



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

July 16-31, 2023

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July 16, 2023

Business Recorder

Bilawal lays foundation of Dhabeji SEZ project

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party chairman and country's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Saturday inaugurated the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone project in Thatta, terming it 'an iconic project'. He said the Sindh government has launched a number of mega projects in various sectors, including health, power generation and infrastructure development while others have done nothing except lip service, making tall claims.

"I congratulate Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and his team who materialized the dream of President Asif Ali Zardari who had negotiated three important projects - Dhabeji SEZ, Kati Bender and Karachi Circular Railway with Chinese authorities."

He said this while speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of Dhabeji SEZ at its site - Dhabeji.

The ceremony was attended by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, provincial ministers - Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Gianchand, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, CM Special Assistant and host of the program Syed Qasim Naveed, Chairman Sindh Investment Board Mohammad Waseem, MPA Riaz Shah Shirazi, diplomats of different countries, investors, industrialists, and bureaucrats.

He said it was President Asif Zardari who laid the foundation of the CPEC by giving Gwadar Port to China. "He made frequent visits to China during his tenure as President and negotiated the development of Pakistan, particularly the upliftment of industrial and road infrastructure, power generation, trade, and commerce but he was criticized and targeted," he said and added today the fruits of his frequent visits are being harvested in the shape of CPEC projects under which Thar Coal-fired Power Project has started power generation, Dhabeji Special Economic Zone is being developed, and various road infrastructure projects have been completed in the country.

The Chairman PPP said due to the vision of President Zardari economic stability developed in the country with the launching of CPEC projects. He added that the development of Gwadar Port and improvements being made at Karachi Port was part of Zardari's vision which was bound to bring prosperity generating employment opportunities.

Bilawal said that the concept of Public Private Partnership (PPP) was envisioned by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in her 1993 election manifesto. He added that under the PPP plan, the government and private sector would work together to launch mega projects and development activities in partnership.

"When the government works with the private sector as a development partner its benefits trickle down to the people in the shape of employment opportunities, development of their communication and industrial infrastructure, and the businessmen as partners reap the harvest," Bilawal said and added the provincial government carrying forward the concept of PPP constructed Karachi-Thatta dual carriageway, Jhirk-Mulakatiar Bridge on River Indus,

launched coal-mining with Engro for power generation in Thar and these projects were running successfully.

The PPP Chief proudly said that the Public Private Partnership Unit of the Sindh Government has been recognized as the 6th best-performing unit by the International Intelligence Unit of the Economist. “The Economist’s Intelligence Unit has issued rating Public Private Partnership projects in progress in Asia,” he said and added under the rating Thailand, Philippines, and China were at number one, number two, and number three respectively.

“India is at four, Gujrat state of India is at five while Sindh province at number 6,” he said and added number seven has been given to Vietnam and Bangladesh, and 9th rating has been awarded to Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan.

Bilawal Bhutto said that the rating showed that the PPP government has secured its international recognition for its performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said we have come together to celebrate the remarkable growth and resilience of Sindh’s economy, despite the global challenges we have faced.

Shah said as we embarked on the journey of the post-Covid era, our focus remained steadfast on revitalizing Pakistan’s economy, with a special emphasis on the vibrant province of Sindh. “The Pakistan People’s Party is committed to bringing about social development and economic prosperity, and the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) stands as a testament to our dedication to that goal,” he said and invited investors, industrialists, and traders to explore the Dhabeji SEZ, a thriving hub that brimmed with untapped investment opportunities.

Shah said that positioned as a premier destination for both local and international businesses, the Dhabeji SEZ held the boundless potential for growth, innovation, and prosperity.

Murad Shah said as we have gathered here for the groundbreaking ceremony, we reaffirmed our commitment to creating an environment to nurture economic development and attract investments. “The Dhabeji SEZ offers a strategic location, meticulously planned infrastructure, and supportive policies that provide an unparalleled platform for businesses to flourish,” he said.

The CM extended a warm welcome to investments in various sectors, ranging from physical infrastructure and the social sector to clean energy and water management. “This SEZ presents an avenue for transformative projects that will have a lasting impact on the lives of our citizens,” he said.

The CM expressed his sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the remarkable endeavor to establish Dhabeji SEZ. He added that the collaborative efforts of his government officials, private sector partners, and dedicated individuals have been instrumental in making this vision a reality.

Together, let us seize the abundant opportunities presented by Sindh, ensuring shared growth and prosperity across our diverse economic landscape, Murad Shah said that the Dhabeji SEZ

was not just a symbol of progress; it was a testament to his government's unwavering commitment to building a better future for Sindh.

The host of the program, the Special Assistant to CM welcomed the guests and briefed the chairman PPP about the features of the mega project.

Earlier, the Chairman PPP & Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari performed Dhabeji Special Economic Zone's groundbreaking ceremony organised program at Dhabeji.

The project: The event unveiled the SEZ's comprehensive development plan, highlighting its multitude of benefits and features such as rapid-start industrial infrastructure, guaranteed uninterrupted utilities, SEZ incentives, sustainable practices, and job creation potential. The ceremony showcased the commitment and collaboration between public and private stakeholders in driving economic growth and prosperity.

Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, the largest SEZ in Pakistan, has a greater significance given its geographic and strategic location. It has easy access to Port Qasim, enabling raw material import and finished goods exports without incurring major inland transportation costs and saving time.

Easy access to Karachi Airport will enable the safe travel of foreign workers and management personnel. The direct access to the National Highway will enable the transportation of goods to upcountry and Central Asian nations utilizing the National Trade Corridor.

Designed to promote economic growth, attract foreign investment, and boost local industries, the Dhabeji SEZ will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure and a favorable business environment for various sectors. With a focus on innovation, sustainability, and job creation, the Dhabeji SEZ aims at contributing significantly to regional economic development and prosperity. The project will attract an approximately investment of \$5 billion and will generate employment of 150,000 (direct/indirect).

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/16/1-page/967401-news.html>

Daily Times

SBB varsity's final year DVM students to do internship in China

The Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Sakrand has sought applications from final year students of the Doctor in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program for internship in China. According to a update by the university, the DVM students of 2019 batch will avail a 9-week internship opportunity at China, starting September 2023. The eligible students of DVM Final Professional (currently enrolled in the 10th Semester), can apply until July 31st for the internship, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. Accommodation and food facilities will be provided by the Chinese government while fair charges will be borne by the students. The university encouraged its students to take advantage of the 'incredible' opportunity to gain international exposure. The knowledge and exposure gained through this internship program will contribute to the personal and professional growth of the students, according to the university.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114285/sbb-varsitys-final-year-dvm-students-to-do-internship-in-china/>

Confucius Institutes in Pakistan-an important role to spread Chinese culture

“The Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are critical and will have an important role to spread Chinese culture and to enhance understanding between our countries; Similarly, Urdu language centers and Pakistan Study Centers in China are playing a similar role.” This was stated by Mumtaz Zehra Baloch, Spokesperson and Additional Foreign Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Chief Guest at Silk Road Cultural Forum themed on “China-Pakistan Civilization Exchanges and Mutual Learning” organized by the Pakistan-China Institute, Islamabad, in collaboration with China Study Centre, COMSATS University, Islamabad, according to a Gwadar Pro’s report on Saturday.

She said that the world has become increasingly interconnected and Pakistan, China, and the entire continent were becoming more and more interlinked with connectivity projects, and “this is the pure magic of ancient Silk Road”. According to Mumtaz Baloch, the five major goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) include connectivity, people-to-people exchanges and contacts which are critical for understanding and mutual cooperation between countries and people. She said that Pakistan and China’s relations were based on mutual respect and understanding. “This is a prime example of friendship between two countries which have different cultures, languages, civilizations and even religions,” Baloch said, adding that this relation has prospered over the last seven decades and has taken root in the hearts of our people. Baloch emphasized the further development of China-Pakistan friendship and understanding via cultural exchanges. “It is important that we try to understand each other’s culture and language because with this it will be easier for us to appreciate our differences and celebrate our commonalities,” she said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114290/confucius-institutes-in-pakistan-an-important-role-to-spread-chinese-culture/>

Dawn News

China helped avert default, says premier

Zulqernain Tahir

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that default has been averted primarily with the financial help of China.

Speaking to a delegation of members from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and renowned businessmen at the Governor House, the premier discussed the financial assistance provided by friendly countries, especially China, to help save Pakistan from default.

“I have thanked the managing director of the IMF, while US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken congratulated us on the approval of the IMF programme,” he said, adding that it also

made it clear that the previous government's unfortunate blow to "our relationship with the US was due to narrow-mindedness."

He said that during the last 15 months, his government repaired relations with the US and the efforts of the foreign minister were also laudable.

Stresses need for reform and collective efforts to counter economic challenges

"All this was possible through collective efforts. It is our aim that the personal interests should be placed under the national interests," he added.

The premier said that the real task is to solve the problems of entrepreneurs and propel the economy forward.

"Pakistan has not followed the conditions of the IMF in the past, so it did ask for a guarantee from us. Now it has got a nine-month breathing space with \$2bn from Saudi Arabia, \$1bn from the United Arab Emirates and \$1.2bn from the IMF. Currently, our reserves have reached \$14bn. China must be mentioned in all these cases. China has rolled over \$5bn of Pakistan's commercial debt in four months. If China had not done this, we would have defaulted," he said.

He said the breathing space Pakistan received was meant for reforms and restructuring.

"A country that was self-sufficient in jute now imports cotton. Bangladesh's textile exports have surpassed ours. They have the same factories and the same system as Pakistan, so this is a collective failure," he said.

The prime minister said that the government had to increase electricity rates due to the circular debt and the demand of the IMF. "We have line losses and transmission losses," he added.

The government was taking all possible measures to promote industry and agriculture. However, in the face of grave challenges, the industrialists and business community must play a more active role in enhancing exports and stabilising the economy.

Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, who attended the meeting through zoom, said that before the budget, he had detailed meetings with the President of Lahore Chamber Kashif Anwar and the budget was made according to his suggestions.

Dar said borrowers could not be choosers. "The re-engagement of the IMF by us was a tough decision. We did as much as we could bargain."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1765027#:~:text=China%20has%20rolled%20over%20%245,i n%20jute%20now%20imports%20cotton.>

Dunya News

Pakistan seeks Chinese investment in agriculture, IT, mining sectors:

Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING (APP) – Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal has said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will provide an opportunity for

Chinese investments to take advantage of incentives that Pakistan offers to foreign investment with concessions.

“We are working on nine special economic zones. The first Rashakai Special Economic Zone will be inaugurated later this month. Similarly, the other economic zones are also in the advanced stages, in Sindh, Punjab, and Baluchistan,” he told APP during his recent visit to China.

Pakistan, he said, also has a great advantage in low cost of labour. As in China, many industries are experiencing high costs of production due to increased levels of cost and are now moving to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Pakistan also has a great advantage in terms of low cost of production.

The minister said, Pakistan has a very good infrastructure and then it has the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. So, it becomes a very attractive destination for Chinese enterprises to relocate to these economic zones in Pakistan.

About specific Chinese companies who are looking forward to cooperating in this regard, he said, there are many Chinese companies which are coming. Many have invested in Gwadar free zone.

“But, we are now really looking forward to developing our agriculture sector based on new technologies. We are seeking cooperation to upgrade the quality of our seeds so those companies which have research and seed development can help us,” he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan is also looking for new irrigation technologies to conserve water and bring efficiency to agriculture, adding, “We are also looking for a food processing industry that has a great opportunity.”

Regarding great opportunity in the mining sector, he said, Pakistan has huge marble deposits, which can be tapped with new technology and similarly, Pakistan has other mines like lithium and other material which is used in electric vehicles. “So, we can develop that.

He said Pakistan is also looking for joint cooperation and technology, particularly information technology. Pakistan has a young population with very good IT skills, he added.

“Many Chinese technology companies are shifting to Pakistan to take advantage of the low cost of human resources and high skills that our young population has. So, I think agriculture, industry, mining, IT, energy sector all these areas are very promising for Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan,” he added.

The minister said big Chinese real estate companies can come and invest in the housing sector and added, “We have a huge shortage of housing so they can come and address urban housing issues with investments. We are offering very attractive terms for public-private partnership.”

Responding to a question about the security of CPEC projects, he said, the government of Pakistan is taking extra precautions for the security of the Chinese. We have provided four layers of security to CPEC projects. But, the CPEC is a very strategic project, and the enemies of China and Pakistan don't want to see it succeed.

Therefore, it is very important that both Pakistan and China show their strong desire that they will not be deterred and they will not be stopped by any unpleasant incident, he added.

He stressed the need to work together and the only way to defeat such evil designs is to be not stopped by any unpleasant incident.

About the kind of measures that have been taken to protect the Chinese enterprise, he said, a special force of 10,000 personnel has been created which is totally dedicated to the security of CPEC projects.

“And, then we have integrated this force with our police, para-military forces and local security. These security personnel are deployed to provide the highest level of security,” he added.

To a question, he said, all the negative propaganda against CPEC has a political element and it has no reality. CPEC has actually done great service to Pakistan by helping it overcome the energy crisis, develop modern infrastructure and restore the country’s image as an investment destination.

After China invested \$25 billion of investment in different projects under the CPEC framework, everyone started looking at Pakistan as an investment destination. Actually, CPEC became a global brand for Pakistan, he added.

Sharing his personal feelings about the CPEC project, he said, the beauty of CPEC is that this project was between those two countries, which enjoy a very unique relationship.

Normally countries come close when they need and they get farther away when they don’t need each other. But, in China and Pakistan’s case, it has been always spring. There has never been autumn in this relationship.

He said the relationship between Pakistan and China is based on mutual trust and iron brotherhood which makes CPEC also very unique. The leaders and officials from both countries worked with full devotion and passion to make it successful.

“I think, it is that passion that enabled us to achieve so much and just in 10 years,” he added.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/739935-Pakistan-seeks-Chinese-investment-in-agriculture-IT-mining-sectors-Ah>

The Nation

CPEC brings Chinese companies, technologies to Pakistan: Dastgir

BEIJING -Thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is now slowly moving from imported fuels to local fuel for power generation and from outdated technology to new Chinese technology, Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan has said.

“This shift is happening and Chinese companies are much more visible now. They are bringing their technology, their management to Pakistan, and they are teaching Pakistani engineers and workers,” he told Xinhua in a recent interview at a power transmission project under the CPEC.

The deeper penetration of Chinese companies into the energy sector was one of the major positive developments that had happened in the country as a result of CPEC, Khan said. Highlighting the prospects of the transmission network, he said that 660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under the CPEC was the most advanced transmission project in Pakistan's history.

The project, being the only transmission project under CPEC, was crucial for Pakistan as it connected the country's south to the north and vice versa, he said. This is now one of the principal backbones of Pakistan's national transmission line, he said, noting that it had been operational for over 1,000 days without any issue, which was also a testament to the Chinese and Pakistani engineers who worked here and who had done so well in very challenging circumstances.

Regarding the 10th anniversary of CPEC this year, the minister said China supported Pakistan in 2013 when no other country was willing to invest. By the end of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion US dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country, as per a recent data revealed by Chinese embassy.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-16/page-8/detail-0>

July 17, 2023

Business Recorder

SEZs to facilitate Chinese investment: govt

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will facilitate Chinese investment in Pakistan.

According to a statement issued here on Sunday in connection with his recent visit to China, the minister said, the first Rashakai SEZ will be inaugurated later this month. The launch of other economic zones is at the advanced stages in Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan, he said.

Pakistan, he said, has a great advantage in low cost of labour. "As in China, many industries are experiencing high costs of production due to increased levels of cost and are now moving to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Pakistan also has a great advantage in terms of low cost of production," the statement quoted Iqbal as saying.

The minister said Pakistan has a very good infrastructure and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

He said several Chinese companies intend to start businesses in Pakistan and many Chinese companies have invested in Gwadar Free Zone.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/17/1-page/967458-news.html>

10 years of CPEC: a success story?

The governments of Pakistan and China celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) in a big way recently. There is no doubt that the Chinese lent a helping hand when Pakistan needed to develop critical infrastructure — roads, energy

security, etc. Unfortunately, however, this South Asian country is still finding it extremely difficult to attract attention of global investors and financiers. Therefore, the situation gives birth to a question whether or not the ten years of CPEC constitute a real success story.

When CPEC was envisaged in 2013, the summer power load-shedding was for 12-14 hours in urban Punjab. Production reliance was higher on dirtier and imported fuels (such as furnace oil and diesel) and the efficiency of the power plants was low and the industry was largely relying on captive power generation. Some of the projects (such as nuclear -K2/K3), which are of long gestation, were already in the process. The government came with way too many power projects under the CPEC umbrella in too short a period of time. These projects have surely resolved the energy production and generation capacity deficiency issues but not without a cost.

The country had drawn no lessons from the power policies of 1994 and 2002. In both cases, too many projects in too little time created a supply glut in the short term, while all those projects being on 'take or pay' at very high returns in dollar terms created a dangerous circular debt problem. Under the CPEC, both the quantum of projects and their returns were higher than those established under the previous two policies, and invariably all of them are on 'take or pay' basis. And one should not be surprised to see the growth of circular debt in the last few years, particularly when the power consumption is not increasing proportionately. The one rationale for having a higher number of power projects was to meet the demand from industries to be developed and relocated from China, and for that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were a critical component of the CPEC. The idea was to learn from the success of economic zones in China, which are an integral part of this Asian country's steep and consistent economic growth in the past few decades.

However, SEZs are a complete flop in Pakistan to-date. These zones have become a real estate play which is against the spirit of industrial development. The relaxation in taxation and removal of regulatory burdens, which are part of the SEZ Act, are not implemented in letter and spirit. Sixty percent of SEZ land in Pakistan is still unoccupied after 11 years of passage of the SEZ Act 2012. Chinese businesses are still keen to relocate to Pakistan but only if the taxation and regulatory issues are sorted out to their satisfaction.

The Pakistan authorities and stakeholders should take stock of the situation, learn from their mistakes and work on improving or enhancing the efficacy of the CPEC. No Opposition party or parties should criticize the CPEC for the sake of it like what PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) did; and when this party came to power, the Chinese were initially quite disturbed by statements of some in Imran Khan-led government. The other element is to think holistically. One is to develop SEZs in a real sense to promote industrialisation. The other is to improve the power transmission and distribution network to have full utility of installed power plants and do away with 'take or pay' challenge in future. The third is about the required working on railways and Gwadar Port, which are perhaps the core interest of the Chinese in the CPEC. After the passage of 10 years, many gaps still remain. The second decade of CPEC must prove more fruitful insofar as Pakistan's economic development or progress is concerned.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/17/6-page/967514-news.html>

Daily Times

KP takes lead by completing first CPEC originated project

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), a public sector company of the KP government, has taken the lead by completing the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flag-bearer Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), at District Nowshera.

Talking to APP here Sunday, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Javed Iqbal Khattak said that the completion of the first phase of the Rashakai SEZ comprising three phases and covering an area of 247 acres, was due in December 2023, but due to better teamwork and coordination with China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC,) it had been completed six months prior of its specified time period. The Rashakai SEZ is the first completed project initiated under CPEC in Pakistan. This marvelous performance shown by a public sector company of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given an edge to the province over other provinces of the country.

So far, an investment to the tune of Rs.85 billion has already been made in the zone and besides, Chinese several domestic big industrial groups are also investing in it, he said. The investors are going to set up units for manufacturing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) a raw material for the pharmaceutical industrial units while another investor has also shown interest in establishing a vaccine manufacturing unit in the zone while Pakistan Oxygen, a largest oxygen manufacturing unit has already invested in the Zone.

The current innovative management of company has initiated construction work on 9 new economic zones including two special economic zones of Hattar and Rashakai. 90 percent infrastructure development work at Hattar Special Economic Zone has been completed and now colonization is also in progress in the facility. During the current management, the total assets of the company by the end of the year 2022 have increased to Rs.15.8 billion as compared to Rs.13 billion in 2021.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114618/kp-takes-lead-by-completing-first-cpec-originated-project/>

Pakistan Observer

15-member Pakistani delegation to visit China

A 15-member Pakistani delegation led by Ambassador (R) Sohail Mahmood Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), would participate in a Seminar and Think Tank Forum in China, with an aim to further promote academic and people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China. On invitation from Fudan University, Shanghai, the Pakistani delegation including diplomats, senior academics, researchers and media persons, departed to China on Sunday for a week-long visit, said a press release issued here.

The delegation includes Prof. Dr. Engr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, University of Karakoram; Dr Ayesha Alam, University of Hazara; Prof. Dr Ayesha Sohail, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Amb. Babar Amin, Former Ambassador; Dost Mohammad

Barrech, University of Balochistan; Dr Fouzia Hadi Ali, University of Punjab; Prof. Dr Kausar Takrim, University of Peshawar; Muhammad Ali Baig, Research Fellow, ISSI; Dr Mukesh Khatwani, University of Sindh; Shaukat Piracha, Senior Anchor, Aaj News; Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, COMSATS University, Islamabad; Dr Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI; Tanveer Hashmi, Jang Group and Misbah Mukhtar, Research Associate, ISSI. The delegation members come from all provinces of Pakistan as well as from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. As practitioners and academics, they have long-standing experience in China studies, regional and global matters, Pakistan-China relations, and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The delegates would participate in a Seminar hosted by Fudan University in Shanghai and the 3rd Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum hosted by the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) in Beijing.

<https://pakobserver.net/15-member-pakistani-delegation-to-visit-china/>

Dhabeji SEZ: A turning point

After hitting snags for several years, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Saturday finally inaugurated the much ambitious multi billion rupees Dhabeji Special Economic Zone under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in Thatta. This is indeed a great leap forward towards fostering industrialisation and helping the country stand on its own feet.

Our country has long struggled with economic challenges, including a stagnant industrial sector and high unemployment rates. The Dhabeji SEZ presents a viable solution to combat these issues by providing a platform that encourages both domestic and foreign investors to set-up industries and manufacturing units. The Dhabeji SEZ has an ideal location of being close to ports of Karachi and Port Qasim and it is anticipated to fetch an investment of \$5 billion besides creating over 200,000 jobs. Some Chinese investors have already expressed eagerness to lay their industries in the zone. It is expected that Chinese giant entrepreneurs will relocate their industries in the SEZ. This influx of investment will inject much needed capital into the economy and also transfer advanced technologies, foster innovation and enhance productivity. Moreover it will encourage growth of ancillary industries and supply chains, promoting a multiplier effect and generating a ripple of economic development in surrounding areas. Providing ten years tax holiday to investors besides tax exemptions on import of plants and machinery are steps in the right direction. It must also be ensured that investors do not face any hurdles in establishing their manufacturing units in the SEZ. They must be facilitated in every possible manner with provision of all amenities. We will rather suggest that Dhabeji SEZ should be made a green energy zone by provision of electricity from renewable sources of energy like wind and solar. This will reduce production cost of industries and make their products competitive at international markets. Apart from China, other friendly countries should also be engaged for investment in this SEZ. It is imperative for government and all stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure the success of Dhabeji SEZ. Work should also be accelerated on inauguration of other SEZs envisaged under CPEC as it is the only way through which we can uplift our economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/dhabeji-sez-a-turning-point/>

SEZs to provide opportunity for Chinese investments in Pakistan: Ahsan Iqbal

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We are offering very attractive terms for public-private partnership.”

<https://pakobserver.net/sezs-to-provide-opportunity-for-chinese-investments-in-pakistan-ahsan-iqbal/>

Gwadar Free Zone North to start operation in 30 days

Gwadar Free Zone North, also known as Phase II, covering 2221 acres, will launch its first formal operation within the next 30 days.

This zone will enjoy exemption from all sorts of taxes and customs duties for a period of 20 years, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

This watershed development coincides with Agven Private Limited, an export fertilizer company, gearing up for its first production operation in the second week of August.

Agven Private Limited is the first investor to establish an industry in Gwadar North Free Zone. It procured 10 acres of land in the Free Zone to set up a fertilizer factory, marking a first for Gwadar in both size and product.

Agven will start operations under temporary arrangements such as electricity and water provision by China Overseas Port Holding Company.

“The factory’s construction started last year and was completed in a remarkably short time. Agven will offer hundreds of job opportunities and provide local business opportunities in terms of commodities and raw material supply,” Project Coordinator Arslan told Gwadar Pro.

Upon operation, it can potentially attract other investors to Gwadar Free Zone. Mr. Arslan added that sulfur and sulfuric acid, used as raw materials for fertilizer manufacturing, would be imported from Iran and Central Asian countries.

Another export company, “Hangeng,” along with its branches “Hangeng Trade Co (SMC-PVT) Ltd” and “Yuanhua Industrial Co,” is set to start operations in Gwadar Free Zone North.

Hangeng Trading Co., Ltd. will foster cultivation and purchase of agricultural products like aloe vera and import pharmaceutical raw materials globally for processing in the Gwadar Free Zone and export to China. Yuanhua Industrial Co., Ltd. will mainly engage in animal husbandry and livestock development.

An official of Hangeng stated that the operation, expected to commence soon, will create 1,000 direct and 3,000 indirect employment opportunities for locals. Hangeng plans to build an industrial ecosystem in Gwadar, intending to establish aquaculture, medical treatment, and technical support facilities. For this, experts from China will be hired to train local youth in animal husbandry, livestock, and aloe vera cultivation.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-free-zone-north-to-start-operation-in-30-days/>

The Nation

KP takes lead by completing first CPEC originated project

PESHAWAR - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), a public sector company of the KP government, has taken the lead by completing the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flag-bearer Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), at District Nowshera. Talking to APP here Sunday, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Javed Iqbal Khattak said that the completion of the first phase of the Rashakai SEZ comprising three phases and covering an area of 247 acres, was due in December 2023, but due to better team-work and coordination with China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC,) it had been completed six months prior of its specified time period.

The Rashakai SEZ is the first completed project initiated under CPEC in Pakistan. This marvelous performance shown by a public sector company of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given an edge to the province over other provinces of the country. So far, an investment to the tune of Rs.85 billion has already been made in the zone and besides, Chinese several domestic big industrial groups are also investing in it, he said. The investors are going to set up units for manufacturing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) a raw material for the pharmaceutical industrial units while another investor has also shown interest in establishing a vaccine manufacturing unit in the zone while Pakistan Oxygen, a largest oxygen manufacturing unit has already invested in the Zone.

The current innovative management of company has initiated construction work on 9 new economic zones including two special economic zones of Hattar and Rashakai. 90 percent infrastructure development work at Hattar Special Economic Zone has been completed and now colonization is also in progress in the facility.

During the current management, the total assets of the company by the end of the year 2022 have increased to Rs.15.8 billion as compared to Rs.13 billion in 2021.

The company has posted a surplus of Rs. 29 million (Rs 35 million in 2021) with total income of Rs.1025 million in 2022 (Rs 926.5 million in 2021).

Javed Iqbal Khattak said the Board of Directors (BoD) has appreciated the financial performance of the company for the period ending June 30, 2022. The company's income and the total assets have also shown a steady increase over the past year, which is a testament to the company's strong management and commitment to excellence.

During 2022, the company had generated funds around Rs 3.1 billion including Rs 541 million received in the shape of the annual development programme (ADP). It has also launched new zones including Special Economic Zone D.I. Khan and Chitral Economic Zones last year, he expressed.

The company has also contributed Rs.93 million to the government treasury in the form of duties and taxes during the year. It has now obtained Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) Certification inevitable for NPO status under Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-17/page-2/detail-8>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین، سعودیہ عرب مدد نہ کرتا پاکستان ڈیفالٹ کر جاتا: اختر ڈار

شیخوپورہ (نامہ نگار) پاکستان تحریک انصاف نظریاتی کے چیئرمین اختر اقبال ڈار نے کہا ہے کہ چین ہماری مدد نہ کرتا تو ہم ڈیفالٹ کر جاتے۔ سعودیہ عرب نے بھی ہمیشہ بھائیوں والا کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ تزلزلے منٹے کر کے آئی ایم ایف سے قرضہ منظور کروایا ہے یہ کوئی کھیر نہ ہے نہ حلوہ ہے بلکہ یہ لمحہ فکریہ ہے اب ہمیں محنت کر کے کھانا ہوگی۔ یہ سب باتیں عوام کو سنانے اور عوام کو نصیحتیں کرنے والے شہباز شریف کو شرم آنی چاہئے کہ قرضے آپ کھا گئے اور عوام گیس پٹرول بجلی آنا چینی پرنیکسوں کے ذریعے قرض اتارے۔ حکمران اپنے الے تلے مفت حج، مفت دورے، مفت گیس، بجلی، پروٹوکول صوابدیدی فنڈ بند کرنے کو تیار نہ ہیں بس عوام کو نصیحتیں اور کونے دینے کو تیار بیٹھے ہیں۔ اختر ڈار نے کہا کہ قرض خور حکمران کبھی بھی پاکستان کو مضبوط اور مستحکم نہیں بنا سکتے ہیں۔ آج باؤسی کا یہ عالم ہے کہ ہر نوجوان مایوس ہو کر پاکستان سے ہجرت کرنے کو فوقیت دے رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نواز، زرداری، عمران بد کردار حکمرانوں کے نجات ہی میں پاکستان کی بقا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-17/page-2/detail-0>

July 18, 2023

Daily Times

China-Pakistan cooperation in nutrition, health highlighted

In the future, we will strengthen cooperation with International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences in carrying out joint research on key technologies, application of international cooperation projects, training of international TCM talents, academic exchanges and other aspects to promote scientific and technological innovation in the field of nutrition and health.? These views were expressed by Prof Wang Fengzhong, director of Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), while addressing the 2023 China-Pakistan Nutrition and Health Center Cooperation Forum held here. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, director of International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan, was invited to be a visiting professor in IFST-CAAS by Prof Wang Fengzhong, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries that experience many floods and droughts as a result of climate change, which poses a threat to food preservation. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health & Population Welfare, Sindh was impressed by how IFST's technology helps extend the shelf life of food while retaining its flavor and nutrition, especially those made for women and children.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114962/china-pakistan-cooperation-in-nutrition-health-highlighted/>

Pakistan needed to follow China's experience in digital innovation

Pakistan and Region countries needed to follow China's experience unleashing potential of digital innovation, said Prof Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of the ECO Science Foundation, a Pakistan-based regional scientific alliance. "China's experience in digital transformation provides us with invaluable lessons and policy strategies that we can learn from and adapt to

the unique context of each ECO member country, especially Central Asian economies and beyond, Prof Seyed Komail Tayebi said.

This will not only strengthen the ties between China and the ECO region but also foster welfare, sustainable development, and prosperity for all,” During the symposium on the China-Central Asia Forum on Digital Innovation and Governance, held as part of the 2023 Global Digital Economy Conference (GDEC) in Beijing earlier this month, Prof Tayebi acknowledged and commended the remarkable progress that China has made in its digital transformation journey. He added that “China’s success in embracing digital technologies, fostering innovation, economic digitalization, and implementing effective policy strategies serves as an inspiration to countries around the world, including the ECO Member Countries.” As part of its digital transformation initiatives, ECOSF recognizes the immense value of technology-enhanced learning in today’s digital age. “We are actively promoting the use of digital and innovative tools to enhance e-learning, scientific and technical literacy across our member countries,” he said. “Moreover, ECOSF is driving the transformation of traditional educational practices, leveraging digital technologies to make learning more interactive, immersive, and tailored to the needs of learners.

We are equipping individuals and institutions with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the digital realm, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and technological literacy.” Pakistan is rapidly embracing digitalization as a key driver of economic growth and connectivity, with the government and private sector collaborating to harness the potential of technology and innovation. As the nation steps into the digital age, various initiatives and projects are underway to transform key sectors, enhance digital infrastructure, and empower citizens. In this regard, Prof Tayebi noted that Pakistan is playing an increasingly important role in developing communication and networking instruments in the region. “By implementing China’s strategies on promoting digitization, the immense potential of digital innovation and governance investment can be unlocked in Pakistan and the region to drive socio-economic growth and development in the respective nations,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114991/pakistan-needed-to-follow-chinas-experience-in-digital-innovation/>

China-Pakistan to boost ties in nutrition, health sectors

“In the future, we will strengthen cooperation with International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences in carrying out joint research on key technologies, application of international cooperation projects, training of international TCM talents, academic exchanges and other aspects to promote scientific and technological innovation in the field of nutrition and health.”

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On the occasion, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, director of International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan, was invited to be a visiting professor in IFST-CAAS by Prof Wang Fengzhong.

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries that experience many floods and droughts as a result of climate change, which poses a threat to food preservation according to Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health & Population Welfare, Sindh was impressed by how IFST's technology helps extend the shelf life of food while retaining its flavor and nutrition, especially those made for women and children.

Following her proposal, both sites agreed to deepen cooperation in technology transfer from China to Pakistan in packaging, processing, and so on. As per experts on site, China and Pakistan both have a long history of traditional medicine and rich resources in herbal products. The long-term technical cooperation between China and Pakistan in this field is of great significance for safeguarding the lives and health of the people of the two countries.

Back on 9th June, 2021, IFST and ICCBS established the China-Pakistan Traditional Chinese Medicine Center and signed a memorandum of cooperation. Over the years, both sides have established a long-term friendly cooperative relationship in talent cultivation, academic exchanges, and other aspects. On December 22, 2021, IFST and ICCBS jointly held the "2021 China-Pakistan Food and Drug Resources Research and Application Conference", at which the "China-Pakistan Nutrition and Health Research Center" was unveiled.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114992/china-pakistan-to-boost-ties-in-nutrition-health-sectors/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC and power dynamics

Anti-CPEC forces need to give up the Cold War mentality and adjust with the trends of regional connectivity

Ten years have passed since the launch of CPEC — a ray of hope for Pakistan mired in militancy for more than a decade.

The project will open the province of Balochistan to international trade, with the Gwadar seaport being a trading hub.

These credentials point towards a prosperous future for Pakistan.

In the regional and global context, CPEC — which is a part of the larger BRI — links Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

After completion, BRI is likely to generate GDP worth \$21 trillion.

The countries connected through BRI will have trading ties, while the economic interdependence will impact diplomatic relations as well.

BRI can be termed a transformative engine driving the world regions towards economic integration.

Looking from a global lens, CPEC is an expansion of China to South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

For the littoral states along the Indian Ocean, the building of seaports and connectivity with South Asia, Central Asia and East Asia is an opportunity to reach out to the markets of adjoining regions.

In particular, the Gwadar-Kashgar linkage under CPEC will connect Pakistan and China, thus opening up prospects of economic cooperation between markets of South Asia and East Asia.

From the Xinjiang province (northwest China), CPEC will move onto Central Asia.

On the whole, CPEC is an economic opportunity for South, Central and East Asia.

Importantly, CPEC will provide Afghanistan with a trading outlet.

The economic dividends of CPEC will improve the lives of many in region.

However, despite the optimism attached to CPEC, there are countries which look at the corridor as “China’s predatory lending to Pakistan for possible geostrategic objectives”.

This narrative is led by the Western scholars.

Terms like “debt trap diplomacy” are coined to generate criticism over CPEC and BRI.

The perception that the corridor will benefit China more, and will entangle Pakistan into economic woes is also a part of this narrative.

Such approaches reflect more of a Cold War mentality where the fight was between Communism and Capitalism.

Currently, the objections to BRI and its flagship project CPEC are to postpone the change in international order.

The forces of connectivity and economic integration as envisioned in BRI are seen as a challenge to global power structure.

In South Asia, India has vociferously opposed CPEC.

The arrest of Kulbhushan Jadhav from Balochistan exposed India’s adversarial position towards CPEC.

India has reached out to Asia Pacific for economic and security benefits, but is opposed to economic connectivity of South Asia.

It is quite apparent that India feels threatened from an economically strong Pakistan and is also wary of China’s growing role in region.

The opposition to CPEC is competition-driven.

The tactics employed to subvert the corridor involve coercive methods and propaganda.

Whether the adversarial tendencies will out manoeuvre the forces of economic integration or the regional connectivity will change the power dynamics is yet to be seen.

However, the way countries have joined BRI shows that economic connectivity will define power politics.

In addition to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have also joined BRI.

This foretells a diversification of economic linkages and a change in regional political outlook.

As for the economic benefits of CPEC for Pakistan, around 192,000 jobs have been created.

In addition, 6,000 megawatts of electricity is being produced.

The construction of highways has materialised the rural-urban synergy.

Being part of the corridor, Pakistan will be able to focus on the development of blue economy.

In this backdrop, the anti- CPEC forces need to give up the Cold War mentality and adjust with the trends of regional connectivity and geo-economics.

CPEC will transform Pakistan into a trading hub.

As per the statement of China's National Development and Reform Commission, "The Gwadar port, co-built by China and Pakistan, has made great progress in creating a regional logistics hub and industrial base.

In addition, the construction of the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Pakistan has been completed and achieved positive results in business attraction.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2426775/cpec-and-power-dynamics>

Dhabeji SEZ to attract global investments: Sharjeel

Says police will get modern weapons for better law enforcement in Katcha area

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon, said that the establishment of Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is to attract global investments amidst the current economic situation.

Speaking the Sindh Assembly media corner on Monday, Sharjeel Memon said that the decision regarding the dissolution of the provincial assembly on the expiry of its term will be made in consultation with the leadership of the ruling party in Sindh.

He stated that the assembly will complete its term, and the decision to dissolve it has not been made yet. The decision will be made after consultation with the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Memon stated that currently, the PPP is the most popular political party in the entire country, and it will achieve success with a significant majority in the upcoming general elections.

He said one should not take MQM's statements seriously, considering them as an attempt to spread hatred and division. Memon said MQM was trying to influence the political atmosphere before the elections.

On the issue of Israel's alleged attempts to protect the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Memon suggested that there were plots to have Imran Khan leave the country under the guise of human rights concerns.

Elaborating on the importance of Dhabeji SEZ, Memon emphasised the need for long-term economic policies in view of Pakistan's status as an agricultural country with abundant natural resources, including valuable minerals.

"The Sindh government plans to organise an international investment conference to further encourage investment", he said.

He also mentioned an ongoing paid campaign against Pakistan in various countries globally.

Regarding ongoing battles between the police and dacoits in Katcha, Memon highlighted that the robbers possessed modern weapons and mentioned the approval to equip the police with modern weapons for effective combat.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2426704/dhabeji-sez-to-attract-global-investments-sharjeel>

The Nation

Xi'an city agri enterprises invited to collaborate for advanced agriculture in Pakistan

BEIJING-Pakistani Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir has visited Xi'an, a Chinese city known for its advanced agriculture.

The visit aimed to understand the region's cutting-edge agricultural enterprises and pilot projects, and to foster agricultural ties between the two countries. Impressed by the progress and potential for collaboration, Ghulam Qadir invited Xi'an-based enterprises to explore cooperation opportunities in Pakistan and participate in the inaugural Food & Agriculture Expo 2023 in Karachi on August 10, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. "I visited the Shaanxi Food and Agriculture Group, Yangling Agriculture Group, Shaanxi Seed Industrial Group, Qinzagu Group, and other enterprises. I was impressed by the rich agricultural heritage, modern farming techniques, sustainable agriculture practices, precision farming, and agricultural technology. I observed the application of smart farming techniques, advanced machinery, and high-tech greenhouses, all contributing to increased productivity and efficient resource utilisation," he stated.

The counsellor emphasised the potential for mutually beneficial collaboration, highlighting Pakistan's vast agricultural potential, diverse climate zones, and abundant natural resources. Pakistan's agriculture sector could benefit from advanced technology transfer, improved productivity, and better crop quality through precision farming, smart irrigation systems, and modern cultivation methods. "Pakistan, with its advantageous geographical location and fertile land, presents an ideal environment for agricultural investment and partnership. By leveraging Xi'an's expertise and technologies, Pakistan can enhance its agricultural productivity, optimize resource management, and explore innovative farming practices to address challenges such as water scarcity, post-harvest losses, and sustainable agriculture," Qadir added. He noted that his visit to Xi'an could help learn experience in enhancing Pakistan's productivity, optimising resource management, and addressing key agricultural sector challenges. This collaboration can strengthen bilateral ties, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices, food security, and economic growth in both nations. "Joint ventures and knowledge-sharing initiatives can promote research and development in areas such as seed technology, biotechnology, and agrochemicals. This collaboration can enhance crop yields, introduce disease-resistant varieties, and address food security and sustainable agriculture practices," he mentioned.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-18/page-9/detail-0>

Express News

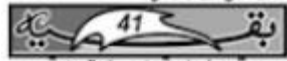
سی پیک، چین پاکستان کاسب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار بن گیا

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے تحت گزشتہ ایک دہائی میں چین پاکستان کاسب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار بن گیا ہے، 2022 میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی تجارت کا حجم 26.5 ارب امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا۔

پلاننگ کمیشن حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت ملک میں پاکستان کے پہلے سب سے اور پہلے انٹیلی جنٹ ایکسپریس وے کے کچھ حصے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں اور ٹریفک کیلئے کھول دیے گئے ہیں، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے تحت فلیگ شپ منصوبے کی حیثیت سے سی پیک نے توانائی، نقل و حمل اور صنعتی تعاون کو اہمیت دی ہے، جس سے 2022 کے اختتام تک 2 لاکھ 30 ہزار سے زائد ملازمتیں پیدا ہوئی ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2512240/6/>

K2 Daily



بڑی ترقی طویل المدتی منصوبے کے تحت آتی ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ بڑے اداروں کو بڑھانے کے لیے جدید مشینری اور معمولی کمادوں کے استعمال کو بڑھانے پر توجہ مرکوز کرتا ہے جبکہ فصل کے بعد ہونے والے نقصانات کو نمایاں طور پر کم کرنے کے لیے فوڈ اسٹوریج اور پوسٹ ہارونگ زون بنانے جاتیں گے۔ اسی طرح کولڈ اسٹوریج ٹیکنالوجی اور میٹ پوسٹ ہارونگ پائپس کی تعمیر کا منصوبہ ہے تاکہ لائیو سٹاک اور مہا گیہری کے شعبوں کی پیداواری صلاحیت کو بڑھانے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کی پیداوار کو بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ میں مزید سہولتیں مل سکیں۔ نی آرائی اقدام میں شامل ممالک میں سے ایک ہونے کے باوجود پاکستان چین کے خوراک کی درآمد پر انحصار میں اضافے اور زرعی شعبے میں اعلیٰ قدر میں انسانے کی طرف ہجرت منتقلی سے فائدہ اٹھا سکتا ہے۔ راہداری اس اہم صنعت کی مزید ترقی کے لیے نئی راہیں فراہم کر کے زرعی شعبے میں تبدیلی لانے کا وعدہ کرتی ہے جو کہ ملک کے جی ڈی پی میں 22.7 فیصد کا حصہ ڈالتی ہے، اور 37.5 فیصد افرادی قوت کو ملازمتیں فراہم کرتی ہے۔ اس سے کسانوں کو بڑی منڈیوں تک پہنچنے میں مدد ملے گی جہاں وہ سڑکوں، ریلوں اور سندر کے ذریعے اپنی پیداوار کو مارکیٹ پر بڑھ کر سکتے ہیں۔ مزید برآں سی پیک کے تحت زرعی اراضی کی توسیع، جس میں جدید زمین آلات اور ٹیکنالوجی کے ساتھ پیداواری صلاحیت بڑھانے کے لیے فارموں کو بڑھانا شامل ہے، مجموعی طور پر معیشت اور جی ڈی پی کو فروغ دینے میں اہم ہوگا۔

سی پیک کے بعد "گرین کوریڈور" پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) زرعی شعبہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری سے براہ راست اور بالواسطہ طور پر مستفید ہوا ہے جو پاکستان میں اپنے آغاز کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کے قریب پہنچ رہا ہے۔ زرعی ترقی سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کا بنیادی جزو ہے جسے "گرین کوریڈور" میں تبدیل کیا جا رہا ہے۔ زرعی شعبے کی (باقی صفحہ 6 ایلے نمبر 41)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Balistan%20News&Date=2023-07-18

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-07-18

July 19, 2023

Business Recorder

Dhabeji Special Economic Zone — a likely game-changer

Sarang Latif Chandio

The development work on the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone has commenced. By inaugurating this project, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has taken the initial step towards realizing the aspirations of Shaheed Zulifqar Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone project is a significant component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and will be linked to the historic Keti Bandar, which connects to the Gwadar Port. Keti Bandar was constructed following the closure of the historic Shah Bandar, which was a significant trading hub at the time.

In Dada Sindhi's book "Ports and Bazaars of Sindh," it is stated that Ghulam Shah Kalhoro constructed Shah Bandar in order to engage in trade with Mughal emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir. This facilitated business activities starting from 1659 AD. Subsequently, Keti Bander was established.

During the early years of British rule, the port mentioned was highly profitable and served as a shipping point for the East India Company's goods to Shah Bandar. Both Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto initiated various projects for the rehabilitation of Keti Bandar and Shah Bandar. In 1994, Benazir Bhutto also envisioned constructing a power plant using Thar coal and establishing a road network in the area. Feasibility reports were prepared, and plans were made for a power station and a port at Keti Bandar.

Now, as Keti Bandar is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a special economic zone has been established for the successful implementation of this project. The economic zone, known as Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, covers 1500 acres of land and aims to connect Karachi to the entire country through the Malir Expressway.

The development work of the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone is planned to be completed within 18 months. Situated approximately nine and a half kilometers from Port Qasim, this proximity adds to the value and usefulness of the project. The economic zone can serve as a storage hub for Port Qasim, facilitating efficient logistics.

Furthermore, the economic zone will be well-connected through road and railway networks, enabling the transportation of goods and materials. The zone will accommodate a range of industries, including light, medium, and heavy industries. Additionally, it will provide warehouse and logistics facilities, as well as commercial and residential plots for people seeking residences or business opportunities.

The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone aims to provide a peaceful environment for residents and businesses alike. To ensure a smooth functioning of the economic zone, an allocation of 878.5 million has been made for water supply, ensuring an uninterrupted water supply through the Dhabeji Pumping Station.

Additionally, an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) has already been signed with Sui Southern Gas for the supply of gas to the economic zone. Furthermore, a grid station with a capacity of 250 MW will be established through a line from the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) to provide electricity to the project. The cost of setting up this grid station is estimated to be around Rs 6.15 billion. These measures are aimed at providing essential utilities to support the smooth functioning and development of the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone.

The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone has allocated 13.5 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas supply, which will be provided at a cost of Rs 429 million. This gas supply is essential to supporting the industrial activities within the economic zone.

Furthermore, as part of the annual development plan, a dedicated road connecting the economic zone directly to Port Qasim is scheduled to be completed by 2024. This road project has a budget of Rs 2.7 billion and will be linked to the National Highway through an interchange, enhancing connectivity and facilitating the movement of goods and people.

Special packages have also been announced to incentivize people working in the economic zone. These include a one-time exemption from tax and customs duty on the import of capital goods, as well as income tax exemption for a period of ten years. These measures are designed to promote investment, boost economic activity, and attract businesses to the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone.

The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone is regarded as a flagship project of the Government of Sindh and is planned to be executed through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The feasibility study and transaction advisory for the project were completed by IBE Karachi, EA Consulting, and Rhea Barker Gilt, indicating a comprehensive planning process.

Zayed KB Builders has been selected as the successful bidder for the project, and a concession agreement has been established with them. EF Ferguson has been appointed as the project's auditor to ensure transparency and accountability.

The economic zone is expected to attract significant investment, estimated to be around \$5 billion. With such substantial investment, the project holds the potential to provide employment opportunities to approximately one lakh (100,000) individuals.

During the opening ceremony of the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister, highlighted the party's commitment to public-private partnerships for development projects. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and the business community in promoting economic development and prosperity.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari mentioned the Thar coal project as an example of a successful public-private partnership project. He addressed the false propaganda surrounding such partnerships, emphasizing that Sindh's public-private partnership projects have achieved success. In fact, he stated that Sindh province has been ranked sixth globally in terms of public-private partnerships.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari expressed optimism about the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, emphasizing its potential to create over 150,000 employment opportunities. He stated that

this initiative would contribute to alleviation of poverty and unemployment in the region. These remarks demonstrate the PPP's commitment to utilizing public-private partnerships to drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, and uplift the standard of living in the area.

In a 2016 CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) meeting, approval was granted for six economic zones, one of which is the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone. Today, work is commencing on this project. The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone is strategically located, with 1500 acres of land allocated for it on a 50-year lease. Additional land will also be assigned for the zone's expansion, contributing to the economic development of Pakistan, particularly in Karachi.

The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone holds a central position and is in close proximity to Karachi Port, Karachi Airport, Port Qasim, and the National Highway. It is expected to be a game-changer in terms of industrial development, introducing a new concept not only in Sindh but throughout Pakistan. This project is anticipated to promote economic stability and serve as a catalyst for the country's economic growth and employment opportunities. Its significance has earned it the designation as the gateway of Pakistan.

(The writer is Deputy Director Information Sindh)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/19/7-page/967727-news.html>

China rolls over \$600m loan

ISLAMABAD: China has rolled over a \$600 million loan to Pakistan, helping shore up the South Asian country's foreign exchange reserves following a long-awaited deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday. China had already rolled over more than \$5 billion in loans to Pakistan in the last three months, helping it avert a default as negotiations to secure the IMF bailout dragged on. "We have received another \$600 million from our friend China," said Sharif at an event in Islamabad.

The IMF talks took months, and in the meantime Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves shrunk to barely enough to pay for a month of controlled imports, and an acute balance of payment crisis pushed the country to the brink.

Pakistan finally secured a \$3 billion bailout on June 30 from the IMF, which later disbursed an initial instalment of about \$1.2 billion.

A further \$3 billion of financial support from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates after the IMF pact helped steady the Pakistani economy, according to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

Pakistan's central bank said on Tuesday the current account recorded a surplus of \$334 million for June, while the trade deficit for the same month fell 62% year-on-year.

In the financial year to end-June, Pakistan's trade deficit fell 43% from the previous year to \$27.6 billion.

The current account deficit for the year fell to \$2.56 billion against \$17.48 billion for the 2022 financial year, Dar said in a recorded statement, after the central bank released the data.

“That’s how Pakistan didn’t default, God be praised,” he said. “We’re now in a safe zone.”—
Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/19/1-page/967682-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan to utilise Chinese expertise to boost exports: Ahsan

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said China would provide Pakistan with technical ‘know-how’ and expertise to increase exports and help successful execution of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the CPEC project.

“We have requested China not to give us fish, [but] teach us how to catch the fish. Pakistan wants Chinese assistance to increase its exports and in successful execution of the SEZs. So China has promised to attach its experts [with quarters concerned in Pakistan],” he said while addressing an international seminar in the federal capital. The seminar was titled “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at Ten: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity,” was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institution (IPRI).

IPRI President Ambassador Dr Raza Muhammad, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS) Sargodha University Fazul ur Rehman, former SAPM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, Director China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) Dr Hu ShiSheng and Sohail Malik of Team Lead Climate Resourcing Coordination Center (CRC) among the leading speakers who spoke at a panel discussion of the seminar and highlighted significance of China-Pakistan relations besides various aspects of the game-changer CPEC project. The panel discussion was moderated by Assistant Professor, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Dr Salma Malik.

The minister said China had a vast experience in these sectors as it itself attained economic progress by increasing exports and establish vibrant industrial units besides having global chains for marketing its products. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan needed export-oriented policies if wanted to have sustainable economic growth, stressing for clamping ‘export emergency’ to get exponential exports not incremental ones. He also highlighted the importance to have surplus production of various items to increase the country’s exports as otherwise it could cause ‘local market distortion.’ “Next phase of the CPEC is business-to-business cooperation, not the government-to-government. Now we have to move towards industrial cooperation”, he added.

Elaborating, the minister said first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, initiated in 2013, was the infrastructure development by 2022, the second phase was industrialization from 2020 to 2025 and the third one was regional integration from 2025-30. He said the incumbent government had revived the CPEC project, which faced slow-pace during the four years of the PTI government, expressing confidence it would be game changer not only for Pakistan but the whole region. Now, he said Gulf countries were showing keen interest to invest in diverse fields of Pakistan including agriculture, mining,

information technology and energy, for which a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been set up.

The minister said the country needed at least 10-year policy consistency to get the fruits of any development project. During 2013-18, Ahsan Iqbal said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz achieved great progress in the energy sector and produced around 11500 megawatts of additional electricity under the CPEC and non-CPEC projects and pulled the country out of 18-20 hours of load-shedding.

Now, the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also put the country on a path of economic stability and started completing the CPEC project at a faster pace.

He mentioned the CPEC projects in detail which helped in producing energy by different means, establishing a vibrant road and rail infrastructure across the country, special economic zones and laying of fiber optic cable for high-speed broadband services in remote areas and social welfare projects especially in Gwadar, an ultimate destination of the CPEC. The minister said the CPEC had emerged as one of Pakistan's most successful and transformative projects, ushering in a new era of regional connectivity and economic prosperity.

Recalling the inception of CPEC, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that the project was proposed after the 2013 elections in Pakistan when the Chinese Premier extended the visionary concept to the newly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. This led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding during Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in July 2013, establishing the joint coordination cooperation committee (JCC) to drive the implementation of CPEC. Underlining the political will behind CPEC, Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that the MoU was swiftly followed by the first JCC meeting in August 2013.

"This remarkable start marked the beginning of an institutional mechanism for advancing CPEC, paving the way for significant progress in subsequent years," he added. He said it was the transformative impact of CPEC that China became the top foreign direct investor in Pakistan within just three years of the project's initiation.

The minister said "This shift elevated China from a close political ally to a key economic partner, emphasizing the transition from geopolitics to geo-economics."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1115322/pakistan-to-utilise-chinese-expertise-to-boost-exports-ahsan/>

The Nation

'Sino-Pak traditional medicine coop to guard human health'

ISLAMABAD - China "Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Unani Medicine are very effective in maintaining people's health and playing an increasingly important role in the world," said Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sindh Minister, Department of Health & Population Welfare.

To further promote the modernisation and internationalisation of TCM and Unani, jointly safeguard the health of Chinese and Pakistani people, and jointly build a community of

human health, two international seminars on Traditional Chinese Medicine-Traditional Unani Medicine were hosted at Ningbo University and Hunan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine respectively this month, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The consensus reached by the two seminars includes the establishment of TCM departments in three public hospitals in Sindh, Pakistan, and the establishment of an international clinical research base of TCM in ICCBS; Chinese medicine doctors from Beijing Hospital of TCM and Hunan University of TCM will be selected and sent to Sindh public hospitals to guide and train local western doctors, and Pakistani doctors will be sent to China for training.

Ningbo University and Karachi University plan to carry out space breeding and quality evaluation of medicinal materials and characteristic crops.

Focusing on food and drug homologous substances, the two sides will jointly develop nutrition and health products suitable for pregnant and lactating women and infants in Pakistan and register and market them in accordance with Pakistani laws and regulations.

Ningbo traditional Chinese medicine has a long history and a rich heritage. The Institute of Drug Discovery Technology (IDDT) at Ningbo University and International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at the University of Karachi have reached fruitful results in the field of traditional medicine research and development.

In 2022, the two institutes jointly promoted the space carrying and breeding of traditional Pakistani medicine seeds in Shenzhou 14, which was highly praised by the foreign ministries of China and Pakistan.

Prof Lv Chaofeng, Vice President of Ningbo University, presented that set up in 1986, as one of the universities in China's "Double First-Class" Initiative, Ningbo University has established cooperation and exchanges with more than 170 higher institutions in more than 70 countries.

Prof Liu Xinmin, WHO EAP member on traditional medicine & Chief Scientist of IDDT, who has been collaborating with Pakistan for over 2 decades, said that "IDDT will continue to carry out in-depth cooperation in R&D, clinical trial and registration of herbal products in Pakistan, promote herbal products enter Pakistan and OIC countries, making traditional medicine more modern."

Prof Iqbal Choudhary, Director and Distinguished National Professor and Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Vice President of TWAS (Third World Academy of Sciences), also Director of ICCBS, emphasised the significance of promoting traditional medicine in the OIC world of 1.9 billion people on 4 continents.

He added that "the OIC world faces a host of security and development challenges as well as menace of violent extremism. In addition to national efforts, there is a need for developing partnerships between the most STI influential including China, for collective development."

About 40 experts from universities, hospitals and biomedical companies attended the seminars and shared their views on Traditional Chinese Medicine-Traditional Unani Medicine exchanges.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-19/page-4/detail-2>

July 20, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Revival of SEZs

THE incumbent coalition government deserves full credit for taking concrete measures for revival of the otherwise stalled project of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who performed the groundbreaking of the Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone on Tuesday, lamented that the project experienced a delay of five years because of lack of interest and commitment on the part of the PTI Government. He pointed out that despite finalizing the land and designs for the SEZs in Punjab, the previous government deliberately hindered progress of the project.

There is consensus among planners that the required focus on agriculture and industry can help overcome economic and financial challenges confronting Pakistan. The SEZs were planned with the objective of giving a boost to industrialization that is necessary to meet not only local needs for various products but also surplus for exports to earn the much-needed foreign exchange. The Special Economic Zones were an important component of the CPEC but strangely enough these were kept in cold storage despite verbal commitments to the cause of industrialization. This is classic but criminal negligence in view of the willingness of China to provide necessary assistance for development of these zones and that is why the Prime Minister has, once again, emphasized the need for signing of a Charter of Economy so that economic initiatives do not become victims of political changes in the country. It is the responsibility of the provincial governments to ensure availability of basic infrastructure and that of the federal government to attract investment in these zones. The Prime Minister regretted that in the past land allocated for establishment of industrial zones was misused for real estate projects but mere narration of facts would not change the ground realities until and unless those responsible for such criminal acts are brought to book. Similarly, we have been emphasizing in these columns that while provincial governments should be made to complete the development work in a time-bound manner, the investors should also be held accountable if they fail to set up industries at plots allotted to them. Despite all this, the goal of accelerating the pace of industrialization would remain a dream if the cost of doing business is not brought down which continues to surge with the passage of time because of internal and external factors. We cite the example of Bangladesh, which has set an export target of US \$ 72 billion for the next year, but are not willing to follow similar policies and offer incentives to the industry. The Prime Minister has rightly emphasized that Pakistan should learn from China's textile expertise, engage in joint ventures and import Chinese second-hand machinery to boost exports, particularly as China's industry has become highly advanced. In fact, hundreds of Chinese companies and industries have active plans to shift their businesses overseas and they consider Pakistan as one of the preferred destinations for the purpose. However, the plan cannot materialize without provision of necessary facilities and incentives including supply of uninterrupted electricity and local and regional

connectivity. The government should, therefore, prioritize development of all the industrial zones as originally envisaged under the CPEC without further delay besides expeditious completion of infrastructure and connectivity projects in Gwadar. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has called for pushing the country's exports to \$100 billion, hoping that the 5Es framework as envisaged in the budget for the current financial year would help realize this objective. However, for this to happen, the Government, in close consultation and collaboration of all stakeholders, will have to remove hurdles in the way of boosting exports meaningfully. In this connection, Minister for Information Technology Aminul Haque, while expressing determination to push IT exports from the existing \$ 2.6 billion to \$15 billion over the next few years, has drawn attention to the bureaucratic mindset of considering only tangible items like tomatoes and potatoes as tradable, ignoring importance of online services like call centres and remittances from freelancers. It is because of this mindset as well as frequent disruptions in IT services and increased taxation that now even Pakistanis are basing their companies overseas. Therefore, there is dire need for an integrated approach for industrialization and to give a boost to exports. Now that we have a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), one hopes impediments in the way of investment would be removed through concerted efforts and coordination.

<https://pakobserver.net/revival-of-sezs/>

Sindh health delegation welcomed in China

We welcome young talents in the medical field of Pakistan to visit our hospital and we will provide training opportunities lasting for several months.

Also we're more than willing to send our medics to Pakistan for further research in TCM," Prof.

Liu Qingquan, President, Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Capital Medical University, told China Economic Net.

He made the above remarks while welcoming the Pakistani delegation in Beijing.

A four-member Pakistani delegation led by Dr.

Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health & Population Welfare, Sindh, arrived in China on July 12 for a 12-day visit.

They were to participate in health dialogues with Chinese health departments, hospitals, institutions, enterprises for more possibilities in cooperation between China and Pakistan in fields of health, medicine and so on.

During the visit to Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the delegation showed great interest in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

Both sides exchanged ideas and information on topics including talent exchange, construction of TCM teaching system, clinical research, compilation of China-Pakistan herbal books.

According to the hospital, there are 7 characteristic diagnosis and treatment centers of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing, including Dermatology Department of TCM,

Cardiovascular Department of TCM, Digestion Center, Acupuncture and Moxibustion Center, Pediatrics Department of TCM, Gynecology Department of TCM and TCM Preventive Treatment Center.

“We welcome Pakistani talents to explore more in terms of the combination of TCM and modern technology to improve the quality of life of patients,” Liu noted.

On the occasion, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, director of International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan, was invited to be a visiting professor by Prof. Liu Qingquan.

Established in 1956, Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine is the only comprehensive and modernized grade-A tertiary hospital of traditional Chinese medicine in Beijing.

<https://pakobserver.net/sindh-health-delegation-welcomed-in-china/>

The Nation

‘CPEC can trigger modernisation in agri, industrial sectors

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a seminar on Wednesday said that Pakistan should not miss a huge opportunity of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project despite the fact that the country’s ruling elite has more social and economic links with the west, a reason that hampered progress on the multi-billion dollar programme in the past.

They said that the CPEC project had the potential to trigger modernisation in agriculture and industrial sectors of Pakistan but this did not happen because those at the helm of affairs resisted much-needed transformation.

These views were expressed at a seminar on ‘Navigating challenging times: US-China relations and Pakistan’ organised by Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based research and advocacy think tank, here.

Lawmakers, former diplomats, retired military officers, academics, and experts on regional trade and international relations participated in the event.

The sub-themes of the dialogue included ‘Challenges and opportunities for Pakistan in navigating the complexities of the US-China relations’ and ‘Role of diplomacy in shaping US-China-Pakistan relations.’ The participants also discussed potential areas of cooperation and collaboration between the US, China and Pakistan to address challenges and promote mutual understanding.

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed speaking on the occasion as a chief guest said that the future lies in regional economic connectivity and Pakistan has tremendous opportunities in it. “It is all about geo-economic... and we have to open up the borders ... and then avoid a new cold war.”

Senator Mushahid, who is also chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, suggested that Pakistan needed a new charter of foreign policy on national security. “The national security

has to be redefined not in terms of military might but for human security, climate change, energy, food security, water scarcity, population and education.”

He said that there was a need to understand China’s strategic culture. He added that any new cold war between US and China would be averted because the latter was not economically weak as was in the case of then Soviet Union.

He underlined that relationship between China and Pakistan was strategically strong. “China needs Pakistan and Pakistan needs China,” he said, adding that it was a convergence of interests.

Former Corps Commander Peshawar Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Masood Aslam viewed that Beijing itself had strategic interests, which dictated strategic and economic investments in Pakistan. He said that in the wake of US-China rivalry, the former was embracing India as a bulwark against the latter and Islamabad was facing complex challenges while these great powers had been navigating. He said that this rivalry was directly affecting the geo-political landscape of South Asia, besides the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Masood urged that economic diplomacy was the need of the hour for Pakistan and this should be the main pillar of its foreign policy. For social and economic development, the country should focus on areas including food security, climate change, health, provision of technology, elimination of terrorism, and poverty alleviation, he added. “Our diplomacy has to be totally linked with the economy.”

Political analyst and expert on regional affairs ex-Senator Afrasiab Khattak endorsed the view of other speakers that the problem with Pakistan was its old western connections and economic dependence on the west. He added that the country’s ruling elite had close relations with that part of the world—a reason for resisting its transformation. “CPEC is a great opportunity and Pakistan should not miss it.” He suggested that Pakistan would have to make economic relations with the Middle East, China, and other neighbouring countries as part of this transformation.

Afrasiab warned of a new cold war and said that Pakistan should redefine its relations with other countries. He feared that western world could use Pakistan against China, adding that militancy structures were still intact.

The seasoned politician underscored that Pakistan needed to change its policies fundamentally and maintain its relation with all neighbouring countries including China, Afghanistan, Iran and even India.

Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) leader and former Senator Farhatullah Babar held that Pakistan should genuinely strive to promote regional peace and trade, which were prerequisites for its economic development. “We have to revisit our economic model,” he said, adding that the country had no conducive economic model.

Director PIPS Muhammad Amir Rana remarked that challenge right now was how Pakistan can make a balance between the US and China and whether Pakistan has to make this balance or not. “The nations change their ways but transformation is always very difficult.”

Amir explained that the US was Pakistan's old ally and China was its neighbour." For our political elite, they see benefits of Pakistan's exports to the US on one side and there is the opportunity of CPEC on the other side, he added. He said that those who controlled businesses in Pakistan got most of their interests in the west and this was one of the critical challenges and a hurdle in the way of transformation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-20/page-3/detail-0>

China to facilitate young talents to collaborate in TCM sector

ISLAMABAD - China offers purposeful opportunities to students from Pakistan in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) as it would help in further promoting this field and treating human diseases in a better way.

"We welcome young talents in the medical field of Pakistan to visit our hospital and we will provide training opportunities lasting for several months. Also we're more than willing to send our medics to Pakistan for further research in TCM," Prof. Liu Qingquan, President, Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Capital Medical University, told China Economic Net. He made the above remarks while welcoming the Pakistani delegation in Beijing on July 13.

A four-member Pakistani delegation led by Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health & Population Welfare, Sindh, arrived in China on July 12 for a 12-day visit. They were to participate in health dialogues with Chinese health departments, hospitals, institutions, enterprises for more possibilities in cooperation between China and Pakistan in fields of health, medicine and so on.

During the visit to Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the delegation showed great interest in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Both sides exchanged ideas and information on topics including talent exchange, construction of TCM teaching system, clinical research, compilation of China- Pakistan herbal books.

According to the hospital, there are 7 characteristic diagnosis and treatment centres of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing. "We welcome Pakistani talents to explore more in terms of the combination of TCM and modern technology to improve the quality of life of patients," Liu noted.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-20/page-4/detail-0>

The News

Pakistan, China aim to counter information warfare: Mushahid

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, said on Wednesday that Pakistan and China firmly reject any new cold war and instead aim to address common challenges with a collective strategy.

He stressed Pakistan's solidarity with China in building a peaceful and prosperous Asia during the 'Asian Century.'

Speaking outside the Parliament House during a press conference on Wednesday, Senator Mushahid Hussain highlighted that both countries share common interests. They agreed to work together on a collective strategy to counter information warfare. While China promotes 'connectivity and cooperation' in its vision, some in the West and parts of Asia with a Cold War mindset talk of 'containment and conflict.'

A multiparty delegation of seven parliamentarians, led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, visited China, the first parliamentary delegation to do so after the COVID crisis.

They held a media briefing at the Parliament House, coinciding with 10 years of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), which underscores the commitment of both countries to strengthening their friendship and cooperation at the people-to-people level, forming the core of the Pakistan-China strategic 'all-weather' partnership as 'Iron Brothers.'

Senator Mushahid Hussain explained that the delegation, representing six political parties from all four provinces, had three main purposes for their visit to China. Firstly, they wanted to reaffirm the commitment of the Pakistan Parliament and political parties to promoting Pakistan-China friendship as the pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy, regardless of any changes in the region.

Secondly, they sought to learn from China's experience of development and modernization to enhance the second phase of CPEC.

Lastly, they aimed to discuss the rapidly changing regional situation with Chinese friends, enabling both countries to collectively tackle common challenges.

During their stay in China, Senator Sayed and the delegation engaged in high-level meetings with officials from China's Foreign Ministry, the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, leading media outlets, and top think tanks. These interactions provided the delegation with insights into China's progress in poverty alleviation, technology, education, and industry.

In their discussions with Chinese friends, Senator Sayed emphasised three key points. First, the delegation thanked China for its timely diplomatic, military, and financial support, including a \$5.7 billion loan rollover that helped Pakistan avoid default and China's support on the Kashmir issue at the G-20 and in getting Pakistan out of FATF listing.

Second, they assured China that all political parties in Pakistan, whether in government or opposition, firmly believe in China's pivotal role in Pakistan's foreign policy and view CPEC as a guarantee for a better future for the people of Pakistan.

Third, they stressed that information warfare, disinformation, and fake news are major challenges faced by both Pakistan and China in the changing regional and global scenario, aiming to destabilise CPEC, undermine Pakistan-China ties, and undermine the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Senator Sayed welcomed the recent high-level visits by Pakistani military leaders to China and praised the results of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC held recently in Beijing. He also congratulated China on the success of CPEC as it celebrated its first 10 years.

The parliamentary delegation's visit resulted in tangible outcomes, including the organisation of an international conference in Islamabad in the first half of 2024, titled 'Understanding China, Pakistan, and Regional Changes,' in cooperation with the influential think tank, the China Institute for Innovation and Developing Strategy (CIIDS), and the Pakistan-China Institute. Additionally, the CPEC Media Forum will be held in the last quarter of 2023, and efforts will be made to strengthen relations between cities and provinces of Pakistan and China, with a focus on poverty alleviation, agriculture, education, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), women's development, culture and tourism, technology, and media cooperation.

The Chinese side reaffirmed its strong support for Pakistan's stability and socio-economic development, and both sides expressed solidarity with their respective core interests.

Among the parliamentarians, Dr. Mahesh Kumar Mallani emphasised the need for enhanced Pakistan-China collaboration in advanced coal technologies to support cleaner and more efficient coal power projects, promoting environmental sustainability and energy security.

Mohsin Dawar advocated for increased educational cooperation between the two countries, suggesting a comprehensive exchange programme for students and faculty, particularly with the newly established Roashaan University in Waziristan. Muhammad Abubakar stressed the importance of vocational training cooperation, proposing the establishment of joint vocational training institutes.

Ghous Bux Khan Maher highlighted the need for strengthened agricultural collaboration, focusing on advanced seed technology and irrigation techniques.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Cheema urged the establishment of joint research centres with China on Traditional Chinese Medicine to enhance medical progress and elevate healthcare results at the grassroots level. Senator Sana Jamali called for collaboration on women's empowerment, with a focus on poverty alleviation and sister city and province arrangements between Balochistan and Chinese regions.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=221473>

Jang News

چین اور پاکستان کا سی بییک پر کام کی رفتار تیز کرنے پر اتفاق

وزارت منصوبہ بندی و ترقی کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق چین، پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبوں کو مزید تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق احسن اقبال نے سی بییک منصوبوں کو مکمل کرنے کے حکومتی عزم کا اعادہ کیا اور کہا کہ سی بییک منصوبوں پر تیزی سے عملدرآمد حکومت کی کامیابی ہے۔

احسن اقبال کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ حکومت نے سی بییک کے متعدد منصوبوں کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچایا۔ سی بییک کے منصوبے باضی میں نظر انداز کیے گئے۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق سی پیک کی 10 سالہ تقریبات کے تحت اسلام آباد میں 2 روزہ بین الاقوامی کانفرنس ہوگی۔ سی پیک میں شامل پاکستانی اور چینی کمپنیوں کے حکام کو سوویترز سے نوازا جائے گا۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزارت منصوبہ بندی کی جانب سے خصوصی سکھ بھی تیار کیا گیا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1249227>

July 21, 2023

Daily Times

40% of desilting operation complete at Gwadar Port

Nearly 40% of the desilting operation at Gwadar port has been completed, following the implementation of rapid action on the special directives of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The desilting process is underway to restore the original depth of the navigational channel at Gwadar Port, allowing larger ships to operate smoothly.

This will ensure seamless movement of all types of vessels and ease their docking without any interruption. A Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) official informed Gwadar Pro that the China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) has been conducting the dredging operation effectively, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. “We plan to reclaim the natural and original operational depth of 14.5 meters at Gwadar Port at a cost of Rs 4.7 billion,” he added. He also expressed satisfaction with the pace of the operation.

“Under the title ‘the maintenance dredging of a navigational channel of Gwadar Port,’ the project is expected to complete within 12 months, according to the agreement signed between CHEC and GPA,” he added.

GPA Director of Marine Operation, Capt Gull Muhammad, explained that the cost of the dredging process depends on many factors, including dollar fluctuation, fuel cost, and labor charges. An official from the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) said that although no desilting activity had taken place in the last 7 years, the port continues to berth and process mega-vessels, albeit at a reduced frequency, he stated.

Another GPA official informed Gwadar Pro, “Initially, we planned to start just one part of the dredging process in two or three phases at Gwadar Port, so around Rs. 1 billion was allocated in the 2022-2023 budget for partial dredging. Later, we decided to complete all the dredging at once. Hence, the project cost now stands at Rs 4.7 billion,” he added.

In response to a query, he said that CHEC won the contract for maintenance dredging construction on the forward swing waters and the approach channel of the Gwadar Port Terminal after an official bidding process launched by GPA last year. This will ensure smooth ship movements in the entry channel, which is crucial for the future development of Gwadar Port.

CHEC is a subsidiary of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC). It provides infrastructure construction services such as marine engineering, dredging and reclamation,

road and bridge construction, railways, airports, and plant construction. CHEC is the world's second-largest dredging company, executing projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1115830/40-of-desilting-operation-complete-at-gwadar-port/>

Dawn News

Shanghai spirit drives unity and cooperation among SCO member states: experts

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Amidst various challenges faced by countries in the region and across the globe, the member states of SCO are working together to promote the “Shanghai spirit.”

Speakers at a webinar on “SCO summit 2023: implications, challenges and future prospects” said the spirit aims to address urgent issues and foster regional security, economic prosperity and cultural exchange. It is not only valuable for the SCO as an international organisation but also has the potential to serve as a model for relations between countries worldwide.

They noted that before encouraging harmony and cooperation, it inspires collective progress and prosperity for everyone involved. The event was organised by the Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum and the Center of SCO Studies, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS).

Academics and experts from SCO member states provided insights about the recent SCO 2023 summit and its implications for the future.

They emphasised the vital role of people-to-people collaboration and joint efforts in finding effective solutions to complex global challenges such as climate change, extremism, technological advancements, and economic stability. They expressed a shared belief that through collective action, the SCO member states can create a more interconnected and sustainable future.

Dr Farhat Asif, President IPDS, highlighted the importance of the webinar and the centre's vision for promoting research, cooperation, and people-to-people ties in SCO.

The speakers analysed the challenges and prospects faced during the SCO summit and highlighted the importance of promoting the “Shanghai Spirit” by strengthening connections among people.

Dr Sakti Prasad Srichandan, assistant professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke about India's achievements as the chair of the SCO summit 2023. He mentioned India's efforts in promoting soft sectors like medicine, culture and innovation as well as SCO's progress toward expanding membership among member countries.

Kang Jie, associate research fellow from the Department for European-Central Asian Studies at the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), stressed the need for field cooperation and enhanced community collaboration to address challenges. He also proposed building collaboration through joint research.

Kabuljon Sabirov, director SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, advocated essential initiatives like a unified corridor map, climate change coordination, tourism development, and collaborative measures to counter regional challenges. He believed SCO's initiatives and endeavors would foster regional connectivity, peace and stability.

Dr Lidiya Parkhomchik, an expert from the Institute of World Economics and Politics in Kazakhstan, highlighted the positive outcomes of the SCO summit and expressed enthusiasm about Kazakhstan's hosting of SCO 2024. She described the SCO as a central force in international diplomacy.

Julia Melonikov, programme manager at the Russian International Affairs Council, said the SCO region served as a forum for resolving differences that may cause the region to prosper. She highlighted the organisation's role in promoting peace, development and cooperation.

Mirsaid Rahmonov, a senior analyst at the Institute of Asian and European Studies in Tajikistan, shared his perspective on achieving lasting peace. He emphasised elements like economic activation, connectivity and eliminating threats as crucial components of a peaceful regional approach.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1765858>

Express News

چین 2 ارب ڈالر قرضہ ری شیڈول کرنے پر تیار، ای سی سی نے معاہدے کی منظوری دیدی

وزارت خزانہ کی جانب سے تاحال اس معاہدے کا سرکاری طور پر اعلان نہیں کیا گیا۔ تاہم پاکستانی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان نے کراچی میں 2 ارب ڈالر کی بجلی گھر قائم کیے ہیں جن کی مجموعی پیداواری صلاحیت 2 ہزار 117 میگاواٹ ہے۔

ان پلانٹس پر کل لاگت ساڑھے 9 ارب ڈالر آئی اس میں ساڑھے 6 ارب ڈالر کی فنانشنگ چین کے ایگزیم بینک نے کی تھی۔ سرکاری گارنٹی کے اس قرضہ میں 2 ارب ڈالر کی ادائیگی پاکستان کو دو سال میں کرنا تھی۔ چین نے اس ادائیگی میں پاکستان کو سہولت دیدی ہے۔

پاکستانی عہدیداروں کے مطابق چین پاکستان کو ڈیفالٹ سے بچانے کیلئے اس کی بار بار مدد کرتا رہا ہے۔ اس کیلئے نہ صرف وہ اپنے قرضے موخر کرتا رہا ہے بلکہ اس نے نئے قرضے بھی فراہم کیے ہیں۔ ابھی جون میں ہی پاکستان کو ایک ارب 30 کروڑ ڈالر فراہم کیے گئے۔ یہ رقم ملنے کے بعد پاکستان ڈیفالٹ سے بچ گیا اور اس نے بروقت بیرونی ادائیگیاں کر دیں۔

یہ سب ایسے موقع پر کیا گیا جب پاکستان کیلئے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام آگے نہیں بڑھ رہا تھا۔ اب آئی ایم ایف کا نیا پروگرام ملنے کے بعد پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے سرکاری ذخائر ساڑھے چار ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 8 ارب 70 کروڑ ڈالر ہو گئے ہیں۔

اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی نے اگلے عام انتخابات کیلئے الیکشن کمیشن کو ساڑھے 42 ارب روپے جاری کرنے کی بھی منظوری دیدی ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے مطابق الیکشن کمیشن کو 10 ارب ڈالر فوری جاری کرنے کی اجازت دیدی گئی ہے۔ باقی رقم اسے اس کی ضروریات کو مد نظر رکھ کر جاری کی جائے گی۔

اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی نے سپیشل انویسٹمنٹ فیسیلیٹی کو نسل کو بھی 20 کروڑ روپے کی ٹیکنیکل سپلیمنٹری گرانٹ جاری کرنے کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ خلیجی ممالک سے دفاع، زراعت، معدنیات، آئی ٹی اور انرجی کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری لانے کیلئے ایک سول ملٹری ہائیبرڈ کونسل قائم کی گئی ہے۔ اسپیشل انویسٹمنٹ فیسیلیٹی کو نسل کا سیکرٹریٹ وزیر اعظم آفس میں قائم کیا گیا ہے جس میں مختلف وزارتوں سے لیے گئے افسران تعینات ہیں۔ یہ سیکرٹریٹ ابھی بجٹ میں فنڈ مختص نہ کرنے کی وجہ سے فعال نہیں ہوا۔

اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی کو بتایا گیا کہ کونسل نے 20 کروڑ روپے کی سپلیمنٹری گرانٹ مانگی ہے، اس کے علاوہ فرنچیز کی خریداری کیلئے اس پر عائد پابندی ختم کرنے کا بھی مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

کمیٹی کے اجلاس میں فلم انڈسٹری کی بحالی کیلئے سینماؤں سے بجلی کے ریٹس کے معاملے پر وزارت اطلاعات کی سماری پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ کمیٹی نے اس تجویز کی بھی منظوری دیدی جس کے مطابق سینماؤں سے انڈسٹری کے بجلی ریٹ وصول کیے جائیں گے۔

اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی نے ایکسپورٹ پراسسنگ زون سے زمین کے راستے افغانستان کو ویجٹیبیل گھی اور کونگ آئل برآمد کرنے کیلئے وزارت تجارت کی سماری پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ اجلاس میں 2023-24 کیلئے تمباکو پرنیکس کے ریٹس کے معاملے پر وزارت فوڈ سکیورٹی اور ریسرچ کی سماری پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔

کمیٹی نے اس ضمن میں نظر ثانی شدہ ریٹس کی بھی منظوری دیدی۔ نئی نیکس شرحوں کے مطابق ور جینیا تمباکو پرنیکس کی شرح تین فیصد اضافے کے ساتھ 9.3 روپے فی کلوگرام کر دی گئی ہے۔ اسی طرح ڈارک ایبڑ تمباکو پرنیکس 5.70 روپے فی کلو نیکس وصول کیا جائے گا۔ تمباکو پیتھ پرنیکس کی شرح 4.38 روپے فی کلو، برلے پر 9.7 روپے فی کلو اور سن کیورڈور جینیا پرنیکس کی شرح 6 روپے فی کلوگرام ہوگی۔

وزارت فوڈ سکیورٹی کو نظر ثانی شدہ نیکس ریٹس کی مد میں مجموعی طور پر 115 ارب روپے وصول ہونگے۔ اس رقم میں سے 113 ارب روپے ملازمین کی تنخواہوں پر ہی خرچ ہو جائیں گے۔

اجلاس میں سوئی مائننگ کی لیز کا معاملہ حل کرنے کیلئے پٹرولیم ڈویژن کی سماری پر غور موزخر کر دیا گیا۔ اس معاملے پر بلوچستان حکومت کو بھی اعتماد میں لیا جائے گا۔ پٹرولیم ڈویژن پاکستان پٹرولیم لمیٹڈ کی جانب سے 12 ارب روپے کی ادائیگی کے بعد بلوچستان حکومت سے اس معاملے پر بات کریگی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2513584/6/>

July 22, 2023

Daily Times

Sino-Pak seminar held to secure Pakistan's Cotton yield

China Cotton Association, together with relevant experts from China's cotton breeding, production, and processing sectors, held an online seminar via Zoom video conference with the All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). During the conference, Mr. Wang Jianhong, Executive Vice President and Secretary-General of the China Cotton Association, provided an overview of the association and its expert team to the Pakistani participants, highlighting the association's active engagement in international affairs and its efforts to promote international exchanges in the Chinese cotton industry, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Mr. Wang expressed a strong desire to establish a cooperative partnership with Pakistan, fostering collaboration and communication in the cotton sector between the two countries.

Mr. Asif Inam, President of APTMA, expressed gratitude to the China Cotton Association and extended an invitation to the Chinese delegation to visit Pakistan, with the aim of further deepening bilateral cooperation and communication. He emphasized Pakistan's keen interest in learning from China's successful experiences in the cotton sector and expressed the hope of seeking support and collaboration in cotton breeding, cultivation, and processing.

Subsequently, experts from China took turns to speak, sharing their practical experiences in the cotton industry.

They particularly focused on the scientific management system for cultivation, emphasizing how efficient planting management practices can enhance production efficiency. The experts also pointed out that these experiences could provide valuable insights for Pakistan's cotton production. In future collaborations, the Chinese experts expressed their willingness to share more professional knowledge with Pakistan and jointly explore best practices for the development of the cotton industry, promoting mutual progress in the field. Both parties agreed during the meeting to further deepen exchanges and cooperation, strengthen technical exchanges and training, and promote the mutual prosperity and development of the cotton industries in China and Pakistan. This online seminar served as a crucial platform for enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the cotton sector and marks a significant milestone in their collaborative relationship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116188/sino-pak-seminar-held-to-secure-pakistans-cotton-yield/>

Pakistan Observer

KP CM inaugurates Phase-I of Rashakai Special Economic Zone

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan inaugurated Phase-I of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, marking a significant milestone in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) here on Friday.

The Rashakai Special Economic Zone, strategically located at the nexus of economic growth, stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Pakistan and China. CPEC has become a symbol of friendship between the countries and a model for cooperation between developing countries.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister appreciated the exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KPEZDMC) for successfully completing Phase -I of the project six months before the completion date.

The chief minister thanked the government of China, the companies involved and public sector entities for their unflinching support to the project and all those who contributed to the completion Phase -I Rashakai SEZ.

Encompassing 247 acres of modern facilities designed to attract domestic and foreign investors, Phase I of the Rashakai SEZ promises to spur economic growth and job creation, further strengthening Pakistan-China cooperation and bilateral relations under the umbrella of CPEC.

Presently, Phase- I houses 18 zone enterprises, with 07 under construction; mobilizing an estimated investment of Rs. 85 billion.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/kp-cm-inaugurates-phase-i-of-rashakai-special-economic-zone/>

The Express Tribune

China agrees to reschedule \$2 billion debt

ECC approves revised terms of agreement

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to reschedule over \$2 billion publicly guaranteed debt of Pakistan for a period of two years, providing a major relief to the government that is in the process of rebuilding foreign exchange reserves through fresh loans and rolling over maturing debt.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved the revised terms of the agreement reached between Islamabad and Beijing, according to senior Pakistani officials.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting.

Pakistan has built two nuclear power plants in Karachi that have a combined generation capacity of 2,117 megawatts. The total cost of the plants is \$9.5 billion, including the \$6.5 billion financing from China. The loan was extended by the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China.

Of \$2 billion, over \$625 million was maturing in this fiscal year that will now be paused. The \$6.5 billion is a publicly guaranteed debt and over \$2 billion repayments were maturing in two years that China has agreed to make a pause on, according to the senior officials.

China has time and again helped Pakistan meet its debt obligations through the provision of new loans and rollover of the existing debt. China prematurely refinanced its \$1.3 billion commercial loans in June, which helped Pakistan avoid a default on its international debt obligations during the period when the International Monetary Fund programme was stalled.

After signing of the new IMF programme, Pakistan's gross official foreign exchange reserves have bounced back to \$8.7 billion – up from the critically low level of \$4.5 billion before the IMF deal.

The Ministry of Finance did not officially make a statement about the ECC's stamp of endorsement to the revised agreement with China.

Also, the ECC also approved a Rs200 million technical supplementary grant in favour of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The civil-military hybrid council has been established to attract investment from the GCC and other countries in the defence, agriculture, mineral, IT and energy sectors. The SIFC Secretariat has been established at the PM Office and officers from various ministries have been posted in the SIFC to undertake foreign investment initiatives.

“The SIFC Secretariat has not yet become operational due to non-allocation of the budget, which is imperative for handling day to day activities of the Council,” the ECC was informed.

The council had requested a Rs200 million supplementary grant along with lifting a ban on purchase of furniture.

The ECC considered a summary of the Ministry of Information regarding charging electricity rates from cinema houses. In order to revive the film industry in Pakistan, the ECC approved the proposal that cinemas may be charged electricity as per rates admissible to industry.

The ECC also considered a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the export of vegetable ghee/cooking oil from export processing zones to Afghanistan through land route.

The ECC also considered a summary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research regarding the revision of cess rates of tobacco for the year 2023-24. The ECC approved revised cess rates for the year 2023-24.

The ECC approved increasing the cess rates on various varieties of tobacco. It increased the cess on flue cured Virginia by 3% to Rs9.3 per kilogramme, on dark air cured tobacco to Rs5.70 per kg, while patta to Rs4.38 per kg, burley to Rs9.7 per kg and sun cured Virginia to Rs6 per kg. The government will get additional Rs115 million due to increase in the cess rates, which the food ministry said was required to pay for Rs113 million additional cost of salaries due to increase in salaries in the budget.

The ECC deferred a summary that the Petroleum Division has proposed to resolve the issue of expired lease of Sui mining.

The summary was deferred with the direction that the government of Balochistan should be taken on board.

The original lease of the Sui mining had expired in 2015. The rules were silent about any further extension. A memorandum of agreement was signed between the Petroleum Division and the government of Balochistan in 2016 to find a way forward. Subsequently, the government of Balochistan refused to implement the agreement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had set up a committee in June last year to resolve the dispute. The committee recommended making payments of Rs60 billion on account of lease extension bonus plus production cost and for social welfare.

The committee had proposed that of Rs60 billion, Rs24 billion will be contingent payments that will be made subject to improved collection by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) from the Sui gas companies on proportionate basis and increase in gas prices for consumers.

The committee recommended that the PPL should pay Rs12 billion in terms of lease extension bonus of the total commitment of Rs54 billion. The remaining payments will be made in quarterly tranches of Rs6 billion per quarter till June 2025.

The Petroleum Division will grant a development and production lease and sign a Sui Field Petroleum Concession Agreement with the PPL for 10 years starting from 2015 to 2025 before the payment of first instalment.

The Petroleum Division will engage the government of Balochistan after payment of Rs12 billion by the PPL for its concurrence to the draft concession agreement and development and production lease plan.

But the ECC on Thursday did not endorse this arrangement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427231/china-agrees-to-reschedule-2-billion-debt>

The News

CPEC: a decade of transformation

Dr Imran Khalid

A momentous milestone is being commemorated this month as Pakistan and China celebrate a remarkable decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – the flagship project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Undoubtedly, this decade has witnessed an unprecedented surge in China’s unwavering commitment to bolstering Pakistan’s economic prospects, strengthening an unbreakable bond between the two nations. The significance of this enduring partnership cannot be overstated as China has emerged as the foremost benefactor, extending its generous hand in the form of substantial investments, loans and grants to fuel Pakistan’s growth.

The genesis of the remarkable CPEC can be traced back to the day of July 5, 2013, when the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the long-term plan for the corridor was inked. However, it was not until the historic visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in April 2015 that CPEC truly sprang to life, igniting a transformative journey of progress and cooperation between the two nations.

CPEC heralded the beginning of a grand vision, uniting Pakistan and China in a resolute pursuit of shared prosperity, connectivity and enduring friendship. Under the project, China committed to inject a staggering \$58 billion investment into Pakistan’s infrastructure, energy and production sectors. This pledge arrived precisely when traditional international donors were quite hesitant and Pakistan’s economy was teetering on the brink.

CPEC’s transformative potential for Pakistan draws comparisons to the Marshall Plan in post-war Europe. With the initial forecast of creating over 2.3 million jobs from 2015 to 2030 and an impressive 2.0 to 2.5 percentage points added to Pakistan’s annual economic growth, the corridor was considered to be a catalyst for transformative impact on Pakistan’s economy.

So far, in the last ten years \$25.4 billion in direct Chinese investment has flown into diverse sectors – such as transport, energy, and infrastructure – all part of the transformative connectivity and investment corridor project within the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, spearheaded by Beijing. In what can be seen as a display of solidarity, China has also provided invaluable support to Pakistan’s economic stability by dispensing a considerable 30 billion Chinese yuan in loans and establishing a currency swap arrangement.

This invaluable assistance has acted as a robust shield, safeguarding Islamabad’s financial health, reinforcing its capacity to manage debts and alleviating the pressure on its debt repayment obligations. This strategic partnership has also enabled Pakistan to diversify its trade dealings, reducing reliance on the dollar and bolstering its foreign exchange reserves.

Through its vast network of roadways, CPEC has deftly intertwined rural and urban landscapes, fostering a harmonious synergy that resonates with the power of progress. The strategic placement of nine special economic zones (SEZs) along these arterial road links has

proven to be a masterstroke, with huge potential to lure hefty investment towards Pakistan. In the aftermath of the Covid-19 scourge, the charm of these SEZs has become even more potent, promising economic rejuvenation.

Four out of the nine SEZs designated under CPEC are about to take-off. With the completion of the first phase of CPEC, these initial SEZs sprouting along the network of motorways are expected to start operations by 2025 while the remaining five SEZs are likely to become fully operational by 2030.

Gauging the impact on Pakistan, CPEC has emerged as a formidable catalyst for change, unfurling a panorama of opportunities for Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin says “the projects are creating 192,000 jobs, generating 6,000MW of power, building 510 km (316 miles) of highways, and expanding the national transmission network by 886 km (550 miles).”

Of particular significance is CPEC’s role in nurturing Pakistan’s blue economy. The Gwadar Port, a central player in this ambitious initiative, has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis, evolving into a fully operational maritime juncture, linking Pakistan to the world and bolstering trade and commerce in the region. As the Gwadar sea port reaches full operational capacity, it will bring tangible improvements to the growth of the economies of both countries.

The imminent completion of the Gwadar international airport promises to amplify its strategic significance, expanding the scope of opportunities in the days ahead. The upgrade of Pakistan Railways’ ML-1 (Main Line 1, Peshawar to Karachi) has been agreed, paving the way for industrialization and export-oriented connectivity. Originally conceived as a visionary endeavour to connect the Gwadar Port in the southwest of Pakistan to China’s northwestern region of Xinjiang, CPEC’s objectives have evolved into a multifaceted mission encompassing energy, infrastructure development, industrial cooperation and the promotion of Gwadar as a pivotal trade hub.

CPEC’s impact spans borders, fostering regional integration and trade. As a BRI linchpin, it bolsters connectivity between China, Pakistan and neighboring nations. Improved transport infrastructure, such as the Karakoram Highway and the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway has greatly helped in accelerating travel and facilitating efficient movement of goods and people.

With the progress on nine SEZs surging forward, particularly in the thriving Gwadar Free Economic Zone, CPEC is increasingly emerging as one of the most attractive “investment destinations” in the region. Chinese companies are eagerly joining the fray, registering in significant numbers to establish production facilities. Already, close to 50 Chinese firms have set their sights on Gwadar economic zone, while a promising 200 more are in the queue.

Stepping into the second phase of CPEC, China has generously pledged a \$1 billion grant to propel Pakistan’s social-sector development, reaffirming the bonds of partnership and shared prosperity. A testament to the deepening connections between the nations, people-to-people interactions flourish, with over 30,000 Pakistani students studying in China.

According to media reports, the second phase of CPEC is set to witness the completion of 63 additional projects valued at an estimated \$35 billion by 2030. This encouraging development

highlights the unwavering commitment of both China and Pakistan in materializing the corridor's vision, which not only bolsters regional connectivity but also opens pathways to Afghanistan and other countries of Central Asia. The future of CPEC appears promising, underscoring the potential for transformative economic integration and cooperation on a grand scale.

CPEC also has its fair share of obstacles and challenges, including security threats and a persistent wave of negative propaganda orchestrated by those seeking to undermine the Pakistan-China partnership. Also, doubts fuelled by external forces led some to view the project through the lens of a potential debt trap. But with time, many of the controversies surrounding this monumental transport and infrastructure initiative have gradually dissipated.

It is reassuring that both countries have effectively addressed and largely overcome these challenges. While acknowledging these challenges and controversies, it is essential to recognize the resilience and determination demonstrated by both Pakistan and China in navigating these obstacles. The enduring commitment to the CPEC vision has allowed for progress and cooperation to thrive, ultimately propelling the initiative towards its transformative potential.

In the age of tectonic shifts in geopolitics, CPEC emerges not merely as a conduit of connectivity but as a paradigm of partnership, unlocking the vast potential of shared prosperity and progress. As CPEC forges ahead in the second phase, Pakistan's economic revival stands at a crossroads, poised to seize the opportunities that lie on the horizon, hand in hand with its Chinese partners.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=221874>

‘Regional solutions to bilateral problems crucial for SCO success’

Jamila Achakzai

ISLAMABAD: Unless the bilateral equations are settled and cohesion is maintained between member states, the future contours of SCO would remain undefined.

This was observed during a roundtable discussion held at the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. The forum analyzed the significance of the SCO as a vital platform for fostering regional stability, economic development and connectivity in the Eurasian region, with a particular focus on Pakistan, and evaluated the outcomes of the SCO Summit hosted by India on July 4.

Underscoring the potential of the SCO, Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former ambassador to China, said the expansion of the SCO after inclusion of Iran along with the geographical spread of dialogue partners and observer states rooting for multipolarity instead of pledging to US-led Western domination has added a new dynamic to the evolving regional architecture of the SCO.

Educationist, Dr Sarwat maintained that despite India misusing the SCO platform for blame game, Pakistan would remain in focus as a geostrategic location and trade hub. To Pakistan, the SCO may present a solution to the economic meltdown and security conundrum, provided embedded historical problems are resolved. In this regard,

While the SCO has potential, its realization demands the resolution of bilateral disputes and other inherent discrepancies that may impede its growth, observed Abdul Basit, Pakistan's former high commissioner to India. For instance, the hardened stances of states like India, its reservations about the Belt and Road Initiative, the differences of opinion and mistrust, and bilateral disputes might remain there for years to come. Unless the bilateral equations are settled, the future contours of the SCO would remain undefined, he said.

Industrialist, Meher Younis stated that the SCO incorporates 46 percent of the global population and is the biggest consumer market, with a huge younger generation and land mass. To gain benefits from these factors, Pakistan must pay attention to development-oriented engagement, people-to-people interaction, cultural diplomacy, economic diplomacy, agricultural diplomacy, natural resources diplomacy, joint research, and technological and academic interactions.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=222122>

July 23, 2023

Daily Times

PIA passengers can fly to 16 Chinese cities via Beijing

Passengers traveling by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) can now fly between Pakistan and 16 captivating cities in China via Beijing in partnership with Air China. The Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Shanghai, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Changchun, Hangzhou, Harbin, etc, an official of PIA told APP on Saturday. The national flag carrier has also offered a 20 percent discount for students on flights between Pakistan and China. PIA offers low fares with free baggage of 80 Kg for economy class and 100 Kg for executive economy class respectively. PIA has already announced that it will resume its flight operation to China from August 06. Initially, PIA will operate one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday with departure from Beijing at 21:15. According to the official, the one-way fare from Beijing to Islamabad is 3814 RMB and the fare for the Return ticket is 5685 RMB. The passengers can avail of further discounts if tickets are purchased online.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116457/pia-passengers-can-fly-to-16-chinese-cities-via-beijing/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan Navy's induction of Chinese frigates: strengthening maritime capabilities

ENSURING national security requires the acquisition of modern defense platforms, which not only preserve technological expertise but also foster spin-off technologies and innovation. The introduction of advanced weaponry significantly enhances a country's defense capability and plays a crucial role in maintaining credible deterrence. The Pakistan Navy (PN) has silently but consistently progressed in its development and accomplishments. From its humble beginnings with a handful of aging Royal Navy ships and a one-room office serving

as the Naval Headquarters, the PN embarked on a remarkable journey since the country's independence.

Despite limited resources and insufficient domestic production capacity, the PN has consistently demonstrated commendable efforts in safeguarding the nation's maritime borders. The PN plays a pivotal role in protecting Pakistan's maritime interests, encompassing the security of sea lines of communication, preservation of maritime resources, prevention of maritime terrorism and piracy, and facilitation of economic development through maritime trade.

As part of its mission enhancement, the Pakistan Navy (PN) has made substantial investments in developing a versatile fleet of surface ships. Additionally, the PN effectively operates multiple bases and installations along Pakistan's coastline, which serve as indispensable infrastructure and logistical support for its operations. Beyond its primary operational responsibilities, the PN actively contributes to regional and international endeavors aimed at upholding maritime security. This includes active participation in multinational exercises and joint patrols with neighboring navies, fostering cooperation and interoperability to promote a secure maritime environment.

Over the past two decades, the Indian Navy has significantly escalated its investment in securing dominance in the Indian Ocean. Leveraging support from global powers and access to Western technology, India has been continuously expanding its naval capabilities. Given these circumstances, the PN recognizes the necessity of maintaining a well-balanced and formidable naval force to meet its defense requirements and effectively fulfill its international and national responsibilities in the Indian Ocean.

To this end, PN while keeping in view the security challenges at Indian Ocean Region (IOR), stepping up to modernize its fleet in order to maintain a reasonable force at sea. PN has revised its development plans and inducting new technological advanced platforms into the service. Previously, PN had relied on UK and US for military equipment and in fact these military platforms had provided essential tenets of training and professionalism to PN. However, due to Geo-political tilt and military-technological partnership with China, PN has worked on a comprehensive program to transform its naval platforms especially the destroyers or frigates ships.

PN had historically been operating with 8 to 9 major surface ships which constrain country's regional footprints and influence. To redress this, the fleet size comprising of more than 50 ships was envisioned by the PN. Under this, the Navy has recently acquired new platforms including the MILGEM Class Turkish Corvettes and Chinese 054 A/P frigates.

Recently, two Type 054 A/P Frigates, PNS SHAHJAHAN and PNS TIPPU SULTAN have been commissioned together at Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard, Shanghai, China. And their induction ceremony is going to be held in the month of July 2023. The induction of these ships marks the successful culmination of Type 054A/P project with four ships of the class constructed for PN. The first and second Type 054A/P Frigates PNS TUGHRIL and PNS TAIMUR joined PN fleet in Jan 22 and Aug 22 respectively.

PNS Shahjahan takes her name from the famous Muslim Emperor of sub- continent “Shahab Uddin Muhammad Khurram” also known as “Shahjahan” who was the fifth king of Mughal dynasty and ruled from 1628 to 1658. Whereas, PNS TIPPU SULTAN is named after the Muslim ruler of the kingdom of Mysore “Sultan Fateh Ali Sahab Tippu” who reigned from 1782 to 1799.

Both ships are one of the most advanced platforms of PN Surface Fleet. The construction of both frigates is hinged upon modern stealth design with capability to simultaneously execute number of naval warfare missions in a highly intense multi-threat environment. The 4000 tons frigates are technologically advanced and highly capable platforms with enormous surface to surface, land attack, surface to air and underwater firepower coupled with extensive surveillance potential. Both Frigates are fitted with potent weapons including Surface to Air (SAM) and Supersonic Surface to Surface Missiles (SSM). Besides, ships have Guns, Torpedoes and Torpedo Defence Systems. Weapons and Sensors installed onboard ships make them state-of-the-art platforms which can perform variety of maritime Operations including Anti Surface, Anti Air, Anti-Submarine and Maritime Security Operations. These ships will provide deterrence and means for averting threats in our region while contributing towards protection of Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCS).

Induction of these new Chinese platforms is undoubtedly a milestone for the PN. There is no doubt in concluding that in response to the transforming nature of the threat posted to national and maritime security, PN is developing multi-dimensional response framework.

The able command of PN is really taking the force to a position where it can claim itself a “responsible farsighted navy with a vision of ensuring maritime security”.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-navys-induction-of-chinese-frigates-strengthening-maritime-capabilities/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese power giant shows renewed interest in KE

Deal faces obstacles due to debt-laden balance sheets

KARACHI: China’s Shanghai Electric Power Company (SEP) has expressed renewed interest in acquiring K-Electric (KE), the integrated power firm based in Karachi, Pakistan. This latest submission comes after the previous intention to buy the company lapsed in June, due to unresolved issues that have persisted for eight years.

SEP had first expressed its intention to buy KE in 2016 and has since submitted fresh intentions multiple times every nine months. However, several challenges have prevented the deal from progressing. One major hurdle is the heavily debt-ridden balance sheet of KE, which the Chinese firm demands to be cleared before proceeding. Additionally, pending payment issues between KE, Sui Southern Gas Company, and government institutions need resolution.

The initial offer made in 2016 to buy KE for \$1.77 billion has now become void. The changing values of both KE and the dollar over the past few years necessitate a fresh valuation of the company, which would result in a new offer to existing investors.

Efforts have been made in the past to resolve the disputes and clear the way for the deal. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif formed a task force in June 2022, headed by former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, to resolve pending issues. However, the task force's given time frame has since lapsed without visible progress.

Another factor complicating the deal is the unattractive power tariff for end-consumers, as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) reduced the tariff through a change in formula. Nepra allowed KE to recover only its cost and the estimated cost of new projects, eliminating the recovery of unknown future investments from consumers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427383/chinese-power-giant-shows-renewed-interest-in-ke>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائینز سمیت تمام غیر ملکیوں کی سکیورٹی کیلئے انتظامات ہیں: سی سی پی او

لاہور (نامہ نگار) سربراہ لاہور پولیس بلال صدیق مکیانہ کی زیر صدارت چائینز شہریوں کی سکیورٹی کے حوالے سے کیپٹل سٹی پولیس آفس میں ایک اہم اجلاس ہوا۔ اجلاس میں ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز سید علی ناصر رضوی، ایس پی سکیورٹی) توقیر محمد نعیم، ایس پی ہیڈ کوارٹر محمد عبداللہ اور ڈویژنل ایس بیز آپریشنز نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس کے دوران ڈی آئی جی (آپریشنز) سید علی ناصر رضوی نے سی سی پی او کو چینی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی سے متعلق مختلف امور پر بریفنگ دی۔ سی سی پی او نے کہا کہ چائینز سمیت تمام غیر ملکی افراد کی حفاظت کیلئے تمام وسائل بروئے کار لائے جارہے ہیں۔ متعلقہ پولیس افسران اپنے علاقوں میں مقیم چینی شہریوں، چائینز انسٹالیشن کی انتظامیہ، فوکل پرسنز اور دیگر قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں سے مسلسل رابطے میں رہیں۔ چینی شہریوں کی رہائشگاہوں کے ساتھ ساتھ ورکنگ سائٹس اور دفاتر کی سکیورٹی کیلئے بھرپور اقدامات اٹھائے جارہے ہیں۔ چائینز شہریوں سمیت تمام غیر ملکیوں کی فول پروف سکیورٹی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کئے گئے ہیں۔ کاروباری یا نجی مقاصد کیلئے آنے والے چائینز شہریوں، ماہرین اور سرمایہ کاروں سمیت تمام غیر ملکیوں کی سکیورٹی لاہور پولیس کا اولین فریضہ ہے۔ ایس پی او کے تربیت یافتہ اہلکار چینی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی کے فرائض پوری فرض شناسی کے ساتھ ادا کر رہے ہیں۔

غیر ملکیوں کی فول پروف سکیورٹی لاہور پولیس کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-23/page-4/detail-6>

چین کے سوسال

رجیم طلب

پاکستان اور چین دونوں ایک دوسرے کو بہترین دوست تسلیم کرتے ہیں چین کی دوستی کو وہ ہمالیہ سے اونچی سمندر سے گہری اور شہد سے میٹھی ہے۔ اور چین پاکستان کا تیسرا بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر بھی ہے۔ کہہ اراض پر چینی وہ واحد قوم ہے جسکو میں قوم سے بڑھ کر جنات سے تشبیہ دیتا ہوں اس لئے کہ چینی قوم نے پچھلے چھ سات دہائیوں میں ترقی کا وہ مثالی سفر طے کیا ہے کہ دنیا کو ورطہ حیرت میں ڈال دیا ہے۔ چینی قوم اتنی منظم، متحد مر بوط ہے کہ اس وقت روئے زمیں پہ شاید کوئی اور قوم ہو۔ چین نے زندگی کے تمام شعبہ جات میں یکساں ترقی کی ہے اور کسی سے مستعار نظام لئے بغیر اپنے ہی وضع کردہ اصولوں پہ مسلسل عملدرآمد سے صدیوں کا سفر طے کر کے ترقی یافتہ بننے والی قوموں کے آگے آگے کھڑی ہو گئی ہے جسکی مثال تاریخ کے اوراق میں نہیں ملتی۔

پاکستان کے معتبر کالم نگاروں میں ایک نام قیوم نظامی صاحب کا بھی ہے۔ گو انکا تعلق پی پی پی سے عرصہ دراز سے ہے اور پی پی پی بھی سوشلزم کے نعرے پہ سیاست کرتی رہی ہے۔ سیاسی اختلاف رائے سے ہٹ میں قارئین کو قیوم نظامی صاحب کی چین بارے نئی تحقیقی کاوش چین کی ترقی کے سوسال بارے بتانا چاہتا ہوں۔

اس کتاب میں قیوم نظامی نے چین کے سوسال کے عنوان سے چینی ترقی کے سفر کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا ہے اور چینوں کی زندگی تمام نظام میں جھانک کر دیکھا ہے اور مستند معلومات اپنے قارئین تک پہنچائی ہیں ہر ضروری شعبہ بارے الگ الگ چھوٹے چھوٹے باب ترتیب دی کر قارئین تک جامع شکل میں چین بارے معلومات عوام تک پہنچائی ہیں۔ چینی ترقی کا یہ سفر ماؤزے تنگ سے شی جن پنگ تک کی ہمہ جہت حقیقی ترقی کا کمال تاریخی سفر ہے۔

اس وقت چین ایک صدی سے جکڑے غربت افلاس پس ماندگی استحصال اور تسلط کی زنجیروں کو توڑ کر دنیا کی عظیم معاشی قوت بن چکا ہے چین نے ترقی کیلئے مغربی جمہوری نام کی بجائے انصاف و میرٹ پر مبنی سیاسی نظام متعارف کرایا۔ اور معاشرے ناسور بد عنوان افراد کو سخت سزائیں دے کر چین کو کرپشن سے پاک کر کے ایک محنتی و با اصول قوم کی صورت میں سامنے آئے ہیں۔ چین کی ترقی کا سہرا کیمونسٹ پارٹی کے سر ہے جس نے میرٹ، شفافیت، یکساں احتساب و انصاف اور قانون کی حکمرانی کے بنیادی اصولوں پر عمل کر کے چین کی ترقی کی راہیں ہموار کیں۔

چین کے عظیم لیڈر ماؤزے تنگ کی قیادت میں کیمونسٹ پارٹی کے انقلابیوں نے 1934ء میں لانگ مارچ کا آغاز کیا اس تاریخی مارچ نے چھ ہزار کلو میٹر کا سفر طے کیا لانگ مارچ میں پچاسی ہزار انقلابی شہداء میں سے منزل پر صرف چھ ہزار پہنچ سکے۔ چین میں باقاعدہ سیاسی حکومتوں کے بعد دیہی سطح پہ عوام کا معیار زندگی بلند کرنے کیلئے عوام کا کو آپریٹو اور کمیونسٹ سسٹم اپنایا جس سے عوامی اعتماد مستحکم ہوا۔

ماؤزے تنگ کیلئے انقلابی پالیسی کا آغاز کیا موبائل سروس نے گاؤں گاؤں صحت کی سہولیات دہلیز تک پہنچائیں۔ ماؤ کی ریڈ گارڈ کی تحریک نے بھی چین میں کہنہ روایات کے خاتمے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا جو کہ چین کی معاشرتی و معاشی ترقی کی راہ میں حائل تھیں۔ ماؤ کو چین کے عظیم لیڈر کے طور پہ یاد رکھا جاتا ہے جس نے پرانے فرسودہ اقتصادی ظالمانہ غیر منصفانہ کلچر کا خاتمہ کر کے نئے چین کی بنیاد رکھی۔

کیمونسٹ پارٹی نے ہر قیمت پر عوامی مفادات کو ترجیح دی۔ اور یہ پارٹی نسل در نسل عوامی تمناؤں پر پوری اترتی رہی امریت اور شخصیت پرستی کی بجائے اجتماعی قیادت کے اصولوں پر عمل کیا گیا۔ چینی کہاوت ہے کہ جو لیڈر عوام کو ترجیح دیتا ہے عوام اس سے محبت کرتے ہیں۔ چین کا آئین عوامی مفادات کا تحفظ اور عوامی مفادات کو ترجیح دینے کی ضمانت دیتا ہے۔ اسلئے چین میں یہ عام بات ہے کہ عوام تاریخ سے خالق ہیں اور عوام ہی طاقت کا سرچشمہ ہیں۔ ان کو بیسویں صدی کا عظیم لیڈر تسلیم کیا جاتا ہے۔ چینی آئین کی روشنی میں نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس ریاست کا طاقتور اور با اختیار ادارہ ہے اسکے تحت ریاستی کونسل، سنٹرل ملٹری کمیشن، لیگل سسٹم، مقامی حکومت، صوبائی حکومت، مقامی جمہوریت، جنرل سیکرٹری اور چینی صدر کے دائرہ کار کو طے کیا گیا۔

چین کی کیمونسٹ پارٹی 1921ء میں شنگھائی میں قائم کی گئی چین میں بائیس سو نیوز پیپر ز شائع ہوتے ہیں۔ نوے ملین افراد اخبار پڑھتے ہیں۔ جیہنگ ز من نے کرپشن کے خاتمے پہ توجہ دی۔ پارٹی لیڈروں کی بیگمات اور ان کے بچوں پر کاروبار کرنے پہ پابندی لگادی وہ اپنی خداداد صلاحیتوں سے چین کا میکاؤ لئیمیشور ہو گیا۔ جبکہ ماؤ نے چین کو کسانوں اور مزدوروں کیلئے سوسلسٹ ریاست قائم کی۔ جیہنگ ز من دور میں چین نے سوشلسٹ اور کیمونسٹزم کے امتزاج سے دنیا کا کامیاب ترین معاشی ماڈل پیش کر کے دنیا کو تنگ کر دیا۔ آئین کی مطابق چین کی عدالتیں آزاد ہیں۔ عدالتوں کے کام میں کوئی سرکاری ادارہ یا فرد مداخلت نہیں کر سکتا۔ پیپلز کورٹس عدالت کی معاونت اور رہنمائی کیلئے قانون کے مطابق جوڈیشیل کمیٹیاں نامزد کرتی ہیں۔ معاشرتی عدل و انصاف معاشرے کے استحکام کیلئے ناگزیر سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ صحت و تعلیم کا بہترین انتظام ہے۔ تعلیم کے مواقع سب کیلئے ہیں۔ صحت کے روایتی و جدید نظام دونوں رائج ہیں۔ 2005ء میں چین میں ہسپتالوں کی تعداد تیس لاکھ چوبتر ہزار تھی اور ڈاکٹروں کی

تعداد انیس لاکھ اڑتیس ہزار ہزار تھی۔ میڈیسن کمپنیوں کو مسلسل مانیٹر کیا جاتا ہے۔ چین کی پولیس قومی سو ملین فورس کہلاتی ہے۔ پبلک سیکورٹی پولیس سب سے بڑا شعبہ ہے۔ چین میں پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کیمونسٹ پارٹی کا تابع ادارہ ہے یہ ایک پروفیشنل آرمی ہتھیاروں کے عوام آرمی کی عزت کرتے ہیں۔

چین کے لیڈر ڈینگ زیائونگ نے معاشی نظام میں کمال جوہری اور فائدہ مند تبدیلیاں کیں۔ معاشی نظام کو مارکیٹ سوشلسٹ کا نوعی قرار دیا گیا۔ پیپلز بینک چین کا مرکزی بینک ہے۔ چین نے اپنی پانچ ہزار سالہ تاریخ سے سبق سیکھ کر گزشتہ چھ دہائیوں میں متوازن معاشرے کی تشکیل اور مستحکم معیشت کیلئے مسلسل کامیاب سفر کیا ہے اور اس وقت تک مضبوط معاشی ترقی کے میکانزم کو برقرار رکھا ہوا ہے۔ مستقبل کے چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے شی جن پنگ نے انسانی تاریخ کا عظیم الشان ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کا منصوبہ پیش کر کے دنیا کو حیران کر دیا اس منصوبے میں نیویورک، ٹی بی جی، چائینہ، جاپان، مغربی یورپ، کوری ڈور، چائینہ سنٹرل ایشیا، اینڈ ویسٹ ایشیا، کوری ڈور، چائینہ انڈو چائینہ بینسولیا کوری ڈور، سی بی جی چائینہ پاکستان، اکنامک کوری ڈور، چائینہ انڈیا بنگلہ دیش میاں کوری ڈور کے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔

چین میں اعلیٰ عہدوں پر تعیناتی کا نظام بڑا جامع اور میرٹ پر مبنی ہے اور چین بد عنوانی کے امکانات پر بہت گہری عقابانی نظر رکھتا ہے۔ چین اگر کرپٹ افراد کو سخت سزائیں نہ دیتا تو چین آج دنیا کا عظیم ملک نہ ہوتا۔ چین کے مسلسل تین بار منتخب ہونے والے عظیم لیڈر شی جن پنگ نے غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے ٹھوس و پائیدار پالیسیاں ترتیب دیں اور نوے ملین افراد کو غربت سے نکال کر دنیا کو ورطہ حیرت میں ڈال دیا۔ غربت کے خاتمے کو ہر دور میں ترجیح دی گئی۔ اس وقت چین دنیا کا سب سے بڑا مصنوعات پیدا کرنے اور برآمد کرنے والا ملک ہے صارفین گڈز کی سب سے بڑی مارکیٹ ہے اور درآمدات کرنے والا دوسرا بڑا ملک ہے۔

چین کا آئین عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا دستور اعلیٰ ہے۔ چین کے آئین کی بنیادی خوبی سوشلزم ہے جو چینی روایات اور ثقافت کا ترجمان ہے۔ آئین پر کامل عمل درآمد چینی حکومتوں کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

چینی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کے منصوبوں نے دنیا کو حیران کر دیا ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان میں چھیا لیس ملین ڈالر کے تخمینہ سے پاکستان میں سی بی جی منصوبوں کا آغاز کیا۔ پاکستان سی بی جی میں سگل میگا ونڈ پراجیکٹ، یو آئی بی ونڈ فارم پراجیکٹ، زونر جی سولر پاور پراجیکٹ، تھری گار جزیسکینڈ ونڈ پاور پراجیکٹ، پورٹ قاسم کول فائر پاور پراجیکٹ، چائینہ پاور حب کول فائر پاور پراجیکٹ، کیروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ، گوادر فری زون، لاہور اور نچ لائن، گوادر سارٹ پورٹ، گوادر پورٹ کمپلیکس، قراقرم ہائی وے، قائد اعظم سولر پارک، ریشمی اکنامک زون، بوستان انڈسٹریل زون اور علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی فیصل آباد جیسے عظیم الشان منصوبے شامل ہیں

قیوم نظامی کی چین کے ترقیاتی سفر کے بارے میں مختصر، جامع اور کامیاب کاوش ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-23/page-5/detail-8>

July 24, 2023

Business Recorder

International moot to mark 'CPEC decade' today

ISLAMABAD: A two-day International Conference on "Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) from vision to reality" will kick off today (Monday) to mark the 10-year celebration of CPEC.

The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with Chinese Embassy.

The CPEC being a strategic principal component of BRI focuses on infrastructure development and socioeconomic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The conference aims to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical impacts of CPEC and BRI, the Minister of Planning and Development said in a statement.

Chinese chargé d’Affairs Pang Chunxue and Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal will be the chief guests at the occasion.

The conference will explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, sustainable development, and inclusive growth in the subsequent phase of CPEC.

Under the conference, various sessions will be held in which key policymakers will present a broad overview of the CPEC. However, the panel discussions will be held under key themes by the expert speakers who will present their research findings, share best practices while engaging in-depth discussions with the audience. All the accepted and presented papers will be published in the conference abstract book while selected papers will be published in the special issue of Pakistan Development Review PDR Journal after blind peer review and approval of the scientist committee, it added.

Under the conference, different technical sessions will be held which include socioeconomic impacts of CPEC, prospects of regional connectivity through Gwadar Port, opportunities for industrial relocation and export; green technologies and development; security and geopolitical implications; innovation, technology and global value chains; challenges to regional connectivity and integration, artificial intelligence and labour market dynamics.

Since the government came into power in April 2022, the statement added that CPEC projects have been revived which remained shelved by the previous government.

It added that Prime Minister Shehbaz already reiterated his full commitment to complete the CPEC projects and in this regard the premier visited China when he took charge as the prime minister.

Over the decade, the two countries have developed strong bonds in diverse fields and call themselves ‘Iron Brothers’.

CPEC effectively helped Pakistan in improving its energy security, as well as, transport networks from north to south and laid foundation for a resilient infrastructure including ports, airports, roads, and railway. Recently, the Planning Minister visited China to mark the 10-year celebrations of the CPEC.

Out of 12 Joint Cooperation Committee meetings (JCC), the nine meetings of the JCC have co-chaired by Ahsan Iqbal.

Similarly, under the conference Souvenirs will be awarded to both Pakistani and Chinese companies who participated in the CPEC project, and a special coin has been prepared by the Planning Ministry. Additionally, special documentaries over CPEC will be showcased during the event to mark the 10-year celebrations.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/24/2-page/968032-news.html>

KP celebrates completion of infrastructure work on Rashakai SEZ

PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has completed infrastructure development work on the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, a flagship project under the industrial cooperation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), a public sector company of the KP government has taken lead by completing the first phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flag-bearer Rashakai Special Economic Zone, at District Nowshera.

To celebrate the completion of the first phase of the project, a ceremony was held at Rashakai Special Economic Zone with KP Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan as chief guest on the occasion. Besides, provincial ministers, Chief Secretary KP, Secretary Industries Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KPEZDMC), federal and provincial Boards of Investment and a large number of local investors also attended.

The zone is situated adjacent to Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway (M1), which directly links Afghanistan and Central Asian States via Peshawar. It is about 80KM and 60KM away from the New Islamabad International Airport and Bacha Khan International Airport, Peshawar while ML1 (Peshawar-Karachi) Railway project is connecting it with the main cities including Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi etc.

The zone occupies approximately 1000 acres and is developed in three phases where Phase I, is 247 acres. It provides dedicated internal road, drainage (including effluent treatment plant), gas 11KV power, communication to the zero point of zone enterprises. It also provides a customized workshop, complex building, apartment and other supporting civil works.

In his briefing on the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Javed Iqbal Khattak said that the completion of the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone comprising three phases covering an area of 247 acres was due in December 2023, but due to better team work and coordination with China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC) it has been completed six months prior of its specified time period. Rashakai Special Economic Zone is first completed project initiated under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan. This marvelous performance shown by a public sector company of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given an edge to the province over other provinces of the country. So far, an investment to the tune of Rs.85 billion has already been made in the zone and besides, Chinese several domestic big industrial groups are also investing in it. The investors are going to set up units for manufacturing APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) a raw material for the pharmaceutical industrial units while another investor has also shown interest in establishing a vaccine manufacturing unit in the zone while Pakistan Oxygen, a largest oxygen manufacturing unit has already invested in the zone.

Addressing the ceremony, the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan appreciated the exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development &

Management Company (KPEZDMC) for successfully completing Phase -I of the project six months before the completion date.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/24/13-page/968124-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC remains at core of Pakistan-China relationship: Ambassador Sohail

The transformational China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), remained at the core of Pak-China relationship and was pivotal to Pakistan's future economic progress and prosperity. This was stated by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), while addressing the Third Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum, convened in Beijing on 21 July 2023, as part of the series of commemorative events being held in connection with completion of 10 years of CPEC. The 15-member Pakistan delegation visiting China participated in the Seminar jointly organised by ISSI and the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), at the CICIR headquarters in Beijing, a press release issued by ISSI here on Sunday said.

Led by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, the delegation includes diplomats, leading academics, researchers, and media persons. Following the plenary, the separate sessions of the Seminar, titled "Decade of CPEC: Review and Outlook", were moderated by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI; Dr. Hu Shisheng, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; and Dr. Lou Chunhao, Executive Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR. The speakers at the event included Ambassador Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director-General, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), China; Head of the Pakistan Delegation Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI; Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Pakistan; Dr. Wang Xu, Executive Deputy Director, Centre for South Asian Studies, Peking University; Ambassador Babar Amin, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Norway and Australia; Dr. Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, Associate Professor, University of Sindh; Dr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; and Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali, Associate Professor and Director, Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab.

Ambassador Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director-General Department of Asian Affairs, in his keynote address during the plenary extended felicitations to ISSI and CICIR on organising the 3rd Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum. Ambassador Maoming emphasised that Pakistan and China are good neighbours, good friends, and good brothers. He underlined that regardless of the dynamic of international politics, China and Pakistan always firmly support each other.

He added that President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had agreed to continue to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation between the two countries. Ambassador Maoming underscored that the China-Pakistan friendship was deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. China extended its support to Pakistani people in the last year's floods, supported Pakistan in its temporary financial problems, and helped in evacuating the Pakistani nationals

from Sudan. He noted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116735/cpec-remains-at-core-of-pakistan-china-relationship-ambassador-sohail/>

CPEC decade – A voyage to new development heights

Known as the ‘iron brothers,’ Pakistan and China resolutely reinforced their commitment to bolstering regional connectivity and economic prosperity through a decade-long struggle to elevate China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to unprecedented levels.

It was ten years back, when two all-weather friends solidified their commitment by signing a multibillion-dollar CPEC Framework Agreement, marking a significant milestone in their collaborative efforts.

China boldly stepped forward, when other countries hesitated to invest in Pakistan, pledging an initial investment of US\$46 billion that later expanded to a substantial sum of US\$62 billion. Now the two countries are celebrating 10 years of undeterred bilateral cooperation with a renewed pledge to move forward at a faster pace towards the CPEC’s ultimate destination of regional progress and prosperity.

On July 11, a meeting of the 12th (Special) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was held in Beijing, co-chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal and Vice Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) China, Cong Liang.

During the meeting, the minister said the CPEC was a remarkable endeavor that symbolized the deep-rooted ties between China and Pakistan.

“It has fostered connectivity, enhanced trade and opened up new avenues for shared prosperity,” Ahsan Iqbal said.

“CPEC is the topmost priority of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership as these avenues provided an opportunity to consolidate successes and enhance future cooperation.”

He recalled that monumental event when visionary leaders President Xi and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had launched this project aimed at transforming the region’s economic landscape.

According to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the CPEC projects, under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), were flourishing all across Pakistan and had attracted US\$25.4 billion in direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

“After ten years of development, a “1+4” cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the centre and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas,” the official said.

The CPEC framework has created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network, he added.

The CPEC has made a tangible contribution to Pakistan's development and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the CPEC framework by focusing areas like agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication and people's well-being.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build on the past achievements and follow the guidance of the important common understandings between leaders of the two countries on promoting high-quality development of CPEC to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to people of all countries," the official said.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during a recent meeting with Chinese Charge d'affaires Pang Chunxue has also reiterated that as 'Iron Brothers' and old friends, Pakistan and China always stood firm against all odds and enjoyed unflinching bilateral support on issues of mutual concern.

Noting the upward trajectory in Pakistan-China ties and economic and financial cooperation, the Prime Minister eulogized China's support for Pakistan's economic stability and expressed a firm commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries under the rubric of the Global Development Initiative and CPEC.

"Implementing multi-billion-dollar development projects under the CPEC has brought socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and helped our country progress in the region and beyond," the Prime Minister said addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC.

It is worth mentioning that during the last fiscal year, projects to supply gas to CPEC's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been completed. Besides the financial year 2022-23, over 15 mega projects related to the development of Gwadar deep seaport, an ultimate destination of the CPEC, had been completed.

The completed mega projects include a 300 MW coal power plant, 2000 boat engines, Khuzdar to Panjgur transmission line, Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technology Institute, Gwadar Hospital, Smart Port and certain other projects. The construction of a modern hospital in Gwadar would ensure the best healthcare facilities for the local people.

The CPEC project made remarkable progress in its first phase (2015-2020), especially in the early harvest period (2013-18) whereby several mega projects have been completed including KKH Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot Section).

The second phase (2021-25) with a focus on industrialization, agriculture modernization, socio-economic development and cooperation in Science and Information Technologies (SITs) has already taken off aims at reaping the dividends of investment made in energy and transport infrastructure.

However, other avenues of cooperation defined in the CPEC-Long-Term Plan (2015-30) are being opened to progress tourism, mines and minerals and petroleum sectors in the second phase.

As the CPEC moves closer to fruition, its positive impact will extend beyond the borders of China and Pakistan. The project holds the potential to transform the entire region, fostering

economic growth and creating new opportunities for Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics, and beyond.

The CPEC decade stands as a testament to the power of cooperation and the “iron brothers” determination to forge a path towards shared progress and prosperity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116640/cpec-decade-a-voyage-to-new-development-heights/>

The Express Tribune

China’s vice premier to join CPEC celebrations

Visit is viewed in the context of ongoing geopolitical developments

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese vice premier is expected to travel to Islamabad later this month to celebrate 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and to discuss a potential visit of President Xi Jinping sometime after the country's parliamentary elections.

This will be the first high-level visit by a Chinese leader since President Xi began a third five-year term in March with the next generation of his country’s leaders. China has two vice premiers, who assist President Xi.

The name of the vice premier visiting Pakistan is being withheld by The Express Tribune at the request of the local authorities.

Sources said the vice premier would be given a red carpet welcome on his arrival.

He will attend a ceremony to celebrate the 10 years of CPEC, the flagship programme of President Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative that he unveiled in 2013.

China invested close to \$30 billion in 10 years mainly focusing on energy and infrastructure projects.

The second phase of CPEC envisaging special economic zones could not move ahead primarily because of the PTI government’s policy to slow down the project. However, CPEC gathered renewed attention since the change of government in April last year.

China bailed out Pakistan on a crucial juncture when Islamabad was on the verge of a sovereign default.

Beijing rolled over and refinanced loans that helped Islamabad keep its foreign reserves to a level where it could avoid a default.

Recently, China rescheduled \$2 billion loan for two years, giving the much-needed space to Pakistan against the backdrop of its dwindling foreign reserves.

The visit of the Chinese vice premier is being seen as significant and will be viewed in the context of the ongoing geopolitical developments.

The sources said apart from reviewing CPEC and bilateral ties, the two sides would discuss President Xi’s potential visit to Pakistan.

The Chinese president last visited Pakistan in 2015.

The sources added that initially Pakistan was keen to have President Xi attend the 10-year CPEC celebrations but was now looking to invite him to the country after the parliamentary elections.

President Xi's likely visit sometime after the elections will kick off the next phase of CPEC.

Pakistan has set up a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to attract foreign investment, revive the economy and address the country's balance of payment crisis on a long-term basis.

China will be one of the countries Pakistan is looking towards for the success of this initiative.

The visit of the Chinese vice premier will renew Pakistan's resolve to stick to its long-term strategic partnership despite the concerns of the West, particularly those of the US.

Pakistan is trying to avoid any negative fallout of the deepening China-US rivalry. Islamabad has publicly maintained that it wanted to maintain cooperative relationship with all powerful countries.

Pakistan has repeatedly stated that it did not wish to become involved in bloc politics.

Many observers, however, feel Pakistan's interests seem to be aligned with China in the long run.

It was because of this reason that Pakistan stayed away from the US democracy summit.

Islamabad twice skipped US President Joe Biden's initiative as Washington invited Taiwan to the summit – a move that China perceived as crossing its red line.

The visit of the Chinese vice premier to Pakistan is poised to draw significant attention from Western countries and Beijing's adversaries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427654/chinas-vice-premier-to-join-cpec-celebrations>

Pakistan, China reinforce commitment to CPEC

CPEC made tangible contribution to Pakistan's development, connectivity in region

ISLAMABAD: Known as the 'iron brothers', Pakistan and China resolutely reinforced their commitment to bolstering regional connectivity and economic prosperity through a decade-long struggle to elevate China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to unprecedented levels. It was 10 years back, when the two all-weather friends solidified their commitment by signing a multibillion-dollar CPEC Framework Agreement, marking a significant milestone in their collaborative efforts.

China boldly stepped forward, when other countries hesitated to invest in Pakistan, pledging an initial investment of \$46 billion that later expanded to a substantial sum of \$62 billion. Now, the two countries are celebrating 10 years of undeterred bilateral cooperation with a renewed pledge to move forward at a faster pace towards the CPEC's ultimate destination of regional progress and prosperity.

On July 11, a meeting of the 12th (Special) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was held in Beijing, co-chaired by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Vice Chairman Cong Liang.

During the meeting, the minister said the CPEC was a remarkable endeavour that symbolised the deep-rooted ties between China and Pakistan.

"It has fostered connectivity, enhanced trade, and opened up new avenues for shared prosperity," Iqbal said. "CPEC is the topmost priority of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership as these avenues provide an opportunity to consolidate successes and enhance future cooperation."

He recalled that monumental event when visionary leaders President Xi and the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had launched this project aimed at transforming the region's economic landscape.

According to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the CPEC projects, under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), were flourishing all across Pakistan and had attracted \$25.4 billion in direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

"After 10 years of development, a '1+4' cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the centre and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas," the official said.

The CPEC framework has created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 kilometres of highways and adding 886 kilometres to the core national transmission network, he added.

CPEC has made a tangible contribution to Pakistan's development and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the CPEC framework by focusing on areas like agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication and people's well-being.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build on the past achievements and follow the guidance of the important common understandings between leaders of the two countries on promoting high-quality development of CPEC to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to people of all countries," the official said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a recent meeting with Chinese Charge d'affaires Pang Chunxue also reiterated that as 'iron brothers' and old friends, Pakistan and China always stood firm against all odds and enjoyed unflinching bilateral support on issues of mutual concern.

Noting the upward trajectory in Pakistan-China ties and economic and financial cooperation, the prime minister eulogised China's support for Pakistan's economic stability and expressed a firm commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries under the rubric of the Global Development Initiative and CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427658/pakistan-china-reinforce-commitment-to-cpec>

The Nation

Work on setting up new GFZ trading centre completed

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar Free Zone sees another achievement as work on setting up new exhibition & trading centre has been completed, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

The project covers an area of about 2,000 square metres. The centre consists of an exhibition hall, business area, meeting rooms, sports area, office, dormitory, etc.

It will exhibit Pakistani and Chinese commodities to visitors from home and abroad, noted CCCC-FHDI Engineering CO Ltd, the project constructor.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As per the project constructor, the new centre - as a comprehensive exhibition and sales centre as well as a window for international exchanges in Gwadar in the future - will boost the development of manufacturing, trade and logistics and other industries in Gwadar, further promote trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, and further promote the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Gwadar.

“Completed ahead of schedule, the project will become a centre for exhibition and sales, trade and logistics in Gwadar.

All the hard work and toil in the process will be worth it,” CCCC-FHDI Engineering CO Ltd said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-24/page-4/detail-0>

The News

10 years of CPEC: successes, challenges and opportunities

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Pakistan and China have kick-started celebrations of 10 years of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Joint Cooperation Committee held an important meeting to deliberate on the future programmes. Both the countries agreed to give a new impetus to implementation of the second phase of CPEC.

It's the right time to analyse the decade of CPEC and find what CPEC has achieved, and what the challenges are. It will help Pakistan draw lessons and improve implementation.

Let's start with the success stories. There is no second opinion that CPEC-related benefits are multifaceted. The first phase of CPEC helped Pakistan overcome numerous challenges and create opportunities for common people. First, CPEC helped create 192,000 direct jobs. The jobs are distributed among all the segments of society. Indirect jobs are even more, as more than 100 SMEs benefited directly from the CPEC.

Second, Pakistan-China completed Gwadar Port. It opened new avenues of connectivity and business. It has the potential to turn Pakistan into a connectivity hub if supported by the right set of policies. Central Asian States already have shown keen interest in using Gwadar Port.

Moreover, the free economic zone at Gwadar is attracting investors. Gwadar airport is another big project which will help convert the port into a connectivity hub.

Third, transportation infrastructure improved tremendously after it deteriorated due to NATO supply. Before, CPEC Pakistan was looking for an investment of \$1.2 billion to rehabilitate infrastructure. The CPEC not only helped overcome this challenge, but also helped build 510km of new highways.

Fourth, CPEC assisted Pakistan manage loadshedding and losses in the energy sector. Chinese companies, in cooperation with Pakistani institutions, launched a series of energy projects. It is satisfactory to note Sahiwal Coal Power, Port Qasim, HUBCO etc. have been completed. Renewable energy projects, including Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, UEP Wind Farm, Three Gorges Second, Karot Hydropower, Suki Kinari Hydropower etc., were launched under CPEC. Karot Hydropower has already started generating electricity. It will provide cheap electricity and reduce GHG emissions by 3.5 Mt on annual basis. It will bring down import bill, which will be helpful in managing foreign reserves and circular debt. Moreover, CPEC projects helped erect 886km transmission line.

Besides, Chinese companies invested in social development and environmental projects through corporate social responsibility and other programmes. For example, Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), China Power, State Grid Cooperation of China, etc. are investing in corporate social responsibility in Pakistan.

These are a few examples, we can find many more.

However, these success stories are below the potential of CPEC. Pakistan could multiply benefits. China offered innovative programmes, but Pakistan could not benefit from them fully. The question is why it could not do so? There can be many, but the following reasons acted as a major stumbling block.

First, no chain of command exists. Rather, there is a tug-of-war among ministers and departments. Every ministry or department presents itself champion of CPEC without realising implementation of framework is important. On the other hand, the 18th Amendment has introduced new challenges, weakening further the chain of command.

Second, the institutional framework is complicated. It makes the business environment unfriendly, which discourages investment. Even registering a company takes many days and the applicant has to deal with numerous departments. If the applicant is a foreigner, he has to go the extra mile.

Third, buck-passing is a favourite game of Pakistani bureaucracy, which they play in such a way that no one questions them.

Fourth, lip service is our national game. Talk to any person, educated or uneducated, he will tell you the solution of every problem in the world. Then the question is why Pakistan is facing problems? The answer is simple – we love to talk and do not take action. This attitude at all levels impacting the implementation of CPEC.

Fifth, security is another concern hampering smooth implementation of the second phase. The security apparatus was excellent during the first phase of CPEC. However, dynamics of the

second phase are entirely different. There is a need of a new frame work of security with focus on enhanced role of policy.

In this backdrop, if Pakistan wants to fully exploit the potential of CPEC, it will have to change. For that purpose, the best way would be to create a centralised body like CPEC Authority. The body must have the power to implement the decisions that it took.

The new body should also have the authority to offer services and collect taxes. The head of the body should be given status of a federal minister, only answerable to the prime minister. Moreover, Pakistan can create a national CPEC council by engaging political parties, institutions like army and chief ministers of provinces to provide guidance. It will help Pakistan exploit full potential of CPEC.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=222653>

July 25, 2023

Business Recorder

‘Under CPEC various projects, including Gwadar port, have achieved full operational capacity’

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have vowed to take China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) initiative to the next level from vision to reality as in the second phase of industrial cooperation under this mega project will bring high-quality economic development in the region.

This was a crux of a two-day international conference titled, “Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt & Road Initiative-From Vision To Reality”, jointly organised by the Ministry of Planning and in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of China here on Monday. The conference is aimed at exploring opportunities for enhanced cooperation, sustainable development and inclusive growth in the subsequent phase of CPEC. Chinese Chargé d’Affairs to Pakistan Pang Chunxue, speaking on the occasion, said the CPEC has witnessed continued expansion which is a hallmark of cooperation between Pakistan and China. She said under CPEC various projects including Gwadar Port have achieved full operational capacity. She said the new Gwadar International Airport, desalination plant and Pakistan-China friendship hospital will be completed one after another this year. Gwadar is making steady progress towards the goal of a logistics hub and industrial base. She further mentioned that 14 power projects under the CPEC have been put into commercial operation with a total installed capacity of 8,000 megawatts, which significantly resulted in addressing the issue of power shortages in Pakistan.

Chunxue said infrastructure cooperation under the CPEC has also achieved great accomplishments and the CPEC framework agreement has been signed. “We have set up a new joint working group on mining, and the construction of the first phase of Rashakai Special Economic Zone has also been completed.”

Chunxue appreciated the government particularly, the Planning Ministry for the continuous support in the implementation of the CPEC projects, saying remarkable achievements have been made through the guidance of the leaders of both China and Pakistan. She recalled the historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, which accelerated the large-scale construction of CPEC.

The key objective of the conference is to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to the economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical impacts of the CPEC and the BRI.

Planning Ministry Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah said that the conference will provide a platform to address concerns, evaluate risks, and explore avenues for mitigating any adverse impacts, ensuring that the benefits are equitably distributed among all stakeholders. While highlighting the flagship project of China's visionary BRI, the secretary said that it has emerged as a corridor of opportunity, traversing vast terrains to connect the warm waters of the Arabian Sea with the rich landscapes of China's western regions. "Over the past 10 years, the CPEC has made significant progress, with the completion of several infrastructure projects such as highways, ports, and power plants," he remarked.

These projects have improved connectivity between Pakistan and China, reduced transportation costs, and increased the efficiency of trade, he remarked, while reiterating the government's commitment to complete the CPEC projects. Furthermore, he said that CPEC has sparked immense interest and debate globally, evoking curiosity about its potential to transform economies, improve infrastructure, enhance trade, and open doors to new horizons.

Chief Economist of Pakistan Dr Nadeem Javaid, while deliberating on the objectives of the conference, said that the conference revolves around the socioeconomic impact of CPEC and opportunities for industry relocation, and the prospect of regional connectivity and technology transfer, enhance cooperation for security, geopolitical implications to overcome challenges and maximising synergies in CPEC and BRI Initiatives, and people to people connectivity.

Dr Javaid said that in response to the call for papers, the CPEC Secretariat has received 435 extended abstracts from more than 85 national and international institutes including universities, government departments, practitioners, think tanks, and entrepreneurs. Following a rigorous evaluation, 310 abstracts were short-listed to be further scrutinised by the scientific committee and the committee accepted 110 abstracts for full paper submissions. It is noted that all the accepted and presented papers will be published in the conference abstract book while selected papers will be published in the special issue of the Pakistan Development Review (PDR) Journal after blind peer review and approval of the scientist committee.

During the first day, four technical sessions were held which include the socioeconomic impacts of CPEC, prospects of regional connectivity through Gwadar port, opportunities for industrial relocation and export and green technologies and development.

Speaking at the occasion, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed announced several significant initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration between

Pakistan and China in the field of higher education and research. These initiatives include future Chinese scholarships and cooperation with the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Mukhtar emphasized that the CPEC has evolved from a visionary concept to a reality of immense importance for both countries. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of China for their unwavering support, leading to the agreement to establish a joint research centre at a renowned university in Pakistan. The research centre, spanning 50 acres of land, is set to open new avenues for ground-breaking advancements in various scientific disciplines.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/25/3-page/968155-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China to improve quality and efficiency of CPEC: envoy

Charge' D Affairs of the Chinese Embassy Pang Chunxue declared that under the leadership of the two countries, China, Pakistan will continue to work hand in hand to improve quality and efficiency of CPEC.

They will also upgrade the all-round strategic cooperation to a new heights, building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. She was addressing here on Monday the International Conference on “Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt & Road Initiative from vision to reality.

It was organized on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of CPEC and BRI. She said, she believes that CPEC will better benefit all the people of Pakistan. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives in collaboration with Embassy of China.

Those who attended the opening session included Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary of Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Dr. Mukhatar Ahmed, Chairman of Higher Education Commission, and Dr. Nadeem Javaid, Chief Economist of Pakistan and Executive Director of CPEC Secretariat. Pang Chunxue announced that the New Gwadar International Airport, the Desalination Plant and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital will be completed one after another this year, which are all using assistance from China. With economic free zone booming and infrastructure completing, Gwadar is making steady progress towards the goal of a logistics hub and industrial base, as well as benefiting local people. She added, “Faqeer school built by China solves the schooling problem of more than 500 children, saving them from going to schools 10 kilometers away from home. China has also donated a total of 7,000 sets of solar panels to the common people in Gwadar, providing efficient electricity to local community. Energy projects, which enjoy the largest investments, have laid solid foundation for economic development and brought tangible benefits to society. Back in 2013, Pakistan encountered with severe energy crisis.

To the request of Pakistan government, Chinese investors came here to launch energy projects. Up to now, there are 19 projects under the CPEC energy cooperation, with a total installed capacity of 13,010 MW. Fourteen projects have been put into commercial operation,

with a total installed capacity of 8,020 MW, accounting for 19.4% of Pakistani total installed capacity, significantly solved the problem of power shortage. Among them, Sahiwal coal power plant was completed in only 22 months, which sets a new record for fastest thermal power complex construction in Pakistan. Infrastructure cooperation under CPEC has achieved great accomplishments. The Karakoram Highway Phase II upgrading project has greatly facilitated commuters by shortening traveling time from 8 hours to 2 hours.

The Lahore Orange Line is the first metro train in Pakistan, carrying about 120,000 people daily. The Peshawar-Karachi motorway is running well and greatly improved the connection and communication of the country. Industrial Cooperation under CPEC is pivotal for the second phrase of CPEC high quality development. CPEC Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation has been signed and Mining working group has been established. Rashakai Special Economic Zone Phrase I as a fast-track project has completed construction.”

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC. Over the past ten years, CPEC has been blessed with the visionary guidance of the leaders. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to Pakistan.

She noted, that since then, the large-scale construction of CPEC has been accelerated. Last year, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the contribution of CPEC to Pakistan’s social-economic development, and agreed to expedite CPEC and make it a high-quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Last month, Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Paris. Premier Li promised that China is ready to continue strengthening cooperation with Pakistan on CPEC.

CPEC witnessed fruitful cooperation. During President Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan, China and Pakistan set up the initial “1+4” pattern of CPEC, focusing on Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation. We are proud of the achievements.

Through a decade of joint efforts, Gwadar has made tremendous progress. The port has achieved full operational capacity. Eastbay Expressway has connected Gwadar with the national highway of Pakistan, linking Gwadar port to Karachi. Moreover, CPEC has witnessed continuous expansion of cooperation fields and improvement of people’s livelihood. Under the JCC framework, it now has a total of 11 working groups, including long-term planning, security, international cooperation and coordination, agriculture, science and technology, information technology industry and social-economic development.

By the end of 2022, CPEC has directly created around 236,000 jobs, of which more than 155,000 are for Pakistani employees. In addition, the Chinese companies have been actively dedicating to their CSR, including building roads, bridges, schools, hospitals for the local community and offering scholarships to the local young students, trying their best to improve the well-being and bringing the tangible benefits to Pakistani friends.

The success of CPEC comes with its own logic. The reasons attributed to its success may include: First, CPEC truly reflects the concept of BRI which focuses on openness, inclusiveness win-win cooperation based on extensive consultation, joint construction and

mutual benefits. It is open to all Pakistani people and has won the support of people from both China and Pakistan.

Chinese engineers and workers left their homes to boost the development of Pakistan and have received brotherly care from the local people.

Second, CPEC is in line with Pakistan's development needs. Pakistan has a lot of potential in economic development with its very important location, huge land, young and robust population. CPEC brings connectivity, industrial cooperation, agricultural modernization, capital and technology, which are all urgently needed and well received by Pakistan to achieve prosperity and progress.

Third, participation of the whole society is involved. The two governments provide directions, priorities, policy guidance through the JCC framework. So far, 12 JCC meetings have been convened to steer the process.

Private sectors and the two peoples are all actively engaged in CPEC. We also jointly refute the disinformation and misinformation of CPEC and always stand together through thick and thin. "This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative put forward by President Xi Jinping. BRI cooperation has made positive contributions to economic development, employment, and improvement of people's livelihood in all countries, and has become a popular international public goods and international cooperation platform.

Statistics show that 151 countries and 32 international organizations have joined the initiative. It has generated nearly a trillion U.S. dollars in investment, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, created some 420,000 jobs in countries along the routes, and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty.

Research by the World Bank shows that thanks to BRI, by 2030, 7.6 million people will be uplifted from extreme poverty and 32 million people will get out of medium level poverty. We are confident that the BRI will become a more and more important public goods to the international community with our joint efforts."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117131/pakistan-china-to-improve-quality-and-efficiency-of-cpec-envoy/>

Pakistani pink salt witnesses growing popularity in Chinese market

"In recent years, the popularity of Pakistani Himalayan pink salt products, including salt lamps and bath salt, has been growing in China. Pakistan can further expand its export to China by enhancing its marketing and packaging," said Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. According to General Administration of Customs of China, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$4,968,223 in 2021 and \$5,747,492 in 2022, an year-on-year increase of 15.68%, which shows the gradually expanding market and promising prospects of pink salt exports to China. The improvement can be attributed to a combination of factors, including increased awareness among Chinese consumers about the health benefits of pink salt, marketing campaigns, and the establishment of strong trade partnerships between Pakistani exporters and Chinese importers.

The rise in pink salt exports to China has not only boosted the Pakistani salt industry but also provided a much-needed economic boost to the country. Increased demand has created new jobs in the mining and processing sectors, contributing to the overall growth of the local economy. Ismail Suttar, chairman of Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP) and president of Employers Federation of Pakistan, pointed out at a webinar on the promotion of Pakistani pink salt jointly held by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan last week that as the popularity of pink salt continues to grow, the Pakistani government, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, is actively exploring ways to expand production capacity and improve infrastructure.

These efforts are aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the salt industry and maximising its potential in meeting rising demand from China and other international markets. Wang Zihai, Honorable Pakistan Investment Counsellor in China, highlighted at the webinar that pink salt lamp, a major product of Pakistan's export of pink salt to China, works like an air purifier, killing bacteria and removing dust, allergens, smoke, odors and mold spores. It can also be used as decoration and a night light to create a tranquil atmosphere, which is popular among Chinese consumers. He added that besides lamps, BBQ salt, bath salt, and decorative salt are Pakistan's advantageous products which have huge potential in the Chinese market. In the first half of this year, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$2,694,493, a slight decrease of 5% compared with \$2,839,582 during the same period of last year. To make up for the decline, about 30 companies from China and Pakistan further shared their views at the webinar to promote Pakistani pink salt export to China. They agreed that to cater to the Chinese market, Pakistani salt exporters should take steps to ensure the quality and authenticity of their products; extensive quality control measures need to be implemented to maintain the high standards that Chinese consumers expect; in addition, efforts should be made to promote the unique characteristics of pink salt through various marketing channels, including social media platforms and trade shows.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117109/pakistani-pink-salt-witnesses-growing-popularity-in-chinese-market/>

Pakistan's sugar exports to China top \$18m in first half of 2023

Pakistan's exports of sugars and sugar confectionery crossed \$18 million in the first six months of 2023. Quoting General Administration of Customs of China, Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing said on Monday that this export achievement this year demonstrates the country's commitment to economic growth and trade diversification. According to Gwadar Pro, the growing demand for Pakistani sweets in the Chinese market reflects the high quality and authenticity of these products, along with strengthened trade relations between the two nations. "As Pakistan continues building on this success, there are bright prospects for further export growth and strengthened bilateral cooperation, heralding a sweet future for both countries," Ghulam Qadir added. Qadir explained that Chinese consumers have shown increasing interest in unique and exotic treats from around the world, and Pakistani sweets have become popular due to their rich flavors and traditional recipes. The authentic taste and stringent quality standards of Pakistani confectionery have established a niche market for these products in China. He further said

that exports of chemically pure sucrose (community code 17019910) to China remained at \$18.11 million, while last year during the same period it was only \$0.6 million. The total export of sugars and sugar confectionery to China reached \$18.22 million from January-June 2023. Qadir emphasized that to maintain their competitive edge in the Chinese market, Pakistani exporters have focused on stringent quality control and compliance with international standards. Adhering to Chinese government regulations is vital for the sustained success of exports.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117030/pakistans-sugar-exports-to-china-top-18m-in-first-half-of-2023/>

China dominates Pakistan's FDI with \$432.7m in FY 23

In the Financial Year 2023 (from July 2022 to June 2023), Pakistan received the highest Foreign Direct Invest (FDI) worth US\$ 432.7 million from China, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s latest figures.

In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$1.4377 billion in FDI with China leading with 30.09% of the total FDI coming to the country. As per SBP, the FDI inflows/outflows include cash received for investment in equity, intercompany loan, capital equipment brought in/out, equity in accounts abroad, and reinvested earnings.

In FY 2023, the total inflow from China remained at \$475.3 million, the outflow was \$43.1 million, net FDI was \$ 432.2 million, net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) was \$0.5 million and the total FDI remained at \$432.7 million.

FPI consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country. Along with FDI, FPI is one of the common ways to invest in overseas economies.

In June 2023, Pakistan also received \$ 5.8 million from Hong Kong bringing the total FDI from Hong Kong to \$96.6 million in FY 23. In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$182 million from Japan, \$ 172.3 million from UAE, \$135 million from Switzerland, \$118.4 million from the U.S., \$ 71.5 million from Netherlands, \$63.9 million from France, \$62 million from the United Kingdom, \$ 39.8 million

Besides this, from Singapore, \$38.2 million from South Korea, \$ 25.2 million from Hungary, \$24.3 million from Kuwait, \$23.2 million from Malaysia, \$20.2 million from KSA and \$17.6 million each from Lebanon and Turkey.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116977/china-dominates-pakistans-fdi-with-432-7m-in-fy-23/>

Pakistan gets green light to export cherries to China after 12-years

Minister of National Food Security and Research, Tariq Bashir Cheema Monday said that the government had succeeded to resolve 12 years long pending issue of market access of cherries exports from Pakistan to China. General Administrations of Customs China (GACC) confirmed the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), that Pakistani businessmen could export cherries to China from DPP registered orchards and Packhouses, said a news release issued here.

“This marks a huge success towards boosting exports of Pakistani cherries and the overall economy of the country”, he added. The focus courtesy of Tariq Basheer Cheema and Federal Secretary MNFS&S, Zafar Hassan regarding cherries exports and bringing exports quality to global standards was the prime factor behind this success.

Their visionary leadership and determined efforts to widen the export base of Pakistani fruits manifested in seeking market access for cherries. This market access request was pending since 2012, it added.

However, GACC after video inspection of quarantine procedures, registered orchards, cold treatment facilities and Packhouses registered with DPP with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, allowed export of cherries in accordance with agreed protocol.

Department of Plant Protection took special steps to upgrade register orchards, Cold treatment facilities and packhouses as per requirements of GACC.

Tireless efforts including guidance, repeated technical compliance audits were put in this direction by DPP to ensure and enable these orchards and facilities to export cherries through improvement in food safety and phytosanitary measures besides quality, storage and packaging. Now, 90 cherry orchards and 15 cold treatment facilities and Packhouses can export cherries to China.

This is a huge achievement of Pakistan government where Department of Plant Protection under the MNFSR in close collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP), Agriculture Department Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Chamber of Commerce GB became able to pitch achieved this market access for cherries exports to China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116975/pakistan-gets-green-light-to-export-cherries-to-china-after-12-years/>

CPEC success allures world interest to invest in Pakistan

Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Syed Zafar Ali Shah on Monday said the international community was showing keen interest to participate in the projects being executed under CPEC, a strategic principal component of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC is an enormous success and now the world is showing interest in its projects . . .,” he expressed these views while talking to APP on the sidelines of the two-day international conference that started here.

The conference titled “Decade of China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): From Vision To Reality,” is being organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The secretary gave all credit to the Chinese and Pakistani leadership for taking CPEC to an unprecedented level of regional connectivity and economic prosperity through a decade-long struggle.

Zafar Ali Shah said the two-day conference had assembled international-level experts from China and Pakistan who would share their expertise, experiences and ideas while discussing all aspects of CPEC in different sessions. During the last one year, he said, the incumbent government revived a number of projects, especially in Gwadar deep seaport, including water supply, laying of electricity transmission lines, setting up a university, vocational training centre and an international airport that remained neglected in the tenure of the past regime.

“We have brought a number of development projects in Balochistan and Gwadar near to completion this year,” he added. He reiterated the government’s firm resolve that priority was being given to locals in the development projects being carried out in parts of Balochistan, including the Gwadar deep seaport, an ultimate destination of CPEC.

Under an initiative for the socioeconomic uplift of local communities, he said, the government had acquired 3200 boat engines for local fishermen aimed at facilitating them in earning their livelihood.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116973/cpec-success-allures-world-interest-to-invest-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Seminar on ‘Decade of CPEC celebrations’

Success of CPEC lies in its adherence to principles of BRI: China’s charge d’affaires

Charge d’ Affaires of China, Ms Pang Chunxue has attributed the success of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to its adherence to the principles of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

“The project exemplifies openness, inclusivity, and mutual benefits, garnering support from the people of both China and Pakistan,” said she while addressing the opening session of the two-day international conference titled “Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): From Vision to Reality” Monday. The event was held to mark the 10- year celebrations of CPEC.

The moot was also addressed by Chief Economist of Pakistan, Dr Nadeem Javaid, Secretary Planning Ministry, Syed Zafar Ali Shah and Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed.

While highlighting the significance of the BRI on its 10th anniversary, Ms Pang lauded the positive contributions to economic development and poverty alleviation in numerous countries along the route.

The initiative has become a prominent international cooperation platform, generating substantial investments and creating job opportunities, she said adding, “Under their joint efforts and leadership, CPEC will be further enhanced to elevate all-around cooperation to new heights.”

She appreciated the government particularly, the Planning Ministry for the continuous support in the implementation of the CPEC projects. Reflecting on the decade of CPEC’s journey, Ms. Pang Chunxue praised the remarkable achievements made through the guidance of the leaders of both China and Pakistan. She recalled the historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015 which accelerated the large-scale construction of CPEC.

She also highlighted the importance of industrial cooperation under CPEC, with the establishment of Special Economic Zones SPZs as a fast-track project. These zones aim to enhance industrial development, benefit local communities, and create numerous job opportunities, she remarked. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC, Dr Mukhtar said several significant initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration between Pakistan and China in the field of higher education and research.

These initiatives include future Chinese scholarships and cooperation with the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Dr Nadeem Javaid in his inaugural session said the objective of the conference was to highlight the socio-economic impact of the CPEC and Opportunities for Industry Relocation, Prospect of Regional Connectivity and Technology Transfer, Enhance Cooperation for Security, Geopolitical Implications to overcome challenges and maximizing synergies in CPEC and BRI Initiatives, and People to People Connectivity. During the first day of session, four technical sessions were held which included Socio-Economic impacts of CPEC, prospects of regional connectivity through Gwadar port, opportunities for Industrial Relocation and export and Green Technologies and Development.

Secretary Planning Ministry, Syed Zafar Ali Shah hoped the conference would provide a platform to address concerns, evaluate risks, and explore avenues for mitigating any adverse impacts, ensuring that the benefits are equitably distributed among all stakeholders. The conference will conclude Tuesday (today) and Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal will be chief guest.

<https://pakobserver.net/seminar-on-decade-of-cpec-celebrations/>

Chinese modernization: Uplifting lives, sustaining peace

IN a rapidly changing world, the pursuit of peace and stability remains a top priority in the international arena. In this quest, China has emerged as a prominent player, presenting a unique model of development that stands in stark contrast to the historical legacies of colonialism. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has embarked on a development path that prioritizes innovation, technological advancement, economic reform and poverty alleviation. President Xi has often emphasized the “Chinese Dream,” focusing on national rejuvenation, improved livelihood and sustainable development.

China’s commitment to non-hegemony and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries has been a cornerstone of its modernization strategy. The country’s “Peaceful Development” policy underscores the importance of cooperation and peaceful coexistence in international relations, aiming to foster mutual trust and common prosperity among nations. Unlike historical colonial powers, China’s primary objective is not to exert control or exploit resources from other nations, but rather to encourage interdependence and mutual benefit through economic partnerships and infrastructure development projects, exemplified by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI seeks to enhance connectivity across continents, promoting trade and development while respecting the sovereignty of participating countries.

As a Pakistani writer and global peace activist, I firmly believe that China's modernization approach, free from hegemonic ambitions, holds the potential to rehabilitate and emancipate nations like Pakistan from the lingering impacts of colonialism. Let us explore how China's development model offers a promising alternative to colonization and imperialism, fostering peace and stability on a global scale.

In post-colonial nations like Pakistan, the consequences of the colonial development model are deeply ingrained in society and the economy. The legacy of colonization has left these countries grappling with underdevelopment, inequality and political instability. In contrast, China's development model offers a pathway toward genuine progress and rehabilitation. At the core of China's development model is a strong emphasis on human capital and local empowerment. The country invests in education, skills training and technology transfer to uplift and empowers communities in developing nations, promoting sustainable growth from the grassroots level. This stands in stark contrast to colonial strategies that exploited resources and labour without investing in human capital, perpetuating dependence and underdevelopment.

Moreover, China's development model encourages South-South cooperation, promoting collaboration among developing nations and breaking away from the traditional North-South dichotomy associated with colonialism. By fostering solidarity and shared objectives, China contributes to a more balanced and multipolar world order, promoting a harmonious co-existence among diverse nations.

China's emphasis on economic diplomacy is another crucial aspect of its modernization strategy. Economic development and cooperation are integral to promoting stability and reducing the likelihood of conflicts. Engaging in trade, investment and infrastructure projects, China fosters an environment of economic interdependence that incentivizes nations to seek peaceful resolutions to disputes. Notably, Chinese investment in post-colonial nations, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), have led to significant infrastructure development, boosting trade and connectivity in the region. This investment has the potential to uplift local communities and create job opportunities contributing to long-term stability and progress.

Beyond Pakistan, China's investment has extended to other post-colonial regions, particularly in Africa, where the focus has been on fostering human development and improving livelihood. For instance, in Ethiopia, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, built with Chinese expertise and funding, has revolutionized transportation, allowing for faster and more efficient movement of goods and people. This project has spurred economic growth and social development, transforming the lives of millions by providing them with better access to markets, education and healthcare.

In addition to infrastructure development, China's investment has also played a significant role in uplifting healthcare systems in various post-colonial nations. For instance, China's medical teams have been dispatched to African countries to provide healthcare services and training, demonstrating the country's commitment to enhancing healthcare access and improving public health standards. Such initiatives have contributed to a more harmonious

understanding between China and the nations it partners with, fostering a sense of mutual respect and cooperation.

Furthermore, China has been actively involved in sustainable development projects across post-colonial nations, including renewable energy initiatives. By supporting the development of solar and wind energy projects, China has contributed to the reduction of carbon emissions and the preservation of the environment. These efforts align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, promoting a more sustainable and greener future for all.

China's investment in post-colonial nations has not been driven by a desire for hegemony or control, but rather by a genuine commitment to cooperation and mutual benefit. These endeavors are firmly grounded in respecting national sovereignty and promoting local empowerment which creates a fertile ground for peace and stability. The uplifting of human lives, improvement of dignity and social development achieved through these partnerships are testament to the transformative potential of China's development model.

President Xi Jinping has consistently reiterated China's commitment to non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations and the importance of respecting national sovereignty. He firmly advocates against imposing China's values or political system on other countries, emphasizing instead the need for a diverse range of governance models that respect each nation's unique history, culture and circumstances.

By upholding national sovereignty, China's approach fosters peaceful co-existence among diverse nations, reducing the likelihood of conflicts arising from external intervention or attempts to impose foreign ideologies. This approach has particularly resonated with post-colonial nations, like Pakistan, which have endured the consequences of external interference in their internal affairs.

President Xi Jinping's advocacy for respecting national sovereignty and promoting non-interference aligns with China's broader approach to global affairs. The country's emphasis on multilateralism, dialogue and win-win cooperation underscores its commitment to a peaceful and stable world order, free from the shadows of past-colonialism and hegemony. As China continues to develop and engage with the international community, President Xi Jinping's leadership plays a crucial role in advancing these principles and fostering an environment of harmony and prosperity for all nations.

In conclusion, China's modernization strategy represents a distinct alternative to historical colonial models and imperialism. As a Pakistani writer, I firmly believe that China's "Peaceful Development" policy, with its commitment to non-hegemony and non-interference, offers a path to rehabilitation and emancipation for post-colonial nations. By embracing principles of mutual respect, cooperation and peaceful co-existence, nations can collaborate to build a future free from the shadows of colonization, promoting global peace, stability and prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-modernization-uplifting-lives-sustaining-peace/#:~:text=At%20the%20core%20of%20China's,growth%20from%20the%20grassroots%20level>

The Nation

Pakistan to develop green hydrogen in collaboration with China

ISLAMABAD - There are good prospects for Pakistan to develop green hydrogen in collaboration with China.

Right now, on the side of Jambhir, the Sindh government has set up a project with China in which they are producing hydrogen, but it has not yet reached a mature level that we can use it in the whole of Pakistan as a fuel.

Pakistan has taken the initiative, this is a good thing and, in the future, they will be able to do good things in green hydrogen technologies, said Najma Memon, Prof at NCE in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

“The concept of green hydrogen is still new in Pakistan. As we have very good ties with China, which is now the world’s top user and producer of hydrogen, China can be a good option for Pakistan to cooperate with in green hydrogen,” Najma Memon said.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel which doesn’t emit carbon and cause environmental pollution. The advantage of green hydrogen is that the sources of energy used to produce hydrogen are also green, like solar and wind.

The whole world is moving towards green energy. A lot of research is being done on this,” Najma Memon added.

She pointed out that hydrogen is not fully utilised due to the issues of conversion to energy and its transportation. “For hydrogen production, if you want to convert it into energy, you have to make a fuel cell. Academia can help a lot in fuel cell technology because materials have to be made and tested.

A consortium can be formed so that the energy-related centres and the material-related researchers will work together with academia, then a very good output can come. Moreover, hydrogen doesn’t run like electricity in wires, it has to be transported.

So pipeline infrastructure has to be laid. It will take some time. She suggests that Pakistan should cooperate with China to develop green hydrogen-related technology.

“China is the world’s largest hydrogen producer and hydrogen user. Our fuel cell and electrolyzer equipment for green hydrogen manufacture are world-leading. Coupled with domestic substitution of related materials and equipment, the cost of green hydrogen has begun to decline,” said Zhu Gongshan, Chairman of Global Green Energy Industry Council (GGEIC).

One recent example can be the green hydrogen plant in Kuqa City of Xinjiang, China, which is constructed by Sinopec Group. The plant began operations last month, which can produce 20,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year.

All major equipment and materials used in the project, including photovoltaic modules, electrolytic cells, hydrogen storage tanks and hydrogen transport pipelines, were locally produced.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-25/page-4/detail-7>

PM approves appointments of new envoys to Moscow, Beijing

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif finally gave approval to the appointments of new ambassadors for Moscow and Beijing on the summary sent by the Foreign Ministry.

According to sources, senior foreign service officer Khalil Hashmi has been appointed as new Ambassador to China. Earlier, Hashmi was twice approved for China as Ambassador, however, the Foreign Office meanwhile gave extension to Ambassador Moinul Haq to continue.

Hashmi is currently serving as Pakistan Permanent Rep-resentative to the UN mission in Geneva and considered as a multilateral expert in diplomacy. He has earlier served at the United Nations as Deputy Permanent Representative.

Khalid Jamali has been posted as Pakistan's new ambassador to Moscow. Jamali is also a senior foreign service officer and currently posted as Pakistan ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The incumbent ambassador of Pakistan to Russia Shafaqat Ali has completed his three years term and is likely to be posted at the headquarters in a senior position.

Ambassador Moinul Haq, currently serving in Beijing, reached superannuation a couple of months ago.

Meanwhile, the prime minister rejected the summary for the appointment of new ambassador to the United States and directed the incumbent ambassador to Washington Masood Khan to continue till further orders.

Pakistan High Commissioner to UK Mozam Ahmed Khan is expected to return to Islamabad by the end of this month.

He has also reached superannuation a couple of months ago. Pakistan's current Ambassador to Germany Dr Muhammad Faisal is expected to take up his new assignment as Pakistan High commissioner to the UK in August.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-25/page-12/detail-7>

July 26, 2023

Daily Times

90 orchards, 15 cold treatment facilities to export cherries to China

Now, 90 cherry orchards and 15 cold treatment facilities and Packhouses can export cherries to China.

This is a huge achievement of Pakistan government where Department of Plant Protection under the MNFSR in close collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP), Agriculture Department Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Chamber of Commerce GB became able to pitch achieved this market access for cherries exports to China, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. This brings good news especially to the farmers of GB, as their main source of earning is based on this fruit.

Moreover, Pakistan being the agrarian economy can also look for enhancing exports in other domains as well by improving quality standards as per global markets.

This agreement opens a gateway to further exports to international markets given the quality standards remain sound.

Further, up-gradation of more orchards and facilities are in pipeline with DPP, to make them at par with international standards in order to achieve major shares in high end markets of Asia, Europe, United State of America (USA) and Australia and obtain their registration for export to China also.

Pakistani Minister of National Food Security and Research, Tariq Bashir Cheema, said that the government had succeeded to resolve 12 years long pending issue of market access of cherries exports from Pakistan to China.

General Administrations of Customs, China (GACC) confirmed the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), that Pakistani businessmen could export cherries to China from DPP registered orchards and Packhouses, said an official statement issued here.

“This marks a huge success towards boosting exports of Pakistani cherries and the overall economy of the country”, Cheema emphasized in the statement. The focus courtesy of Tariq Basheer Cheema and Federal Secretary MNFS&S, Zafar Hassan regarding cherries exports and bringing exports quality to global standards was the prime factor behind this success.

Their visionary leadership and determined efforts to widen the export base of Pakistani fruits manifested in seeking market access for cherries, showed the statement. This market access request was pending since 2012, it added.

GACC, after video inspection of quarantine procedures, registered orchards, cold treatment facilities and Packhouses registered with DPP with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, allowed export of cherries in accordance with agreed protocol.

Department of Plant Protection took special steps to upgrade register orchards, Cold treatment facilities and packhouses as per requirements of GACC.

Tireless efforts including guidance, repeated technical compliance audits were put in this direction by DPP to ensure and enable these orchards and facilities to export cherries through improvement in food safety and phytosanitary measures besides quality, storage and packaging.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117359/90-orchards-15-cold-treatment-facilities-to-export-cherries-to-china/>

Int'l moot concludes with pledge to accelerate CPEC

A two-day international conference concluded in the federal capital on Tuesday with a strong resolve to continue implementing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects at an accelerated pace for the development and prosperity of the country. The conference titled “Decade of CPEC and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): From Vision to Reality, was organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. The key objective of the moot was to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to the economic, social, environmental and geopolitical impacts of CPEC and BRI. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal in his address, emphasized the importance of saving and investment besides shedding light on the significant development projects that have been carried out under CPEC & BRI. Highlighting the ongoing and upcoming development projects under CPEC, the minister elaborated on their potential in transforming Pakistan’s infrastructure and economy. He underlined that these projects were not merely about physical connectivity but were also aimed to uplift the lives of the people and boost socioeconomic development across the country. Ahsan Iqbal specifically mentioned several key projects that had been identified as vital components of CPEC, including the establishment of power plants and the laying of transmission lines, which were aimed at addressing Pakistan’s energy needs and promoting industrial growth. He also emphasized the significance of transportation and connectivity projects, such as the development of road networks and the modernization of ports for enhanced regional trade and economic integration. During the last day of the conference, four sessions were held including Security and Geopolitical Implications, Innovation, Technology and Global Value

Chains, Challenges to Regional Connectivity and Integration, Artificial Intelligence and Labour Market Dynamics. The conference received 435 extended abstracts from more than 85 national and international institutes including universities, government departments, practitioners, think tanks, and entrepreneurs. Following a rigorous evaluation, as many as 310 abstracts were shortlisted for further scrutiny by the scientific committee, which accepted 110 abstracts for full-paper submissions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117374/intl-moot-concludes-with-pledge-to-accelerate-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC's Decade of Progress: Major Milestones and Achievements

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebrates its tenth anniversary, signifying a transformative phase in Sino-Pakistan relations. This milestone initiative has strengthened bilateral ties and showcased their robust economic partnership. CPEC has played a crucial role over the past decade by improving Pakistan's infrastructure, fostering economic growth and creating numerous job opportunities, benefiting the region and beyond. The commemoration underscores both countries' enduring commitment to enhancing cooperation and pursuing shared prosperity. CPEC originated during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's 2013 visit to Islamabad, leading to an "economic corridor" agreement. In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed 51 agreements, and its value increased from \$46 billion to \$62 billion by 2020.

CPEC's objective is to modernize Pakistan's transportation system including roads, railways, airways and energy, connecting Gwadar and Karachi ports to China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and beyond. As part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) announced in 2013, CPEC aims to enhance connectivity, trade, communication and cooperation across Eurasia.

This ambitious project has been a game-changer, revitalizing Pakistan's economy and promoting regional connectivity. CPEC has not only facilitated infrastructure development but also created jobs, encouraged technological advancement and strengthened trade relations between China and Pakistan.

One of the core pillars of CPEC is the extensive development of infrastructure projects. Over the past ten years, Pakistan has witnessed an unprecedented surge in the construction of roads, highways, railways and ports. The development of Gwadar Port, in particular, has positioned Pakistan as a pivotal hub for regional trade. The construction of the Karakoram Highway, Peshawar-Karachi motorway, orange line Train in Lahore, establishment of different economic zones and various energy projects has improved connectivity and bolstered the transportation network within the country. This infrastructural investment has not only enhanced Pakistan's economic potential but also opened new avenues for trade and commerce, attracting foreign investors.

CPEC prioritized energy projects to overcome Pakistan's energy scarcity, including coal, hydro, solar and wind power plants, significantly increasing power generation capacity. These projects addressed immediate energy needs and paved the way for a sustainable and

greener future. CPEC transformed Pakistan into an energy-surplus nation, fostering industrial growth and attracting foreign investment.

Indeed, CPEC has injected new life into Pakistan's economy, stimulating growth and development. The influx of Chinese investment has revitalized various sectors including manufacturing, agriculture and services. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs), established under CPEC, have become hubs of industrial activity, attracting both domestic and foreign businesses. This economic boom has generated employment opportunities, reduced poverty and improved the standard of living of many Pakistanis. Furthermore, CPEC has enhanced Pakistan's export potential, offering easier access to the Chinese market and boosting bilateral trade between the two countries.

CPEC has also played a pivotal role in technological advancements in Pakistan. Collaboration between Chinese and Pakistani companies has led to the transfer of technology and expertise. This transfer has enabled Pakistan to develop its IT sector, establish research and development institutions and promote innovation. These advancements have not only benefited businesses but have also empowered individuals, enabling them to access new opportunities in the digital age.

Beyond its economic impact, CPEC has fostered people-to-people exchanges and cultural ties between China and Pakistan. Educational scholarships, exchange programs and cultural events have deepened mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations. The collaboration in the field of education has led to the establishment of Confucius Institutes in Pakistan, promoting Chinese language and culture. Similarly, the Pakistani Diaspora in China and Chinese communities in Pakistan have contributed to cross-cultural integration. These socio-cultural exchanges have strengthened bilateral relations, laying a solid foundation for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

CPEC enhances South Asian connectivity, with improved transport corridors boosting regional trade and efficiency in the movement of goods and people, thus benefiting neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia, opening economic opportunities. CPEC's strategic location and infrastructure projects have reshaped regional dynamics, fostering economic integration and shared growth. Regional stability is vital for CPEC's success and increased-economic cooperation can promote peace-building efforts by reducing tension and promoting interdependence. Collaborative security measures are necessary to safeguard infrastructure and trade routes, benefiting the entire South Asian region.

India has strongly opposed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) due to concerns about potential economic and regional destabilization. It objects to third-party involvement in the CPEC and emphasizes respecting territorial integrity. India's reservations are based on geopolitics and strained relations with Pakistan. However, other South Asian countries, such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, have shown interest in the BRI, signing agreements with China for infrastructure development and connectivity. A collaborative approach, considering each country's interests, is essential for regional stability and maximizing the benefits of projects like the CPEC.

Over the past ten years, CPEC has transformed the economic landscape of both China and Pakistan. It has brought about infrastructural development, energy sufficiency, economic growth, technological advancements and socio-cultural exchanges. The progress achieved under CPEC is a testament to the strong bilateral ties between China and Pakistan and the shared vision of mutual prosperity. The CPEC project faces several challenges, encompassing security concerns, regional dynamics, internal political chaos and the imperative for balanced economic development. Political instability could impede decision-making and policy implementation, leading to delays and potential project cancellations, while governance and transparency issues might deter foreign investors. Furthermore, security risks arising from political unrest may further hinder the smooth progress of CPEC initiatives and prompt China to re-evaluate its long-term strategic interests in the region.

As CPEC enters its second decade, it is imperative for both nations to address these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities to further strengthen this transformative partnership.

Certainly, CPEC's impact extends beyond China and Pakistan, positively influencing the South Asian region. The enhanced connectivity, trade and investment opportunities, energy cooperation, infrastructure development and stability it brings have the potential to reshape regional dynamics and promote shared prosperity in South Asia. However, realizing the full potential of CPEC's regional impact requires cooperation, collaboration and inclusive participation from all South Asian nations.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-decade-of-progress-major-milestones-and-achievements/>

Belt and Road Initiative: A de-colonizing project

THE global division between south and north is due to the concentration of wealth in the north. The resource exploitation of the south by the north has a long colonial history. The 18th century industrial revolution in Europe kept the south at the margin. The Global South, facing social, political and economic challenges, has long grappled with the issue of underdevelopment and connectivity. The colonial era has left an indelible mark on the world, particularly on the Global South. The industrial rise of rich countries in Europe was undeniably linked to the ruthless extraction of resources and labour from the colonies.

The industrial revolution in Europe was fuelled by the plundering of the Global South's resources, particularly cotton and sugar grown on stolen land using enslaved African labour. The consequences of this exploitation were catastrophic for the South with genocide, dispossession, famine and mass impoverishment becoming the defining characteristics of this dark period in history. The prosperity of European nations was built on the backs of those whose lives were torn apart by colonial oppression.

BRI presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Global South to break free from the shackles of historical colonization and forge a path towards decolonization. By fostering mutual collaboration, harmonious development and a win-win situation, BRI can emancipate people, reduce poverty and link developmental policies with sustainable growth. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a new hope for millions of people suffering from the inherent contradictions of capitalism.

The successful decolonization through BRI requires vigilant and inclusive planning, transparent governance and respect for the sovereignty and rights of participating nations. A collective commitment to social and environmental responsibility will ensure that BRI truly becomes a transformative force for the betterment of the Global South and the world at large. By adopting the principles of shared prosperity and sustainable development, BRI can catalyze a new era of cooperation, unity and progress, ultimately leading to a more equitable and just global landscape.

Decolonization begins with empowering the people of the Global South, granting them agency over their lives and resources. BRI projects emphasize local workforce participation, skill development and technology transfer, creating employment opportunities and bolstering human capital. By prioritizing inclusive growth and social development, participating countries can break free from historical dependencies and strengthen their economies from within.

BRI can be a counter hegemonic project to decolonise Global South by considering power dynamics, class struggles and imperialism in international relations. For the Global South, this perspective proves insightful in understanding how their interactions with the BRI are shaped by historical and structural factors. Historically marginalized by colonialism and capitalist exploitation, the Global South is characterized by underdevelopment, dependency and unequal exchange relationships with the Global North.

The BRI's promises of infrastructure development and economic cooperation appear attractive to many countries in the Global South. However, Marxists argue that such projects should be approached with caution, as they may perpetuate dependency on foreign capital and contribute to the exploitation of cheap labour and natural resources.

In the light of the BRI's success and global recognition, there has been a proposal to establish an organization named BRISD. This entity aims to enhance the BRI's vision by emphasizing sustainable development. By leveraging Goal 17, which promotes partnerships for the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), BRISD can pave the way for humanity to realize the BRI's objectives. As we celebrate this milestone, we celebrate the connectivity of people and the planet, fostering human dignity and sustainability.

As the BRI continues to evolve and other regional organizations like BRICS, ECO and the European Union gain insight from this mega developmental plan, it is essential for the Global South to devise its developmental plan to emancipate masses. By integrating the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into their strategies, these nations can align their growth with sustainability and build a prosperous future for their citizens. This mission can be achieved through promoting the universal values of BRI developmental strategies by maintaining the soft power through cultural, economic and political leadership, making their ideas and interests appear natural and universally accepted. For governing the BRI, China must come forward to integrate culture, education and media for shaping the sustainable development in BRI participating countries. Moreover, the role of material conditions and economic forces in shaping societal development need to be considered for integrating BRI and SD. In the context of the BRI, China's economic prowess and investment play a central

role in steering infrastructural development in participating countries. However, it is crucial to examine how these material conditions might impact local economies and communities, either promoting inclusive growth or exacerbating existing inequalities. Following recommendations may strengthen BRI and sustainable development linkage in future.

1. The engagement of the Global South with the BRI involves a complex interplay of power dynamics. While the BRI offers financial resources and development opportunities, it can also raise concerns about debt sustainability, loss of autonomy and the potential for neo-colonial practices. Understanding these power dynamics is essential to assess the extent to which participating countries can assert their interests and exercise agency within the framework of the BRI.
2. Engaging with the BRI presents the Global South with both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, the BRI can help address infrastructural deficits and stimulate economic growth, offering an alternative development model from the traditional western-dominated approaches. On the other hand, concerns over debt-trap diplomacy, environmental sustainability and local stakeholder participation require careful consideration.
3. To ensure a mutually beneficial partnership, it is crucial for China and participating Global South countries to develop transparency, inclusivity, and open dialogue. Collaboration must prioritize the interests and aspirations of the local communities, embracing diverse perspectives and voices in the decision-making process.

The Belt and Road Initiative has the potential to shape the developmental landscape of the Global South significantly. Policymakers, academics and civil society need to work together to strike a balance between economic growth and safeguarding the sovereignty and welfare of the Global South countries in their participation in the BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/belt-and-road-initiative-a-de-colonizing-project/>

Pakistan Observer, China Daily join hands for celebration of CPEC 10-year milestone

ISLAMABAD – *Pakistan Observer* and *China Daily*, the proud media partners, joined hands for the celebration of the 10-year milestone of the flagship project China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The conference organized by Pakistan’s Ministry of Planning held on 24-25 July in Islamabad’s Serena Hotel, where academicians and experts present their papers on future prospects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Adhering to the principles of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC exemplifies openness, inclusivity, and mutual benefits, fostering remarkable economic development and poverty alleviation. Let’s embrace a future of even stronger cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a vast and ambitious infrastructure and economic development project proposed by Beijing, and has since become one of the most significant

international development and cooperation initiatives in recent times aimed to promote connectivity and cooperation between China and other countries.

Key highlights of the conference including thought-provoking discussions with academia, leaders, and officials, exploring future potential and challenges. The conference unites experts, entrepreneurs, and practitioners, fostering boundary-breaking collaborations.

Expert panel sheds light on valuable insights on progress, opportunities, and overcoming obstacles.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-observer-china-daily-join-hands-for-celebration-of-cpec-10-year-milestone/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar Intl Airport to be inaugurated

Flagship CPEC project cost \$230m, declared fully operational

BEIJING: The new Gwadar International Airport, a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is on the verge of inauguration, as confirmed by Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, on Tuesday.

The highly-anticipated event will see a high-powered Chinese delegation flying to Pakistan to participate in the inauguration ceremony.

The new Gwadar International Airport marks a significant milestone in the progress of CPEC, reflecting the strong collaboration between China and Pakistan in driving infrastructure development and economic growth in the region.

Launched in 2019, the \$230 million project, fully funded by the Chinese government, is situated in Gurandani, 26km east of Gwadar city.

Spanning over an area of 18 square kilometres, the new airport will be the second-largest airport in Pakistan. Managed by the China Airport Construction Group, the project encompasses 32 components, including runways, taxiways, aprons, a terminal, and airport support infrastructure, utilities, and facilities.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the airport took place on March 29, 2019, and the implementation of the project was handed over to the Aviation Division. Construction commenced on October 31, 2019.

According to media reports, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan has completed the safety check of the airport, declaring it clear and fully prepared for flight operations.

The state-of-the-art airport will be equipped to handle a variety of aircraft, including the ATR 72, Airbus (A-300), Boeing (B-737), and Boeing (B-747), catering to both domestic and international routes.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2427846/gwadar-intl-airport-to-be-inaugurated>

The Nation

Bilawal greets Wang Yi on reappointment as Chinese FM

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari yesterday congratulated Wang Yi on his reappointment as China's Foreign Minister. On his Twitter handle, the FM praised Wang Yi as 'an astute and seasoned diplomat' with whom he had the distinct pleasure of interacting twice last year. "I'm confident that under his watch our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership would grow from strength to strength," he further added. Wang Yi was appointed as Foreign Minister of China by the country's top legislature earlier in the day. China's top legislature also voted to appoint Pan Gongsheng as central bank governor, as it convened a session. Qin Gang was removed from the post of foreign minister he concurrently held and Yi Gang was removed from the post of governor of the People's Bank of China, according to a decision adopted at the fourth session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). Chinese President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order to effectuate the decision. Zhao Leji, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presided over the session. A draft amendment to the Criminal Law was reviewed at the session. The amendment focuses on better implementing the Party Central Committee's principles and policies regarding the fight against corruption and the protection of private enterprises in accordance with the law.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-26/page-12/detail-1>

The News

'CPEC pivotal to Pakistan's future economic progress'

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The decision to extend the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and the potential for its further westward movement to Central Asia would help advance the key shared objectives of connectivity and regional economic integration.

It has been announced in the third Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum, focusing on the Decade of CPEC, which concluded with high hopes for CPEC and message of unwavering Chinese support for Pakistan.

"The transformational CPEC, the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), remains at the core of Pakistan-China relationship and is pivotal to Pakistan's future economic progress and prosperity."

This was stated by Director General Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) Sohail Mahmood in the third forum, held in Beijing as part of the series of commemorative events being held in connection with the completion of 10 years of CPEC.

The DG ISSI in his keynote remarks reaffirmed that friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and the two countries' time-tested strategic cooperative partnership is based on strategic mutual trust and commonality of views.

The two countries support each other on their respective issues of core interest including Pakistan's steadfast support to China on One-China policy and Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and South China Sea.

For its part, Pakistan appreciated China's consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and economic development as well as its principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Sohail Mahmood said that the Decade of CPEC is the practical manifestation of the growing strategic relationship between Pakistan and China. CPEC has contributed enormously to Pakistan's economic growth, helped improve transport infrastructure, address energy deficit, and promoted socio-economic development. The second phase of CPEC is focusing on agriculture, industrialisation, SEZs, mining, science and technology, and Information Technology. Sohail Mahmood stressed that the two sides must continue to work together in defending CPEC against threats and challenges posed by forces inimical to Pakistan-China relationship. The security dimension is most important in terms of safeguarding the shared interests of both nations in the changing geo-strategic environment and optimally realising CPEC's full potential for development. He said that successful completion of 10 years is a major milestone and also a fitting juncture for planning for the many next 10 years of CPEC to come. He said the leadership and people of Pakistan believe China and Pakistan are indispensable partners and that CPEC is pivotal to Pakistan's future economic progress and prosperity. This is consistent with Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics.

He noted that in 2047 and 2049, Pakistan and China would be celebrating their respective centenaries and, as such, the two countries should craft a vision now for the next twenty-five years for their strategic partnership. The vision should also focus on how China's tremendous technological transformation could be leveraged to advance Pakistan's economic modernisation and development.

Ambassador Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director-General Department of Asian Affairs, in his keynote address emphasized that Pakistan and China are good neighbours, good friends and good brothers. He underlined that regardless of the dynamic of international politics, China and Pakistan always firmly support each other. He added that President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had agreed to continue to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation between the two countries.

He underscored that the China-Pakistan friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. China extended its support to Pakistani people in the last year's floods, supported Pakistan in its temporary financial problems, and helped in evacuating the Pakistani nationals from Sudan. Ambassador Maoming noted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This year marks the 10th anniversary of both the CPEC and BRI. Over the past 10 years, CPEC has made a lot of progress and also attracted certain risks and challenges; however, regardless of the challenges, the Chinese side is committed to optimally realizing the full potential and ensuring high-quality development of CPEC. He added that in the second phase of CPEC, China was resolved to enhance cooperation in the fields of agriculture, mining, science and technology, and information technology. He said that China wishes to make CPEC a

demonstration project of high-quality development and contribute to progress and prosperity of Pakistan and countries of the region and beyond. Dr. Fu Xiaoqiang, Vice President, CICIR, highlighted that China attaches great value to its relations with Pakistan. He said that over the past decade, CPEC has secured many achievements by creating jobs, improving the energy sector, and adding over 500 kilometres to roads and motorways.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=223240>

China rolls over \$1bn SAFE deposits for a year

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: China has granted a rollover of \$1 billion SAFE deposits for a year, so the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will remain unchanged at \$8.7 billion.

Under the financing arrangement agreed with the IMF in line with the \$3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA), there was a requirement for securing the rollover of deposits from bilateral partners, especially from China, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in order to keep the foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP at comfortable levels.

A top official of the Finance Division confirmed to The News on Tuesday night that China had granted a rollover of \$1 billion SAFE deposits so there would be no decrease in the foreign exchange reserves of the SBP.

China had already granted a rollover of \$1 billion in SAFE deposits in the last financial year ending on June 30, 2023. This \$1 billion SAFE deposit was scheduled to mature in the third week of the ongoing month, so now Beijing has granted its rollover.

According to official documents, Pakistan was scheduled to repay \$1.033 billion as a principal amount of \$1 billion and an interest payment of \$33 million in July 2023. Now this principal amount of \$1 billion has been rolled over by China.

Pakistan had also requested for granting a rollover of a non-guaranteed debt of \$2.077 billion from China with the hopes of getting it for two years.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=223229>

July 27, 2023

Daily Times

Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan Customs deepen trade cooperation

The customs authorities of Xinjiang, China, and Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan held an online meeting to discuss and strengthen trade cooperation between the two regions and explore new avenues for economic collaboration. Hao Weiming, Director General of Urumqi Customs led the meeting from the Chinese side while Syed Fawad Ali Shah head of the Customs Administration of the Gilgit-Baltistan represented the Pakistani side.

In their opening remarks, they said, China and Pakistan have long enjoyed a close partnership in various sectors, including trade. The customs departments of Xinjiang and Gilgit Baltistan play a crucial role in facilitating smooth cross-border trade between the two countries. During the meeting, according to China Economic Net, officials from both sides discussed measures to streamline customs procedures, improve border infrastructure, and enhance information sharing.

These efforts are aimed at promoting efficient trade facilitation and ensuring the smooth movement of goods across the China-Pakistan border. Chinese side told that in 2022 total value of imports & export from Xingjiang to Pakistan was RMB 2.92 billion, an increase of 248.2 percent year on year while in the first half of this year, the import and export from Xingjiang to Pakistan was RMB 1.90 billion, a year-on-year increase of 247.8 percent.

Syed Fawad Ali Shah, head of the Customs Administration of the Gilgit Baltistan said that Pakistan wants to further deepen collaboration with China in diverse fields particularly in the field of technology and speedup customs clearness from both sides. He also mentioned that Xingjiang has a unique advantage and a role in the All-Weather strategy cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan, all along the border customs of China and Pakistan, and maintaining communication and close cooperation in promoting the flow of trade at ports, facilitating the entry and exit of personnel and participating in international assistance.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange insights on emerging trends in international trade and explore potential areas for future collaboration. Both parties expressed their commitment to deepening their cooperation in order to maximize the benefits of bilateral trade. This meeting serves as a testament to the strong ties between China and Pakistan, as well as their shared commitment to fostering economic growth through mutually beneficial trade partnerships. It reinforces the importance of effective customs management in facilitating seamless cross-border transactions and promoting regional economic integration.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117702/xinjiang-and-gilgit-baltistan-customs-deepen-trade-cooperation/>

Dawn News

Officials review security for Chinese engineers in Swabi

SWABI: Mardan division commissioner Yousaf Rahim and regional police officer Mohammad Salman on Tuesday ordered provision of foolproof security umbrella to the Chinese engineers working on the Fifth Extension Project of Tarbela Dam here.

The top officials issued the directives during a visit to the China Camp. District police officer Najamul Hussain, additional deputy commissioner Gohar Ali and other officials also accompanied them.

A press release issued by the district police said the commissioner and RPO reviewed security arrangements at the camp, instructing the officials concerned to take 'extraordinary' measures for security and safety of Chinese nationals.

They also visited the security checkpoints and directed the personnel to leave no stone unturned in provision of security to the foreigners working on the dam's extension project.

POWER OUTAGES: A rights body has called upon the local leadership of political parties to join hands to push the government for providing free electricity to the residents up to 200 units in return for sacrificing their lands for construction of Tarbela Dam and Ghazi Barotha hydropower project.

The call was made at a meeting of Da Haq Awaz presided over by its president Ihsanul Haq Bamkhelvi on Tuesday.

The participants noted with concern that despite giving their lands for the mega projects in the power sector the residents of Swabi were suffering excessive loadshedding.

Through a unanimously-adopted resolution, they demanded an end to power outages, which often forced people to take to streets.

On the occasion, Mr Bamkhelvi said the former lawmakers from the district had failed to take up the issue of power outages with the authorities concerned. He said all political forces should join hands to push for free electricity to the residents of Swabi.

Meanwhile, consumers belonging to various regions on Tuesday demanded of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company to end unscheduled and excessive power loadshedding.

The residents said both the urban and rural areas were in the grip of painful power cuts.

Mohammad Shahzad, a resident of Maneri Bala village, said neither the local government representatives nor the district administration officials were interested in resolving the loadshedding issue.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1766776#:~:text=SWABI%3A%20Mardan%20division%20commissioner%20Yousaf,Project%20of%20Tarbela%20Dam%20here.>

Express News

چینی باشندوں کی حفاظت ہمیں اپنے بچوں کی طرح کرنی چاہیے، وزیراعظم

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ جو ملک ہمارے خیر خواہ ہیں ان کی حفاظت کرنا ہمارا فرض ہے چینی باشندوں کی حفاظت ہمیں اپنے بچوں کی طرح کرنی چاہیے ورنہ یہاں کوئی سرمایہ کاری کرنے نہیں آئے گا۔

یہ بات انہوں نے گوادر میں ماہی گیروں میں چیک اور طلبا میں لیپ ٹاپ تقسیم کرنے کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے بلوچستان کو دیے جانے والے لیپ ٹاپ کے کوٹا میں 14 فیصد اضافہ کر دیا اور کہا کہ اگلی بار ہم آئے تو یہ اضافہ 18 فیصد تک کر دیں گے۔

وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اربوں روپے کی لاگت سے بلوچستان میں پینے کے پانی کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا، ایران سے بلوچستان میں بجلی لانے کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا لیکن پچھلے سال جب حکومت میں آیا تو دیکھا کہ چار سال کے دوران ان منصوبوں کو بند کر دیا گیا، گوادر پورٹ اور دیگر منصوبوں کو بھی بند کر دیا گیا، ریکوڈک کے جھگڑے پر حکومت کے اربوں روپے لگ گئے اور بلوچستان کے عوام کا ایک دمڑی کا بھی فائدہ نہیں ہوا۔

وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ گوادری پورٹ بن گئی مگر یہاں جہاز نہ ہونے کے برابر تھے حالانکہ اس پورٹ کا شمار گہرے ترین سمندروں میں ہوتا ہے جہاں دنیا کے بڑے بڑے اور وزنی جہاز آسکتے ہیں مگر 2015ء کے بعد گوادری پورٹ کی صفائی تک نہیں کی گئی، ہم نے آج گوادری پورٹ کی صفائی کا کام شروع کر دیا ہے جو کہ فروری یا مارچ تک ختم ہو جائے گی، یہاں بڑے جہاز آنے سے بلوچستان کے عوام کو فائدہ ہوگا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ آج پاکستان ڈیفالٹ کے خطرے سے نکل چکا ہے، چین نے اس معاملے میں ہماری بہت مدد کی، سعودی عرب، قطر، یو اے ای نے بھی ہماری بہت مدد کی، برادر ملک بغیر کسی شرط کے ہماری مدد کرتے ہیں یہ ممالک ہمارے خیر خواہ ہیں اور جو ہماری مدد کریں تو ہمارا بھی فرض ہے کہ ہم ان کی حفاظت کریں اگر ہم ان کی حفاظت نہیں کریں گے تو یہاں کوئی سرمایہ کاری کے لیے نہیں آئے گا، چین گوادری میں سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے ہمیں ان کی شہریوں کی حفاظت اپنے بچوں کی طرح کرنی ہے۔

شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے باہر بیٹھے دشمن نہیں چاہتے کہ بلوچستان ترقی کرے، ہم نے لیپ ٹاپ اسکیم میں بلوچستان کے حصے میں 14 فیصد اضافہ کر دیا ہے، بلوچستان باقی صوبوں سے پیچھے ہے ہمیں مل کر اسے آگے لانا ہے، اگلی بار ہم آئے تو اس کے لیپ ٹاپ کا کوٹا 18 فیصد تک کر دیں گے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2516206/1/>

July 28, 2023

Business Recorder

China has rolled over \$2.4bn loan for 2 years: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Thursday that China has rolled over a \$2.4 billion loan to Islamabad for a period of two years, a boost to its foreign reserves on the back of an IMF deal which helped it avert a default.

“Chinese Exim bank rolled over principal amounts totalling \$2.4 bln which are due in next 2 fiscal years,” he said in a post on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

“Pakistan will make interest payments only over the next two years,” Dar said, meaning the wavier is only for the principal loan amount.

A source at finance ministry told Reuters that over \$600 million of the loan was maturing this fiscal year, and that Islamabad has already received a confirmation of the roll-over.

“In principle, China and Pakistan have close cooperation in economic and financial sectors, and we will continue to advance cooperation with Pakistan to support the country in achieving stability and development,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

Longtime ally Beijing, which has pledged over \$65 billion in building infrastructure in Pakistan as part of a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in recent months either rolled over or granted new loans worth around \$5 billion to Islamabad as negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dragged out over eight months, according to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

A disbursement of around \$1.2 billion from the lender and bilateral inflows from friendly countries including Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates after the deal have shored up the Pakistani central bank’s reserves, which had dropped to a critical level of barely enough to pay for a month of controlled imports.

Dar has said the country's economy was already on a path to stabilisation.

The last-gasp IMF pact - which came only with tough conditions over fiscal discipline - helped Pakistan avert a sovereign default on the back of an acute balance of payment crisis that has fuelled an all-time high inflation rate in the nation of 220 million people. The next two reviews of the IMF deal will pass through political uncertainty ahead of general elections due later this year that will be followed with a government transition.

The IMF team this month met the leadership of all political parties, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan, to seek a continuation of its bailout objectives irrespective of who comes to power.

A joint session of the country's parliament on Wednesday passed legislation to enable a caretaker administration which will take over after the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif retires next month to take policy decisions on bilateral and multilateral agreements, the government said in a statement.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/28/1-page/968407-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China floriculture cooperation to boost Pakistan's economy

Pakistan is a country of small farming households with a long history and rich experience in floriculture. There is a huge potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the flower industry, said Naeem Iqbal Cheema, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

Pakistan's floriculture exports could also be enhanced by targeting global markets through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he added. Floriculture is a high-profit industry. In recent years, multiple related programmes started in Pakistan to encourage farmers to plant flowers. Hashopee Garden in Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the examples.

"We want to show people that flowers are not only used for beauty, for weddings and funerals, but also an important economic crop. Farmers can get maximum income from a small area through floricultural crop production," said GM

Saqib, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture, Shigar, Gilgit-Baltistan. Now, the new cash crop, flower, is gaining popularity among local farmers.

"Here you will find more than 80 flower varieties in Hashopee Garden. It is a very profitable business that we should bring people to. For instance, one kanal of land can produce 10,000 sticks of lily flower, and one stick can sell for 400 rupees in the market of Karachi. The lily bulbs left in the ground after cutting is also a separate asset with separate value. This is dual income." Saqib said, emphasizing the high profit of the flower industry.

"Two important climatic factors are required for flower bulb production. One is the large difference in temperature between day and night. The other is the dry weather with low rainfall. These conditions are very suitable in Gilgit-Baltistan and many other places in Pakistan, he added. To boost the potential of Pakistan's floriculture industry, further efforts in technology improvement and industrialization need to be done.

As Pakistan has very good ties with China, which is now the world's largest flower producer as well as an important participant in the foreign trade of flowers, China can be a potential partner that Pakistan can cooperate with and has great floricultural experience that Pakistan can refer to.

Pingyin county of Shandong, China is now home to a rose planting area of about 4,000 hectares and more than 40 rose processing enterprises. "Almost every household in our village grows roses because the soil and climate here are suitable for it," said Yao, a 70-year-old local farmer who grows one mu (0.067 hectares) of roses, adding that the flower industry not only makes his village very beautiful in April and May but brings good incomes to the villagers.

To help farmers grow roses more easily and earn more, the county government also built a big data platform to provide them with growing data such as weather and marketing.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117919/pak-china-floriculture-cooperation-to-boost-pakistans-economy/>

Chinese companies invited to set up drone industry in Pakistan

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Thursday invited the Chinese drone manufacturers to move in Pakistan and set up unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) / drone industry and production units in the special technology zones which were being set up in the country. The present government is offering special incentives and tax exemptions with a focus on civil application of drones, he said while addressing the China-Pakistan Conference on "Building a viable drone industry in Pakistan" held in Pakistan Embassy Beijing. He informed that the government is in process of formulating national drone policy as well as the establishment of civil drone regulatory authority in Pakistan. Ambassador Haque said that drones are being used in disaster management, smart cities, policing and agriculture sectors. He said that under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China, in addition to helping Pakistan in building its infrastructure, transportation and Gwadar port, is also cooperating us in the field of Information Technology (IT) and agriculture. In Pakistan, the National Center for Robotics and Automation (NCRA) is working on the development of drones related solutions and technologies, with the support of a series of dedicated drone labs, including UAV dependability lab, swarm intelligence lab, agriculture statistics lab, and robot design and development lab, he added. In his keynote speech, Chairman of World UAVs Federation, Yang Jincal informed the participants that over 36 countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America have joined the federation as local chapters. The UAVs could be used in breeding, disease prevention and control and the cooperation in setting up the drone industry in Pakistan would be beneficial to CPEC construction, he opined. Welcoming the distinguished participants, Commercial Counsellor, Ghulam Qadir highlighted the trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan and stressed a need for a bilateral cooperation in the field of technology between China and Pakistan. He also invited the Chinese businessmen to participate in Pakistan's largest agricultural exhibition being held in Karachi next month. He said that drone manufacturing industry will find a place and drone companies will be welcomed to display products. Counsellor Technical Affairs, Khan Muhammad Wazir welcomed the audience and briefed them on

technology investment and development through China-Pakistan STI cooperation. Chief Representative, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Shaikh Muhammad Shariq briefed the audience on role of his bank to facilitate the Chinese companies planning to do business in Pakistan. The NBP is playing active role to promote bilateral trade between China and Pakistan and in order to further promote trade, his bank is ready for the cooperation in trade, investment and other avenues, he added. President of the Greek WUAVF Chapter, John Dagklis addressed the participants via online and put forward suggestions to set up and run a WUAVF Country Chapter successfully. The representatives of key Chinese companies in the UAV/Drone supply chain made presentations with regards to their products practical usage and project implementation. The companies like GREPOW Battery, Guangdong Kungpeng Environmental, Hawk Eye Technology Co., Ltd, Shenzhen Geneinno Technology Co., Ltd, BAI NA ZHI Hang, Sparkle Tech Ltd, Shenzhen Hetai Nongchuang participated in the event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1117918/chinese-companies-invited-to-set-up-drone-industry-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Sino-Pak military coop delivering high-level performance: Gen Li

Chinese State Councillor and Defense Minister Gen Li Shangfu has said that the military cooperation between China and Pakistan is delivering high-level performance, with close high-level exchanges and constantly improved cooperation mechanisms.

The cooperation between the Chinese and Pakistani air forces has yielded fruitful results. The two sides should make good use of the “Shaheen (Eagle)” joint training platform to actively carry out experience exchanges, further enhance synergy and expand the depth of cooperation.

According to China Military Online here on Thursday, Gen. Li Shangfu said this during his meeting with Chief of the Air Staff of the Pakistani Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber in Beijing.

Gen. Li Shangfu in his opening remarks noted that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends. Chinese President Xi Jinping attaches great importance to the relations between China and Pakistan and has provided overall guidance for the growth of bilateral relations.

“We should work together to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, cooperate closely in various fields and promote the building of an ever-closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era,” he added. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber thanked China for its long-term assistance to the PAF.

He said that Pakistan highly values its traditional friendship with China, and with the profound changes unfolding in the international situation and geopolitical landscape, the two sides should forge a closer and stronger friendship.

The air force is a key force in the future battlefield and the PAF is willing to further deepen cooperation and exchanges with China in combat, equipment and other fields, so as to make positive contributions to jointly addressing ever-changing regional security challenges.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-military-coop-delivering-high-level-performance-gen-li/>

The Express Tribune

Rs1tr China-funded project okayed

Concerns raised over rushed approval process of the ECNEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan pushes through the approval of a Rs1 trillion China-funded Chashma nuclear power project on Thursday, aimed at generating 1,200 megawatts of electricity, without first securing necessary initial tariffs and other approvals.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the project of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), known as “Chashma Nuclear Power Project Unit-5 (C-5),” at a cost of Rs1.05 trillion, according to the Ministry of Finance.

The project will be built with Rs187 billion of foreign exchange component and a Chinese supplier credit of Rs820.7 billion or \$2.9 billion. The project will be constructed outside the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) by securing a \$2.9 billion Chinese loan.

However, the government did not complete all the modal formalities before giving approval to the Rs1.05 trillion scheme.

Just a day ago, the project’s Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting was held, in which the forum directed to get the mega scheme approved as a strategic project from the federal cabinet. The CDWP also instructed to secure inclusion of the project in the Indicative Generation Capacity Plan (IGCEP), which was prepared with input from the World Bank.

At the time of the CDWP endorsement, there was no feasibility study and no engineering procurement and construction level tariff for the project, as shown in the documents.

The summary tabled by the Secretary Planning before the ECNEC stated that the PAEC will get the project declared as strategic by a competent forum and its inclusion in the IGCEP, in line with the directions stipulated in the National Electricity Policy of 2021.

The summary further noted that the PAEC will also obtain feasibility and the EPC stage tariff for the project from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), as per the ECNEC decision of 2020.

There is also an issue of providing close to Rs1 trillion sovereign guarantees to the C-5 project. Since the IMF has capped the maximum guarantees limit to Rs4 trillion, the government does not have enough space to provide full cover for the Chinese loan. It was decided that the Rs1 trillion sovereign guarantees will be provided in a phased manner and will be linked with the retirement of other sovereign guarantees.

The original PC-I of the project had been submitted at a cost of Rs492 billion in 2018. In December 2020, the PAEC had submitted another PC-I at a revised cost of Rs689 billion.

Three years ago, the Planning Commission had raised objections over the cost of electricity generation and its impact on the country's least cost generation plan.

In August 2021, the PAEC submitted a third PC with a new cost of Rs768 billion, but the Planning Commission had returned the documents with the observation to first finalise a National Electricity Plan in light of the National Electricity Policy. The Power Division was also asked to provide a policy on the strategic nature of projects like the Chashma-5 nuclear power plant.

All these instructions were not honoured by the PAEC during the past many years, and the project has been approved without fulfilling the requirements.

The ECNEC meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, approved seven projects worth Rs1.2 trillion in total, including a revision in a World Bank-funded project that had begun four years ago.

The Planning Commission submitted a project of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), named the "Investment Project Financing (IPF) Component of Pakistan Raises Revenue Project," at a cost of Rs21.6 billion or \$80 million.

In 2019, the World Bank had approved a \$400 million project with the aim of broadening Pakistan's narrow tax base and enhancing the very low tax-to-GDP ratio. After four years, the tax-to-GDP ratio has further fallen, and the World Bank has to be equally blamed for giving money for activities that do not require foreign funding.

Out of the \$400 million, \$80 million or Rs12.6 billion at that time had been allocated for upgrading the FBR's outdated information technology system. The ECNEC approved a revision of the \$80 million component, which at today's exchange rate would hand over Rs21.5 billion to the FBR.

Out of the additional Rs8.8 billion, the government on Monday approved over Rs2 billion allocations to buy 155 vehicles for the FBR in a phased manner. The ECNEC also extended the project completion period from end 2024 to end 2025, which shows the failure of the \$400 million WB funded project.

The ECNEC decided that the vehicles would be procured after the end of the current austerity period in June next year, and it has also defined the specifications.

The ECNEC approved the Dualization of Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road at a revised rationalised cost of Rs23.5 billion, which is 81% higher than the original cost of the project.

The ECNEC revised the project Infrastructure Up-gradation of Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) and approved it at a cost of Rs10.7 billion, which is Rs8 billion higher than the originally approved estimates. The project envisages renewed underwater repair capability and concrete rehabilitation works for the restoration of existing two dry docks for ships/submarines.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2428222/rs1tr-china-funded-project-okayed>

The Nation

Gwadar Sea Port to become one of the best in the world: PM

Shehbaz Sharif says true implementation of SIFC vision will bring in revolution in country n
Visits Expo Centre in Gwadar, performs groundbreaking of several development projects n
Says prosperity of Pakistan depends upon stability and mainstreaming of Balochistan n
Regrets negative and sick mentality marred the situation in mineral-rich province.

GWADAR - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said that the concerted efforts and true implementation of the vision of the Special Investment Facilitation Council would usher in the revolution and guarantee the prosperity of 220 million people of Pakistan.

"The SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council) is the biggest motivating engine and vision for Pakistan's progress and prosperity. Nothing can impede our progress, if we follow this vision. This will bring in revolution," the prime minister said addressing the inauguration ceremony of multiple development projects here.

The prime minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line; construction of a two-lane Khuzdar-Basima road; water supply and distribution scheme; 1.2MGD RO Desalination Pant; and initiation of Gwadar Port dredging.

He broke ground for the rehabilitation and upgradation of Awaran-Naal and Awaran-Jhal Jaho roads; Khuzdar section of M8; Gwadar Safe City project; and the establishment of the University of Gwadar.

He also unveiled the plaque marking the completion of airside infrastructure (runway, taxi-way and apron) at New Gwadar International Airport. Lauding the vision and efforts of Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also present at the ceremony for the establishment of SIFC, the PM said a mechanism had been established to attract investment and put the country on the course of progress.

‘GULF COUNTRIES EYEING TO INVEST IN PAKISTAN’

He expressed the hope that the interim government would also carry forward the initiative which was also appreciated by the business community of Karachi during his visit to Sindh on Wednesday. Besides, the Gulf countries are also eyeing to invest in Pakistan following the economic revival plan formulated by the government, in coordination with all stakeholders, he said mentioning an article written by a former Saudi ambassador in Pakistan in an Arab publication.

Referring to his first visit on June 3, 2022 to Balochistan, after assuming office, the prime minister shared his dismay over the condition of Balochistan's development owing to the negligence on part of the previous government, which he said merely focused on mudslinging of the opposition leaders.

He said the previous government failed to execute crucial projects like clean drinking water despite the fund's allocation in 2015 by Nawaz Sharif's government. Similarly, the unnecessary delay in the completion of the 26-kilometer power transmission line from Iran forced the people to live without electricity.

A project to protect Gwadar Port from flood also met the same fate. After 2015, no dredging of Gwadar Port was done impacting the movement of big ships, but the incumbent government took up the project and would complete it by March next year.

Likewise, the previous government could only bring 100,000 tons of cargo to Gwadar Port, comparing 600,000 tons by the present government despite the fact that dredging was not yet over. The prime minister questioned why the previous government could bring in just 100,000 tons of cargo, failed to complete drinking water supply project and power transmission line from Iran which was completed by the incumbent government within 6-8 months like it had done the Panjgur transmission line. ‘Negative and sick mentality’ The prime minister thanked China for rolling over a \$2.4 billion loan for a two-year period and other friendly countries for supporting Pakistan. He said the Balochistan province, rich with immense beauty and resources, could have attained its due progress had it been provided sufficient resources and attention. But the “ negative and sick mentality “ marred the situation, he remarked. He said it was high time all the institutions and stakeholders should join hands and move forward to make up the deficit of development. The prime minister told the gathering that the government had started the distribution of cash assistance worth Rs250,000 each among 3,000 fishermen to help them improve their lives as well as their work.

Referring to the attacks on Chinese workers, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the people of Balochistan must know that the development of their province would suffer if some of the people, at the behest of the foreign handlers, continued to target their benefactors. He said the promotion of solar energy could guarantee the development of Balochistan’s industry and people as transmission lines across the country’s biggest province would cost billions of rupees. The prime minister told the newsmen that his government had completed a project of 100 MW power transmission line from Iran to ease the lives of locals. Similarly, a Panjgur-Khuzdar transmission line has also been completed. He said all of the said projects were conceived during Nawaz Sharif’s tenure and funds were also allocated but “criminal negligence” was shown by the previous government.

Similarly, he said the laptops were distributed among the top-performing students of public universities, which the previous government failed to do so, despite it being a tool for progress in the modern era.

He said the incumbent government allocated billions of rupees for the laptop scheme.

He said instead of a 6% allocated share of the laptop scheme for Balochistan, the federal government gave away the machines with a ratio of 14%, and the quota had further been increased to 18% for fiscal 2023-24. He said the federal cabinet had green-signalled a 300 MW coal power project for Gwadar and NEPRA had also approved the tariff. The prime minister thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for a rollover of a \$2.4 billion loan for two years by EXIM Bank and overall support in the form of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Also, PM Shehbaz Sharif performed the ground breaking of different development projects in Gwadar on Thursday. Addressing the laptops and cheques distribution ceremony, the Prime Minister said uniform progress of all the federating units is vital for the development and prosperity of the entire country.

He said development projects in Balochistan will open up the doors of progress and prosperity for the people of the province. ‘Friendly countries support to Pakistan’ The prime minister said friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates have extended their generous support to Pakistan in meeting its economic and financial challenges. He said China has rolled over around seven billion dollars during last five months. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also reiterated the government’s firm resolve to extensively develop the Gwadar Sea Port as one of the best in the world. He said the fate of the people of Balochistan, especially of Gwadar, would be changed through the ongoing development operation across the province. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed the resolve to take all possible measures for the development and progress of Balochistan and to make Gwadar Port as the best seaport of the world.

Addressing the ceremony in Gwadar on Thursday afternoon, he said uniform progress of all the federating units is vital for the development and prosperity of the entire country. He said Pakistan cannot progress if any of its provinces lag behind the development process. He said development projects in Balochistan will open up the doors of progress and prosperity for the people of the province. Further talking about the Gwadar Port, Shehbaz Sharif said it is a deep seaport, which can accommodate large ships, but what an irony it is that no dredging of the harbour was undertaken since 2005. He said a contract has been awarded to ensure dredging of the port and hopefully large ships can arrive here by March next year. He recalled that only 100,00 tons of cargo was brought through Gwadar Port in last five years, while shipments worth 600,000 tons landed in 15 months.

‘CHINA-PAKISTAN EXPO CENTRE’

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China-Pakistan Expo Centre here along with the Chief of Army Staff Thursday to attend a ceremony where the groundbreaking and inaugural ceremony was performed for various infrastructure development projects.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-28/page-5/detail-1>

Pakistan progressing in UAVs sector with Chinese support: Envoy

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are being used in many industries to ease the life of people and Pakistan is making all out efforts to ensure sustainable progress in this field with the remarkable support of China.

He expressed these remarks while speaking at the China-Pakistan drone conference held at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing on Thursday with the theme of building a viable drone industry in Pakistan.

He said that UAVs are very helpful in many phases particularly disaster management, smart cities, policing, and agriculture sector.

“In recent years, it has been a lot of focus on economic operations within the IT industry. China Pakistan Economic Corridor, being the flagship project of BRI, is helping Pakistan and has helped Pakistan economic transformation, infrastructure, industry, Special Economic

Zone have all been developed under this framework. We are also focused on Pakistan's strategic infrastructure, scitech and new emerging technologies," he said.

Moin said that now, we have a special working group on IT under CPEC", the ambassador mentioned.

"We have agreed to launch China-Pakistan digital corridor also, as well as we made national drone policy and establishment of civil drone regulatory authority in Pakistan has also been under our consideration.

"In Pakistan, the National Center for Robotics and Automation (NCRA) is working on development of drones related solutions and technologies, with the support of a series of dedicated drone labs, including UAV dependability lab, swarm intelligence lab, agriculture statistics lab, and robot design and development lab", Haque added.

Chairman Yang, World UAV Federation told the audience that the World UAV Federation was founded in 2017. More than 36 countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America have joined the Federation as local chapters.

"As mentioned in the LTP, agricultural development is one of the key cooperation areas, where UAVs can work in several aspects like breeding, disease prevention and control. That is to say, the partnership in the drone area will be beneficial to CPEC construction", he mentioned.

He invited all participants to attend coming events, including CPSE 2023 and DCW 2023, held in October 25-28, DWC and UAV Expo next year.

According to statistics, China's drone enterprises provide various services to more than 100,000 villages, towns and communities in 30 provinces, with about 250,000 plant protection drones in an area of more than 800 billion SQM systems.

"According to Morgan Stanley, the value of the global urban air mobility market will reach 9 trillion US dollars in 2050, and China expects the drone cargo market to be around 200 billion by 2024 and 20,000 to 3 trillion RMB by 2030.

To build urban low altitude airway networks to support the large-scale commercial development of UA applications, and the low-altitude economy represented by UAVs are expected to become a new engine for social and economic growth," Yang emphasized.

Addressing in the conference, Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistan embassy said nascent development of bilateral cooperation in the field of technology is essential for Pakistan.

Qadir said Pakistan is going to organize largest agricultural exhibition next month, in which drone manufacturing industry will find a place and many invited drone companies will display products.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Jul-2023/pakistan-progressing-in-uavs-sector-with-chinese-support-envoy#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%20%2D%20Pakistan%20Ambassador%20to%20China,the%20remarkable%20support%20of%20China.>

Chinese deputy PM to arrive in Islamabad on 30th

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Deputy Premier Lifeng would be arriving on a three-day official visit to Pakistan on 30th July to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Diplomatic sources told The Nation that Deputy Premier Lifeng along with a high level delegation, would attend a grand event in Islamabad on CPEC anniversary on 31st July which would also be attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and federal cabinet members. The event is organised by Ministry of Planning and Special Initiatives which also oversees the CPEC projects. All major political parties and their leaders have been invited in the event. During the visit, Deputy Premier Lifeng would also call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with his delegation. Both the sides are expected to sign several MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation in different fields. During the talks, both sides would review bilateral ties and cooperation as well as CPEC. Military leadership is also expected to meet Mr Lifeng and would discuss defence and military cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-28/page-12/detail-2>

Express News

چین اور پاکستان کا ڈیجیٹل راہداری شروع کرنے پر اتفاق

پاکستان نے چین پاکستان ڈیجیٹل کوریڈور شروع کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا ہے: اسلام آباد

چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے کہا ہے کہ ہم نے چین پاکستان ڈیجیٹل کوریڈور شروع کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا ہے، حالیہ برسوں میں آئی ٹی انڈسٹری کے اندر اقتصادی آپریشنز پر بہت زیادہ توجہ دی گئی، پاکستان کے اسٹریٹجک انفراسٹرکچر، سائنس ٹیکنالوجی اور نئی ابھرتی ہوئی ٹیکنالوجیز پر بھی توجہ ہے۔ چائنا کنٹیکٹ نیٹ کے مطابق بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پاکستان میں ایک قابل عمل ڈرون انڈسٹری کی تعمیر کے موضوع پر کانفرنس ہوئی۔ کا استعمال کیا جا رہا ہے۔ مثلاً ڈیزائنڈ اسٹریٹجیٹک، سمارٹ سٹیز، (UAVs) معین الحق نے کہا لوگوں کی زندگی کو آسان بنانے کے لیے کئی صنعتوں میں ان مینڈا ایریل و ہیکل پو لیسنگ اور زراعت کا شعبہ ان ٹیکنالوجیز کا استعمال کر رہا ہے۔ سی بی بی آر آئی کا فلگ شپ پروجیکٹ ہونے کے ناطے پاکستان کی مدد کر رہا ہے انھوں نے مزید کہا پاکستان میں سول ڈرون ریگولیشن اتھارٹی کا قیام بھی زیر غور ہے

<https://www.express.pk/story/2516458/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

دشمن بلوچستان کی ترقی نہیں چاہتا، چینی باشندوں کی حفاظت اپنے بچوں جیسی کرنا ہوگی: شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر اور بلوچستان کے وسائل پر پہلا حق یہاں کے عوام کا ہے، قرب و جوار کے ممالک میں بیٹھے ملک دشمن نہیں چاہتے کہ بلوچستان ترقی کرے اور یہاں پر سیاسی استحکام ہوں، پورے بلوچستان کو ترقی اور خوشحالی کی دوڑ میں لانا ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے، ہم گوادر کو دنیا کی بہترین بندرگاہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں۔ جمہوریت کو گوادر بزنس سینٹر میں مستحق ماہی گیروں میں امدادی چیکس اور گوادر یونیورسٹی کے ہونہار طلباء و طالبات میں لیپ ٹاپس کی تقسیم

کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان بہادر اور دلیر بلوچوں، پختونوں، برہوی اور دیگر اقوام کا صوبہ ہے جسے اللہ تعالیٰ نے بے پناہ وسائل سے نوازا ہے۔ اسی جگہ پر گوادری میں پینے کیلئے صاف پانی کی فراہمی، ایران سے بجلی کی ترسیل، پچھلوں سے ٹرانسمیشن لائن، پانی کی ٹریٹمنٹ اور صوبہ کیلئے کئی دیگر منصوبوں کیلئے عرق ریزی سے کام کیا گیا، مگر گزشتہ 4 برسوں میں کوئی کام نہیں ہوا، ایک منصوبہ بندی کے ذریعہ ان منصوبوں پر کام نہیں ہوا حالانکہ یہ منصوبے سی پیک کے تحت چین کی معاونت سے مکمل ہونا تھے۔ سی پیک کے تحت گوادری صنعتی زون، گوادری اسپتال، گوادری ایئر پورٹ اور دیگر منصوبے مینی گرانٹ کے تحت مکمل ہونا تھے مگر ان منصوبوں کو ختم کر دیا گیا۔ ہم نے بلوچستان کے عوام کی تقدیر کو بدلنا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ 15 ماہ کے دوران بے پناہ مشکلات کے باوجود ہم نے صوبہ کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے کام کیا ہے، ہماری حکومت نے شفاف طریقے سے سیلاب متاثرین میں 25 ہزار روپے فی خاندان کے حساب سے ابتدائی معاونت فراہم کی سوئی گیس، ریکوڈک اور سیٹلک کی صورت میں یہاں خزانے دفن ہیں، اس صوبہ کے وسائل پر سب سے پہلا حق اس صوبہ کے عوام کا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ریکوڈک کے معاملے پر حکومت پاکستان کو اربوں روپے کا نقصان ہوا، یہاں کے عوام کو بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کے ساتھ پینے کیلئے صاف پانی، تعلیم، صحت اور روزگار فراہم ہونا چاہیے تاکہ لوگ سمجھ سکیں کہ ترقی کے یہ منصوبے ان کیلئے ہیں۔ گوادری سمندر دنیائے گہرے ترین سمندروں میں شامل ہے، سن کرافٹس ہوا کہ 2015 کے بعد ڈریجنگ نہیں ہوئی، صفائی نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے یہاں بڑے جہاز کیسے آئیں گے، فروری اور مارچ تک بندرگاہ کی صفائی کا کام مکمل ہو گا، کام شروع کر دیا۔ سابق حکومت کو یہ گوارا نہیں تھا کہ اس دور افتادہ علاقہ میں کام کیا جائے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے ہمارے 15 ماہ کے دور میں گوادری پورٹ کے ذریعہ 6 لاکھ ٹن سامان کی نقل و حمل ہوئی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گزشتہ 15 ماہ میں ہم نے بے پناہ مشکلات کے ساتھ کام کیا ہے، جن دوست ممالک نے کسی شرط کے بغیر ہماری مدد کی ہے، برے وقت میں ہمارا ساتھ دیا ہے، جو ملک ہمارے خیر خواہ ہیں انکے باشندوں کی حفاظت ہمارا فرض اور ذمہ داری ہے۔ چینی باشندوں کی حفاظت ہمیں اپنے بچوں کی طرح کرنی چاہئے ورنہ یہاں کوئی سرمایہ کاری کرنے نہیں آئے گا۔ انکی حفاظت نہیں کریں گے تو ملک کو نقصان ہو گا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ جو ملک دشمن لوگ قرب و جوار کے ممالک میں بیٹھے ہیں وہ نہیں چاہتے کہ بلوچستان ترقی کرے، آبادی کے تناسب سے لیپ ٹاپ سکیم میں بلوچستان کا حصہ 6 فیصد بنتا ہے مگر میں نے احسن اقبال سے درخواست کر کے یہ حصہ 14 فیصد کر دیا ہے، اگلے سال یہ کوٹہ 18 فیصد تک بڑھایا جائیگا۔ ہماری خواہش ہے کہ کراچی، لاہور اور پشاور کی طرح کوٹہ میں بھی ترقی و خوشحالی ہوں۔ وزیر اعظم نے اپنی تقریر کے آخر میں کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا خیر خواہ، ہمدرد اور دوست ملک ہے جس نے پر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے، وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان اور پاکستان میں کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں کی سیکورٹی ہمیں اپنی جان سے بڑھ کر کرنی چاہیے کیونکہ وہ ہمارے خیر خواہ اور دوست ہیں۔ چین نے پاکستان کی تقریباً 7 ارب ڈالر کی معاونت کی ہے اور بدلہ میں انہوں نے کوئی شرط عائد نہیں کی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر مستحق ماہی گیروں میں امدادی چیکس اور گوادری یونیورسٹی کے ہونہار طلبائی و طالبات میں لیپ ٹاپس بھی تقسیم کئے۔ مستحق ماہی گیروں کو ڈھائی لاکھ روپے فی کس کے چیکس دیئے گئے۔ دوسری طرف وزیر اعظم نے بلوچستان کی دیگر صوبوں کے ہم پلہ ترقی کو ناگزیر قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان اور گوادری کیلئے شروع کئے گئے منصوبوں پر گزشتہ چار سال کے دوران مجرمانہ غفلت برتی گئی، پی ڈی ایم کی حکومت نے 16 ماہ کے دوران مشکلات کے باوجود ان منصوبوں پر کام دوبارہ شروع کر لیا جس کے ذریعے گوادری سے پاکستان کی ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا، گوادری پاکستان کی ہی نہیں بلکہ دنیا کی تیزی سے ترقی کرتی ہوئی اہم ترین بندرگاہ بنے گی۔ گوادری میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ گوادری میں ہم نے بے شمار منصوبوں کا افتتاح کیا ہے اور کچھ کانسٹریکشن بنا دیے۔ ”سافٹ لاجنگ“ کی ہے۔ منصوبوں میں پینے کے صاف پانی کا منصوبہ بھی شامل ہے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گزشتہ حکومت کے چار سالہ دور میں گوادری میں صرف ایک لاکھ ٹن کارگو کی اس گوادری بندرگاہ سے آمد و رفت ہوئی جو آٹے میں نمک کے برابر ہے جبکہ ہمارے 16 ماہ میں 6 لاکھ ٹن کارگو گوادری پورٹ ہینڈل ہوا جس کا فائدہ یہاں کے مزدوروں اور ٹرک و سٹورٹیج مالکان کو ہوا۔ گوادری ایکسپورٹ زون کا قیام اور ترقی کے دیگر معاملات میں بھی غفلت برتی گئی۔ گزشتہ چار سال میں 23 کلو میٹر کی ٹرانسمیشن لائن جو ایران سے گوادری آنا تھی اس پر کام نہیں کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نے تمام تر مشکلات کے باوجود 6 سے 8 مہینوں میں اس منصوبے کو مکمل کیا اور آج گوادری میں 100 میگا واٹ بجلی فراہم کی جا رہی ہے۔ آج ہم نے 3 ہزار ماہی گیروں میں اڑھائی لاکھ روپے فی کس کے چیک تقسیم کئے ہیں، 82 کروڑ روپے کی یہ امدادی رقم آئندہ چند روز میں انہیں مل جائے گی جس سے وہ انجن خرید سکیں گے۔ چار سال میں انڈوں اور کٹوں کی بات کی گئی لیکن ان منصوبوں کا نام تک نہیں لیا گیا جس کا تعلق نوجوانوں

کی تعلیم و تربیت سے تھا، لیپ ٹاپ کا ایک ہی معیار میرٹ ہے سفارش اور اقرباء پروری نہیں ہے، وزیر اعظم نے کہا جب تک پاکستان کی ترقی کے دوڑ میں بلوچستان باقی صوبوں کے ہم پلہ نہیں ہو گا تب تک یہ ترقی پاکستان کی ترقی شمار نہیں ہوگی، سی پیک منصوبہ میں گوادر کیلئے کوئلہ سے چلنے والے توانائی کے منصوبہ کی کاہنہ نے منظوری دے دی ہے جس سے 300 میگاواٹ بجلی پیدا ہوگی، چینی حکومت کے بھی شکر گزار ہیں جس نے تقریباً 30 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی اور اب اس میں مزید اضافہ ہوگا۔ جس پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے بے حد شکر گزار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے ہمارے برادر ممالک سعودی عرب، یو اے ای اور قطر کے ساتھ مل کر پاکستان کی بے پناہ مدد کی ہے جسے ہمیشہ یاد رکھا جائے گا۔ دوسری طرف وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کیپٹن محمد سرور شہید کے یوم شہادت پر انہیں ان کی جرات و بہادری پر خراج عقیدت پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ قوم کے اس بہادر سپوت نے دشمن کے کشمیر پر جارحانہ قبضے کے ناپاک عزائم کو خاک میں ملائے ہوئے جام شہادت نوش کیا، پاکستان کی غیور قوم اپنے شہد کی قربانیوں کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتی۔ جمعرات کو اپنے ٹویٹ میں انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھ سمیت پوری قوم آج ملک کے پہلے نشان حیدر حاصل کرنے والے کیپٹن محمد سرور شہید کے یوم شہادت پر انہیں ان کی جرأت و بہادری پر خراج عقیدت پیش کرتی ہے، قوم کے اس بہادر سپوت نے دشمن کے کشمیر پر جارحانہ قبضے کے ناپاک عزائم کو خاک میں ملائے ہوئے جام شہادت نوش کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ان کی جرأت و بہادری نے ایک ایسی مثال قائم کی جس پر عمل پیرا ہوتے ہوئے افواج پاکستان کے جوانوں نے ہمیشہ مادر وطن کے دفاع کو اپنی جانوں پر فوقیت دی، پاکستان کی غیور قوم اپنے شہد کی قربانیوں کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کا افتتاح کر دیا، 4،300 ایکڑ رقبہ پر پھیلے ہوئے این جی آئی اے پر اے ٹی آر 72 اور بونگ بی-737 جیسے نیر و ہاڈی طیاروں کے ساتھ ساتھ مقامی اور بین الاقوامی روٹس کے لئے ایئر بس اے-380 اور بونگ بی-747 جیسے وائڈ ہاڈی طیاروں کی گنجائش ہے۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ (بی آر آئی) کی دسویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر چین کی مالی اعانت سے تعمیر ہونے والے نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ (این جی آئی اے) کے اہم حصے کا باضابطہ افتتاح کر دیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے رن وے، ٹیکسی وے اور اے پر ن سمیت ہوائی اڈے کے ایئر بیس انفراسٹرکچر کی تکمیل کا افتتاح کیا۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق 60.208 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے نیو گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ (این جی آئی اے) کا آغاز سی پیک کے فریم ورک کے تحت چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تعاون کا ایک سنگ میل ہے، جس سے فضائی نقل و حمل کے بنیادی ڈھانچے اور معاشی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا جو ابھرتے ہوئے لاجسٹک مرکز اور علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی رابطوں کا مرکز گوادر کی تقدیر بدل دے گا۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق چائنا ایئر پورٹ کنسٹرکشن گروپ کمپنی لمیٹڈ اور سول ایوی ایشن اتھارٹی (سی اے اے) پاکستان کے اشتراک سے این جی آئی اے 132 جزائی پر مشتمل ہے جن میں جدید ترین رن وے، اے پر ن، ایک ٹرمینل کے ساتھ ساتھ سول، ٹیکسیکل، الیکٹریکل اور کمیونیکیشن انفراسٹرکچر اور دیگر جدید متعلقہ سہولیات شامل ہیں۔

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July 29, 2023

Daily Times

Anti-CPEC Nexus: Role of FATF

Shakeel Ramay

Since the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistan has become a prime target of propaganda and negativity by its opponents. The opponents of CPEC are encouraging multiple institutions and agencies to undermine CPEC. There is a broader consensus among Pakistani intelligentsia that FATF is one of them, which had been deployed to force Pakistan to curtail CPEC and undermine its relationship with China. The assumption/argument is based on historical facts. A bird-eye view analysis of FATF's

interventions in Pakistan during the last two decades reveals a very interesting story. Whenever Pakistan signed some major program with China or Pakistan-China introduced a new policy or vision to strengthen their bilateral relationship, FATF came into play.

The story started with the signing of the Energy Framework and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 2006. The energy framework was designed to help Pakistan to meet future needs of energy, which later on become part of CPEC. On the other hand, FTA opened many avenues for Pakistani products in Chinese markets. Unfortunately, these agreements were followed by the grey list of FATF in 2008. Somehow Pakistan managed to break the web of FATF and came out of the grey list. However, soon after China-Pakistan's initial talks of further strengthening bilateral relations, Pakistan was put on the grey list by FATF in 2012. Once again Pakistan had to put a lot of effort into coming out of the grey list. Fortunately, Pakistan was able to come out of the grey list in 2015, but opponents did not stop there. They once again started to lobby against Pakistan, and they successfully put Pakistan back on the grey list. It happened at a time when CPEC gained momentum and started to help Pakistan tackle its issues.

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The sequence of putting Pakistan on the grey compels us to think that it is not a coincidence. Rather, it is a well-planned strategy to snub investors and to contain the China-Pakistan relationship and the same is true in the case of CPEC.

Besides, FATF always put Pakistan in the grey on the basis of self-assumed perceptions like terror financing or money laundering. A deep dive into allegations indicates that FATF was never able to provide any evidence to substantiate its allegations but continued to grill Pakistan. Pakistan always asked FATF, if you have evidence then please share it with us. Pakistan told FATF that it is in our interest, as it will not only help to curb money laundering but also recover its lost money. Besides, Pakistan was also asking developed countries to share data. Unfortunately, neither FATF nor developed countries shared data.

On the contrary, it is now a proven fact that many Western institutions were involved in money laundering. The FinCEN leak is the most recent example on this front. West is also considered heaven for illegal money, which is evident from the Paradise Papers, Panama Papers, etc.

The grey list always disturbed Pakistan. The allegations were levelled against Pakistan at a time when Pakistan was facing the wrath of terrorism as a frontline ally. Pakistan was losing human lives every day and the economy was going down. Pakistan was unable to understand, why our allies were treating Pakistan like this. Why have they unleashed FATF against Pakistan, at a time when Pakistan was bleeding to save the peace of the world? Instead of helping Pakistan, they chose to penalize Pakistan for sacrifices and economic losses. The answer is simple, they did not want Pakistan to strengthen its relationship with China. They expedited their efforts after the launch of CPEC.

After the launch of CPEC, the opponents came up with a new strategy. First, they run a smear campaign on the media. They declared Pakistan as an unsafe destination for investment. They

created fear among the business community to force them to stop investing. Second, the IMF started to tighten its grip on the Pakistani economy. Third, FATF once again came forward to level allegations of terror financing and money laundering. It was happening, despite the fact that Pakistan offered all sorts of sacrifices.

Against this backdrop, we can conclude that the real purpose of FATF was to target investment programs in Pakistan and the top priority was CPEC. Therefore, many experts believe that FATF played a major role in drying up investment and damaging economic growth in Pakistan. FATF created fear among the potential investors and trade partners of Pakistan. Western media and think tanks also run campaigns to scare potential investors. They highlighted that if any company invests in Pakistan or trades with Pakistan, they will be in trouble, as Pakistan is on the grey list. It also discouraged the Pakistani diaspora from sending money to Pakistan. Owing to these factors foreign earnings started to fall. Lower foreign earnings led to the depletion of foreign reserves at a faster rate. Thus, Pakistan was lifted with no option except to borrow money from international financial institutions and the private sector of the West.

Simultaneously, they also tried to scare Chinese companies. They told Chinese companies that if they invest in Pakistan, they may face challenges in other countries. Why?

Because Pakistan is on the grey list and if any Chinese company invests in Pakistan, it will be on the watch list of FATF.

Hence, from the above discussion, it can be inferred that the FATF slowly poisoned the Pakistani economy. Since 2008, FATF systematically damaged Pakistani reputation and discouraged investment in Pakistan and trade partnerships. It ultimately resulted in an economic and financial crisis. That's why many policymakers believe FATF is one of the major reasons for the current economic and financial crises in Pakistan. Unfortunately, opponents of CPEC are trying to use this situation to propagate against CPEC investment.

In conclusion, from the above discussion, we can easily understand that Pakistan is under immense pressure to curtail CPEC. Otherwise, Pakistan will have to face the wrath of its opponents. They will never allow Pakistan's economy to flourish and put all efforts into undermining the China-Pakistan relationship. According to them, to encircle China, Pakistan must be neutral, if not part of the anti-China nexus. For that purpose, Pakistan must be brought to its knees through economic, political, and social turmoil.

In this context, it is advised that China-Pakistan should work to further strengthen their relationship. The first step would be to enhance communication and coordination. It is needed to kill any confusion. Second, the people of Pakistan look at China as a trusted friend. A friend who can help Pakistan to come out of crisis and pursue the dream of prosperity. Thus, people expect that in these testing times, China will stand with Pakistan, as always. The good thing is that China is cognizant of this reality and is trying to work with Pakistan to find reasonable solutions.

Lastly, let's hope the opponents can understand that this mindset will not help solve global problems, but cooperation can help to solve problems.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118124/anti-cpec-nexus-role-of-fatf/>

China's expertise sparks growth potential for Pakistan's EV industry: expert

“Over the past two decades, China has successfully established a complete and efficient supply chain for Electric Vehicles, with strengths in technology, design & development, and manufacturing.

According to Dr. Li Xiangping, Former Director of Dongfeng Motor Co., Ltd. and Doctor of Mechanical Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Turin, China's experience suggests EVs can be an opportunity for developing countries to leapfrog developed countries. During the China Pakistan Electric Vehicle Industry Technology Service Cooperation Forum held earlier this month, Dr. Li noted that the most growth potential will likely come from 'emerging Asia,' including Pakistan, which has a large population, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. The region will continue to need more EVs for its energy transition even after China's domestic market becomes saturated. China's dominance in the global electric vehicle (EV) market has positioned the country as a key player in the industry. China has been the world's No. 1 auto market for more than a decade. In 2022, worldwide auto sales were 80.18 million units, with China selling 23.24 million (27.48 million including CV) units, accounting for a 33% market share. It was followed by the United States with 13.73 million and Europe with 11.29 million.

What has shocked the world is China's rapid progress in mobility electrification. Last year, worldwide EV production was 10.31 million, with China producing 6.5 million PV (plus 0.3 million CV EV), representing 63% of worldwide EV sales.

China's EV penetration rate was 28%. Among the top 10 EV brands, 8 are local Chinese brands, and two are from other countries, namely Tesla and Volkswagen. China's EV market is roughly four times the size of Europe and eight times the size of the United States.

According to Dr. Li, China's leadership in the electric vehicle industry can be attributed to the forward-looking long-term planning and consistent support policies of the Chinese government, huge investment and resources, and a fully developed and efficient supply chain or ecosystem from which Pakistan can benefit.

Pakistan can learn from China's experience and implement similar policies to spur the growth of its own EV market.

Leveraging its systematic advantages and expertise in electric vehicle production, China can deliver tremendous growth potential to Pakistan's emerging electric vehicle industry. Recognizing the potential benefits, Pakistan has been actively pursuing collaborations with China to enhance its EV sector.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played a crucial role in facilitating these partnerships, with a growing number of Chinese companies, including Huazi and MG, investing in Pakistan's EV infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities.

Mr. Saqib H. Shirazi, Chairman of the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA), underlined that the collaboration between China and Pakistan in the auto sector has already started yielding positive results.

Chinese companies such as BAIC, Changan, JAC Motors, and Chery Automobile have established partnerships and joint ventures in Pakistan, contributing to the growth of the local auto industry. Further cooperation will empower the electric vehicle industry in Pakistan.

The fiscal budget for 2023-2024, released in June, brought good news for EVs in Pakistan. The customs tax on imported fully assembled hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) has been reduced to 1%, according to the budget papers.

Additionally, the tax for importing plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) components in knocked-down units is now 3%, and the tax for importing HEV components in knocked-down units is now 4%. It is also worth mentioning that the customs tax on lithium-ion batteries is 0%.

By leveraging China's expertise in battery technology, supply chain management, and government support, Pakistan can accelerate the development of its own EV market.

The collaboration between the two countries in the EV sector is expected to drive economic growth, create jobs, and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable transportation system in Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118391/chinas-expertise-sparks-growth-potential-for-pakistans-ev-industry-expert/>

Gwadar airport best example of Pak-China cooperation: senator Sana Jamali

Gwadar airport's construction in a short span of time is the best example of cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said Senator Sana Jamali.

Talking to Urdu Service of China Media Group (CMG) during her visit to China, she particularly highlighted the rapid progress of Gwadar development project.

She said that the construction of Gwadar airport was the best example of success in a short time and wished to start direct flights from Beijing to Gwadar soon.

About the Balochistan's progress, she said that the largest province of Pakistan was experiencing a significant development under the CPEC, a pilot project of the BRI launched by the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Senator Sana Jamali, who is also a member of Senate Committee on Power Affairs, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination Committee, appreciated the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

She expressed the confidence that both Pakistan and China would achieve a lot of benefits from the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China a decade ago.

Senator Sana Jamali also expressed gratitude for China's support on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative and appreciated the commendable progress in the Gwadar project.

Stressing a need for Chinese language learning programs, she said that the Chinese learning centers were being introduced in Pakistani universities to further promote bilateral cooperation and understanding.

She informed that more special economic zones would be set up in the province and also highlighted that there was a wide scope for cooperation in the agricultural sector in Balochistan. Senator Sana Jamali termed China's modernization as an ideal model of peaceful development and said that Pakistan and other developing countries can learn a lot from it.

She highly appreciated China's peaceful development and its positive impact on regional peace and stability.

Stressing cooperation in tourism sector, she said that there was lot of potential in the field of tourism and youth exchange between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118394/gwadar-airport-best-example-of-pak-china-cooperation-senator-sana-jamali/>

China approves Pakistani cherry orchards for export

General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has approved sixty more orchards from Gilgit-Baltistan to export cherry to China, said Commercial Counsellor Ghulam Qadir at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing on Friday. Ghulam Qadir said that the approval of the Pakistani cherry orchards by Chinese customs holds significant potential for the agricultural sector in Gilgit Baltistan, where cherry cultivation is a prominent industry. "The endorsement by Chinese customs signifies that the cherries from Pakistan meet the required standards and regulations for export to China. This not only opens up new avenues for trade but also showcases the quality and taste of Pakistani cherries to a wider international market", he added. Arman Shah, CEO of Hashwan Group and Arman Shah Farm, which is the largest farm approved by Chinese Customs told China Economic Net (CEN) that the collaboration between China and Pakistan in promoting agricultural exports, particularly cherries from Gilgit Baltistan, highlights the mutual benefits derived from such partnerships. It not only boosts economic growth but also strengthens bilateral ties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118393/china-approves-pakistani-cherry-orchards-for-export/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng reaches Pakistan on three-day visit

Chinese Vice Prime Minister (PM) He Lifeng has arrived in Pakistan on a three-day visit as part of high-level engagements and dialogues between Pakistan and China.

Upon arrival, Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng was re-ceived by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal upon arrival.

During his visit, PM Lifeng will hold meetings with the Pakistani leadership. Lifeng's visit is part of high-level engagements and dialogues between Pakistan and China.

The federal government finalised the preparations for a central event following the completion of a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

An event will be organised in Islamabad today (Monday) over the completion of 10 years of CPEC project titled 'From vision to reality' in which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng will be the special guests.

The event will be attended by federal ministers, lawmakers from the National Assembly (NA) and Senate, secretaries and the business community.

Pakistan and China had launched the CPEC project on July 5, 2013, with an investment of over \$25 billion. The officials said that CPEC created employment for millions of people and Pakistan started generating 8,000 MW of electricity via the projects.

Under the CPEC, Pakistan started several economic development projects with the collaboration of China.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-vice-pm-he-lifeng-reaches-pakistan-on-three-day-visit/#:~:text=Chinese%20Vice%20Prime%20Minister%20%28PM%29%20He%20Lifeng%20has,Sanaullah%20and%20Planning%20Minister%20Ahsan%20Iqbal%20upon%20arrival>

The News

Strategic importance of Pak-China relations stressed

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: The visiting Chinese delegates affirmed the strategic importance of China-Pakistan relations, highlighted the importance of next phase of CPEC and stressed the need for further deepening people-to-people contacts especially among the youth and vowed to further strengthen institutional relationships between think-tanks of the two countries.

The 4-member Chinese delegation was hosted here by Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS). The team was led by Yuan Jianmin, Counsellor of Xinjiang Autonomous Region Government. The delegation included Liu Zongyi, Secretary, China South Asian Study Centre, Shanghai Institute of International Studies, Wang Shida, Deputy Director, South Asia Studies, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and Li Jingfeng, Associate Professor, Sichuan Academy of Social Science.

The wide-ranging exchange of views covered the evolving global environment, developments in major-power relations, impact of Indo-Pacific strategy on South Asia, achievements during the 'Decade of CPEC' and the salience of Pakistan China all-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership in international dynamics.

Sohail Mahmood, DG, ISS, in his introductory remarks, extended a warm welcome to the visiting scholars. He underscored the importance of Pakistan-China relations in the contemporary world and the strategic significance of CPEC for Pakistan's economic transformation and regional prosperity. He also shared Pakistan's perspective on major-power competition as well as the potential fall-out of designating a South Asian state as 'net security provider.' Stressing that the Pakistan-China strategic partnership was a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond, he emphasised the importance of crafting a

long-term vision of this relationship as, in the next 25 years, both Pakistan and the Peoples' Republic will be celebrating their respective centenaries.

Earlier, Dr Talat Shabbir, ISS, in his remarks briefed the Chinese delegation about the structure and functioning of the institute. He recalled the recent seminars held jointly by the ISS-CICIR and ISSI-Fudan University in China and stressed the pivotal importance of such interactions and dialogues for China-Pakistan bilateral relations.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=224077>

July 30, 2023

Express News

چینی نائب وزیر اعظم تین روزہ دورے پر پاکستان پہنچ گئے

چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لاکنگ تین روزہ دورے پر پاکستان پہنچ گئے، وزیر داخلہ رانا ثناء اللہ نے معزز مہمان کا استقبال کیا۔ اسلام آباد ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم تین روزہ اہم دورے پر پاکستان پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ وزیر داخلہ رانا ثناء اللہ نے معزز مہمان اور ان کے ہمراہ آنے والے وزرا کا استقبال کیا۔ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کو خصوصی حصار میں ایئر پورٹ سے باہر لایا گیا۔

چینی نائب وزیر اعظم سی پیک کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے کل ہونے والی خصوصی تقریب میں مہمان خصوصی کے طور پر شرکت کریں گے۔ اس تقریب میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کو ایوارڈز بھی دیے جائیں گے۔

نائب وزیر اعظم شام 7 بجے خصوصی طیارے کے ذریعے اسلام آباد کی نورخان ہنس پہنچے تھے۔ معزز مہمان کی آمد کے موقع پر اسلام آباد کی مختلف شاہراہوں اور عمارات کو خوبصورتی سے سجایا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2517240/1/>

چین کے اعلیٰ وفد کا دورہ پاکستان؛ اسلام آباد میٹروکاشیڈول جاری

چین کے اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد پاکستان کے دورے پر آج دارالحکومت پہنچ رہا ہے جس کے باعث میٹرو بس کاشیڈول جاری کر دیا گیا۔ اسلام آباد ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق میٹرو بس اسلام آباد سیکشن پر آپریشن کشمیر ہائی وے اسٹیشن سے پاک سیکرٹریٹ تک آج 30 جولائی کو 3 بجے سے یکم اگست دن 1 بجے تک بند رہے گا۔

جولائی کو 3 بجے سے میٹرو بس صرف صدر راولپنڈی سے فیض احمد فیض اسٹیشن تک چلائی جائے گی تاہم یکم اگست کو دن 1 بجے کے بعد میٹرو بس آپریشن معمول کے 30 مطابق مکمل طور پر بحال ہو جائے گا۔

بہارہ کہو سے چلنے والی گرین لائن اور اسلام آباد سے نیو ایئر پورٹ تک چلنے والی اورینج لائن بس سروس بھی یکم اگست دن ایک بجے تک بند رہیں گی جب کہ بلیو لائن بس سروس آپریشن معمول کے مطابق آپریشنل رہے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2517055/1/>

July 31, 2023

Business Recorder

CPEC likely to get fresh impetus

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that Pakistan expects speedy progress in the second phase (2030) of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) following visit of China's Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that He Lifeng role has been very important in making CPEC successful after becoming Chairman National Development Reform Commission (NDRC).

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan feels pleasure on the visit of Chinese Vice premier to Pakistan and Pakistan expects speedy progress in CPEC next phase (2030) as now he has been made vice premier to take care of Chinese economic area.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the present government is trying to increase business-to-business cooperation in the next phase of CPEC besides taking forward the industrialization in Pakistan with investment in the sector, as well as, to increase agriculture productivity through use of Chinese technology. He said that the development in information technology with the cooperation of China as well as socio-economic sector uplift would also be priority in the next phase of CPEC.

The Minister said that there is a complete agreement on the scope and technical parameters phase of ML-1 and hopefully it would also be undertaken soon. He acknowledged cost increase of various projects was increased during the last four years because of delay, mismanagement and global inflation.

The Minister said that after the signing of MoUs during the visit of Chinese President in April 2015 and subsequent investment under CPEC, Pakistan's profile was changed from a security state to investment destination. In three years 2015-18, US\$ 25 billion projects were undertaken for implementation and most of them were completed. As a result, he said that more than 8000-MW new projects for power generation were included. These projects included coal, hydel and renewable energy and CPEC made Thar coal was made productive assets for producing cheaper power. Optional fibre was also installed to strengthen the country's digital backbone besides motorways, roads, and Gwadar Port, etc.

Till 2018, infrastructure programme was implemented successfully and after 2020 industrial cooperation phase was to be initiated to develop as many as nine Economic Zones. He said that \$25 billion investment was a record investment in the history of Pakistan which created employment opportunities. He said that a broad based cooperation was started under the CPEC between China and Pakistan as China came to help Pakistan when no one was ready to invest in the country. He said that ten years celebrations in connection to CPEC are being organized and the Chinese vice premier would participate in the function in this regard.

The Minister said that CPEC's gateway Gwadar was ignored during the last four-year tenure of previous government and this was evident from the fact that only one lac tons cargos were routed through Gwadar port whereas during the last fourteen months of the present government 6 lac tons cargos were routed. He said that the present government has also completed water project of Gwadar, ensured electricity supply from Iran to Gwadar and made operational Panjgur transmission line to connect it with Gwadar besides undertaking dredging with the cost Rs 4.5 billion of the port. All these projects remained neglected during the previous government, the minister maintained.

He said that all these measures demonstrated government commitment of seriousness with regard to CPEC. The minister said that development was not priority of the previous government during the last four years. He said that energy problem was because the government has been unable to import fuel owing to low foreign exchange reserves. Circular debt was increasing because of low recovery of theft and if this leakage is not plugged, the problem would remain unresolved, so there is need to stop the leakage so that tariff is not increased.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/31/1-page/968529-news.html>

Air Chief holds key meetings during China visit

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu called on various dignitaries during his visit to China.

In these meetings, the Air Chief called on Chinese Defence Minister and State Councillor General Li Shangfu, People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Commander General Chang Dingqiu, Chief of Equipment Development Department General Xu Xueqiang and Director General Bureau of Military Equipment and Technical Cooperation (Bometec) Major General Fan Jianjun, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

During the meetings matters pertaining to mutual interest and regional security situation were discussed.

The dignitaries also discussed the evolving geo-political environment and regional developments having significant implications for both countries.

During this historical engagement between the highest level military leadership of the two nations, the Chief of the Air Staff said that Pakistan values its strong diplomatic and defence ties with China which are based on convergence on all important issues related to regional peace and security while reiterating strong strategic partnership in the face of shared challenges.

A smartly turned-out contingent presented a guard of honour to the Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on his arrival at the PLAAF Headquarters, in Beijing, China. The PLAAF Commander expressed his admiration for the professionalism of the Pakistan Air Force personnel and praised the remarkable progress made by the Pakistan Air Force through indigenization.

The Air Chief reiterated his unwavering commitment to enhancing the existing bilateral ties in military-to-military cooperation, strategic alliance and the training domain.

Later, during two separate meetings between the Air Chief and General Xu Xueqiang, Chief of the Equipment Development Department, and Major General Fan Jianjun, Director General Bureau of Military Equipment & Technical Cooperation (Bometec), several key points on exploring opportunities for technology transfer and collaborative development of advanced military hardware were also discussed.

The Chief of the Air Staff also met the Industrial heads of the Chinese Defence Industry.

The meetings were focused on defence acquisitions and technology collaboration between the two sides.

Highlighting the significance of the longstanding partnership between the two countries, the Air Chief said that PAF leadership wishes to further deepen the existing aviation cooperation and exchanges with China in the fields of human resources and technology so as to jointly address shared security challenges.

The visit of the Chief of the Air Staff to China is a testament to the strong commitment of both nations to further enhance their strategic partnership through continued dialogue and military collaboration.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/31/2-page/968540-news.html>

China's He to mark 10th anniversary of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng was due in the Pakistan capital on Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary of a mega economic plan that is the cornerstone of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Since its initiation in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has seen tens of billions of dollars funnelled into massive transport, energy and infrastructure projects. But the project has also been hit by Pakistan struggling to keep up its financial obligations, as well as attacks on Chinese targets by militants.

“After a decade since its inception, CPEC has shown mixed results,” said Azeem Khalid, assistant professor of international relations at COMSATS University Islamabad.

“The primary goal of connecting China with the Arabian Sea is still relatively low in achievement for China. On the other hand, Pakistan has made notable progress in achieving short-term objectives.”

In recent years Beijing has been one of Islamabad's most reliable foreign partners — readily providing financial assistance to bail out its often struggling neighbour.

Earlier this week, Beijing granted Pakistan a two-year rollover on a \$2.4 billion loan, giving the debt-saddled nation much-needed breathing space as it tackles a balance-of-payments crisis.

An IMF report last year said China and its commercial banks held about 30 percent of Pakistan's total external debt.

The two countries share a 596-kilometre (370-mile) frontier near the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram Mountains, one of the world's tallest ranges.

Pakistan politicians frequently trot out the phrase “stronger than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, and sweeter than honey” to portray the depth and closeness of the relationship with China.

But ties have been strained by numerous hurdles in recent years, including stalled or scaled-back CPEC projects.

The economic corridor presents an attractive gateway for China to access the Indian Ocean, but the safety and security of its workers has been a longstanding concern.

The corridor linking China’s far-western Xinjiang region with Pakistan’s strategic port of Gwadar in Balochistan has sparked claims that the vast influx of investment does not benefit locals.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/31/12-page/968629-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC: 10 Years Later

With Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng landing in Islamabad, the celebrations marking 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have officially begun. Although much needs to be done to live up to the grand promise of a revolutionary gateway that was expected to turn Pakistan into a major manufacturing hub, the bright potential, especially when it comes to game-changing development opportunities, cannot be overlooked. Though Pakistan is yet to fully reap the fruits of building upon the foundation of the Silk Route, the extraordinary generation of jobs (as many as 200,000) and a focus on the country’s long-forgotten southern provinces remain its striking features. As of now, our internal lack of security and stability continue as major stumbling blocks when it comes to realising the true potential of such a mega project. But after gaining Chinese assurance of full support for financial stability, Pakistan’s diplomacy can finally be seen trying its utmost best to bring balance back into the foreign policy. In addition to making a strong case to woo back the good grace of its iron-clad brother, Pakistan would have to show its determination with regard to structural transformation. That one of our closest allies, all-weather friend is back in our corner is a heartening development yet the ball remains in our court. It would be far more beneficial for Pakistan to accelerate the CPEC projects now, which will help bring stability to economy thorough foreign direct investment and much-needed industrialisation.

By engaging with the Chinese authorities, Pakistan can ensure a viable solution to the crippling implications of a ticking demographic bomb. Gwadar, in particular, would benefit massively, where renewed economic activity can push new opportunities for the local population. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118547/cpec-10-years-later/>

What Can Pakistan Learn from China?

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Once a poverty-stricken (82 per cent) and periphery country, China is now the world's second-largest economy and poverty-free country. It has graduated from the periphery to the central stage. It has become a newsmaker. We have seen in the recent past, that any policy statement by Chinese leadership or policy change becomes the major news or headline of global media. Now global growth is closely netted with the performance of the Chinese economy. IMF has pointed out that China will be the centre of growth and act as a pull factor for global growth. China's share in global growth would be 22.6 per cent during the next five years, which is double the USA's share of 11.3 per cent of global growth. Moreover, it will contribute 34.9 per cent to global growth in 2023, which is marvellous.

The question is how China graduated from a poverty-stricken and periphery country to a poverty-free and central country of the world. The analysis of modern history reveals a few very interesting facts, policies, and strategies.

First, Chinese leadership adopted a scientific approach to running the country. They started by identifying the problem and devising the right set of policies to tackle the problem. For example, in the early 1950s, Chairman Mao identified that there were three evils i.e., bureaucracy, waste, and corruption. He was convinced that China would have to tackle these evils if China wanted to move on. That's why he came up with the idea to entrust the Party leadership to lead the work at all levels and minimise dependence on bureaucracy.

Second, Chinese leadership implemented progressive reforms and kept the reform agenda a living document. China kept on reforming and refining the policies and implementation framework according to needs and new realities. China did not stick to any point or reform or did not follow the personalities. China only followed the needs of the people and new economic and global realities. For example, during Deng Xiaoping's time, China followed the policy of hiding its strengths. However, during President Xi Jinping's time, China adopted a proactive approach and became more assertive. Another example is that China first invested in enhancing production capacity and then moved to an opening up of the economy. Now President Xi is leading a policy of comprehensive opening up.

The Yellow Emperor is famous for his pro-poor and inclusive style of governance

Besides, the reform agenda was guided by the principal contradiction, which is the most sophisticated form of scientific approach. The analysis of each principal contradiction indicates that each contradiction was built on the hard realities and according to the needs of people. The reform programs designed based on principal contradiction helped China to achieve the desired goals.

For example, when President Xi assumed the charge of the leadership of the CPC and China, he developed his principal contradiction based on two specific problems and one need of the people. He identified that the growth was unequal and unbalanced and people's need for the rule of law and better living is on the rise. Since then, he has been leading China to solve this contradiction. First, he came up with the slogan to end poverty and China achieved the target in 2022. Now he is advocating for a new philosophy of development and more equal and

environment-friendly development. China under his leadership is moving quite fast to achieve these goals and has achieved many milestones before the time.

Third, China never copied any economic or governance model. China always tried to devise its model. However, China never hesitated to learn from other models or best practices. For example, Deng Xiaoping introduced new production mechanisms by learning from the Western production system. He learned from the Western system but did not copy it.

Fourth, Chinese democracy and governance systems are quite different from the rest of the world. China innovated a people-centric governance system. It means all policies and actions must be steered to assist people and ensure their well-being of people and peaceful living. For that purpose, China introduced the whole process democracy (WPD) model. The WPD model is the outcome of learning from the teachings of elders like Confucius and Tao and the wisdom of 5000 years. They provided a theoretical basis for designing the modern-day WPD. Besides, CPC also draws lessons from the era of the Yellow Emperor for designing practical interventions. It is pertinent to mention here that the Yellow Emperor is famous for his pro-poor and inclusive style of governance which's why the Yellow Emperor has a special place in Chinese civilization. China also learned from socialism and communism.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Whole Process Democracy is that it believes in continuity of interaction among all stakeholders. As, President Xi said, "If the people are awakened only for voting but enter a dormant period soon after, if they are given a song and dance during campaigning but have no say after the election, or if they are favored during canvassing but are left out in the cold after the election, such a democracy is not a true democracy". Thus, there must be continuity of interaction among stakeholders i.e. CPC, government, people, business, youth, etc. They must be consulted continuously not only on the election time.

Fifth, China is keenly focused on producing quality leadership because China believes that without quality and selfless leadership, a country cannot move on the ladder of prosperity. The Communist Party of China (CPC) carried the mantle to produce leadership and acted as a fertile nursery of leadership. CPC groomed the future leadership of the country by adhering to the core values of Chinese socialism. CPC has devised a system that is strictly based on merit and follows core socialist values like honesty, selflessness, integrity, justice, equality, etc. It never compromised on these values and merit. It helped CPC to deliver quality leadership for China, which turned around the fate of China.

In conclusion, these are a few steps along other, which helped China to move on the ladder of prosperity. Pakistan can draw a few lessons from the success story of China. First, apply a scientific approach to tackle problems devise policies, and get rid of the leadership superman dilemma. Second, concentrate on the production of quality leadership and devise generic means of grooming leadership. Pakistan should abandon family politics or private family limited parties more precisely companies. Third, Pakistan must concentrate on devising its own economic and governance model, according to local realities and needs. Pakistan should not copy and paste any model. Fourth, Pakistan should come up with its governance model, which must be pro-people and keep the people at the heart of decision-making and implementation.

Lastly, Pakistan must learn the art to work, to move hand not tongue. The government should stop lecturing or organizing advocacy events and focus on the implementation of policies, which can help people realize the dream of better living. It would be the greatest advocacy event to highlight the achievements of the government.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118543/what-can-pakistan-learn-from-china/>

China-Pakistan HVDC project sets leap with indigenous 660kV technology

Matiari-Lahore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission project funded, constructed and operated by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework is the first project to adopt 660 kilovolt direct current technology outside China with complete Chinese intellectual property rights, said Shan Shewu, chairman of China Electric Power Technology and Equipment Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of SGCC. The converter transformers, one of the most important components of the project, were developed in China's northwestern ancient city of Xi'an, Shan said in an interview. The project was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021. Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation. In 2015, the two sides signed more than 50 cooperation deals and agreed to centre the development of the CPEC with four key areas, namely, the Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation. In 1992, Lahore and Xian became sister cities, and the development of the two cities has since been interwoven together.

Zhao Qi, the general manager of China XD Electric Co., Ltd., told Xinhua that at the end of 2014, the XD group provided technical solutions for the project, and on top of that, the company successfully won the bid for the project's converter transformers, said Zhao. Xian XD Transformer Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of his group, produced 28 converter transformers and 47 reactors that are being used in the Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission project, he added. The eastern part of Pakistan is hot with the temperature exceeding 50 degrees Celsius most of the time in summer. For this reason, the design team of XD Group optimized the structure of the main components and the installation method of bushings. The project has now operated safely for over 1,000 days, with a cumulative transmission of 26.8 billion kWh, guaranteeing the electricity use of 10 million households in Lahore and its surrounding areas and facilitating the socio-economic economic development in the area.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1118486/china-pakistan-hvdc-project-sets-leap-with-indigenous-660kv-technology/>

Dawn News

Minister sees dawn of new CPEC era

Syed Irfan Raza

- Ahsan criticises previous PTI regime for 'rolling back' CPEC
- Says Gwadar airport to be operationalised by 2023 end

- ML-1 rail project to proceed with agreed parameters, funding
- International conference concludes

ISLAMABAD: Criticising the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) regime for “rolling back” China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said that a new era of the corridor was set to begin with multiple projects related to agriculture, infrastructure and social-economic uplift of the country.

“A number of MoUs (memorandum of understanding) will be signed under CPEC during current visit of Chinese vice prime minister,” the minister said during a news conference.

“His visit will usher a new era of the CPEC,” he added. The minister also revealed that under-construction Gwadar Airport would be operationalised by the end of the current year.

Regarding the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail project, also under CPEC, he said the project was also halted during the last government, but now China and Pakistan have agreed on the technical parameters, and finances will be allocated for it.

He said CPEC’s new phase will focus on promoting robust business-to-business and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Mr Iqbal said that China and Pakistan were celebrating the “Decade of CPEC,” and in this connection, Chinese Vice Prime Minister He Lifeng was visiting Pakistan to represent Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The vice premier’s visit, he said, held great significance and would help enhance economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Lifeng, he added, had played a prominent role in China’s international economic relations and the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), of which CPEC is a flagship project. As the chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Mr Lifeng was instrumental in planning and executing multiple CPEC projects in Pakistan.

Counting his government’s achievements under the mega CPEC project, the minister said, “During three years of our last tenure, we attracted over \$25 billion investment under this flagship project, resulting in the production of around 8,000MW of electricity.”

He also highlighted how CPEC had transformed Thar Coal into a productive asset for Pakistan, which is a great source of cheap power generation. It also helped strengthen our road infrastructure, widening our motorway networks, and driving development in Gwadar.

Mr Iqbal said, “We had planned nine industrial zones in Pakistan under the mega CPEC project, but unfortunately, the previous government just ruined these futuristic initiatives.”

The minister emphasised how CPEC fostered broader cooperation between the two countries, leading to improvements in the education sector as well.

Highlighting the lucrative investment opportunities in Pakistan, the minister expressed gratitude to their all-weather strategic partner, China, for transforming Pakistan from a security state into an investment hub.

He also thanked Chinese workers and engineers for transferring technological skills to Pakistani youth through CPEC projects, stressing the need for collaboration and synergy between the two nations to pave the way for unprecedented opportunities and shared prosperity.

However, he regretted that CPEC's gateway, Gwadar, had been severely neglected during the four-year tenure of the PTI government.

The government received an overwhelming response to the ten-year celebrations of the CPEC across the country, particularly after the two-day international conference held in the capital last week. The conference brought together esteemed participants with diverse expertise to delve into the socio-economic impact of the CPEC.

'From Vision to Reality'

Separately, the two-day international conference on the "Decade of CPEC and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" with the theme "From Vision to Reality" was organised by the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy. The conference, which concluded on July 25, aimed to continue the implementation of the CPEC for the country's prosperity.

The key objective of the conference was to gather policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to the economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical impacts of CPEC and BRI. The event saw active participation from hundreds of attendees worldwide, particularly from China, highlighting the achievements of the 10-year celebration of CPEC.

Various aspects were discussed during the conference, including the socio-economic impact of CPEC, opportunities for industry relocation, regional connectivity, technology transfer, cooperation for security, geopolitical implications, and maximising synergies in CPEC and BRI initiatives, as well as enhancing people-to-people connectivity.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1767535#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Criticising%20the%20previous%20Pakistan,related%20to%20agriculture%2C%20infrastructure%20and>

The Nation

China-Pakistan Education Coop Promotion Conference to be held next month

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Theme Day and China- Pakistan Education Cooperation Promotion Conference likely to be held next month under Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), China Economic Net reported on Sunday

The ongoing 2023 'SCO Summer' series of activities will last until September 23, during which nearly 50 special activities will be held, including the SCO Media Think Tank Forum, cultural and artistic performances, special products promotions, and sports and leisure events.

“The ‘2023 SCO Summer’ event would further promote cultural and tourism linkages between Pakistan and SCO member states,” said Haseeb Gohar, Pakistani Political Counsellor to China.

SCO countries have great potential in cultural exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation in tourism.

Meanwhile, the launch ceremony of the 2023 ‘SCO Summer’ China- SCO Culture and Tourism Promotion Week 2023 was held at Qingdao Pearl International Expo Centre this week.

Addressing the event, Zhang Xinzhu, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Qingdao Municipal Committee and Secretary of the Party Working Committee of SCO Demonstration Area (SCODA), stated that the 2023 ‘SCO Summer’ series of events aims to build a bridge of people-to-people integration, create a model of deepening mutual trust and cooperation, and open a new chapter in business, tourism and cultural exchanges among SCO countries.

Highlighting the SCO as a dynamic international organisation with diverse civilizations, Grigory Logvinov, Deputy Secretary General of SCO noted that cultural exchanges and cooperation among the SCO countries have become increasingly close.

Taking the event as an opportunity, the SCO countries will further strengthen cooperation and deepen understanding in the fields of tourism interaction and cultural heritage protection, and push the cultural and people-to-people exchanges within the SCO family to a new level.

The SCO States Artist Style Collection event was launched at the same time. Sculptors and painters from SCO countries will be invited to Qingdao and other places to explore the rich natural and cultural heritage.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-31/page-4/detail-6>

Zaidong named Chinese new envoy to Pakistan

MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD - China has appointed Mr Zaidong as successor to Ambassador Nong Rong as new ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador Nong Rong departed his post in January this year, since then, senior diplomat Pang Chen Shui has been performing her diplomatic duties as the Charge d’affaires at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

Ambassador designate Zaidong is a career Chinese diplomat who has been serving as the ambassador to Laos since 2018. Born in February 1970, Ambassador Zaidong joined the Chinese foreign service in 1992, and has served primarily in Vietnam. In 2017, he was appointed deputy director of Department of Asian Affairs. He remained in that position until October 2018, when he was appointed Chinese Ambassador to Laos.

His re-assignment to Pakistan signals the importance of deepening Islamabad-Beijing relations in the backdrop of the CPEC project.

On the other hand, Pakistan's new ambassador to China, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, is also busy with preparations to proceed to Beijing from Geneva where he is serving currently as permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN Mission.

Khalil Hashmi is expected to take up his post as Pakistan's ambassador to China in September.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-31/page-12/detail-6>

The News

Gwadar question

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Gwadar, once a backward and destitute area, is transforming. The CPEC is leading this transformation. Geolocation and geoeconomics are turning Gwadar into a connectivity hub. Geopolitics has further enhanced the importance of Gwadar. Pakistan was always cognizant of the importance of Gwadar.

Thus, Pakistan started working with China to exploit full potential of Gwadar even before signing the CPEC. With the launch of CPEC, work was accelerated. The CPEC magnified the importance of Gwadar Port by terming it the jewel of the crown of CPEC. Advanced Journal of Transportation published a study in 2019. It highlighted Gwadar will be the competitive hub of connectivity. It will be beneficial not only to Pakistan-China, but also Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, Kuwait, Germany, the Netherlands etc.

The land-locked Central Asian countries are also looking at Gwadar as an opportunity to connect with the world. They are working with Pakistan to formalise different agreements to benefit from Gwadar Port. Pakistan and Central Asian countries also have initiated different projects to connect with Gwadar.

For example, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have signed a contract to build a railway line, which will connect Uzbekistan with Pakistan. The link will also open Gwadar Port to the rest of Central Asian states.

According to findings of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development, Gwadar will offer opportunities to Pakistan to attract foreign direct investment. The special economic zones at Gwadar will act as a pull factor along with other SEZs in Pakistan.

This observation is based on the facts and data. For example, Pakistan can bring investment from the ASEAN region by using the competitive location of Gwadar Port. The analysis highlighted that by establishing industry and business in Pakistan, ASEAN countries will be more competitive in the EU market. The major contributing factor would be a substantial reduction in travel time.

The travel time from Port of Klang, Malaysia, Bangkok Modern Terminal, Pulau Sebarok, Singapore, Bekapai Terminal, Indonesia and Port of Hanoi, Vietnam to Hamburg Germany is 39.4 days, 43.7 days, 40.1 days, 45 days and 47.1 days respectively. In the case of Gwadar Port, the travel time will be only 29.4 days which will help reduce cost of transportation and enhance competitiveness.

We use the example of EU because, right now, the EU is the biggest trade partner of ASEAN (export, 120 billion EUR and import 69 billion EUR).

Thus, Gwadar Port will act as hub of connectivity and bring multiple benefits not only for Pakistan but also for other regions – ASEAN and Central Asia. It will usher a new era of growth and development, which will help countries tackle problems of poverty and inequality. In other words, it will help the world achieve sustainable development goals.

Despite such huge benefits, one cannot understand why some countries are working day and night to malign Gwadar Port. They are portraying Gwadar Port as a strategic initiative, or more precisely a naval base for China.

It is not true, as there is no sign, leave alone plan, that Gwadar Port is a strategic initiative. Pakistan and China have categorically rejected such self-assumed perceptions. Unfortunately, opponents are not giving any head to this, and keep on propagating against Gwadar Port. Now, they quote the presence of Pakistan security forces as an example to prove their allegation of strategic dimension of Gwadar. Pakistan had to deploy security forces to provide security and tackle the issues of terrorist attacks.

As it is common knowledge opponents of Gwadar Port, especially India, are encouraging terrorists and supporting sabotage activities. Pakistan has to deploy security forces, which opponents do not like at all. They feel Pakistani security forces are not allowing their proxies to get any tangible results. That's why they are propagating against the Gwadar Port.

The allegations are baseless, but the opponents will continue to run such malicious campaigns. They think it will help them create a bad image of Gwadar and impact the work on Gwadar Port. The best way for Pakistan to counter this strategy would be expediting work on the development of Gwadar Port, special economic zone and speeding up implementation of Gwadar Master Plan.

For that purpose, Pakistan needs to start devising a right set of policies and implementation of instruments. It should start by working on simplifying the institutional framework.

Second, engage local communities and focus on development of the area. It will help expedite work on Gwadar Port and SEZ. The best way to engage local communities would be to solve their problems and accelerate implementation of Gwadar Master Plan.

The implementation of the plan will help cater needs of local communities and create new livelihood opportunities for them. It is good to note Pakistan has started engaging the community and distributing cheques among the fishing community.

Third, Pakistan-China needs to devise a comprehensive marketing plan to highlight the importance of Gwadar Port and the special economic zone at global level. It will help bring more business to Gwadar and attract FDI in the special economic zone.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=224318>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی تعاون سے زرعی ٹیکنالوجی میں ترقی ممکن: شہزاد علی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان ہائی ٹیک ہاب ہرڈ سیڈ ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین شہزاد علی ملک نے کہا ہے کہ چین نے ہاب ہرڈ سیڈ ڈویلپمنٹ سمیت زرعی ٹیکنالوجی میں خاطر خواہ ترقی کی ہے اور وہ اس شعبے میں پاکستان کے ساتھ اشتراک کر سکتا ہے۔ شہزاد علی ملک ان دنوں وفد کے ہمراہ چین کے دورے پر ہیں۔ گزشتہ روز ان کی جانب سے موصول ہونے والے پیغام کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زرعی شعبے بالخصوص پرائیویٹ سیکٹر میں ہاب ہرڈ بیجوں کی نئی اقسام کی تیاری میں مزید تعاون ممکن ہے اور اس سے دونوں ممالک کو بڑے فوائد حاصل ہو سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پرائیویٹ سیکٹر میں تعاون سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مشترکہ تحقیق اور ترقی ممکن ہے۔ اس طرح کے منصوبوں سے ہاب ہرڈ بیج کی نئی اقسام کی تیاری ممکن ہے جو پاکستانی کسانوں کی مخصوص ضروریات کو بھی پورا کرتی ہوں اور ہمارے زرعی شعبے، زرعی طریقہ کار اور آب و ہوا کے ساتھ بھی ہم آہنگ ہوں۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان دیرینہ دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں اور ان دوروں سے ہاب ہرڈ سیڈ ٹیکنالوجی اور زرعی شعبہ میں تعاون کا فروغ ممکن ہے جس سے دونوں ممالک کے زرعی شعبوں کو فائدہ ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہاب ہرڈ بیج دو جینیاتی طور پر مختلف پودوں کے ملاپ سے بنائے جاتے ہیں جو بہتر پیداوار، کیڑوں اور بیماریوں کے خلاف مزاحمت اور مقامی ماحول سے بہتر موافقت رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ چینی ہم منصبوں کے ساتھ اس طرح کی ملاقاتوں اور تعاون سے پاکستان کی زرعی پیداواری صلاحیت اور غذائی تحفظ کو بڑھانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ شہزاد علی ملک نے کہا کہ چین کا پرائیویٹ سیکٹر گارڈ ایگریکلچر ریسرچ اینڈ سروسز کے ساتھ تعاون کو مزید بڑھانے میں گہری دلچسپی لے رہا ہے کیونکہ ہم پاکستان میں ہاب ہرڈ بیجوں کی پہلی قسم تیار کرنے میں چینی ماہرین کے ساتھ کام کر چکے ہیں اور اب بھی 10 چینی سائنسدانوں کی ٹیم ہمارے ساتھ مصروف عمل ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-31/page-6/detail-0>

Chinese Newspapers

July 16, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan's Chashma Nuclear Power Plant imports one more Hualong-One generator from China

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Unit 5 of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant in Pakistan was held on Friday, the third one-million-kilowatt-class unit of Hualong-One, China's domestically developed third-generation nuclear power generator, exported from China to Pakistan.

It marks China's 7th nuclear power generator exported to Pakistan, another milestone in nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries, the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), the builder of the Hualong One, announced on Friday.

A total of six China-built nuclear power generators have been put into operation in Pakistan now, generating 30 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity each year. The electricity generated is equivalent to the consumption of 9.38 million tons of coal, reducing 24.48 million tons of CO2 emissions, according to CNNC.

The construction of the Unit-5 nuclear power generator will help enhance Pakistan's energy security, promote economic development, and improve the well-being of the local residents.

It also has significant importance in building a closer China-Pakistan partnership with a shared future in the new era, CNNC stated.

On June 20, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that China and Pakistan had inked a \$4.8 billion deal to construct a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, according to local media reports. Sharif also noted the construction of Unit-5 would be started soon at that time.

According to the CNNC, Unit 3 of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant was launched in Pakistan on February 2, meaning that the two million-kilowatt Hualong One units exported to Pakistan, K-2 and K-3, have already put into operation, which marked the first delivery of China's self-built third-generation nuclear power generator to a foreign country.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294451.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

CPEC strengthens people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan, China

ISLAMABAD, July 16 (Xinhua) -- While munching on traditional steamed beef dumplings and noodles during a Pakistan-China cultural event in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, 12-year-old Muhammad Irfan could not hide his love for Chinese food.

"The variety of delicious dishes the Chinese cuisine offered made it one of the most favorite cuisines in Pakistan ... Especially after the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched, many Pakistanis got to know about the Chinese food including hotpot, dumplings, noodles and many more," he said.

"Many restaurants have also popped up across the country over the past decade, showing locals' passion for Chinese food."

Along with Irfan, at least 100 other participants, including Pakistanis and Chinese, attended the China-Pakistan Civilization Exchanges and Mutual Learning on Friday, which featured documentaries on Chinese culture, cultural dances performances, Chinese tea stalls, food stalls, language learning and art exhibition as well as a display of the progress of CPEC projects.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

Irfan said he thoroughly enjoyed the event and learned a lot about Chinese culture, saying there should be more such cultural events to promote mutual understanding and relations between the two peoples.

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said cultural exchanges have flourished remarkably between Pakistan and China over the past 70 years, particularly after the inception of CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The revival and revitalization of the Silk Road through the modern BRI holds the promise of unlocking boundless opportunities for mutual understanding, collaboration and the preservation of shared heritage, Khalid said.

He underscored the transformative impact of CPEC, fostering trade, infrastructure development, and cultural fusion between the two neighbors, saying the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is strengthened with each passing day with enhanced economic cooperation and people-to-people ties.

There is a need for further cross-cultural understanding and a vibrant tapestry of shared heritage for a prosperous future, Khalid added.

Aneel Salman, chair of economic security at Islamabad Policy Research Institute, said culture plays a key role in economic modernization and growth.

"There is a huge influence of cultural dynamics on the economic progress of countries. Pakistan and China can leverage cultural heritage for innovation and sustainable development," he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230716/74cf07982b1b4e9f9c7b7459050cbec3/c.html>

July 17, 2023

People's Daily

China's development model exemplary for developing countries, say experts

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, July 15 (Xinhua) -- As one of the major countries to witness strong growth in recent history, China's development model has been exemplary for the world, especially for developing countries including Pakistan, said Pakistani experts.

There are valuable lessons for the countries to learn from China's modernization and rapid economic development that also brought new opportunities for the world, the experts and officials said at the launching ceremony of the Understanding China Fellowship Program on Friday.

The program, launched by the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development (AIERD), an Islamabad-based think tank, in collaboration with Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University in Rawalpindi, is aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and information about Chinese success in different fields.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, a political economist and CEO of AIERD, said China has developed its economy, agriculture, technology, industry, trade and infrastructure based on the people-centered development philosophy and commitment to promote high-quality development.

To make the relationship between China and Pakistan fruitful and sustainable, it is necessary to instill the spirit of brotherhood and friendship in the next generation, he said, adding that

"They (youth) should know about the Chinese success stories and how Pakistan can benefit out of it."

Convener of National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan is committed to achieving sustainable development goals and the South Asian country would learn from China to address multiple challenges, especially poverty alleviation, economic development and climate change events.

The government is playing its role to cement Pakistan-China ties and the current parliament is also focusing on how to gear up industrial development in the country which is linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, Alam said.

The official said both countries adhered to the concept of building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

The Chinese model of growth and development has been inspirational and exemplary, said Muhammad Azam Khan, a senior professor at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University in Rawalpindi.

The new generation of Pakistan needs to understand China through various academic programs being offered, he said, adding that by doing so, they can suggest a way forward to the policy-makers on how to achieve the path of development and sustainability in the crucial times.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0717/c90000-20045158.html>

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Convener of National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan is committed to achieving sustainable development goals and the South Asian country would learn from China to address multiple challenges, especially poverty alleviation, economic development and climate change events.

The government is playing its role to cement Pakistan-China ties and the current parliament is also focusing on how to gear up industrial development in the country which is linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, Alam said. The official said both countries adhered to the concept of building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future. The Chinese model of growth and development has been inspirational and exemplary, said Muhammad Azam Khan, a senior professor at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University in Rawalpindi.

The new generation of Pakistan needs to understand China through various academic programs being offered, he said, adding that by doing so, they can suggest a way forward to the policy-makers on how to achieve the path of development and sustainability in the crucial times.

<https://english.news.cn/20230717/7291eb5df9c04bafa2addc917777b6aa/c.html>

July 18, 2023

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | CPEC hydropower project to generate clean energy, boost development in Pakistan

"The hydropower project, with state-of-the-art machines, obviously has a huge impact on the safety and the protection of the environment." A Pakistani engineer with the Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Project spoke highly of the cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://english.news.cn/20230718/357cdf148a2b452ebb92b84ba0974dac/c.html>

July 19, 2023

Xinhuanet News

CPEC emerges as most successful, transformative project for Pakistan: minister

ISLAMABAD, July 19 (Xinhua) -- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) emerged as the most successful and transformative project for his country, ushering in a new era of regional connectivity and economic prosperity, a Pakistani official said on Tuesday.

"It was the transformative impact of CPEC that China became the top foreign direct investor in Pakistan within just three years of the project's initiation in 2013," Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said.

He made the remarks at a seminar titled "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at Ten: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity," organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, a think tank, on Tuesday.

The minister said China has become a key economic partner of Pakistan through implementing the multi-billion-dollar project.

Terming CPEC as a game changer for Pakistan and beyond, he said that the project has helped Pakistan in overcoming severe energy shortages by adding thousands of megawatts of electricity as well as establishing a vibrant road and rail infrastructure across the country.

He added that special economic zones (SEZs) and social welfare projects have also been implemented in the country, especially in the southwest Gwadar district, to boost socio-economic development.

Highlighting the role of the SEZs in enhancing trade, Iqbal said that China would provide Pakistan with technical know-how and expertise to increase exports and help the successful execution of the economic zones under the CPEC project.

"Pakistan wants Chinese assistance to increase its exports and in the successful execution of the SEZs," the minister said.

He said that the second phase of CPEC is business-to-business cooperation, not government-to-government. "The country needs to move towards industrial cooperation now under CPEC."

Pakistan needed export-oriented policies if it wanted to have sustainable economic growth, Iqbal said, stressing the importance of having surplus production of various items to increase the country's exports.

[https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230719/2b2c544cab2a4355aca5049c506e61a4/c.html#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%2C%20July%2019%20\(Xinhua\),Pakistani%20official%20said%20on%20Tuesday.](https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230719/2b2c544cab2a4355aca5049c506e61a4/c.html#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%2C%20July%2019%20(Xinhua),Pakistani%20official%20said%20on%20Tuesday.)

GLOBALink | Decade-long CPEC brings Chinese companies, technology to Pakistan: Pakistani minister

A Pakistani minister has said that, thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is now slowly moving from imported fuels to local fuel for power generation and from outdated technology to new Chinese technology.

<https://english.news.cn/20230719/55c80c1bc08e4e17b99ccf9d778e710c/c.html>

July 20, 2023

Global Times

Pakistani religious delegation meet with officials of China's Xinjiang region, voicing support for China's stance on Xinjiang affairs and future China-Pakistan cooperation

A Pakistani delegation consisting of religious leaders and scholars was received by the Party chief and the chairman of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Tuesday, Xinjiang Daily reported on Thursday.

Ma Xingrui, Party chief for Xinjiang, and Erkin Tuniyaz, chairman of Xinjiang, met with the delegation in Urumqi on Tuesday morning. The party chief said the religious leaders and scholars of the delegation had a first-hand understanding of the successful practice of China's ethnic and religious policies in Xinjiang after visiting and seeing the real life of Xinjiang residents.

Ma said the US, among other Western powers, have been using the so-called ethnicity, religion, human rights and other issues to fabricate sensationalized lies and fallacies related to Xinjiang in an attempt to undermine Xinjiang's stability and development. "But no amount of lies can hide the fact that Xinjiang is a stable and prosperous society where people live and work in peace and contentment."

The Xinjiang authorities are dedicated to maintaining social stability, promoting harmonious coexistence among all ethnic groups in the Chinese family, protecting the freedom of religious belief of believers in accordance with the law, and promoting high-quality economic and social development in line with people's livelihoods, all of which has been yielding results, Ma said.

"As the starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the core area of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Xinjiang has close exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan," Ma said. "We are willing to further expand communication and exchanges with the local communities in your country and continuously deepen practical cooperation for the betterment of the people on both sides."

Members of the Pakistani delegation noted that Pakistan is a good neighbor, friend, partner and brother of China and always stands with China.

They said that during their visit to Xinjiang, they saw the great achievements in economic and social development in Xinjiang and the people of all ethnic groups sharing the fruits of development, especially witnessed that under the guidance and protection of China's ethnic and religious policies, the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang live together in harmony, fully enjoy the freedom of religious beliefs, carry out religious activities in accordance with the law, and the cultures of all ethnic groups have been well inherited and preserved, which strengthened the support for China's legitimate stance on the Xinjiang-related affairs.

Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman Qibla Ayaz reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering adherence to the one-China policy and expressed strong determination to continue working

with China on various projects, including the CPEC, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Deputy Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, praised the efforts in completing the CPEC and establishing exemplary relations with China.

Maulana Tayyab Tahir, Amir of Islami Tehreek Pakistan, highlighted the importance of closely monitoring Chinese investments in the region to ensure the welfare of the local population.

The CPEC is an important manifestation of China-Pakistan friendship, the Pakistani religious leaders said, noting that they firmly support the construction of CPEC and hope to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with China, especially Xinjiang, in key areas, so as to promote greater achievements in economic and social development on both sides and contribute to the consolidation and development of China-Pakistan relations.

During the visit, the Pakistani delegation had constructive meetings with prominent figures, with both sides expressing commitment to strengthen relations between Pakistan and China, according to the APP.

The visit also included an insightful tour of the Islamic Institute in Xinjiang, where the delegation was warmly received by Uygur Muslim leader Allama Sheikh Abdul Raqib Al-Sini, APP reported.

This visit served as a testament to the deepening friendship and understanding between the two nations, laying the groundwork for a prosperous future marked by strengthened cooperation and mutual respect, said APP.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294793.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Development projects under CPEC progressing at fast pace: minister

ISLAMABAD, July 21 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, have been progressing at a fast pace.

"The incumbent government has completed a number of CPEC projects recently. Fast-track implementation on the CPEC projects is a success story," the minister said during a meeting with Chinese officials here on Thursday, according to Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

The minister highlighted several projects related to energy, power, and infrastructure and reiterated the government's commitment to complete the CPEC projects on time, the ministry said in a statement.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to expedite the CPEC projects, which have reached a significant milestone in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity over the past decade, the statement added.

As part of the 10-year celebrations, the planning ministry is organizing various events across the country, including an international conference, academic sessions, and cultural shows.

<https://english.news.cn/20230721/062221e593304196bcd29ab954664ffe/c.html>

July 25, 2023

Xinhuanet News

CPEC emerges as corridor of opportunity for Pakistan: official

ISLAMABAD, July 24 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a corridor of opportunity, traversing vast terrains to connect the warm waters of the Arabian Sea with the rich landscapes of China's western regions, a government official said Monday.

Speaking at a two-day international conference that kicked off here earlier in the day, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, secretary of Pakistan's ministry of planning development and special initiatives, said CPEC has improved connectivity between Pakistan and China, reduced transportation costs, and increased trade efficiency.

Themed "Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) from Vision to Reality" to mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the conference aims to exchange ideas and insights related to economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical impacts of CPEC and the BRI.

Addressing the event, Chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission Mukhtar Ahmed said that Pakistan and China are cooperating in several significant initiatives in the field of higher education and research.

"CPEC has evolved from a visionary concept to a reality of immense importance for Pakistan," he said, adding that China is helping Pakistani students meet their dreams by giving them opportunities of studying in China through scholarships in various fields.

<https://english.news.cn/20230725/c29db0d31bef47cc87372e0dd8792541/c.html>

Chinese defense minister meets with Pakistan's air force chief

BEIJING, July 25 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Li Shangfu met with Pakistan Air Force Chief Zaheer Ahmad Babar in Beijing on Tuesday.

Li said during the meeting that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends. The two sides should promote close cooperation in all fields and build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, he said.

The air forces of the two countries should enhance their collaborative capability through joint exercises, Li added.

The Pakistan Air Force is willing to further promote exchanges with the Chinese side in fields such as combat and equipment, so as to make positive contributions to jointly coping with ever-changing regional security challenges, Babar said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230725/b62261e88ded46f0816fd0a5f5c949cb/c.html>

China's top legislator holds talks with Pakistan's National Assembly speaker

BEIJING, July 25 (Xinhua) -- China's top legislator Zhao Leji on Tuesday held talks with the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf via video link.

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields and push forward the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for new and greater development.

Hailing Pakistan for giving firm support to China on issues concerning China's core interests over a long period of time, Zhao said China is willing to strengthen strategic coordination with Pakistan and promote the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

It is hoped that the two sides will deepen all-round practical cooperation, push the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to a new level, strengthen friendly people-to-people exchanges, continue to closely coordinate and cooperate on international and regional issues and make global governance more just and equitable, he added.

China hails Pakistan for taking the lead in supporting the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and joining the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, Zhao said.

"We welcome Pakistan's support for and participation in China's proposals and initiatives, and jointly promote the effective implementation of relevant initiatives," he added.

Zhao said the NPC is willing to work with Pakistan's National Assembly to strengthen exchanges, carry out exchanges on governance experience, timely issue and approve legal documents conducive to bilateral cooperation, and provide legal guarantee for the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Ashraf said Pakistan firmly supports China's core interests and stands ready to work with China to strengthen the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and jointly build the Belt and Road.

The National Assembly of Pakistan is willing to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning with the NPC of China, and play a positive role as a legislature in promoting cooperation in various fields and promoting the development of bilateral relations, Ashraf added.

<https://english.news.cn/20230725/87d7e1782b36470a9b3a9a7640e27801/c.html>

July 26, 2023

Xinhuanet News

CPEC to transform Pakistan's infrastructure, economy: minister

ISLAMABAD, July 26 (Xinhua) -- The ongoing and incoming development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have a huge potential to transform Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, a Pakistani official said.

Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal made the remarks while addressing a two-day international conference here on Tuesday.

CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is not merely about physical connectivity but also aims to uplift the lives of the people and boost socio-economic development across the country, Iqbal said. Themed "Decade of CPEC and BRI: From Vision to Reality" to mark the 10th anniversary of the launching of CPEC, the conference concluded with the aim to expand further and accelerate the pace of work on CPEC projects for Pakistan's prosperity.

Highlighting crucial energy infrastructure projects under CPEC including power plants and transmission lines, the minister said that these projects played a vital role in addressing Pakistan's energy needs and promoting industrial growth.

He also emphasized the significance of transportation and connectivity projects of CPEC, such as the development of road networks and modernization of ports, to enhance regional trade and economic integration. Talking about the Gwadar Port, a strategic project under CPEC, the minister underlined that the port is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world.

"The development of Gwadar Port and its associated free zone is expected to attract foreign investment, stimulate economic activities, and create job opportunities in the region," he added. Iqbal also encouraged both local and foreign investors to participate in these development ventures actively, emphasizing the government's commitment to providing a conducive and investor-friendly environment.

"All stakeholders' interests will be safeguarded, and transparency will remain a cornerstone of the entire development process," the minister added.

<https://english.news.cn/20230726/b6b906cbcd9a418f959eeadb6fb20c9f/c.html>

July 28, 2023

Xinhuanet News

CPEC brings destiny-changing projects in Pakistan's Gwadar: PM

ISLAMABAD, July 27 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Thursday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought destiny-changing projects to the country's southwest Gwadar district.

During a day-long visit to Gwadar, the prime minister inaugurated several projects, including the completion of the airside infrastructure at the China-funded New Gwadar International Airport.

He also met with students, businesspersons, industrialists and foreign investors, and vowed to do the best available opportunities for development in the region.

Sharif told a press conference that the Gwadar Port and other projects in the area under CPEC would play a vital role in the South Asian country's development and change the destiny of local people by creating employment and business opportunities.

"In addition to development projects, we are also establishing welfare projects for the common people, such as technical institutes, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, and a water desalination project," said the prime minister, adding that the cabinet has approved a 300-megawatt coal-fired power project for Gwadar.

Sharif also noted that the cargo handling at Gwadar Port is increasing consistently with more than 600,000 tons of cargo handled during the past 14 months, which has benefited local people, including laborers, transporters, and other businesses.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/20230728/d2de064ac48b4b50b59d27cd182873d9/c.html>

Feature: China-Pakistan power project facilitates economic growth, cements friendship

by Ali Jaswal, Jiang Chao, Liu Tong

LAHORE, Pakistan/XI'AN, China, July 28 (Xinhua) -- As the sun rises and street lights turn off in Lahore, capital of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, the city wakes up and gets bustling with life.

As the day begins, Zubair Tufail, a team supervisor of operations at a converter station of ± 660 kilovolt Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project in a suburb of Lahore, starts his daily work.

A 26-year-old native of Lahore, Tufail joined the project as an electrical engineer after graduating from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

"At the start, we were just fresh engineers from the university and there was no other project in Pakistan related to HVDC, so we had no knowledge of HVDC technology. An experienced Chinese engineer was assigned to every Pakistani engineer on the project, who used to teach us like a university teacher. So whenever we need help, we can call them and they are always available," Tufail said.

This was Pakistan's first HVDC transmission project funded, constructed and operated by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) framework. The project was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

In 2015, the two sides signed more than 50 cooperation deals and agreed to center the development of the CPEC with four key areas, namely, the Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation.

It is the first project to adopt ± 660 kilovolt direct current technology outside China with complete Chinese intellectual property rights, according to Shan Shewu, chairman of China Electric Power Technology and Equipment Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of SGCC.

The converter transformers, one of the most important components of the project, were developed in China's northwestern ancient city of Xi'an, Shan said.

Xi'an, a city with a history of more than 3,100 years, served as the capital for 13 dynasties in Chinese history, including Tang Dynasty (618-907), when the city was known as Chang'an.

In 1992, Lahore and Xi'an became sister cities, and the development of the two cities has since been interwoven together.

Zhao Qi, the general manager of China XD Electric Co., Ltd., told Xinhua that at the end of 2014, the XD group provided technical solutions for the project, and on top of that, the company successfully won the bid for the project's converter transformers, said Zhao.

Xi'an XD Transformer Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of his group, produced 28 converter transformers and 47 reactors that are being used in the Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission project, he added.

The eastern part of Pakistan is hot with the temperature exceeding 50 degrees Celsius most of the time in summer. For this reason, the design team of XD Group optimized the structure of the main components and the installation method of bushings.

From design and production to installation and application, the Chinese-built converter transformers have played a major role in the country's power grid, said Tufail.

"Our project has greatly reduced the loss in Pakistan's north-south power transmission and reduced power outages caused by transmission loss, which is why our industrial sector is now functioning well," he said.

The project has now operated safely for over 1,000 days, with a cumulative transmission of 26.8 billion kWh, guaranteeing the electricity use of 10 million households in Lahore and its surrounding areas and facilitating the socio-economic development in the area.

"I am very proud to be able to work on a CPEC project and do my part for the progress of the country," Tufail said, noting that Pakistani and Chinese colleagues not only cooperate closely but also celebrate each other's festivals.

"Our relationship is very strong, we are like brothers," he said.

As of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country. Furthermore, it has helped Pakistan generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity and build 886 km of the national core transmission grid, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

"This 886-km-long network connecting the power projects from Pakistan's northern mountains all the way up to the southern parts represents a deep bond of friendship between the two countries," said Pakistan's Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan while commemorating the 10th anniversary of the project.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230728/ab7b6fddbc2a43ff9fdd9394a8fd75fe/c.html>

July 29, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Xi's special representative to attend Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event

BEIJING, July 29 (Xinhua) -- He Lifeng, special representative of President Xi Jinping, will travel to Pakistan from July 30 to August 1 to attend the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event in Islamabad, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Saturday.

He, vice premier of the State Council, will travel to Pakistan at the invitation of the government of Pakistan, Mao added.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan, a foreign ministry spokesperson said.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC, the Pakistani government will hold a grand celebration event in the country's capital Islamabad. He will attend the event and meet with the leaders of Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends, and the friendship between the two countries is time-honored, the spokesperson noted.

China hopes that this visit will be an opportunity for both sides to jointly implement the important consensus between leaders of the two countries, renew the traditional friendship, build on past achievements and upgrade the development of the CPEC, consolidate and deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, advance the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and contribute to the development and prosperity of the region and beyond, the spokesperson added.

<https://english.news.cn/20230729/b9b7063557db4fbab9aa549224ecc3cc/c.html>

July 30, 2023

Global Times

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng visits Pakistan, celebrating CPEC's 10th anniversary

Vice Premier He Lifeng, acting as the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, kicked off an official visit to Pakistan on Sunday to attend the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebrations.

The two countries, all-weather strategic cooperation partners, have enhanced comprehensive cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during the past 10 years.

The CPEC is a flagship of the BRI, which has helped improve Pakistani people's livelihood, and created many jobs for locals, experts said, noting that Western countries' disparaging CPEC won't conceal Chinese enterprises' contribution to Pakistan nor hurt the iron-clad friendship of the two neighbors.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that China hopes that He Lifeng's visit will be an opportunity to implement the important consensus reached between leaders of the two countries, continue to build on past achievements and upgrade the development of the CPEC.

The country also hopes that the visit will consolidate and deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership, advance the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and contribute to the development and prosperity of the region.

"Before the launch of the CPEC, a signature project of the BRI envisaged by China, Pakistan was striving for economic survival, languishing in an energy crisis, with poor infrastructure and financial challenges. As a silver lining, the CPEC came to the rescue. Within 10 years, the initiative was transforming Pakistan and bringing prosperity," Yasir Habib Khan, senior journalist and president of the Institute of International Relations and Media Research, told the Global Times.

The corridor is a model of the two nations' adherence to joint construction and sharing of high-quality resources, which has promoted the socioeconomic progress of Pakistan, Li Yong, a senior research fellow at the China Association of International Trade, said on Sunday.

As of 2022, the CPEC had brought \$25.4 billion in direct investment to Pakistan and created about 236,000 jobs there. It helped Pakistan generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity and build 886 kilometers of national core transmission grid, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

While China and Pakistan have kept on promoting high-quality development of the CPEC, Western media use "debt trap" and "unqualified projects" to smear the BRI project.

"Facts speak louder than the smearing rhetoric. The achievements over the past 10 years in the construction of the CPEC are the best response to the 'debt trap' and other discrediting smears," Li told the Global Times.

One of the watershed developments during the 10 years was the high-octane operation of Gwadar Port, crown jewel of the CPEC.

Gwadar was once an old fishing town, and now it is on a high tide of success with tangible socioeconomic progress, including the establishment of free trade zones there, the Eastbay Express Way, and inauguration of the New International Gwadar Airport, according to Yasir.

Zhang Baozhong, former chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Co, told the Global Times that with the improvement of local ports and infrastructure including hospitals, airports and schools, Gwadar has now been transformed to a modern seaside city with a permanent resident population that grew from 80,000 in 2013 to 220,000 in 2023.

Zhang said his company aims to build Gwadar into a smart port city by 2050 with a total population of more than 1.7 million and an annual GDP of \$30 billion.

The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM), the largest transportation project under the CPEC, was completed in 2019. The project gave priority to hiring Pakistani employees, providing more than 23,000 local jobs, according to a statement China State Construction sent to the Global Times.

The PKM project has also helped propel the development of services industries such as catering, retailing and transportation, indirectly creating more than 45,000 jobs.

Danish, a manager of PowerChina's construction project group in Pakistan, told the Global Times that in the field of green energy, Pakistanis are impressed by the technology accumulation and construction efficiency of Chinese companies.

PowerChina has completed the construction of 22 wind power projects in Pakistan, with a total installed capacity of 1.14 million kilowatts.

In connection with the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the CPEC Industry Chain Cooperation Platform was launched to kick-start a comprehensive services system covering key industrial cooperation in new energy, smart manufacturing, and the digital economy between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1295322.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Interview: CPEC generates sustainable development in Pakistan, says Pakistani economist

by Ali Jaswal

ISLAMABAD, July 30 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has delivered infrastructure, trade and employment to Pakistan, resulting in sustainable development in the country, a Pakistani economist said.

The enhancement in infrastructure through roads, railways and airport is not just going to provide connectivity within Pakistan but in the region and beyond, Badiea Shaukat, an economic consultant at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think-tank, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

"It will also bring Pakistan to that stage where it can build its regional connectivity with other Central Asian countries and the Western side of the globe. So, I think that CPEC in real term is a sustainable development model," the economist said.

Shaukat said the project enhanced social equity and apart from the financial revenues, it gave a social boost to different segments of the society.

CPEC is giving strong hope to the country amid contemporary challenges as it is providing employment opportunities and increasing connectivity, which is quite significant for the equitable environment of the society, said the economist.

By the end of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

On the one hand, he said, CPEC is generating trade improvisation which is helping the local manufacturer with lower cost of trade. On the other hand, the regional connectivity is enabling the Pakistani exporters to export at a much lower cost to other neighboring economies, increasing the trade prospects for the South Asian country, Shaukat added.

Reflecting on the decade-long journey of CPEC, he said that China came to Pakistan when it was going through a severe economic crunch and there was no foreign direct investment in the country.

CPEC brought a renewed spirit in local Pakistani companies as they went into collaborations and joint ventures with Chinese companies, Shaukat said, adding that it provided a big opportunity to the local companies and the workers in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development.

Shaukat said human resource generation is one of the most important aspects of CPEC as working on the latest state-of-the-art technologies considerably resulted in the skill development of Pakistani professionals and the labor force.

On top of everything, the economist said the special emphasis on corporate social responsibility in CPEC projects has been vital in the socio-economic uplifting of the surrounding areas in particular and the country in general.

"We see a strong humanitarian side under these projects, we have seen that there are a lot of corporate relief projects, which are initiated by the Chinese companies, and they helped at the local level, even at the county and the district and the town levels," he said.

The Chinese have been distributing ration bags and helping out the victims, who were affected by natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

"They are quite active, which delivers the local people a friendly gesture from these companies to develop a friendly environment," according to the economist.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230730/2e7e4395bc93445293a714a451b2eea1/c.html>

High-quality CPEC highlights vitality of BRI, says Pakistani expert

CPEC has brought a new model of investment in Pakistan, which boosted economic growth, generated wealth and brought employment opportunities, said Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of an Islamabad-based think tank.

ISLAMABAD, July 30 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought high-quality development and contributed to a human community with a shared future through win-win economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, highlighting the vitality of China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a Pakistani expert said.

The increased economic cooperation between China and Pakistan fostered stronger trade ties, investment opportunities, and infrastructural development that helped the people of Pakistan, Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of Islamabad-based think tank, the Global Silk Route Research Alliance, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the BRI, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

By investing in infrastructure and various sectors, CPEC stimulated economic activity in Pakistan, creating thousands of jobs and improving the socio-economic life of locals, Awan added.

With the launch of the BRI and Pakistan joining CPEC, a great change happened to Pakistan's economy with all economic indicators immensely improved, Awan said.

Recalling the acute shortage of electricity and up to 18 hours of load shedding in summer in some of the areas in Pakistan before CPEC was started, Awan said, CPEC invested heavily in the electricity sector for power generation and power transmission.

"As a result of the completed power projects, Pakistan has gotten out of load shedding, and almost we are producing sufficient electricity to meet the demand of Pakistan currently," he added.

The expert said that CPEC also enhanced business activities in Pakistan by building a network of high-quality roads across the country.

"Pakistan from its width and length is connected by the motorways and expressways constructed under the CPEC framework," he said.

Talking about the skill enhancement and training of local laborers to become skilled workers, Awan said that the Chinese companies in Pakistan trained the Pakistani human resource

through on-job training, and some of the Chinese companies selected some youth and graduates and sent them to China for training and high education.

"So, China has helped Pakistan to produce a human resource to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Not only this, China also provided thousands of scholarships to Pakistani students to study science and technology from China. In this way, China is meeting the requirements of Pakistan's human resource development very effectively," he added.

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Awan said that CPEC has brought a new model of investment in Pakistan, which boosted economic growth, generated wealth and brought employment opportunities.

"Power plant is producing electricity, which means that money will be generated through sales, and a large number of jobs will be created. China helped Pakistan develop the port, and this means when the port is operational, it is generating revenue for the government of Pakistan," he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230730/6c40e8da00ad4dd481725137d2bde67d/c.html>

July 31, 2023

Global Times

Gwadar being transformed into modern hub via BRI

By Chu Daye

With China's experience in economic development and the support from local residents, Pakistan's Gwadar region will become a prosperous city under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a window on Chinese way of modernization. It will be remembered as one of the flagship projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the builder of the Port of Gwadar told the Global Times.

"Gwadar Port is like a blank sheet of paper, and we can draw the most beautiful painting on it," Zhang Baozhong, former chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Co, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview.

He compared the project to Shenzhen, an economic powerhouse and special economic zone which China built from scratch in about 40 years.

China Overseas Ports Holding Co, the operator of the Gwadar Port, has been instrumental in the development of the port and the free trade zone there.

Pakistan will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed BRI, this week. Gwadar Port is a flagship project of the CPEC.

Underlining the importance of the port, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid a visit to Gwadar last week.

Sharif reiterated the Pakistani government's resolve to develop Gwadar into one of the best ports in the world, and he urged Balochistan Province to "look after" foreign investors, according to the Dawn newspaper.

"Fruits to be borne this year include a hospital and the New Gwadar International Airport... looking at the next 10 years, Gwadar will become the most important growth engine in southwestern Pakistan, bringing marked improvements in local people's lives, education and medical care," said Zhang, who spent the past eight years at Gwadar building the port.

During the past decade, the two countries, as the all-weather strategic cooperation partners enjoying "ironclad ties," have forged ahead with economic cooperation under the framework of the BRI.

"By fostering a secure environment for development in some areas, and using these areas as economic locomotives, it is believed that we can help, in a gradual fashion, increase the national strength of Pakistan," Zhang said.

The Gwadar Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is an epitome of this belief.

Before 2015, the FTZ was just an idea. But now the FTZ has attracted some 20 companies in the fields of banking, insurance, logistics, food and aquaculture processing, from China and Pakistan, with a combined investment of 3 billion yuan (420 million yuan), and it has generated 1,200 jobs.

Inside the FTZ, Henan Yulin Holdings, a forestry enterprise, invested in a tropical plant research center, and China Linyi Trade City Co, a merchandising firm, invested in warehousing facilities. Ningbo Huilong Co, from East China's Zhejiang Province, set up a metal processing plant and became the first company in the FTZ to enter commercial operation. In 2022, the company generated nearly \$1 million in revenue.

Outside the FTZ, Chinese construction firm CREC built the international airport, and infrastructure giant CCCC built the expressway connection from the FTZ to the main expressway artery. A sprawling economic belt is in the making, transforming Gwadar from a forgotten corner of the world into a modern coastal city.

Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times that despite some Western media smears that progress in Gwadar has been slow, the Chinese builders have never pushed the pause button for Gwadar's construction, even against the security odds.

Zhou said the concept of the functions of the port has evolved several times since 2006 and "nowadays, the port, formerly an aid project constructed by Chinese companies, is becoming an investment hotspot in the northern part of the Indian Ocean, attracting the attention of investors from Saudi Arabia and the UAE."

"To a certain degree, the port has partially replaced some of the functions of the Port of Karachi," Zhou said.

Experts said the Chinese companies have changed Gwadar for the better. The port has brought larger vessels to anchor, Chinese technical training schools reshaped local people's job possibilities and Central Asian countries began using the port's logistic benefits to engage in seaborne trade.

"Chinese companies also took a prudent approach in constructing the port, doing one thing at a time and only moving on to the next target when the previous one had developed sustainably," Zhou said, noting that this has set a paradigm for other BRI projects.

With the improvement of Gwadar and the surrounding infrastructure, the permanent resident population grew from 80,000 in 2013 to 220,000 in 2023.

Zhang said that the port operator aims to build Gwadar into a smart port city by 2050 with a total population of more than 1.7 million and an annual GDP of \$30 billion.

"Every day the Chinese in Gwadar bathed in the friendship and care of the local people, they see Chinese companies as the only hope for Gwadar's future," Zhang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1295398.shtml>

China and Pakistan celebrate 10th anniversary of CPEC, laud benefits

China and Pakistan are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a BRI flagship project, and analysts said that the CPEC, which has helped with Pakistan's economic and social development, will bring more benefits to local people as the two countries further deepen cooperation.

Special Representative of President Xi Jinping and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng continued his visit in Pakistan on Monday.

China and Pakistan on Monday signed six agreements for the promotion of bilateral cooperation under the witness of He and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"I have no doubt that we are entering into the second phase of CPEC. Today, we have signed some important documents which will enhance our economic cooperation, and we will undertake the second phase under a new mode," Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif told the gathering on Monday, local media Pakistan Today reported.

A series of celebration events have been held in recent days to mark the 10th anniversary of the CPEC. The country's landmark building - the Pakistan Monument - was decked on Saturday with the colors of the Chinese and Pakistan national flags to mark the anniversary.

From July 24 to 25, an international seminar on the CPEC and the BRI was held in Islamabad with senior officials, scholars and representatives from businesses and trade from Pakistan and China attending. Pang Chunxue, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, also attended the celebration event, during which she said that under the guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results and made great

contributions to the economic and social development of Pakistan, according to a release from the website of the Chinese Embassy to Pakistan.

He's visit to Pakistan showed that China has attached great importance to China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC. Moreover, He may also discuss with the Pakistan side about the development plan for the next decade, Zhu Yongbiao, executive director of the Research Center for the Belt and Road at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times.

As the CPEC and other BRI projects between China and Pakistan have focused on major infrastructure, more "small but beautiful" projects would be set to boost income fast and increase employment and benefit local people, said Zhu.

Analysts further noted that ensuring the safety of the CPEC and BRI projects are also a task for both China and Pakistan, given the threat of terrorism.

At least 44 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in a bomb blast that targeted a rally held on July 30 in Bajaur, a tribal district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, media reported.

It is undeniable that the CPEC projects have brought concrete benefits to Pakistan, and both China and Pakistan will further improve the building of BRI projects despite external attempt to undermine it or some Western countries' hyping of the "debt trap" rhetoric or security issues, analysts said.

Zhu said that financing problems, a thorny issue in Pakistan that the West has never been willing to help with, can be solved only by investment and development, which is what China and other countries are trying to do.

Some Western countries' smearing of the CPEC and BRI projects is unfair and ill-intentioned. Zhu said that Pakistan has a clear understanding of this hype and also attaches importance to the development of the CPEC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1295392.shtml>

People's Daily

A decade of BRI: The transformative social and economic impact of CPEC on Pakistan

By Zamir Ahmed Awan

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a mega initiative of China for developments, connectivity, people-to-people contact, and contributing toward socially and economically well-being of humankind globally. There are six planned economic corridors under BRI, and one of them is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project and one of the most advanced stage projects. The fruits of the CPEC are being enjoyed by both countries.

The CPEC has emerged as a game-changer for Pakistan, ushering in a new era of economic growth and development. Since its inception, the CPEC has been a symbol of the deep-rooted friendship and strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan. This ambitious

infrastructure and energy project has been instrumental in bolstering the economic landscape of Pakistan, both directly and indirectly.

Direct Social Impact of CPEC on Common Man

Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation: The CPEC's vast infrastructure projects and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have led to a surge in employment opportunities for ordinary Pakistanis. As per experts' estimates, the CPEC has created over 75,000 direct jobs in the country by December 2021, reducing unemployment rates and improving the standard of living for countless families. This rise in employment has also played a crucial role in alleviating poverty and reducing income disparities.

Education and Skill Development: A significant aspect of the CPEC's social impact is its focus on education and skill development. Pakistan has witnessed an influx of Chinese investments in educational institutions and vocational training centers. This collaboration has not only provided access to quality education but also facilitated the transfer of technical knowledge and expertise. As a result, the Pakistani workforce is becoming better equipped to participate in various industries, further enhancing their employability.

Healthcare Advancements: The CPEC has facilitated investments in Pakistan's healthcare sector, leading to improved medical facilities and services in both urban and rural areas. Chinese investments have helped establish state-of-the-art hospitals and medical research centers, catering to the healthcare needs of the common man. This development has led to increased life expectancy and a decline in preventable diseases.

Indirect Social Impact of CPEC on Common Man

Enhanced Connectivity and Regional Integration: The CPEC's focus on infrastructure development, including modern roads, railways, and ports, has significantly improved connectivity within Pakistan and across the region. This has opened up new avenues for trade and commerce, benefiting local businesses and consumers. The increased regional integration has also fostered cultural exchange and people-to-people connectivity, promoting social harmony and understanding.

Women Empowerment: The CPEC has played a pivotal role in promoting women's participation in the workforce. Many women have found employment opportunities in sectors like textiles, manufacturing, and services within the SEZs. Additionally, various social initiatives supported by the CPEC aim to empower women entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary resources and training to start and grow their businesses.

Environmental Protection: The CPEC's energy projects have placed a strong emphasis on renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power. By reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels, the CPEC has contributed to mitigating the impact of climate change and improving air quality, which directly benefits the health and well-being of the common man.

Direct Impact of CPEC on Pakistan's Economy

Infrastructure Development: One of the most evident direct impacts of the CPEC is the extensive development of infrastructure throughout Pakistan. The construction of modern

highways, railways, ports, and energy projects has significantly improved connectivity and reduced transportation costs.

Energy Sector Revitalization: Pakistan's chronic energy crisis has been a major obstacle to its economic progress. CPEC addressed this issue by investing in energy projects, resulting in a surge in electricity generation capacity. As a result, Pakistan has experienced a substantial reduction in power outages, enabling businesses to operate more efficiently. By December 2021, CPEC had added around 5,200 MW of electricity to Pakistan's national grid.

Industrial Zones: SEZs established under the CPEC have been vital in attracting foreign investment and promoting local industries. These SEZs have created numerous employment opportunities, supporting the government's efforts to alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment.

Indirect Impact of CPEC on Pakistan's Economy

Enhanced Trade and Investment: The CPEC has transformed Pakistan into a regional economic hub, creating unprecedented trade and investment opportunities. As a result, the country has witnessed a surge in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, which reached a record \$2.1 billion in the fiscal year 2021. The CPEC has also paved the way for Pakistan to tap into China's extensive market, further boosting its exports.

Skill Development and Technology Transfer: Collaboration with Chinese companies has facilitated the transfer of advanced technology and expertise to Pakistan. This has not only upgraded the country's technical capacity but has also empowered its workforce with new skills and knowledge. As a result, Pakistan is better positioned to participate in the global knowledge economy.

Regional Connectivity and Geopolitical Significance: The CPEC has significantly enhanced regional connectivity, fostering economic ties not only with China but also with other countries in the region. By bridging the gap between the Arabian Sea and the landlocked regions of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the CPEC has become a crucial component of the BRI, reinforcing Pakistan's geopolitical significance.

Conclusion

As the CPEC continues to evolve, it is imperative for Pakistan and China to maintain a commitment to sustainable development, transparent practices, and community engagement to ensure that the social benefits of the CPEC are sustainable and inclusive, leaving a lasting legacy of progress and prosperity for generations to come.

Pakistan and China must continue to work together, utilizing effective governance and transparent practices, to ensure that the CPEC's benefits are sustainable and shared equitably among all sections of society. With continued commitment and cooperation, the CPEC has the potential to pave the way for a prosperous and brighter future for the people of both China and Pakistan.

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(Web editor: Xian Jiangnan, Wu Chengliang)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0731/c90000-20051934.html>