کے خلا کو پر کر دیا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان سے چین کو دھات کی برآمدات اور چین سے مختلف اشیاء کی درآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ پاکستان اپنے آدھے سے زیادہ برقی آلات اور مشینری چین سے درآمد کرتا ہے۔ چین سے درآمد کی جانے والی اہم ایشیا میں نیوکلیر پاور پلانٹس، ہائی ٹیک صنعتی مشینری، سٹیل، ریشم اور لہسن شامل ہیں۔ آبزرویٹری آف اکنامک کمپلیکسٹی کے مطابق چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے آغاز سے قبل پاکستان کی دھات کی برآمدات افغانستان، چین، جاپان، امریکہ اور متحدہ عرب امارات کے لیے تھیں تاہم سی پیک کے آغاز کے بعد پاکستان کی چین کو دھات کی برآمدات میں نمایاں اضافہ ہوا۔ چین اب پاکستان کی دھات کی برآمدات اپنے سابقہ قریبی دوست ممالک سے کہیں زیادہ حاصل کرتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سی پیک کے تحت شروع کیے گئے 64 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبوں نے ملک میں شاہرات اور توانائی کی پیداوار کو بہتر بنانے کے علاوہ کان کنی کے شعبے کو بھی تقویت بخشی ہے جو ماضی میں زیادہ ٹرانسپورٹ لاگت، کم سرمایہ کاری اور ناکافی انفراسٹرکچر کا شکار تھا۔ 2014 میں پاکستان نے چین کو 50 ملین ڈالر مالیت کا تانبا برآمد کیا اور 2020 میں تانبے کی برآمدات کا حجم 410 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا۔ مشینوں اور الیکٹرانکس کے حوالے سے چین کی پاکستان کو سپلائی نے طویل عرصے سے ریاستہائے متحدہ اور جاپان سے برآمدات کو کم کر دیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-07-28/page-12/detail-1>

July 29, 2022

Business Recorder

KU suicide attack

Bereaved Chinese families to get same compensation package as Dasu project affectees

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to extend same compensation package to the families of three Chinese teachers killed and one injured in Karachi as already approved for Dasu hydropower projects victims, official sources told Business Recorder.

According to Ministry of Interior an unfortunate incident of suicide attack occurred at Confucius Institute Karachi University on April 26, 2022, in which three Chinese nationals lost their lives and one Chinese national was injured.

In order to mitigate the Chinese concerns and to convey a gesture of goodwill, a compensation package needs to be announced for the families of the Chinese victims of the terrorist attack. In this regard, the Prime Minister had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Interior to work out a compensation package.

A meeting of the inter-ministerial committee was held on June 1, 2022 under the chairmanship of Minister for Interior to work out a mechanism for compensation for the affected Chinese nationals.

It was noted that a formula had been devised to compensate the families of the Chinese victims of Dasu attack and an Inter-Ministerial Committee had been constituted under the Secretary Ministry of Water Resources to work out the formula for compensation. Four different formulas were analyzed for calculating the amount of compensation in which the amount of compensation paid to the Chinese victims of the terrorist attack at Gomal Zam Dam Project was used as a baseline and it was indexed upward using factor GDP per capita PPP. At that time, the Government of Pakistan had approved a compensation package amounting to \$100,000 for the family of the deceased and \$ 50,000 for the injured.

Accordingly, it was decided that the same formula, as used for calculation of compensation package for the victims of the Dasu attack may be applied in the case of victims of Karachi University attack.

Ministry of Interior requested the ECC of the Cabinet that an amount equal to \$ 1.505 million may be approved as compensation for Chinese victims of terrorist attack at Confucius Institute, Karachi University on 26 April, 2022, and provided as a Supplementary Grant, as this Ministry does not have budgetary provision for the purpose.

The ECC, in its meeting held on July 25, 2022 approved the proposal of payment and directed the Ministry of Interior to meet the expenditure from its own funds/ sources.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/29/4-page/938399-news.html>

NIMA holds webinar on ‘Development of Balochistan under CPEC’

KARACHI: The National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) organized a webinar on a very important topic “Development of Balochistan under CPEC”, to highlight the facts about CPEC and Chinese engagement in Gwadar and Balochistan. Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Director General NIMA, Vice Admiral Abdul Aleem HI (M) (Retd) the Chief Host, welcomed the Chief Guest, worthy speakers and other participants.

During his address, Director General NIMA, said that Balochistan despite being the largest province historically remained underdeveloped due to lack of socio-economic infrastructure, education and employment opportunities. Pak-China economic collaboration under the CPEC has brought great opportunity for improving socio-economic dynamics in Balochistan.

He also highlighted the efforts of Pakistan Navy in the development of coastal areas of Balochistan in providing health care facilities, education and training institutes for the local communities. Earlier Director NIMA Karachi Cdre Ali Abbas SI (M) (R), who was the moderator of the webinar, highlighted the salient points of the topic.

Speaking on the occasion, The Chief Guest Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that there was always a military driven security centric approach for Balochistan but due to CPEC, for the first time policy makers in Islamabad are looking at Balochistan with an economic lens. Gwadar is central in CPEC and for the development of Balochistan. At the heart of regional connectivity it will connect South Asia with Central Asia, China and Middle East.

As keynote speaker, President of Balochistan Economic Forum, Sardar Shaukat Popalzai highlighted the strategic and geographic importance of Balochistan and the potential in terms of natural resources that can attract the private and foreign investment in Balochistan. Sardar Popalzai also mentioned about the development plans running under the project of CPEC and emphasized on need of development at micro level, for the uplift of local communities.

The second speaker Ovais Vsh Baloch, Chief Operating Officer Visionary group and Vsh TV mentioned that people of Balochistan are in no way against any development activities they are always willing to participate in the development projects however there is a lack of trust deficit due to lack of development, education, health and employment opportunities for the local people of Balochistan.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/07/29/5-page/938410-news.html>

Daily Times

NESPAK wins PMC for New Gwadar International Airport

NESPAK has won the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services in an open bidding for the construction of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) Project, it was stated by Dr. Tahir Masood, Managing Director NESPAK here on Thursday.

The NGIA project is being implemented under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) program. Main components of the airport such as main runway, taxiways, apron, visual aids, navigational aids, ATC tower, FCR building, radar & radio building, AFL works, water works, car parking and some ancillary buildings are being undertaken by the Chinese side for which NESPAK in PMC role will act as “Employer’s Representative”. The additional works related to power supply and security infrastructure works of airside, construction of residential complex for CAA’s staff and Camp for Airport Security Force (ASF) staff including all external services i.e.,

water supply network, storm water drainage works, roads, firefighting works, power supply network, telecommunication works, etc. are covered under Pakistani side scope of works for which NESPAK will act as the “Engineer” for the construction supervision services. The Consultancy Agreement has been already signed between NESPAK and Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA).

Meanwhile, the Amendment No.2 incorporating the additional scope of work was signed by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and NESPAK at P&D Directorate, Karsaz, Karachi. The estimated cost of additional works is around Rs 10 billion. NESPAK is already providing consultancy services for Detailed Design and Field Design Support Services (FDSS) for New Gwadar International Airport Project. The new \$246 million Greenfield New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be made operational by September 2023 to welcome local and international flights at the port city.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/973758/nepak-wins-pmc-for-new-gwadar-international-airport/>

CPEC an opportunity for development of Balochistan: Mushahid

The National Institute of Maritime Affairs organized a webinar on a very important topic “DEVELOPMENT OF BALOCHISTAN UNDER CPEC”, to highlight the facts about CPEC and Chinese engagement in Gwadar and Balochistan. Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Senator. Mr. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Director General NIMA, Vice Admiral (Retd) Abdul Aleem HI (M) the Chief Host, welcomed the Chief Guest, worthy speakers and other participants.

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second speaker Mr. Ovais Vsh Baloch, Chief Operating Officer Visionary group and Vsh TV mentioned that people of Balochistan are in no way against any development activities they are always willing to participate in the development projects however there is a lack of trust deficit due to lack of development, education, health and employment opportunities for the local people of Balochistan.

The event was attended by a large number of eminent personalities experts. govt officials faculty members, students and key maritime stakeholders. In the end DG NIMA Vice Admiral (ret'd) Abdul Aleem HI(M) thanked the Chief Guest, Speakers and participants for their interests and availability on zoom. He appreciate team NIMA Karachi headed by Cdre (Ret'd) Ali Abbas for making this event rewarding and successful. He assured that NIMA will raise the recommendations of the webinar at the concerned quarters so that necessary measures could be initiated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/epaper/29-07-2022>

China's micro-inverter series to benefit Pakistan's remote areas

Chinese inverter manufacturer Zhejiang Beny Electric Company has recently unveiled a micro-inverter series for residential systems. Such inverters can enable the rural communities in the far-flung and remote areas of Pakistan to get maximum benefits from the sunlight utilising their limited resources, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The use of off-grid solar panels is increasing day by day in the rural areas of Pakistan, especially among the disadvantaged segments of society who cannot afford conventional means of lighting or large-scale renewable projects.

These people simply buy a panel or two and expose them to the sun either on their roofs or outside in the open air if they live under thatched roofs, even though they enjoy very limited benefits as these gadgets can only run fans or other small appliances.

Shahab Uddin, who deals in the solar panels and inverters in Malakand, says that two variants, BYM550 (550-volt ampere) and BYM700 (700VA), can be a game changer for the people, especially for those living in the rural area. "Small families in urban areas can also benefit from these mini-inverters," he said.

BYM550 and BYM700 can be connected to a single panel and enable module-level maintenance and management of the PV Station by monitoring the power generation of each module, as per the company instructions.

The maximum output power is up to 721W/channel adapted to 60, 66, and 72 cells PV panels. The static maximum power point tracking (MPPT) efficiency is 99.80% while peak efficiency is 97.5% and EURO efficiency is 97%.

For BYM550, 400~670W,60,66,72 Cell/(300~400W),72 cells are the recommended PV power module range. The MPPT voltage range is 24V-50V. The rated output power is 550VA with a

maximum output power of 600VA. The maximum connection number in one string is 10 units (30A circuit breaker, 9 AWG cable).

According to Shahab Uddin, looking at the rural market, MYM 550 could be the most desired micro-inverter in this region. “I hope the yet-to-be-announced price of the min-inverters will be affordable for the common people,” he said.

Engineer Suhail Ahmad said that micro-inverter will maximize the benefits of solar energy for people with fewer resources. “They can run small-sized water pumps, washing machines, and other appliances with micro-inverters while using a single panel”, he said.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-22, the installed capacity of solar power is 600 MW, which is around 1.4 percent of the total installed capacity. The 600MW does not include the solar-generated electricity that thousands of families are acquiring from solar panels at a low level.

The potential for solar power in Pakistan is also high. Sunlight is available abundantly almost throughout the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/973865/chinas-micro-inverter-series-to-benefit-pakistans-remote-areas/>

Govt committed to unlock full economic, connectivity potential of CPEC: Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday underlined the government’s commitment to unlock the full economic and connectivity potential of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through expedited and high-quality development of CPEC projects.

He emphasized the importance of key projects like Main Line One (ML-1) and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) in Pakistan’s development plans and expressed desire to move towards finalization of these projects in the upcoming 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee. The prime minister expressed these views as he received Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong here at the PM House, a press release issued here by the PM Media Office said.

Expressing satisfaction on the upward trajectory of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, the prime minister recalled his comprehensive and wide-ranging discussions with Premier Li Keqiang in a telephone call on 16 May 2022, and their consensus to further deepen and strengthen Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. He underscored that Pakistan and China were best friends, staunchest partners and Iron brothers, adding, the two nations had always stood by each other through fair weather and times of challenges, and extended support on key issues of core interest.

The prime minister appreciated China's support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development, including in dealing with the emerging economic challenges and volatility in global supply chains and commodities.

Sharing Pakistan's focus on early development of CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs), he welcomed the increased investments of Chinese enterprises especially in the country's industrial development. Referring to the increasing bilateral trade volumes and Pakistan's record exports of US \$ 3.6 billion in 2021, the prime minister emphasized that enhanced market access for Pakistani exports to China would help realize the full potential of Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement.

The prime minister was accompanied by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Minister of State Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Special Assistants to PM Tariq Fatemi, Zafarullah Mahmood and Jehanzab Khan.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the government was prioritizing the provision of facilities for screening and treatment of patients, in order to make Pakistan a hepatitis-free country by 2030.

The prime minister, in his message on the World Hepatitis Day annually observed on July 28, said in order to ensure the prevention of the disease, the government had decided to launch an awareness drive on preventive measures, besides providing treatment and vaccines to the people.

He said being a killer disease, hepatitis annually killed around a million people across the world. One out of every 13 Pakistanis suffered from hepatitis and around 86 percent of them remained unaware of the disease, he added.

The prime minister said nine million people suffering from hepatitis in Pakistan was no less than a threat that necessitated preventive measures and awareness campaigns to avert the spread from touching an alarming level.

He said being a silent killer, the hepatitis gradually killed the patient within 15 to 20 years causing liver cirrhosis and cancer. Recalling his anti-hepatitis efforts during his stint as Punjab chief minister, Shehbaz Sharif said he had established Pakistan Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute and Hepatitis Treatment Filter Clinics across the province for early diagnosis of the disease and save lives through liver transplantation of the patients going through last stage of the disease.

The prime minister said after assuming the prime minister's office, he had revived the PKLI, which had faced neglect of the precious government. The government also increased the quota of free treatment to achieve the dream of free-of-charge liver transplantation facility to the people coming from across the country.

He also urged the people to take precautionary measures to prevent their dear ones from the disease through vaccination and regular screening tests.

He also appealed to the media to play its role for mass awareness on prevention considering it a collective responsibility.

The prime minister hoped that the country could overcome the disease by timely diagnosis and providing treatment facilities at the basic level. He also invited the international health organizations to join hands with Pakistan to eliminate the disease from the country and also paid tribute to the health workers striving to achieve the objective.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/973894/govt-committed-to-unlock-full-economic-connectivity-potential-of-cpec-shehbaz/>

Dawn News

Pakistan, China call for stability in Afghanistan

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Thursday emphasised the need for stability in Afghanistan as Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari met his counterpart in the Taliban administration, Amir Khan Muttaqi, for the first time.

“The two sides agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for regional development and prosperity,” Foreign Office said in a statement on the meeting between FM Bhutto-Zardari and Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tashkent.

The two foreign ministers, while emphasising the importance of “peaceful, stable and connected Afghanistan”, noted that it could become the “fulcrum for enhanced regional trade and connectivity”.

Pakistan and China share geo-political and economic interests in Afghanistan. Both had been relieved over Taliban takeover of the war-ravaged country last August. While both may be comfortable with Taliban rule in Afghanistan, but their security concerns could cause complications.

Bilawal meets Taliban minister on sidelines of SCO summit in Tashkent; Chinese envoy calls on PM Shehbaz

Islamabad and Beijing have lately been discussing the possibility of extending China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan.

Mr Zardari and Mr Yi, the FO said, discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Taliban have been encouraging Pakistan government to make peace with Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, but Beijing is wary that East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a group of native Uyghurs who want to separate Xinjiang region from China, is active in Baghlan province, where it has re-established its base, despite restrictions by Taliban. The ETIM also has close linkages with the TTP.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari and Mr Yi also discussed bilateral relations.

“The foreign ministers reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest,” the FO said, adding that FM Bhutto-Zardari underscored that CPEC’s development had reached a new phase, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology, while ensuring tangible socio-economic benefits for the people.

“Both sides reaffirmed their strong support for each other’s core interests and major concerns, and commitment to deepening strategic communication including at the highest political level and practical cooperation,” the FO further said.

The foreign minister also met his Taliban counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in Tashkent.

During his first meeting with Mr Muttaqi, the foreign minister reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. He also emphasised the need for promoting people-to-people contacts, providing humanitarian assistance and increasing trade and transit capacity.

Meanwhile in Islamabad, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

This was Chinese envoy’s first meeting with PM Sharif as the former was on leave when the latter succeeded Imran Khan, who was ousted through a vote of no confidence.

Mr Sharif emphasised the importance of key projects like ML-1 and KCR in Pakistan’s development plans and expressed desire to move towards finalisation of these projects in the upcoming 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee, the PMO said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1702098>

Multan’s agri varsity to have Chinese training workshop

LAHORE: The Tianjin Model Vocational Training College, (TMVTC), China and the MNS University of Agriculture, Multan on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a Luban workshop.

The MoU was signed at an online ceremony held on Thursday to establish an agricultural machinery training programme of Luban workshop in Pakistan.

Luban workshop is a world-renowned Chinese brand of vocational education and at present, 20 workshops are operating in 19 countries of Asia, Africa and Europe. The establishment of the Luban workshop at the agri university will provide technical training and play the dual functions of academic education and skill training.

The workshop will improve international production capacity cooperation in agriculture and will also bring about improvement of agricultural mechanisation in Pakistan. It will help promote high quality development of modern vocational education and the 14th five-year plan for international cooperation in agriculture and rural areas.

The training programme involves five Chinese agricultural machinery manufacturers who joined the Industry Education Collaborative Alliance, which means the alliance has 17 members now; eight training packages, including parts maintenance of corn harvester, have been developed, and the training courses have been highly recognised by local educational institutions and agricultural enterprises in Pakistan.

MNS university Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Ali said TMVTC's initiative would help promote scientific and technological exchanges, cooperation in agricultural machinery, germ plasma resources, agricultural environment and other fields. He said it would also promote cooperation in agriculture information, policy exchanges and agriculture technology demonstration and other fields.

He believed that the agricultural cooperation between the two institutions as well as the two countries would further help Pakistan benefit from China's technological advancement for improvement of its agricultural mechanisation and training of human resources to become more skillful and productive.

He said the agricultural machinery training project of Luban workshop in Pakistan would further focus on agricultural cooperation to bring improvement in agricultural mechanisation, machinery, technology and human resources between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1702021>

Pakistan Observer

Bilawal, Wang review progress in bilateral relations

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, Mr. Wang Yi, on the sidelines of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Thursday.

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Referring to his meeting with the Secretary General of the SCO in Islamabad, the Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the purposes and principles of the SCO and the 'Shanghai Spirit'. He added that Pakistan and China had complete convergence on fully leveraging SCO as an important regional platform for development and connectivity.

Both sides reaffirmed their strong support for each other's core interests and major concerns, and commitment to deepening strategic communication including at the highest political level and practical cooperation.

The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction at the frequent high-level interactions between the two sides which was a hallmark of the bilateral relations. He underscored that his third meeting with State Councilor Wang Yi in as many months reflected the importance attached by both

sides to maintain strategic communication, further deepen the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and advance economic engagement for mutual benefit.

Bilawal underscored that CPEC's development had reached a new phase, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology, while ensuring tangible socio-economic benefits for the people.

<https://pakobserver.net/bilawal-wang-review-progress-in-bilateral-relations/>

July 30, 2022

Daily Times

China, Pakistan to jointly conserve cultural heritage

China and Pakistan will jointly train artistic talents and conserve the intangible cultural heritage with the establishment of the China-Pakistan Cultural and Educational Exchange Center (CPCEEC), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. CPCEEC was launched jointly by Hebei Academy of Fine Arts (China) and University of Education (Pakistan) on June 9, 2022.

Talat Naseer Pasha, president of University of Education (Pakistan) expressed that "He expects CPCEEC to enhance the in-depth cultural exchanges between Pakistan and China." According to Hebei Academy of Fine Arts (HBAFA), on the basis of CPCEEC, they are ready to cooperate with the Pakistani side in training of artistic talents, conservation and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, transformation of artistic sci-tech achievements and teachers' exchanges.

Hao Jinlong, vice director of International Exchanges and Cooperation of HBAFA, said that besides the cooperation in energy, security, economy, the cultural and artistic exchanges and communication cannot be ignored by the two nations under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Hao said, "CPCEEC aims to promote the cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan and artistic education for the two nations."

Hao added that "We hope to record the developing course of CPEC and the changes of Pakistanis by arts. We also want to contribute to the people-to-people bond of China and Pakistan." Hebei Academy of Fine Arts, a full-time undergraduate academy of Fine Arts, provides 11 teaching units and 78 majors, including fine arts, design and film and television production. This academy also has established a national animation industry base. Since 2019, HBAFA has attracted Pakistani students to study here.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/974423/china-pakistan-to-jointly-conserve-cultural-heritage/>

Wang Yi calls for efforts to deepen cooperation along CPEC

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for efforts to deepen cooperation along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Wang made the remarks during a meeting with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent on the sidelines of the foreign ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), CGTN reported on Friday. Describing the two countries as real friends and good brothers, Wang said China and Pakistan unswervingly safeguard their friendship and support each other on issues involving their respective core interests and common concerns regardless of changes in the domestic and international situation.

China will continue to support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and play a more important role in regional and international affairs, he said. The two sides should advance cooperation along the CPEC and deepen practical cooperation, he added, calling for efforts to enhance cooperation on infrastructure and industrial capacity. China supports its companies to invest in Pakistan and is willing to import more high-quality agricultural products from Pakistan. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Pakistan always regards the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries as the cornerstone of its foreign relations. Pakistan appreciates China's support for its efforts to safeguard territorial integrity and promote economic and social development, he said, adding that Pakistan will continue to firmly stand on China's side on issues involving China's core interests and major concerns.

Pakistan will accelerate the construction of the CPEC and is ready to actively discuss its extension into Afghanistan, he said. Pakistan highly appreciates China's leading role in upholding multilateralism, maintaining world peace and tranquillity, promoting global sustainable development, and addressing global challenges, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/974395/wang-yi-calls-for-efforts-to-deepen-cooperation-along-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

Renewed commitment to CPEC

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underlined the government's commitment to unlocking the full economic and connectivity potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through expedited and high-quality development of CPEC projects.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday, he emphasised the importance of key projects like Main Line One (ML-1) and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) in Pakistan's development plans and expressed a desire to move towards the finalization of these projects in the upcoming 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee.

Propaganda of foreign vested interests notwithstanding, the fact remains that the CPEC is instrumental in stimulating socio-economic development of Pakistan.

This is because it is not only aimed at improving connectivity by way of updating and modernizing the otherwise fragile infrastructure of the country but also helping the country to move towards industrialization, transfer of technology, tapping optimum potential of agriculture and creating vast employment opportunities in the length and breadth of the country.

Pakistan badly needs to develop the Gwadar Port and China is providing valuable assistance in realizing the target of all-round development of the port and completion of the related projects would surely contribute towards realization of the dream of Pakistan to make it a hub of regional trade and investment.

There are reasons to believe that the economic conditions of the country would have been quite different if there was no disruption in the smooth implementation of all projects under the umbrella of CPEC.

Several important projects received serious setbacks during the tenure of the last government and it is a big challenge for the incumbent government to restore the previous momentum.

However, it is satisfying that political commitment is there on both sides and hopefully all CPEC projects and programmes would be revitalized in the shortest possible time.

The government is understandably focusing on the overall economy but a sharp focus on CPEC has the potential to address most of the economic woes of the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/renewed-commitment-to-cpec/>

Pakistan values China's role in global, regional affairs: COAS

Mr. Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of Central Committee of Communist Party of China and Director of Central Committee on Foreign Affairs, China called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff at GHQ, on Wednesday.

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

The COAS said that Pakistan values China's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our strategic partnership. The Army Chief reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to cooperate with its international partners for peace and stability in the region. The visiting dignitary thanked Gen Bajwa for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment for Chinese personnel employed on various projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability.

He also assured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-values-chinas-role-in-global-regional-affairs-coas/>

Follow Chinese Footsteps

CHINA'S engagement with Afghanistan is really admiring which should also encourage other countries in the region and beyond to come forward and steer the war torn country out of dire economic and humanitarian crisis.

During a meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Uzbekistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing will resume issuing visas to Afghans from 1st August and allow ninety eight percent of Afghan imports to enter tax free.

Afghanistan's economy had gone into freefall after the Taliban takeover, with the central bank's foreign-held reserves frozen, Washington and other donors halting aid and the United States ending deliveries of hard currency.

The very trade concessions announced by China indeed will provide some support to the Afghans and their economy.

At present Afghanistan is not a major exporter to China, though the latter has imported some Afghan pine nuts and other goods in what it characterized as an effort to relieve the Afghan people's difficulties.

The latest announcement indeed will go a long way in bolstering the Afghan trade with China.

Pakistan separately is also engaging with Afghanistan and importing coal and other items from it.

Both Pakistan and China have also expressed the desire to extend China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project to Afghanistan.

Such a course indeed will trigger economic activity in the country and help it move on the path of development and restore permanent peace.

Other countries should also follow the suit. Sanctions only increase hardships of the people.

Afghanistan has remained under turmoil for the last many decades and presently the flash floods and a severe earthquake has further necessitated the need of economic and humanitarian assistance for the Afghans.

Turning a back at this point in time will only further aggravate the situation and provide a ground to the terrorist groups to exploit it.

The decision rests with the international community whether they want continuation of instability in Afghanistan or heal the wounds of Afghans.

Engagement indeed is the way forward. The international community whilst lifting sanctions on Afghanistan must extend necessary assistance to rebuild the country.

By the way of engagement only, the world can use its influence on Afghan setup to ensure human rights of all.

<https://pakobserver.net/follow-chinese-footsteps/>

China largest market for Pakistan’s gemstones: Pak CG

Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Hussain Haider said that China was the largest market for Pakistan’s gemstones and there is an immense potential for Pakistan to increase its exports of gemstones to China.

“Pakistani companies need to understand the preferences and requirements of Chinese buyers to increase their presence in the Chinese market,” he said at a webinar jointly organized by Pakistan’s Consulate General in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to promote Pakistan’s gemstone exports to China. The Consul General said, the purpose of this webinar was both to facilitate business match-making between the two countries and to help Pakistani companies understand the dynamics of the Chinese gemstone market.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Gems, Jewellers, Traders and Exporters Association (PGJTEA), Muhammad Fayyaz Qureshi, highlighted that Pakistan was home to a wide range of minerals, including unrivalled grade rubies, emeralds, topaz, aquamarine, fluorite, and lazuli mined in valleys of Gilgit, Hunza, Swat, Azad Kashmir, and Chitral.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-largest-market-for-pakistans-gemstones-pak-cg/>

The Nation

Maiden Meeting Of Pak-China JWG On IT Held

ISLAMABAD – The maiden meeting of Pakistan-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Information Technology industry was virtually held at the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication here on Friday.

The Pakistani side was led by Ministry of IT and Telecommunication Additional Secretary (Incharge) Mohsin Mushtaq, while Vice Minister of Industry and IT of China, Zhang Yunming represented the Chinese side, said a news release. The meeting discussed avenues for cooperation between the two countries in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Addressing the meeting, Additional Secretary (Incharge), MOITT, Mohsin Mushtaq said that both Pakistan and China would benefit from the Joint Working Group as well as from the initiatives which would be completed under this relationship. “This new Joint Working Group on IT under the CPEC will open exciting opportunities for Pakistani tech companies, and facilitate launching of 5G technology in Pakistan,” he added. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary MoITT, Aisha Humera Moriani, Member International Coordination, Ajmal Anwar Awan and other senior officers of the Ministry.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/30/maiden-meeting-of-pak-china-jwg-on-it-held/>

UCF Signs MoU With Chinese Institute

LAHORE – The Understanding China Forum (UCF) and the Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS) on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for mutual cooperation in different fields, on Friday.

The MoU was signed by both institutions in an online ceremony, held jointly here and in Shanghai (China).

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/07/30/ucf-signs-mou-with-chinese-institute/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پر بھارتی وزیر کا بیان قابل مذمت، پانی چھوڑنے کی تفصیل لے رہے ہیں: دفتر خارجہ

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) ترجمان دفتر خارجہ عاصم افتخار نے کہا ہے کہ کشمیری رہنمایا سین ملک کی بگڑتی صحت پر پاکستان کو تشویش ہے، بھارتی وزیر دفاع کی جانب سے سی پیک پر بیان قابل مذمت ہے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے ہفتہ وار پریس بریفنگ کے دوران کہا بھارت نے جموں کشمیر پر غیر قانونی قبضہ کر رکھا ہے، سی پیک پر بھارتی وزیر دفاع کے بیان کی مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کشمیری اپنے حق خود ارادیت کی جدوجہد کر رہے ہیں اور بھارت نے ان کے حقوق غصب کر رکھے ہیں، پاکستان عالمی برادری پر زور دیتا ہے کہ وہ یاسین ملک سمیت تمام کشمیری قیدیوں کے ساتھ جاری ناروا سلوک کا نوٹس لے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ عاصم افتخار نے کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزراء خارجہ کے اجلاس میں شرکت کیلئے گئے ہیں جہاں وہ افغانستان کی صورت حال سمیت دیگر امور پر بات کریں گے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ عاصم افتخار نے کہا ہے کہ ملک میں بد قسمتی سے سیلابی صورتحال کا سامنا ہے، بھارت کی جانب سے پانی چھوڑنے کے معاملے پر تفصیلات حاصل کی جا رہی ہیں۔ میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ ماضی میں بھی بھارت کی جانب سے پانی چھوڑنے کا مسئلہ درپیش رہا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-07-30/page-8/detail-11>

July 31, 2022

Daily Times

SCO Summer Gala Week offers endless opportunities for Pakistani youth

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) offers immense opportunities to young people in Pakistan, where people aged 18-35 make up a significant proportion of the population.

It will help the country fully tap its youth dividend,” said Dr. Awais Zafar, an official of Pakistani Embassy in China at the opening ceremony of the “SCO Summer” Youth Gala Week held in Jiaozhou, Qingdao City, China.

He told Gwadar Pro reporter, “The event is very well organized and makes us feel the friendliness and hospitality of Chinese organizers. It enhances friendship among SCO countries, strengthens the contacts and exchanges between the youth groups of Pakistan and other member countries, and provides them with learning opportunities.”

On the occasion, Logvinov Grigory, Deputy Secretary General of SCO maintained that, “with more than 800 million young people in the SCO member countries, the active development of multi-faceted youth work is a high priority on the SCO agenda.

Benefiting from the rich cultural, historical and economic diversity of the SCO members, our ability to infuse young people with knowledge, to impart communication skills and to cooperate on the basis of consensus and mutual respect is the basis for interaction among the SCO member states.”

Feng Litao, Deputy Director of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, underlined, “We are ready to work with other SCO member states to focus on, train and serve youth, build a broader platform for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation among SCO youth, and build a closer SCO cultural and people-to-people community.”

As one of the highlights, the complete Collection of the World Heritage of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was officially published at the launching ceremony.

The China-SCO Cultural Cooperation Projects Information Resources Base was officially released and a signing ceremony was held.

On the same day, “My Homeland” – SCO Youth International Photography exhibition was launched. What’s more, youth representatives jointly launched the “SCO Countries Youth Makers’ Camp” initiative, advocating the youth of SCO countries to join the Makers’ Camp and contribute to the common development of SCO countries.

The gala week will last until August 6. During the period, a series of “SCO Summer” activities will be held, such as “SCO Summer” Carnival, Round-the-Lake Race and the First “SCO Summer” Youth OP Sailing Tournament.

Dr. Sami Iqbal, a Research Fellow of Southeast University, China and Co-founder and CEO of Enfiniti Innovate Technology Development Co., Ltd., Nanjing, hopes that more similar activities can provide a platform of communication.

Here he met outstanding young people from Nepal, Uzbekistan and other SCO member countries and drew inspiration from them. “I fully enjoy the entrepreneurial atmosphere in China. SCO provides great possibilities for Pakistan, and I would like to share what I have learned in China with Pakistan”, he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/974860/sco-summer-gala-week-offers-endless-opportunities-for-pakistani-youth/>

China largest market for Pakistan’s gemstones: Pak Consul General

Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Hussain Haider said that China was the largest market for Pakistan’s gemstones and there is an immense potential for Pakistan to increase its exports of gemstones to China.

“Pakistani companies need to understand the preferences and requirements of Chinese buyers to increase their presence in the Chinese market,” he said at a webinar jointly organized by Pakistan’s Consulate General in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to promote Pakistan’s gemstone exports to China.

The Consul General said, the purpose of this webinar was both to facilitate business match-making between the two countries and to help Pakistani companies understand the dynamics of the Chinese gemstone market. Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Gems, Jewellers, Traders and Exporters Association (PGJTEA), Muhammad Fayyaz Qureshi, highlighted that Pakistan was home to a wide range of minerals, including unrivalled grade rubies, emeralds, topaz, aquamarine, fluorite, and lazuli mined in the valleys of Gilgit, Hunza, Swat, Azad Kashmir, and Chitral.

“There are great opportunities in the gemstone business and Chinese investors could invest in it to gain higher profits,” he added, this business had not been able to establish itself as one of the top five markets in the world mostly owing to a lack of sufficient facilities, poor mining expertise, and limited technologies and related know-how. “To address these challenges, Pakistan is looking forward to establishing joint ventures with China.” Fayyaz Qureshi further explained, “equipment for mining, cutting, and polishing gems stones should be made easy to be imported.

Moreover, more educational exchange programs and B2B conferences should be conducted so that our youth can develop useful skills. Both countries should participate in gems and jewellery expos to promote their brands. A work group should also be formed to resolve issues in this sector.” The webinar was attended by more than thirty (30) enterprises from China and Pakistan and relevant associations including All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association and Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During the webinar, companies from Pakistan introduced themselves and the specific products that they can supply to China, while Chinese companies explained their import requirements. They also emphasized the need to disseminate more information about Pakistan’s gemstones.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/975024/china-largest-market-for-pakistans-gemstones-pak-consul-general/>