



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

June 01-15, 2023

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June 01, 2023

The Nation

China-Pakistan compassionate home opened for ailing children

ISLAMABAD - China-Pakistan compassionate home was officially inaugurated here for ailing children in Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, this is a joint effort by the Beijing-based charity One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation (BOHS), Islamabad-based volunteer organisation China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community (CPYEC), and Pakistani non-governmental organisation (NGO) Step and Cure.

This will provide free accommodation and treatment to children suffering from a variety of long term mental and physical ailments in Islamabad. Their attendants would also be allowed to stay with them.

Qiu Xu, secretary-general of BOHS, expected that the platform can gather more love and strength to serve the most needy.

In 2022, CPYEC along with BOHS carried out public welfare assistance projects in various parts of Pakistan including distribution of food packages, assistance to orphanages and welfare homes for special children, construction of tent camps and construction of drinking water stations.

Li Yue, counsellor of consular affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, highlighted the friendship between the two countries, adding that Chinese charity organisations have played a great role in strengthening the people- to-people bond between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-01/page-4/detail-7>

CPEC brings about green revolution in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD-China has been assisting Pakistan in modernizing its agriculture sector by sharing advanced farming technologies, promoting agricultural research, and facilitating knowledge exchange. This cooperation has helped enhance agricultural productivity, improve crop yields, and optimize resource utilization in Pakistan, said Adnan Khan, a representative of the CPEC Authority.

Talking to WealthPK, he said both the countries had established strong cooperation in the agriculture sector. There is collaboration on everything from technology transfer to infrastructure development to research and development, he added.

“Through joint ventures and investments, both the countries will develop irrigation systems, storage facilities, and processing plants. These initiatives aim to improve the overall agricultural value chain and enhance the quality and marketability of Pakistani agricultural products,” he said.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also played a crucial role in boosting agricultural cooperation. The Corridor has facilitated the development of economic zones,

industrial parks, and transportation networks, creating favorable conditions for agricultural trade and investment between the two countries,” the CPEC Authority official said.

The agriculture sector has emerged as a direct or indirect beneficiary of the CPEC via development in backward and forward linkages. It has been the backbone of low-income economies and is generally the primary source of income and employment in rural areas. This vital sector has been facing a downfall during the last one decade. As of last year, it has gained manifold traction under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation, promising phenomenal agricultural growth.

Given the comprehensive spectrum of cooperation under the ‘CPEC Green Corridor’ throughout the year 2022, this sector has recorded a remarkable growth of 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5% as well as last year’s growth of 3.48% during FY2022.

Additionally, the growing Pak-China trade ties have opened up new avenues for agricultural exports. Pakistan can tap into the vast Chinese market by exporting various agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, seafood, and processed food items.

This bilateral cooperation will not only benefit the agricultural sectors of both countries but also contribute to regional food security, economic development, and poverty alleviation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-01/page-8/detail-2>

The News

Chinese delegation visits FPCCI

LAHORE: A Chinese trade delegation on Wednesday visited the regional office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Lahore to discuss the bilateral trade and economic matters between the two countries.

The delegation was led by Luan Xiangjie, president of Ruzhou Foreign Trade Enterprises Association, who met FPCCI chief Irfan Iqbal Shiekh, regional chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, and other office bearers of the apex trade body, according to a FPCCI statement.

During the meeting, Sheikh highlighted the contribution of China in economic development and prosperity of Pakistan. He emphasised on collaboration between the two countries, saying Chinese investment in Pakistan in the backdrop of CPEC would improve infrastructure and energy situation of Pakistan.

Nadeem Qureshi stressed on the importance of interaction between business people, expansion of trade and creation of joint ventures investment between both nations. FPCCI office bearers said the two countries could collaborate in the leather industry as Pakistan has skilled workforce and China boasts advanced technologies and an established presence in the global leather market.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=207154>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 41
29 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوئی، وقت آ گیا ہے ہم تمام پاکستانوں کو آگے لاکر ملک کی ترقی میں کردار ادا کرنے کا موقع دیں۔ بدھ کو لیڈرز ان اسلام آباد سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے قیام کی 75 ویں سالگرہ منا رہا ہے مگر اپنے اہمال سے بہت دور ہیں، جب حکومت میں سبکی مڑتے آتے تو ملک 50 ویں سالگرہ منا رہا تھا، ہم ڈن 2020 کا جائزہ لینے کا سکیو کے گئے تو یہ چکا کر انہوں نے پاکستان سے سیکھا ہے، جب بھی پاکستان کی اثر افزائی کے پاس گئے تو وہ کہنے لگے کہ ملک کہاں آج پہنچا ہے۔

چینی صدر نے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی تہدائی اہمیت اور حسن چین کا ہیلت اینڈ روڈ اور پاکستان کے وڈا 2025 کو مل کر چین اور جنوبی ایشیائی ملکوں کو ملانے کا منصوبہ ہے سابق حکومت نے الزامات عائد کر کے چین کو ناراض کیا، ڈالر کمانے والی کمپنیوں کو سپورٹ کرنا چاہئے، خطاب اسلام آباد (این این آئی) کوآئی وزیر نے اپنی 100 کمپنیوں کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کر ایٹل ملکوں کو ملانے کا منصوبہ ہے، پاکستان ٹیلی منصوبہ بندی ترقی، اصلاحات و مخصوص اقدامات نے کی حمایت کر رہی ہے، لیکن کاٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ اور چین ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا مرکز بن سکتا ہے، ایک میں 3 پروڈیوسر اسن اتھالی نے کہا ہے کہ چینی صدر شئی نے پاکستان کے وڈا 2025 کو مل کر چین اور جنوبی سال کے اندر (باقی صفحہ 7 بجے نمبر 41)

Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Gilgit Baltistan News&Date=2023-06-01

Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-06-01

June 02, 2023

Dawn News

Chinese envoy promises full support for KU's Confucius Institute

KARACHI: Karachi University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi visited the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi and called on Consul General Yang Yundong on Wednesday.

The VC was also accompanied by Pakistani director of the Confucius Institute Prof Dr Muhammad Nasiruddin Khan and other faculty members.

During the meeting, Mr Yang expressed his gratitude to the KU for its strong support for the development of the Confucius Institute at the varsity.

He fully affirmed the positive contributions made by the institute on the campus in promoting international Chinese education and strengthening cultural exchanges between Beijing and Islamabad.

The envoy said that the consulate general in Karachi would continue to firmly support the development of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi.

He hoped that the institute would cultivate strong friendly exchanges and increase people-to-people contact between both the countries.

The vice chancellor briefly introduced to the consul general the teaching situation at the Confucius Institute and the ongoing joint BS programme for undergraduates majoring in Chinese.

He mentioned the university was providing opportunities for students to learn the Chinese language and promote cultural exchanges and trade development between China and Pakistan.

Furthermore, he also shared the details of the future planning of working at the institute.

Dr Iraqi also mentioned that the KU had renamed its arts auditorium as the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium to commemorate death of three Chinese teachers and their Pakistani van driver who “sacrificed their lives for education”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1757211>

The Nation

GB, KP ideal for trout farming with Chinese tech

ISLAMABAD-Training of Pakistani farmers by Chinese experts and transfer of technology can bring about a revolution in the trout farming sector, earning huge revenues for the state wallet, said Deputy Director of Fisheries (Planning and Development), Gilgit-Baltistan Ikram Hussain.

Talking to WealthPK, he said China excelled in all traits related to fish farming, value addition, and marketing, and the transfer of technology to Pakistan was badly required. “The traditional ways of trout farming are still in practice in Pakistan. On the other hand, the Chinese trout farming techniques are much more viable for industrial purposes. Their farming seed is well-engineered genetically and this peculiarity is lacking in Pakistan. The environment for trout farming is equally ideal in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,” Ikram said. He said trout was well-favoured all over the world, with the Gulf countries making a huge market. They import bulks of European trout. “In 2019-2020, the GB government started a five-year project named ‘Promotion of trout farming in GB.’ The Ministry of National Food Security is leading it. The project has entered its 4th successful year. The program was initiated under the title of agriculture emergency. Brown trout – commonly known as ‘Malhi’ — was introduced in GB in 1908 for commercial farming. The fisheries department has replenished it into different natural/ developed water resources. It is also used as the stalking material. Rainbow trout are also cultured here, and the private sector is successfully farming it,” he said. “Productive projects related to trout farming and other fisheries-related projects can be planned/launched from Diamer District to Khunjerab border along the CPEC. Joining hands with China for hatchery management, seed production, value addition, research, and development etc., would be of great help to Pakistan. Development of all these aspects can transform the trout farming segment into a billion-dollar industry,” Ikram said. Advocating the promotion of trout farming in GB, aquaculture expert at the World Bank Aslam Jarwar said almost all over Pakistan, temperature, photoperiod, alkaline soil and water were ideal for fish farming, i.e., the plains (including 50% of Punjab province below Potohar region), the whole Sindh and Balochistan provinces including the coastal belts. Besides these provinces, the hilly areas of GB and KP provinces have far more potential for aquaculture, especially for trout farming and hatchery establishment, he added. “Right now, the KP government has one or two hatcheries, while the Punjab government keeps a small hatchery. Seed production from these hatcheries is far below the need. Secondly, the broodstock is too old and not very productive. The new hatchery management technology and genetically improved seeds are needed to increase quality production. “Trout is an expensive aquatic food item. So, its cultivation is also expensive. Its promotion needs well-subsidized packages from the government. Training of farmers, provision of quality seeds, and subsidy would help increase trout production. Subsidized farming will help people

to a great extent,” shared Aslam Jarwar. The global consumption of rainbow trout is projected to grow from worth US\$4.2 billion in 2023 to US\$7 billion at a CAGR of 5.2% by the year 2033. The global trout market size (all types, i.e., rainbow trout, sea trout, brook trout, golden trout, etc.) reached 929 thousand metric tonnes and it is expected to grow at the CAGR of 2.1% by the year 2028. It is important for Pakistan to support trout farmers by providing them with technical training, modern gear, subsidies, and all other related assistance. It will help farm the trout at its full potential from the favorable environment in GB and KP. Pakistan needs to get coordination with China so that trout farming can flourish in the country as well.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-02/page-9/detail-3>

June 03, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese delegation hands over CPEC camp building to AUST

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, and the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a delegation from China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) visited the Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST) Havelian. The delegation handed over the building of the Chinese camp at Hazara Motorway to the AUST. The delegation was led by Deputy General Manager CRBC Pakistan Liu Chong. General Project Manager Wang Hui.

The Vice-Chancellor AUST Professor Dr. Malik Mujaddid-ur-Rahman welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of CPEC for both countries. He highlighted the 72-year-old friendship between Pakistan and China, where both nations are working together on developmental matters and promoting research and knowledge exchange. He expressed his hope that this journey would continue in the future.

Mr. Liu Chong thanked the Vice-Chancellor and assured him that China would continue to work on developmental projects in Pakistan. The Vice-Chancellor and the Secretary of Higher Education presented shields to the guests. The Chinese delegation also exchanged shields with the Vice-Chancellor and the Secretary of Higher Education. The event included the distribution of awards for the approved projects of the National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) where Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Aazam Hayat received PKR 10,315,800, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Rahim PKR 2,337,500, Dr. Fawad Hussain PKR 3,015,100, Dr. Muhammad Mudassir Khan PKR 8,350,000, Dr. Hazrat Ali PKR 2,860,000, Dr. Abrar Khan PKR 6,358,000 and Dr. Yaser Saeed PKR 3,207,600.

Dr. Anila Mahfooz Durani congratulated all the PIs on their success and highlighted the importance of a research-oriented environment in universities. She expressed satisfaction that Pakistan and China while being steadfast partners in the journey of friendship and national development, are also playing a significant role in promoting education and research. The special guest commended Vice-Chancellor Professor AUST Professor Dr. Malik Mujaddid-ur-Rahman for his commitment to advancing research and acknowledged the collaborative efforts between top educational institutions worldwide, including renowned universities in

China. She praised the Vice-Chancellor's personal interest in the progress of Abbottabad University and affirmed that Higher Education Commission (HEC) will continue its support for the bright future of the university.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1099640/chinese-delegation-hands-over-cpec-camp-building-to-aust/>

Truck carrying seafood from Pakistan arrives in Xinjiang

A truck loaded with cold chain containers from Pakistan has arrived at Kashgar city in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross border land route.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Global Times reported on Friday.

A representative from the Pakistani transport company said this was the first attempt at bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm.

"The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment, our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities from Pakistan," he added.

The representative noted that the shipment cost by truck is far below that of air transport, and has simpler customs clearance procedures.

In addition, shipment by road shortens transport time to eight days, which is suitable for small-scale and point-to-point logistics, while the sea transport from Karachi Port to Yangshan Port in Shanghai takes nearly a month.

According to media report, the container truck entered China via the Karakoram Highway, the only land route linking Pakistan with China, undergoing a customs check at the Khunjerab Port, the world highest port.

The largest bilateral cooperation program the CPEC is marking its 10th anniversary this year, has played an important role in bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan and created over 155,000 local jobs for Pakistani people, China's National Development and Reform Commission said.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also hailed the CPEC as a shining example of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at the 4th round of the Foreign Minister-level Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad.

In order to expand the influence of the CPEC, the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to extend the program to Afghanistan, to further advance cooperation under the BRI.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1099753/truck-carrying-seafood-from-pakistan-arrives-in-xinjiang/>

Pakistan holds great potential to develop its economy: Zhao Lijian

Former Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Friday that Pakistan as a resilient country has great potential to develop its economy. Being a time-tested and iron-clad

friend, China is always holding the hand of Pakistan firmly. Given the regional and international challenges, Pakistan is not alone because China is standing by Pakistan to grow and progress together. Zhao Lijian made these remarks in a meeting with Foreign Affairs Expert Muhammad Mehdi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. During the meeting, Mehdi categorically supported the one-China policy. Mehdi said Pakistan believes that it is the rightful and constitutional principle of the People's Republic of China. Pakistan also endorses China's immaculate and conspicuous stance of China on the South China Sea issue. Meanwhile, during a dinner organized by a few Chinese parliamentarians in honor of Mehdi, matters of mutual interest to diversify and cement Sino-Pak relations, regional prosperity, peace, and development were discussed. They also discussed the current status of CPEC and brainstormed multiple ways forward to move CPEC into high gear by spurring up Pakistan-China cooperation. Peking University Professor Dr Zhang Jamei in a separate meeting said, Peking University is ready to work with Pakistan-based think tanks for Pakistan-China relations and CPEC, promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges, so as to help people of both countries to better understand each other.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1099755/pakistan-holds-great-potential-to-develop-its-economy-zhao-lijian/>

Pak-Sino collaboration in PV sector moves ahead for sustainable development

China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi officially released here the sixth annual corporate sustainability report, providing an elaborate summary of its practices and achievements in the field of environment, society and governance (ESG) in the past year.

Pakistan, as an indispensable international market for LONGi, poised to show more competitiveness in global PV market.

"Since 2020, LONGi Solar has successfully exported more than 1GW of solar panels to the Pakistani market, as a momentous milestone," Ali Majid, General Manager, Pakistan, LONGi Solar, told Gwadar pro in an exclusive interview.

As Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impact of increasingly severe climate change, the sustainable development has become a pressing issue in the country.

Photovoltaic power generation, as the best choice to solve Pakistan's power shortage and optimize its energy structure to a great extent based on fossil fuels, while saving foreign exchange required for energy imports, has vast potential for future development.

From 2012 to 2022, LONGi produced a total of 290GW of photovoltaic products, with the cumulative output of clean electricity exceeded 1,148,287 GWh.

According to the International Energy Agency's global power grid average emission factor, it is equivalent to avoiding 536 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

As for Pakistani market, both distributed and centralized PV products have market segment demand, distributed PV systems, such as rooftop solar installations on residential, commercial, and industrial buildings, have been gaining popularity in Pakistan.

Net metering policies and incentives have been introduced to promote distributed generation and allow consumers to offset their electricity bills by exporting excess power back to the grid, Majid mentioned.

“At the same time, our government has been focusing on the development of large-scale centralized PV projects, including solar parks and utility-scale solar installations,” he added, “these centralized PV systems contribute to the overall renewable energy capacity of the country and help diversify the energy mix.”

Currently, both local and international players are competing to capture a share of Pakistan, such a burgeoning PV market. In 2022, China’s photovoltaic module exports to Pakistan has reached approximately USD 870 million, with a total installed capacity of 3.2GW, a year-on-year increase of 54 percent and 37 percent, respectively, according to the statistics of China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA).

On the other hand, for Pakistan itself, in order to maximize the development of sustainable industries such as photovoltaics, it is imperative to solve problems such as the foreign exchange gap.

A large foreign exchange gap can put pressure on the country’s ability to finance its imports, including PV products, and may necessitate measures such as foreign exchange controls, import restrictions, or adjustments to import tariffs, Majid told the reporter.

“Currency fluctuations, for example, can affect the pricing of imported PV products. Thus, a stable economic environment, the basis for ensuring the smooth development of such a sustainable industry, need the joint efforts of the government, industry and enterprises ourselves,” Majid noted that if Pakistan hopes to truly carve out a niche in in the global photovoltaic market with unique competitiveness, resultant force of the three are indispensable. Energy is one of the areas where CPEC has invested the most, progressed the fastest, and achieved the most remarkable results.

“The global photovoltaic industry is developing in full swing. China-Pakistan cooperation in related industries can make due contributions to the global response to climate change,” Majid added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1099748/pak-sino-collaboration-in-pv-sector-moves-ahead-for-sustainable-development/>

The Nation

Pakistani handicrafts shine at cultural, tourism event in China

ISLAMABAD - A throng of Chinese customers gather around Humayon’s stall, asking for information about the Pakistani handicrafts including wooden chairs and desks, bronze kettles, bronze animal figurines and hand-made soaps, at a cultural and tourism exhibition held in China’s northeast city of Harbin.

Humayon’s company is one of the four Pakistani enterprises to participate in the exhibition. The remaining three also showcase handicrafts such as carpets, blankets and jades.

“We run a physical store in Kashgar which specializes in a wide range of Pakistani wooden and copper artifacts,” Humayon told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview, adding that the expertise behind these meticulously carved bottles, pots, and plates highlights the stunning intricacy of the designs and patterns, and the uniqueness of Pakistani craftsmanship.

Having resided in China’s west-most city of Kashgar for over a decade, Humayon has brought Pakistani handicrafts to various exhibitions across China, where he has received widespread hospitality, the Pakistan exhibitor revealed to CEN.

Humayon noted, preparing for exhibitions often presents challenges and incurs huge costs as it requires a careful coordination of elements including transportation of products, accommodation, and local travel.

“For this exhibition, the local government exempted booth fees and accommodation charges for foreign enterprises,” Humayon said excitedly, “and this creates an outstanding platform for promoting our sales.” As Humayon packs a rooster figurine for his customer, he informed CEN reporter of his forthcoming exhibition in China’s southern coastal province of Fujian.

“Without a doubt, cultural and tourism exchanges have really put some serious muscle behind the cooperation between China and Pakistan, and I would like to be a significant catalyst for this endeavour,” he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-03/page-3/detail-0>

China extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop dairy industry

ISLAMABAD - China is extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop its dairy industry through production of high milk-yielding cows, said an expert.

“China and Pakistan have been collaborating in different fields of agriculture and livestock, specifically in the production of high milk-yielding cows. This cooperation aims to enhance Pakistan’s dairy industry by introducing and breeding superior breeds of cows known for their high milk production capabilities,” said the expert from Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, who wished to remain anonymous.

“Under this collaboration, China will share its expertise in advanced breeding techniques, animal husbandry practices, and genetic improvement of livestock. Chinese experts will provide training to Pakistani farmers and professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in dairy farming,” he told WealthPK.

He added that Pakistan needs more agricultural and livestock research to increase its yields, and produce higher-quality products that can be exported.

“China will help Pakistani farmers to produce the embryos of cows with a larger quantity of milk. For this, the Chinese government has chosen Royal Group (company) for the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects in the livestock sector,” the expert informed.

The goal of the cooperation is to improve genetic variations of cows being used in Pakistan for dairy farming. This can be achieved by breeding elite animals with high yields and long lives, and with better embryos. To this end, the Royal Group of China has established a

laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals. The company also plans to set up a buffalo dairy farm of 8,000 heads.

The China-Pakistan cooperation in the production of high milk-yielding cows is expected to contribute significantly to the development of Pakistan's dairy industry. It aims to increase milk production, improve the quality of dairy products, enhance farmer incomes, and ultimately meet the growing demand for milk and dairy products in the country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-03/page-8/detail-5>

June 04, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar declared tax-free zone by Balochistan govt

The Balochistan provincial government has officially declared Gwadar as a tax-free zone, urging federal authorities to grant the region a similar economic status.

According to the provincial government, Gwadar will now be exempt from services and excise tax, and any tax on property transfers, a significant development for the district which is of immense importance in the region and slated to become a hub for investment in South Asia.

Senator Kauda Babar, who belongs to district Gwadar, hailed the cabinet's decision as a welcome step.

Expressing his gratitude towards Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo and the cabinet, Babar said the cabinet's approval of Gwadar as a tax-free zone was the fulfillment of a long-standing demand. He further urged the federal government to provide relief in federal taxes.

Babar expressed his belief that the status of a tax-free zone is likely to revive the true spirit of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, stimulating activity at the Gwadar port and attracting further investment.

He mentioned that the progress in other port cities like Dubai and Singapore was also possible due to their status as tax-free zones.

In addition, he predicted that the establishment of industries in Gwadar would create job opportunities for millions and bring foreign exchange into the country.

Last month, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo approved a summary of the planning and development department giving a special economic district status to Gwadar.

A major reason behind giving a special economic district status to Gwadar is to attract national and international investors and open new vistas of development and prosperity in the area.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-declared-tax-free-zone-by-balochistan-govt/>

June 05, 2023

Business Recorder

China as our lender of the last resort

Anjum Ibrahim

Administrations/researchers in the West have been accusing China of being an unforgiving lender to developing countries (defined as not open to negotiations of deferral/rescheduling, a charge made more acute after the country launched its One Belt One Road initiative in 2013, a global infrastructure development strategy), non-transparent (defined as not sharing the actual amount of debt to any one country, the applicable interest rate and date of return with international donors and bilaterals) while supporting controversial projects in conjunction with the debtor government's political leadership.

A 2023 study by AidData, the World Bank, the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, pointed out that Beijing has considerably raised its emergency rescue lending to countries in financial distress or outright default. However, low income countries, representing only 20 percent of all Chinese lending, are offered a debt restructuring plan that includes repayment extension but no new money while middle income countries, recipients of 80 percent of all Chinese lending, get new money through balance of payments support, with the objective of deferring default. And this support, such is the conclusion of the researchers, is to ensure that China's largest overseas borrowers remain liquid enough to service their outstanding OBOR projects.

“Beijing is ultimately trying to rescue its own banks. That's why it has gotten into the risky business of international bailout lending,” so maintains Carmen Reinhart, one of the study's authors, adding that “if you are going to bail out a borrower that is in default or teetering on the edge of default, it's important to have a clear understanding of whether you are trying to solve a short term liquidity problem or a long term solvency problem.”

China refuted these allegations of an unforgiving lender and echoed previous statements maintaining that if it is to accede to IMF and World Bank demands to forgive a portion of its loans, so should those multilateral lenders, which it views as U.S. proxies. “We call on these institutions to actively participate in relevant actions in accordance with the principle of ‘joint action, fair burden’ and make greater contributions to help developing countries tide over the difficulties,” the Ministry statement said.

Pakistan, with very low foreign exchange reserves, 4193 million dollars on 19 May 2023 (less than two months of imports) and very weak sovereign rating (post October 2022 downgraded to almost junk status by the three major international rating agencies) has been the recipient of Chinese bail-out funds - just one out of 22 countries that have received bailout funds from China, a list which includes Turkey, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Venezuela, Argentina, Belarus, Egypt and Ecuador.

So how much does Pakistan owe China? According to the Economic Survey 2021-22 public and publicly guaranteed debt outstanding as of 31 March 2022 from China is 14.5 billion

dollars – thrice its IMF debt of 7.8 billion dollars, and exceeding the borrowings from World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

There is no further clarity as to the total amount owed to China by Pakistan in data uploaded on Pakistan government websites but a report uploaded on the website of the International Monetary Fund (September 2022) maintains that China and Chinese commercial banks hold about 30 percent of Pakistan's total external debt of about 126 billion dollars with the bulk of this debt accruing under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Bloomberg contends that at the end of last fiscal year Pakistan's outstanding bilateral debt to the Paris Club countries was about 10 billion dollars while it owed 23 billion dollars to China out of which around 10 billion dollars was owed to "commercial banks" (defined as state-owned Chinese lenders operating as official financing arms for China's Belt and Road Initiative). Between July 2021 and March 2022, over 80 percent of Pakistan's bilateral debt service went to Beijing. The news agency adds that: (i) as per Economic Survey China's SAFE (State Administration of Foreign Exchange) lent 7 billion dollars to Pakistan which is not clarified in the budget; and (ii) 8.77 billion dollars is owed to three Chinese state-owned lenders notably Bank of China, ICBC and China Development Bank who between 2016-17 and 2020-21 extended short-term loans of 11.48 billion dollars though how much is still outstanding is unclear.

There is empirical evidence that Chinese investment under CPEC umbrella did fuel growth during the PML-N tenure (2013-18) culminating in 5.8 percent in 2018; however, it exacerbated imbalance in the economy by a rise in imports (machinery and material for the IPPs) while exports lagged resulting in a balance of payments crisis that led to the 2019 IMF programme loan.

Recent reports indicate that the Chinese Charge d'Affaires met with Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Coordination, and conveyed concerns that overdue receivables to Chinese power companies (established under CPEC, an arm of OBOR) have reached 1.5 billion dollars and the amount is accumulating with time with the Power Division seeking 700 billion rupees (2.45 billion dollars at the interbank rate of 285.45 as on Thursday this week past) in next year's budget to clear overdue payments under CPEC projects. The Pakistani government has suggested that the dues maybe offset by China purchasing surplus power for Afghanistan though the extent of Chinese engagement with the Afghan Taliban has waned considerably in recent months. The 2023 study also notes that China increasingly requires cash be put into "a hidden escrow account" that would lead to China being at the top of the queue of creditors to be paid. Chinese IPPs in Pakistan have reportedly refused to renegotiate the contracts signed during the previous PML-N tenure - a process that began during the Khan administration with assistance from the premier spy agency but while non-CPEC IPPs agreed to the new terms that favoured the country and our consumers the CPEC IPPS refused to re-negotiate - by arguing that this may lead other countries to seek similar concessions. The CPEC IPPs further insisted that the sanctity of the contracts signed must be upheld.

In this context it is relevant to note two disturbing ground realities: (i) Sinosure (the Chinese insurance company without whose approval no Chinese company can invest) is no longer approving any new projects in Pakistan due to failure to meet contractual obligations; and (ii) Pakistan set up a 50 billion-rupee escrow account in November 2022 for automatic partial payments to Chinese IPPs no doubt to pacify Sinosure.

Be that as it may, given the severe and an almost daily worsening macroeconomic impasse in the country today, with limited fiscal space and rising demands from the recipients of current expenditure one would assume that the current economic team leaders' only pro-growth strategy for budget 2023-24 is likely to be through an expansion of CPEC projects.

So where does Pakistan stand today? Foreign exchange reserves are disturbingly low that account for the government continuing severe administrative measures to curtail private sector imports and limiting critical imports by state entities (fuel and essential food items) thereby creating hardship for the general public as well as compromising the capacity of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) including those operating under the umbrella of CPEC to import fuel or repatriate profits.

Failure to reach a staff level agreement with the Fund on the ninth review has created a rather difficult situation for Pakistan and China, our long term strategic partner: heavier than ever reliance on China for bailout (roll overs and new loans), reliance on expanding the scope of CPEC to fuel domestic growth as foreign direct and domestic investment continue to shrivel while China is insisting that Pakistan follows the Fund prescriptions as a way to resolve its problems due to flawed policy decisions which sadly continue and include passing on the onus of poor performing sectors onto the hapless consumers through ever rising utility rates, taxing the already taxed while resisting attempts to widen the tax net for political reasons and raising current expenditure, a highly inflationary policy, to sustain the elite capture of government expenditure.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/05/6-page/964329-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Minister terms CPEC a game changer for entire region

Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango on Sunday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for promoting economic development, regional peace and stability.

Completion of the project will provide South Asian countries to showcase their products to international markets more easily and effectively.

He expressed these views while talking to Yang Yundong, Chinese Consul General based in Karachi, said a handout issued by the DGPR on Sunday.

Balochistan Home and tribal affairs minister said on account of CPEC, trade opportunities have now expanded throughout the world. By making CPEC functional, it was possible to eliminate terrorism.

The Economic Corridor project will pave the way for development and prosperity not only in Pakistan but in the entire region.

He said that many projects under CPEC have been completed, while several others are in the pipeline.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/minister-terms-cpec-a-game-changer-for-entire-region/>

The Nation

Pakistan to export more seafood, agro products through land route to Chinese market, says Ambassador Haque

BEIJING - Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Sunday said that the Pakistani and Chinese governments were making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through Karakoram Highway to the Chinese market.

“We are working together to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market,” he said while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land containerised seafood cargo which successfully arrived in Xinjiang through Karakoram Highway. As the world's second-largest consumer market, China embraces more high-quality Pakistani products exported to it.

Ambassador Haque said that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan's high-quality products through the Khunjerab border was Pakistan and China's shared objective. Last week, a truck loaded with cold chain containers from Pakistan arrived at Kashgar city in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross-border land route.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

According to a representative from the Pakistani transport company, it was the first attempt at a bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm.

“The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment, our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities from Pakistan,” he added. The representative noted that the shipment cost by truck was far below that of air transport, and had simpler customs clearance procedures. In addition, shipment by road shortens transport time to eight days, which is suitable for small-scale and point-to-point logistics, while the sea transport from Karachi Port to Yangshan Port in Shanghai takes nearly a month.

According to the report, the container truck entered China via the Karakoram Highway, the only land route linking Pakistan with China, undergoing customs check at the Khunjerab Port, the world's highest port.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-05/page-9/detail-2>

June 06, 2023

The Nation

Sino firm selected in bidding process for Allama Iqbal Airport trying to move out of contract

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-A Senate panel was Monday told that the Chinese firm M/s Sino Hydro Corporation which was selected in a bidding process for Allama Iqbal International Airport has been trying to move out of the contract.

The Senate Standing Committee on Aviation that met under Senator Hidayatullah was informed that the matter related to action against those appointed in PIA on fake degrees has been forwarded to the Ministry of Interior. The members were briefed on various issues that are currently being faced by the aviation sector in Pakistan.

Matters taken up by the Committee included bidding process of the Allama Iqbal International Airport, remittances due to ticket sales not being allowed to remit foreign exchange, action against those appointed in PIA on fake degrees, setting up security agencies counters in one place at different airports and distance of the Islamabad Airport building from the parking lot.

The Committee while deliberating details of bidding process of the Allama Iqbal International Airport was informed that the lowest bidder M/s Sinohydro was selected after an intensive bidding process on the basis of lowest readout bidder. However, the bidder now has been trying to move out of the contract. The Committee was informed that the initial requirements have also not been fulfilled that entails 10 percent performance security. The Committee recommended that the contractor be summoned in the next meeting so that matter could be reviewed in detail.

Discussing the issue of remittances due to ticket sales not being allowed to remit foreign exchange, the Committee was informed that foreign airlines were under no obligation to share their financial statements with Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) including outstanding remittances. The Committee directed PCAA to provide any details regarding payments/remittances available with it to the Committee. It also recommended that representatives of airlines be invited in the next meeting for clarity on the subject.

Reviewing the matter related to action against those appointed in PIA on fake degrees, the Committee was informed that as per the recommendation of the Ministry of Law and Justice the issue has been forwarded to the Ministry of Interior. Discussing the survival of PIA in the aviation industry, the need to revamp the business on the Air India Model was stressed.

Reviewing the matter of setting up security agencies counters in one place at different airports, the Committee was informed that the direction has been followed. Members asserted that maximum measure must be taken to facilitate passengers at all airports. Regarding distance of the Islamabad Airport building from the parking lot, the Committee was informed that the passengers could take the drop lane facility for convenience. The meeting was

attended by Senators Saleem Mandviwala, Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah, Umer Farooq, Faisal Saleem Rahman and senior officers from the Ministry of Aviation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-06/page-8/detail-0>

US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 10 months

ISLAMABAD - The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the ten months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-April (2022-23) were recorded at \$4990.562 million as opposed the exports of \$5618.857 million during July- April (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.18 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1700.955 million compared to the exports of \$2342.887 million last year, showing a decrease of 27.39 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth \$1643.864 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1851.812 million during last year, showing a decline of 11.22 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$1366.068 million against \$1432.029 million last year, showing a decrease of 4.60 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$1206.639 million opposed \$1550.022 million last year. During July- April (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$1211.647 million against \$1217.163 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$435.682 million against \$436.423 million. Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$951.447 million against the exports of \$857.219 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$1154.633 million against \$940.808 million last year.

Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at \$644.104 million against \$720.509 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$487.194 million against \$430.134 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$404.767 million against \$345.720 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at \$269.833 million during the current year compared to \$266.452 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$369.702 million against \$328.420 million, and Australia stood at \$254.942 million during the current year against \$239.333 million during last year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-06/page-8/detail-3>

China extends cooperation to Pakistan to develop dairy industry

ISLAMABAD - China is extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop its dairy industry through production of high milk-yielding cows, the Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR) said.

The goal of the cooperation is to improve genetic variations of cows being used in Pakistan for dairy farming. This can be achieved by breeding elite animals with high yields and long lives, and with better embryos, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

To this end, the Royal Group of China has established a laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals.

The company also plans to set up a buffalo dairy farm of 8,000 heads. The China-Pakistan cooperation in the production of high milk-yielding cows is expected to contribute significantly to the development of Pakistan's dairy industry.

It aims to increase milk production, improve the quality of dairy products, enhance farmer incomes, and ultimately meet the growing demand for milk and dairy products in the country.

“China and Pakistan have been collaborating in different fields of agriculture and livestock, specifically in the production of high milk-yielding cows.

This cooperation aims to enhance Pakistan's dairy industry by introducing and breeding superior breeds of cows known for their high milk production capabilities,” said AAUR in a statement.

It added: “Under this collaboration, China will share its expertise in advanced breeding techniques, animal husbandry practices, and genetic improvement of livestock. Chinese experts will provide training to Pakistani farmers and professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in dairy farming.”

It maintained that Pakistan needed more agricultural and livestock research to increase its yields, and produce higher-quality products that can be exported.

“China will help Pakistani farmers produce the embryos of cows with a larger quantity of milk. For this, the Chinese government has chosen Royal Group (company) for CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects in the livestock sector,” it said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jun-2023/china-extends-cooperation-to-pakistan-to-develop-dairy-industry>

June 07, 2023

Daily Times

12 MW approved for New Gwadar International Airport

In a groundbreaking development, approximately “12 MW” of electricity has been approved for New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) to fulfill all its electricity needs for 24 hours without any interruption.

On special directives of the Ministry of Planning, Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), National Power Distribution Company that deals with the power supply system in Baluchistan, has formally sanctioned 12 MW to energize New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) and has commenced full-scale execution by deputing its special teams on the site.

QESCO official told Gwadar Pro that tenting and commissioning process is likely to be completed within 10 days as all required paraphernalia like poll erections, transmission lines, and electrical input and output circuits have already been aligned with the installed power system. To keep power supply smooth and free from power breakdown, 12 MW will remain available to NGIA round the clock as three power transmission lines will be feeding NGIA.

“It means if one goes out of function then the second will be automatically connected and if the second goes haywire then the third will be present in the system as a backup arrangement,” he added

Explaining the three power transmission lines, he said: “One power supply is coming from a 286-kilometre long, 132kV dual-circuit transmission line through Naal-Basima-Naag-Panjgur, the second is coming from the Mund-Pishin-Turbat transmission line to Gwadar Grid Station and the third comes from the Gabd-Remden power transmission line to Jiwini-Gwadar Grid Station.”

With the completion of the electrification process, NGIA is expected to be welcoming national and international flights in the mid of September this year, marking a new era of the modern airway that will connect the world with Gwadar. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) official told Gwadar Pro that the entire scope of work of New Gwadar International Airport including civil work, structural work, mechanical work and engineering work (except navigational & communication work) is almost complete. Under-constructed New Gwadar International Airport is located 26km northeast of the existing airport in Gwadar City on the south-western Arabian Sea coast of the Balochistan region.

The New Gwadar International Airport project kicked off as an early harvest high-priority project of the CPEC programme in 2014.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1100962/12-mw-approved-for-new-gwadar-international-airport/>

Pakistani mangoes to embark on first land journey to Xinjiang this year

A Karachi based logistic enterprise will transport mangoes from Pakistan to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region through land route this month. “We are planning to export [Pakistani] mangoes after 10th June this year to Xinjiang via land route,” Tayyab Khan, CEO of logistics company Sadequain Shipping Line, told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

Having succeeded in shipping the first land containerized seafood cargo from Karachi to Kashgar, China last week, the Karachi-based logistics enterprise will transport Chaunsa mangoes from Pakistan’s major mango-producing city of Multan to Tashkurgan via the Karakoram Highway before distributing them to other cities in Xinjiang, Tayyab said.

He added “Currently, we have some customers who need to export 2000 tons of mangoes to Kashgar and Urumqi, but once it starts, I hope they will export more.”?

The transport of mangoes will be undertaken by refrigerated containers that can provide temperature-controlled environment with a range from -20 to 25 degrees Celsius. In between this range, all commodities like vegetables, fruits, fish, meat, and chicken would be covered, the logistics-minded businessman noted.

Tayyab shared that the journey from Multan to Tashkurgan, including customs clearance time in Sost and Tashkurgan, was expected to take approximately 6 days. In addition to mangoes, cherries from Pakistan’s Gilgit-Baltistan were also expected to debut in Xinjiang, he said.

This year, we have also had a requirement from Gilgit-Baltistan that they want to export cherries to the Xinjiang region,” he elaborated, sharing that the vehicles and containers are already being placed in the cherry-producing region to accommodate the commodity.

Tayyab noted that their operations would soon extend to other parts of China, particularly Guangzhou and Shenzhen, adding, “We usually transport cargo by sea, but we are planning to divert this cargo through land routes.”

The Pakistani businessman concluded, “We are still searching for good [logistics] companies in China who can cooperate with us for this land route. In this regard, I will go to China next week to develop this route.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1100980/pakistani-mangoes-to-embark-on-first-land-journey-to-xinjiang-this-year/>

China to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation: Wang Wenbin

China on Tuesday welcomed quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter its market and stands ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation.

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question raised by APP about import of seafood through land route.

Last week, Pakistan first-ever seafood cargo container arrived in Kashgar city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region through Karakoram Highway.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“We welcome quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter China’s market and stand ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustainable growth, bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples,”? he added. While commenting on the seafood export to China, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin u Haque said that Pakistani and Chinese governments were making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agriculture products through Karakoram Highway to the Chinese market.

“We are working together to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market,”? he said.

As the world second largest consumer market, China embraces more high-quality Pakistani products exported to China.

Ambassador Haque said that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan high-quality products through Khunjerab border was Pakistan-China shared objective. A representative from the Pakistani transport company said that it was the first attempt at bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm.

He noted that the shipment cost by truck was far below that of air transport, and had simpler customs clearance procedures. In addition, shipment by road shortened transport time to eight days, which was suitable for small-scale and point-to-point logistics, while the sea transport from Karachi Port to Yangshan Port in Shanghai took nearly a month.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1100938/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-boost-bilateral-trade-through-land-transportation-wang-wenbin/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC, BRI & Uzbekistan

Zulkafil Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of BRI, has become a lifeline to Pakistan's macro-economy, industrial development, socio-economic integration and above all greater regional connectivity. In this regard, the Republic of Uzbekistan has become one of the hottest regional economies. Uzbekistan President Mirziyoyev "Development Strategy 2022-2026" "Development Strategy 2022-2026 is the basis of Central Asia-South Asia greater regional connectivity and his famous ten initiatives have become Ten Commandments of the modern economy and connectivity.

The CPEC Phase-II has been started in the country whereas the BRI has also entered into its 10th year during which it has succeeded in winning the hearts of millions of people of the member countries. The BRI has been dubbed as connecting hub and bridging force between the continents, communities and corporations and interestingly Uzbekistan stands for reliable Middle Corridor to achieve the desired goals of greater regional connectivity between two regions i.e. Central Asia and South Asia because of its ideal geography. It seems that the CPEC Phase-II has the potential to further enhance the prospects of greater regional connectivity between South Asia, Central Asia and South Caucasus regions.

Under the visionary leadership of President Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has already developed systematic and supportive policies of greater regional connectivity. In this regard, the trans-regional railway project "(Pakistan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan)" would be a "game changer" in the context of greater regional connectivity and trade in the days to come.

There is an immense potential of enhancing trade in the field of agriculture and agro-products which needed to be tapped. Maximum facilitation should be provided to the investors of Uzbekistan to help set up their businesses in the already established Special Economic Zones across Pakistan. There is also a huge scope for higher education cooperation through Dual Degrees and student and faculty exchange programs. The Virtual Allama Iqbal Universities are offering online education, which would be cheapest for the students of Uzbekistan.

In this connection, the 8th Session of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in Uzbekistan. It was mutually agreed to extend cooperation in priority areas like transport and logistics.

It was decided to further increase bilateral trade which reached \$240 million in 2022 (highest among CIS). Both countries mutually supported the adoption of concrete measures to accelerate the practical implementation of the Agreement on Preferential Trade and

Diversification of Transport Corridors in order to create prerequisites for increasing the volume of mutual trade.

An agreement was also inked to accelerate the progress of the trans-Afghan railway construction project. Moreover, MOUs to increase the volume of multimodal cargo transportation, creation of terminals on the territories of both states for further joint export of products to the markets of third countries were also signed.

China's economic and trade cooperation with the five Central Asian countries has achieved tangible results since diplomatic relations were established more than 30 years ago. China's trade with the five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – increased to US\$70.2 billion in 2022 from US\$0.46 billion in 1992, when China established diplomatic ties with the five Central Asian countries.

Chinese investment in Uzbekistan is diversified and varies from oil and gas to agriculture and logistics. The Chinese conglomerate Jinsheng Group invested in a textile factory in Uzbekistan in 2017. Today, with an annual output of 22,000 metric tons of cotton yarn, 95% of this factory's products are exported and half of them are sold to China.

Foshan-based Xin Zhong Yuan Ceramics began a US\$150 million ceramics production line in Uzbekistan also in 2017, attracted by cheap raw ceramic material, low energy costs and a large local consumer market.

According to data from the International Trade Centre (ITC, 2022), exports from China to Uzbekistan surged from US\$104 million in 2002 to US\$5.2 billion in 2021. During the same period, the country's imports from Uzbekistan increased from US\$27 million to almost US\$2 billion. While China's exports to Uzbekistan remain diversified and consist of various industrial products, Uzbekistan mainly supplies mineral fuels, in particular natural gas and cotton.

It is important to note that China's supplies to Uzbekistan have grown considerably since 2016. Using cooperation with China, Uzbekistan tries to diversify its infrastructural network and penetrate new export markets. In the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Beijing, Uzbekistan presented its "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" in Chinese language, which demonstrated that the country's economic cooperation with China was deepening. One of the most important projects for Uzbekistan is the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, which opens the South Asian market for Uzbekistan. Most recently, Uzbekistan signed a five-year program on trade and investment cooperation with China.

The financing and support for building a common cross-border transport network provided by the BRI remain beneficial for Uzbekistan's transport connectivity. Through participation in the BRI, Uzbekistan's producers can connect to China, Iran, West Asia and India, Europe and Turkiye.

According to estimates, the BRI improvements in transport infrastructure are estimated to reduce Uzbek shipment time by almost 15%, the largest reduction among BRI countries. Falling shipment time will in turn raise Uzbekistan's exports by between 13% and 23%. The higher estimated increase is the combined effect of completed BRI transport projects and reforms that halve border-crossing-delays.

Last but not the least, Uzbekistan has become one of the most connected and integrated Middle Corridor for achieving the goals of greater regional connectivity.

Uzbekistan has achieved significant economic progress since the presidency of Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In particular, foreign direct investment reached US\$25 billion last year, with about 59,000 investment projects implemented over the last six years and more than 2.5 million new jobs created. Uzbekistan has also lifted one million people from poverty which is a significant achievement in the region.

The country set ambitious goals for economic transformation. Uzbekistan's government aims to reach a US\$100 billion GDP, double exports to exceed US\$30 billion and have 80% of GDP produced by the private sector in which the role of the CPEC and BRI would be instrumental in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bri-uzbekistan-by-zulkafil-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China, Pakistan, Iran hold first-ever anti-terror talks

Delegations held detailed discussions on the regional security situation, says FO
ISLAMABAD: China, Pakistan and Iran on Wednesday held their first counter-terrorism dialogue in Beijing in a move that suggests new alignments in the region.

The foreign office issued a statement confirming the first meeting of Pakistan-China-Iran Trilateral Consultation on counter terrorism and security was held at Directors General level on 7 June 2023 in Beijing, China.

Abdul Hameed, Director General (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Bai Tian, Director General of the Department of External Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Seyed Rasoul Mosavi, Assistant to the Foreign Minister and Director General of South Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led their respective delegations.

The statement said the delegations held detailed discussions on the regional security situation, particularly the threat of terrorism faced by the region. Based on the outcome of these consultations, they decided to institutionalise the Trilateral Consultations on counter terrorism and security for which further details will be worked out.

Director General Abdul Hameed, the Head of Pakistan delegation, and Director General Syed Rasoul Mosavi, the Head of Iranian delegation, also called on Assistant Foreign Minister of China Nong Rong.

A separate statement issued by the Chinese foreign ministry also said that the three countries had "in-depth" exchanges on the regional counter-terrorism situation, and decided to hold the meeting on a regular basis.

The meeting is seen as new alignments in the region with China in the lead role. Beijing recently brokered a landmark deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran led to the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Many observers believe that China, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Russia to name a few are the natural allies as their interests are converging in the increasingly bipolar world.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2420649/china-pakistan-iran-hold-first-ever-anti-terror-talks>

China trade facilitated by single window system

Implementation of the system is estimated to save Pakistan \$430 million, according to the World Bank

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully established electronic connectivity between its single window system and China to exchange trade data, aiming to streamline and facilitate cross-border trade.

Speaking to *the Express Tribune*, Pakistan Single Window (PSW), CEO, Aftab Haider expressed the organisation's commitment to integrating international exports and developing use cases for data exchange with China.

PSW is actively supporting the government and Pakistan Customs in facilitating electronic data exchange with partner countries, in line with bilateral agreements on international transit and trade, he said. Haider stated their ambitious goal of becoming one of the top ten single window systems worldwide within the next three years.

Pakistan committed to establishing a Single Window under the Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2017. The first phase of implementation was launched in June 2022, with the aim of digitising cross-border trade processes. PSW leverages private sector expertise to implement this ground-breaking reform initiative.

Apart from customs, 76 other departments are involved in various aspects of cross-border trade. The objective of PSW is to automate all these departments under the electronic single window, reducing the time and cost of cross-border trade. After the rollout of Pakistan's Single Window system last year, five departments were integrated with customs, and new services, features, and modules continue to be added to the system. Most recently, the Marine Fisheries Department was integrated to facilitate the exports of fish and fish products.

PSW is also collaborating with private sector service providers, integrating pre-shipment inspection companies, laboratories, and fumigation companies into the system to facilitate trade in various sectors. The organisation aims to reduce costs and time, enhance transparency, and provide data visibility in trade regulations. PSW is also focused on data processing capabilities, seeking partnerships with renowned companies to create robust business intelligence and data warehouse capabilities for effective policymaking and trade facilitation.

Additionally, PSW shares data with relevant departments to expedite the clearance process. In July, the organisation plans to launch the Port Community System, connecting all public and private sector stakeholders involved in the port community on a single electronic platform. The system will streamline business-to-government and business-to-business processes, providing exporters with vessel schedules and traffic visibility at the ports, digitising payments, and issuing electronic delivery orders to save time and costs for traders. The implementation of the single window system is estimated to save Pakistan \$430 million, according to the World Bank.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2420545/china-trade-facilitated-by-single-window-system>

Nawaiwaqt News

اورنج لائن منصوبے سے پاک چین دوستی مضبوط ہوئی ہے: ابراہیم مراد

لاہور (خبرنگار) نگرماں وزیر بلدیات ابراہیم مراد نے کہا ہے کہ لاہور اورنج لائن میٹروٹین شہر کا کلچر بدل رہی ہے، شہری اس سہولت سے استفادہ کریں۔ پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ آمدورفت کا سستا اور محفوظ ذریعہ ہے، شہری اس کے استعمال کو فروغ دیں۔ اورنج لائن منصوبے سے پاک چین دوستی مضبوط ہوئی ہے۔ نورکو انٹرنیشنل میٹروٹین کو بہتر طور پر چلا رہی ہے، اپنی سروس کا معیار برقرار رکھیں۔ نگرماں وزیر بلدیات ابراہیم مراد نے نورکو انٹرنیشنل انتظامیہ کی دعوت پر اورنج لائن میٹروٹین ڈپو کا دورہ کیا۔ میٹروٹین چلانے والی کمپنی نورکو کے چیف ایگزیکٹو ایسی جین اور نورکو کے جنرل مینجر حفیظ کلیم نے وزیر بلدیات کا استقبال کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-07/page-2/detail-16>

June 08, 2023

Business Recorder

PSDP

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD: Amid the planned revival of different initiatives under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, the federal government has proposed around Rs22 billion for different projects in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2023-24.

Budget documents revealed that the government has proposed Rs5 billion for the improvement and widening of Chitral-Booni-Mastuj-Shandur Road (under CPEC). The project was approved by the ECNEC on November 7, 2022.

Further, Rs2.5 billion has been proposed for Nokundi-Mashkhel Road (CPEC), which was approved by CDWP on June 6, 2020.

The government has proposed Rs5 billion for Zhob to Kuchlak Road (CPEC) Western Corridor—the integral part of the CPEC. This project was approved by the ECNEC on March 28, 2019.

Further, Rs400 million has been proposed under the PSDP for the construction of KKH Phase-II Havelian-Thakot (118.057-Km) part of CPEC. The project was approved by the ECNEC on December 19, 2015.

For Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Land Acquisition) under CPEC, the government has proposed Rs2.5 billion which was approved by the ECNEC on July 3, 2014.

The government has also proposed Rs50 million for land acquisition and resettlement for CPEC-Islamabad-Raikot Section (Phase-I), Havelian-Thakot which was approved by the ECNEC on March 7, 2018.

For the construction of the dual carriageway connecting M-2 at Neela Dullah via Khaur with M-14 CPEC Western Corridor at Kharpa Pindi Gheb, the government has proposed Rs2.580 billion, the approval of which is under process.

The government has proposed Rs250 million for academic collaboration under CPEC Consortium of Universities which was approved by CDWP on March 20, 2020.

In the PSDP 2023-24, the government has proposed Rs740 million for strengthening of Core Network and Expansion of PERN footprints through CPEC Optical Fiber (PERNIII) which was approved by CDWP on March 29, 2018.

The government has proposed Rs113 million for the construction of offices for IB along with CPEC (Sost, Gilgit, Mansehra), Gwadar, Khuzdar Turbat. The total cost of the project is Rs473.556 million which was approved by CDWP on April 11, 2017.

The government has proposed Rs250 million for the Centre of Excellence for the CPEC which was approved by CDWP in April 2016.

In the PSDP 2023-24, the government has proposed Rs60 million for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Support Project (CPECSP) at the Ministry of Railways which was approved by DDWP on October 13, 2020.

For the preliminary Design/ Drawings for Upgradation/ rehabilitation of mainline railway (ML-I) and the Establishment of Dry port near Havelian under the CPEC and hiring of design/ drawings vetting consultants, the government has proposed Rs468.634 million which was approved by ECNEC on April 12, 2017.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/08/1-page/964551-news.html>

Daily Times

Henan, Balochistan enters into bond of sister provinces: Zia

Balochistan Home Minister, Ziaullah Langove Wednesday said that the people of Balochistan were looking toward the start of a new era after Henan and Balochistan provinces entered into a bond of sister provinces. The minister expressed these views while addressing as chief guest at a seminar held under the aegis of Friends of China Forum to highlight the fruits and contribution of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for the well-being and economic uplift of the people of the province.

Ms. Pang, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Liang Jieyi, Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of Henan Province; Jahanzeb Khan, Director General of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Senator Danesh Kumar, Yang Yundong, Chinese Consul General in Karachi; Bayazeed Kasi, Chairman of FOCF also addressed on the occasion. Langove said that the new bond between Henan and Balochistan provinces would help Balochistan develop and economically thrive on the model of Henan Province, adding that Balochistan's people could learn from their brethren in China to attain economic and industrial revolution. "Chinese companies can also benefit from collaboration with the people of Balochistan and a win-win collaboration can be developed further to help build this friendship between the two sister provinces," he added.

He also conveyed his deepest gratitude to the people and government of China for its continued support to the people of Balochistan for their generous assistance during last year's floods, adding that both the countries had helped each other despite all odds and the people of

both the countries had sacrificed for each other in peace and critical times and challenges. “We are deeply touched by the generous support from Henan Province during the recent floods as 9000 food packs were despatched and distributed among deserving families in 25 flood-affected districts of Balochistan,” he added.

“On this occasion, we also should remember the sacrifices of our valiant armed forces and its martyrs in safeguarding the Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects and the infrastructure of the CPEC,” he added. Addressing the seminar, Pang Chunxue said that last year, Pakistan was hit by unprecedented floods, causing heavy casualties and property losses. More than 30 million people were displaced, fields were flooded, houses were collapsed and roads were destroyed, she added. “The Chinese people felt the pain of the people of Pakistan and responded for the first time to provide relief assistance. The government, enterprises, and the public worked together to help Pakistan with assistance in funds exceeding 260 million dollars,” she said.

“Balochistan is an important part of China-Pakistan friendly exchanges and cooperation. During State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang’s visit to Pakistan last month, he said that the China-Pakistan community with a shared future is not diplomatic rhetoric but has profound historical roots, solid public support, and strong practical needs” she added. She said, “We will never forget that in the wake of the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, the Pakistani side took out all the tents in reserve to the stricken area in China by military aircraft. Earlier this year, the Chinese navy ship helped to evacuate Pakistani citizens from Sudan to Saudi Arabia. It is through these interactions that the iron-clad friendship between the two countries grows stronger and stronger.”

“China will, as always, prioritize China-Pakistan relations in its neighborhood diplomacy, further strengthen policy communication and coordination of development strategies with Pakistan, deepen practical cooperation, jointly build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in a safe, smooth and high-quality way, to jointly build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and the progress of human civilization,” she said. She said, “As to Balochistan, we will jointly build the Gwadar port a hub of regional connectivity, promote agriculture, and industrial cooperation, help to improve the livelihood and skills of local people by providing capacity building programs, scholarships, solar panels, building basic health units, create more jobs. The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan will also further promote inter-provincial cooperation between Henan and Balochistan, promote all-round exchanges between the two provinces, continuously expand cooperation areas, and promote the friendship between the two provinces to a higher level.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1101119/henan-balochistan-enters-into-bond-of-sister-provinces-zia/>

China welcomes quality agricultural products from Pakistan: spokesperson

China welcomes quality agricultural products from Pakistan into the Chinese market, said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a regular press conference according to Gwadar Pro.

He made the remarks while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land containerised seafood cargo, which successfully arrived in Xinjiang, China through Karakoram Highway last week.

As Wang Wenbin put it, as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have been engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields.

And China "stands ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustained growth of bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples."

It is worth mentioning that Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, stated on June 4 that the Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to the Chinese market.

Ambassador Haque stressed that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan's quality products through the Khunjerab border is the shared object of Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1101341/china-welcomes-quality-agricultural-products-from-pakistan-spokesperson/>

June 09, 2023

Pakistani Observer

Chinese company donates hybrid rice seeds to Balochistan

A total of 2,500 kilograms of hybrid rice seeds was delivered to Balochistan on Thursday as a relief donated by a Chinese company to the people of the province, which was heavily affected by the devastating floods in 2022.

Zhou Xusheng, Director Pakistan Business Department of the donor Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Co Ltd, told China Economic Net that the seeds were expected to be sufficient for sowing nearly 500 acres of land. "Technicians have also been arranged to provide continuous support throughout the sowing, cultivating and harvesting process," he said. The donating company registered the first hybrid rice variety -QY0413 in the history of Pakistan.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-company-donates-hybrid-rice-seeds-to-balochistan/>

The Nation

GB to expand CPEC's 'smart classrooms' concept

ISLAMABAD - Taking inspiration from the remarkable achievements of the 'smart classrooms' established in five high schools of Gilgit- Baltistan as part of the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the regional government has decided to expand this concept to an additional 37 schools situated in the remote and distant areas of Pakistan's northern region.

Furthermore, they have plans to implement this technology- driven education system in 130 more public-sector schools.

A senior official from the Education Department of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) told Gwadar Pro that in 2018, smart classrooms were established in five high schools located in Gilgit, Skardu, Sost, Altit, and Chilas as part of the CPEC initiative.

These classrooms yielded remarkable results for the students attending those schools. However, students from other schools or those studying from home were unable to reap the benefits due to the unavailability of reliable internet services in the region.

Therefore, in December 2022, the Chief Secretary GB, Mohyuddin Wani, made the decision to replicate this concept in other government schools across the region. Initially, smart classrooms were set up in 37 additional high schools, catering to both boys and girls.

The concept proved to be immensely beneficial as it not only addressed the issue of teacher shortages in government schools but also provided students from remote areas with access to world-class course content, the official explained.

Muhammad Sajjad, the owner of GBeeTechive, the company responsible for installing smart classrooms in the 37 schools, shared with Gwadar Pro that the basic idea was derived from CPEC's smart classrooms.

However, they had to make modifications considering the constraints such as the unavailability of reliable internet and uninterrupted electricity in the remote areas.

Muhammad Ayub, a Chinese language teacher who supervised the CPEC smart classroom in Government High School No 1, Gilgit, from 2018 until a month ago, expressed that the results were incredibly impressive.

The school experienced a sudden increase in student enrolment, along with heightened enthusiasm among the already enrolled students. In this impoverished and underserved region, the students had no prior exposure to computers. However, CPEC provided them with an opportunity to not only learn advanced digital systems but also access high-quality content in various disciplines.

In a recent tweet by the Chief Secretary GB on June 6, it was announced that smart classrooms would be established in an additional 130 schools in July, thanks to a grant from the federal government.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-09/page-4/detail-3>

China's province provides food packages for flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD - Continuing their support for the victims of the devastating 2022 floods in Pakistan, the people of China's Henan province generously donated 9,000 food packages to be distributed among the affected individuals in 25 districts of Balochistan.

To commemorate this gesture, a ceremony took place in Quetta, attended by Balochistan's Home Minister, Meer Zia Ullah Langau, who is also in charge of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Dignitaries from China participated in the event via video link, as reported by the PDMA, Gwadar Pro reported.

PDMA has already initiated the distribution of the food packages, which include essentials like wheat flour, ghee, sugar, and pulses, among the affected population.

On June 5, PDMA announced that it had distributed ration packages provided by China in the remote district of Kohlu. These packages were specifically given to the impoverished, disabled, destitute, and deserving individuals in flood-hit areas such as Kunal, Jeoni, Manjhra, and others, according to the PDMA.

The food packages were donated by the people of Henan province as a heartfelt gesture to strengthen the sister provinces' relationship, which was established in 2021. China's aid to the flood-affected people of Pakistan has surpassed \$90 million thus far, showcasing their ongoing commitment to support those in need.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-09/page-10/detail-4>

The News

Shenzhen's GDP surpasses 3tr CNY, showcasing China's economic resilience

Mian Saifur Rehman

While the world of today is confronted with numerous, formidable challenges like interoperability, sustainability and recession, China continues to thrive steadfastly, as can be evidenced from the fact that the GDP of just one city of China, Shenzhen, stood at CNY or RMB (Chinese currency Yuan or Renminbi) 3,238.768 billion or 3.2387 trillion CNY in 2022, equivalent to PKR (Pak Rupees) 130.433 trillion with China's State Grid Electricity Corporation being rated as the largest utility company in the world, falling in the category of the world's three largest companies in terms of revenues, including Walmart and Amazon, employing more than 1.5 million employees.

And, as regards China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) that is engaged in the construction of CPEC projects and that undertook the Matiari-Lahore ±660 High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission Line Project with a length of 886 KM in Pakistan and PKM (Sukkur-Multan Section), it ranked 9th in the 'Fortune Global 500 in 2022' as it is the world's largest investment and construction group with world's highest credit rating in the industry.

These mind-boggling figures about China's overall and its companies' tremendous rise came to the fore during a Pakistani journalists' delegation's recent visit to China organized by China's Consul General in Lahore, Mr Zhao Shiren as well as through subsequent communication between 'The News' and 'China Economic Net', the host of this tour.

It was during this visit that the comparison between the regional countries' overall GDP and that of one city of China, was shared by a senior diplomat on the condition of anonymity who said that the growth of other countries of the region stood dwarfed before the GDP of the village-turned-economic hub namely Shenzhen. "The GDP of this one city is more than the GDP of some countries of the region" according to the diplomat. Subsequently, the head of the delegation of the Chinese host organization, Ms Meng Fan Rong, from 'China Economic Net' also confirmed to 'The News' that the total GDP of Shenzhen was reported at 3,238.768 billion RMB or CNY in 2022. Of course, it symbolizes phenomenal economic growth of Chinese entities that now happen to be big employers and users of human resources and

whose potential to take over the world economy is growing day by day with the discovery and addition of newer and newer technologies relying considerably on AI (Artificial Intelligence). As for the aforementioned figures in RMB and Pak Rupees, they have been converted, using OANDA Currency Converter (dated June 5, 2023), which is a reputable platform for currency conversion, offering real-time exchange rates for multiple currencies including RMB.

While there are many huge and thriving industrial entities in Beijing and Shenzhen, the delegates' visit to two companies, BYD and Huawei, revealed amazing figures of progress and prosperity. Both these companies invest so heavily on R & D (Research & Development) that, according to Chinese officials, investment by these companies exceeds the investment made in this area by many huge industrial concerns of the world. As per the 2022 Annual Report released on March 31, 2023 by the leading technology company of Huawei, the company achieved an impressive revenue of CNY 0.6423 trillion, equivalent to PKR 25.867 trillion. Huawei's net profits amounted to CNY 0.0356 trillion, which is approximately equivalent to PKR 1.4337 trillion.

According to Huawei's officials, the company's commitment to innovation is evident in its substantial investment in research and development (R&D). In 2022 alone, the company allocated CNY 0.161 trillion or PKR 6.48387 trillion towards R&D efforts. This represents 25.1% of Huawei's annual revenue and brings its total R&D expenditure over the past decade to over CNY 0.9773 trillion or PKR 39.358 trillion. The most amazing information shared by Huawei officials was that China was now poised to attain 6 G, 7 G or even yet higher grades of internet connectivity.

Similarly, the BYD Company, that manufactures electric automobiles and is engaged in rail transit, new energy, and electronics sectors, achieved remarkable results in 2022. With revenue of CNY 0.4241 trillion or PKR 17.0796 trillion, an increase of 96.2% year-on-year, BYD further solidified its position as a Fortune 500 company and it is listed on both the Hong Kong and Shenzhen stock exchanges. BYD officials further disclosed to the delegates that its electric vehicles' production, has surpassed the production of another globally famous American automotive and clean energy company, Tesla : in May 2023, 240,200 new energy vehicles were sold, setting a new monthly sales record, and the monthly sales volume exceeded 200,000 for three consecutive months this year.

As of now, BYD employs more than 600,000 people. The company also applied for 40 thousand patents and was granted 28,000 patents worldwide. BYD claims that it shoulders the responsibility and mission of the time as it has paved a green innovation and development road.

China Economic Net also informed The News, answering this scribe's question that PKM (Sukkur-Multan Section) is the highest design grade motorway built on Chinese SBS modified asphalt technology and it is also the only motorway in Pakistan with trees along the entire road and can resist once-in-a-century floods besides protecting the ecology, forming a 392-km green gallery. The spirit behind this phenomenal growth is, for sure, this philosophy: "Rise to the challenge and take the lead by befriending and harnessing Nature as well as tremendous human potential".

This was not only the philosophy or slogan of an economic giant of China, China Construction Company, but it is also the collective observation of Pakistani delegation that visited Beijing and industrial marvel of the world, the city of Shenzhen, and appreciated the marvellous progress made by Chinese people by dint of hard work, intelligent application of mind and discipline that simply presses upon 'work, work and work' without idle idealism that is usually devoid of a 'backup or work-force mobilization' strategy. Above all, the lesson learnt from this visit was that humans possess the capacity, the capability and the courage to befriend - or harness - Nature and salvage the human fraternity out of despondency and impoverishment.

And the axis- or perhaps the underlying success factor- of the Chinese model of governance and global connectivity is the Chinese leadership's in general and President Xi Jinping's vision of shared prosperity, in particular.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=209563>

June 10, 2023

Daily Times

Major connectivity projects under CPEC achieve success: PEC

The Pakistan Economic Survey (PES) 2022-23 released on Thursday noted that the transport infrastructure sector in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had achieved remarkable success.

PES emphasized the importance of modern transportation infrastructure, CPEC offers Pakistan a unique opportunity to integrate with the regional markets. On the Eastern Alignment (roadway projects located in Sindh and Punjab), the groundbreaking of the Sukkar-Hyderabad (M-6) section of the motorway was done in December 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. On the Western Alignment (projects located in Northwestern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, and Baluchistan), the groundbreaking of the Dera Ismail Khan-Sagu section of N50 was also done during the same period, said the budgetary document.

Moreover, the construction on the 298 km Zhob to Kuchlak road project was in progress. Also, other projects such as Khuzdar-Basima (110 km), Nokundi-Mashkhel (103 km), and Hoshab-Awaran M-8 (146 km) were under implementation and expected to be completed as per timelines. Furthermore, Sagu-Zhob Project N-50 was under discussion with the Chinese side and is expected to be started soon, said the PES document.

The concessional financing agreement for the landmark ML-1 project is expected to be finalized soon, and subsequently, arrangements will be made for the ground-breaking of the project. In addition to this, the framework agreement of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) has been shared with the Chinese side to take up the project under CPEC framework, it added.

Lastly, PES stated that the feasibility studies of the new projects Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra (MMM), M-9 Motorway and Babusar Tunnel have been proposed to be considered

under CPEC framework in the forthcoming Joint Working Group meeting of transport infrastructure.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1101949/major-connectivity-projects-under-cpec-achieve-success-pec/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese-Urdu calligraphy competition promotes Sino-Pak cultural exchanges

A Chinese-Urdu calligraphy competition was held to promote Sino-Pak cultural exchanges.

It was arranged by the Karachi branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations. According to Gwadar Pro, it was aimed at promoting friendship and harmony among its staff members, they organized a Chinese-Urdu calligraphy competition and award ceremony centered around the theme of "Friendship and Harmony," aiming to spread the essence of friendship. More than 40 Pakistani and Chinese employees enthusiastically participated in the competition. During the competition, the contestants learned the key points of Urdu calligraphy and Chinese calligraphy online, and wrote down "Harmony and friendship lasts forever", "China-Pakistan friendship lasts forever", "China-Pakistan friendship is higher than mountains and sweeter than honey" in each other's language. The strong friendship between China and Pakistan is fully integrated between the lines. Multiple winners of the competition were selected through online mutual assessment of Chinese and Pakistani employees. Senior management of the branch attended the ceremony to present awards on 30 May to the winners and jointly celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The successful holding of this calligraphy competition has enriched the cultural life of the employees and promoted cross-cultural integration. It also expressed the best wishes for the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-urdu-calligraphy-competition-promotes-sino-pak-cultural-exchanges/>

The Nation

PIA offers low fares with free baggage allowance for Islamabad-Beijing flights

BEIJING - Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has offered low fares with a free baggage allowance for Islamabad-Beijing flights from August 6, to further facilitate passengers travelling between Pakistan and China. The national flag carrier has offered new reduced fares with 50 kg free baggage allowance for the economy and 60 kg for executive economy class passengers respectively, an official told APP here on Friday. He said that the reduced fare and free baggage allowance would greatly facilitate the passengers who plan to travel to China for study, business, work or to meet their families.

PIA operates a weekly passenger flight on Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad every Sunday. Talking to APP, Ali Imran, a Pakistani scholar based in Hangzhou city in China's Zhejiang province, welcomed the offer and said, "The new fare with free baggage allowance will greatly facilitate Pakistani and Chinese travelers".

He said that a number of Pakistani students would join their educational institutions after summer vacations and many others would start their new academic year and could take advantage of the new offer. The Chinese employees of projects being completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could also avail of this facility, Imran added.

Ghulam Shifa, a Pakistani tour operator said that Pakistan and China were celebrating this year as "The Year of Tourism" to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

He opined that this offer would attract Chinese tourists who wish to visit Pakistan's scenic, historic and cultural places.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-10/page-8/detail-3>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین میں تیار جہاز پی این ایس شاہجہاں کراچی پہنچ گیا

کراچی (آئی این پی) پاک بحریہ کیلئے چین میں تیار تیسرے ٹائپ 1054 ایف جہاز پی این ایس شاہجہاں کراچی پہنچ گیا۔ پاک بحریہ کے ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ کراچی بندرگاہ آمد پر پاک بحریہ کے سینئر افسران نے پی این ایس شاہجہاں کا استقبال کیا۔ کمانڈر پاکستان فلیٹ ریئر ایڈمرل فیصل عباسی نے جہاز کا دورہ کیا اور عملے کو مبارکباد دی، کراچی آمد سے قبل پی این ایس شاہجہاں نے سری لنکا کی بندرگاہ کولمبو کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ ترجمان نے بتایا کہ جہاز کے کمانڈنگ آفیسر نے سری لنکا کے اعلیٰ سول و عسکری حکام سے ملاقاتیں کیں، پاک بحریہ کے جہاز نے سری لنکا کی بحری جہاز کے ہمراہ مشترکہ میری ٹائم مشق میں بھی حصہ لیا۔ پی این ایس شاہجہاں جدید ہتھیاروں اور سینرز سے لیس کثیر المقاصد جہاز ہے، پی این ایس شاہجہاں کی شمولیت سے ملکی سمندری حدود اور مفادات کا دفاع مزید مضبوط ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-10/page-3/detail-2>

June 11, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistani handicrafts shine at cultural industries fair in China

The dazzle of Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts – including wood and bronze carving, and carpets – won the hearts of visitors with its beautiful and artsy look and the deeply rooted tradition behind it at the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF) this week. Kicked off in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China on June 7, the 5-day national-level fair is expected to inject new impetus into the development of the country's cultural industry. Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts are internationally popular because of their striking appearance, alluring hues and magnetizing textures. In addition, these unique works of craft add to Pakistan's name worldwide.

A visitor told China Economic Net (CEN) that the handicraft industry of a country deeply reflects its culture. Like other forms of arts, Pakistani handicrafts are the expression of the thoughts and feelings of artisans influenced by their environment, culture and social patterns,

he said, adding that he and his friends are quite into such exotic handicrafts. Since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has seen a continuous expansion in its exhibition scale, visitor number and internationalization. It has become an important platform to promote the development and opening up of China's cultural industries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1102229/pakistani-handicrafts-shine-at-cultural-industries-fair-in-china/>

GPA plans 20 MW for Gwadar Port, both free zones

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has finalized plan to supply 20 MW to energize Gwadar Port, Gwadar Free Zone South and Gwadar Free Zone North.

Around Rs 727.738 million has been earmarked under public sector development program (PSDP) in Federal Budget 2023-24 presented by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on June 09. Quetta Electric Supply Company (QUESCO) has already okayed administrative and structural procedures to make sure power supply to all three entities, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

COPHC official told Gwadar Pro that COPHC has hired a consultant for designing of transmission line infrastructure. "As soon as the layout is finalized, electricity network, to be laid down within the premises of Gwadar Port, will be connected to Main Gwadar Grid Station."

In addition, he said GPA in collaboration with Quesco set in motion two packages of transmission lines. "One package includes around 12 kilometers transmission through Energy corridor (service road) along Eastbay Expressway to outside the boundary of Gwadar Port.

Second Package include around 350 meters transmission line from Gwadar Grid Station to Gwadar Free Zone North," he added.

"It is highly likely that electricity tariff will vary between Rs 35 to Rs 45 for industrial purpose as per normal and peak hours with uninterrupted manner free from outage like 24 hours," he disclosed.

The move will allow Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zones to liberate themselves from expensive electricity being produced by installed 8.5 MW diesel-powered generator. From 2015 to 2023, Gwadar port is using diesel-generator apparatus for electricity purpose on bulky cost that has been taking a heavy toll on financial bill.

GPA official said that 20 MW power supply will promise impetus to tenacious economic activities and acceleration of industrialization in Gwadar, Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zones.

Gwadar port has continued to struggle to meet high cost of diesel generated electricity since 2015.

Previously, Gwadar Port operator had to come up with a proposal to install a 50 MW Independent Power Producer (IPP)'s plant in collaboration with Chinese power producers.

For long, Chinese companies are overstressed by overpriced power production by 8.5 MW generators in Gwadar Free Zone against the backdrop of non-availability of power supply

from government. After petrol prices soared, the cost of electricity shot up, putting extreme burden on corporate finance.

“Gwadar Port used to purchase diesel for generator at a cost of Rs. 20.3 million monthly. Chinese companies in Gwadar Free Zone were charged Rs. 49 per unit accordingly, which was very high.

With dollar fluctuation and rising petrol price, the monthly purchase cost has soared to Rs. 40 million currently.,” a COPHC official said.

COPHC official said “we cannot develop until enough electricity is available. At COPHC, we produce electricity by generators which is very expensive.” Chinese investors are keen to shift their industries from China to Pakistan. Areas of investment are very diverse and include but not limited to refinery, assembly, petrochemical, and textile.

Gwadar Port is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds pivotal importance.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1102332/gpa-plans-20-mw-for-gwadar-port-both-free-zones/>

Dawn News

Babusar Pass opens for traffic tomorrow

Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: After it was closed for traffic in October last year following heavy snowfall, the Gilgit-Baltistan authorities are all set to reopen Babursar Pass on Monday ahead of the tourist season.

After Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allowed light traffic on the highway, the Diamer administration did not allow vehicles to ply on the road fearing more landslides and avalanches. However, tomorrow, the traffic will resume on the road after clearing the way.

It may be mentioned that the highway connecting Diamer and Mansehra via Naran remains closed for traffic from every October to June.

The journey from Diamer to Mansehra takes seven hours through the pass, while the same distance is covered in 14 hours on the Karakoram Highway.

Tourism visiting scenic spots in Gilgit-Baltistan prefer to travel through the pass to enjoy the weather as well as breath-taking sights.

Diamer Commissioner Altamash Janjua said that the road has been opened for light traffic from Mansehra a few days ago, but the authorities in Diamer did not open it amid threats of snow avalanches along the road. Meanwhile, officials concerned remained busy clearing the road by removing snow and debris.

The commissioner said that Babusar road will be opened for traffic formally from Monday and urged the motorists to drive carefully through the pass as “fear of snow avalanches was always there”.

He said earlier this week a tourist van travelling from Babusar road from the KP side faced an accident while descending from the Babusar top.

He said three tourists were injured in the incident and they are under treatment at the regional headquarters hospital in Diamer.

Meanwhile, a large number of tourists protested at zero point in Chilas after authorities refused to allow them to travel on the Babusar road.

They claimed that the road has been opened for traffic from KP but the Diamer administration was not allowing to tourists to travel from Diamer.

The administration officials held negotiations with tourists and convinced them to delay their travel plans due to safety reasons till the formal opening of the road.

In May, eleven people were killed in an avalanche near Shunter Pass in Astore.

The areas of GB and Azad Kashmir are prone to natural disasters including avalanches in which masses of snow, ice and rocks come rapidly down from mountains.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1759060>

The Nation

Pakistan targets \$1b of export to China through land route: Commercial counselor

BEIJING-After successful transportation of seafood cargo container to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region through Karakoram highway, Pakistan will be targeting \$1 billion of trade with China through land route in coming years, Commercial Counselor, Embassy of Pakistan, Ghulam Qadir said on Saturday.

“It is very heartening that export of food items especially seafood from Pakistan to China has started through land route. This is a big success and we want to build on it to increase our export,” he told APP in an interview. “He informed that the Pakistani side is targeting that \$ 1billion worth of trade should happen in the long-run through land route.

“However, keeping in view the current situation, we hope that this year, we have millions of dollars export and trade from this route in coming fiscal year,” he added. While commenting on export of seafood from Pakistan to China through land route, a spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry welcomed quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter its market and said that the Chinese side stands ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation.

“As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields,” he added. “Pakistan’s first-ever seafood cargo container has recently arrived in Kashgar city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region through Karakoram Highway. This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“We welcome quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter China’s market and stand ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustainable growth, bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples,” the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson added. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has also expressed satisfaction over the development and informed that the Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agriculture products through Karakoram Highway to the Chinese market. “We are working together to bring more Pakistani seafood and agricultural products through this land route to the Chinese market,” he said. As the world’s second largest consumer market, China embraces more high-quality Pakistani products exported to China. Ambassador Haque said that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan’s high-quality products through Khunjerab border is Pakistan-China shared objective.

A representative from the Pakistani transport company said that it is the first attempt at bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm. He noted that the shipment cost by truck is far below that of air transport, and has simpler customs clearance procedures. In addition, shipment by road shortens transport time to eight days, which is suitable for small-scale and point-to-point logistics, while the sea transport from Karachi Port to Yangshan Port in Shanghai takes nearly a month. The Khunjerab pass, a major land route on the China-Pakistan border was officially reopened for passengers and goods in first week of April this year after a closure of three years following the Covid-19 restrictions. At present, in wake of cold weather and lack of oxygen in the high altitude, Khunjerab pass generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31 of the following year.

However, the Pakistani and Chinese side are now working to keep the border crossing open for 12 months making it an all-weather facility.

As per officials, the reopening of border between Pakistan and China is expected to witness huge growth of cross-border trade and transportation this year.

The export of cherry from Gilgit-Baltistan area has been allowed to China and this will open up a market of up to \$ 2 billion. Similarly, sesame seed export to China has also increased.

The textiles, rice, cherry, mangoes and other food items could be exported to China which would help achieve target of one billion dollars of export to China.

According to official data, the import and export cargo volume at the Khunjerab pass topped 200,000 tonnes from 2016 to 2020.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-11/page-8/detail-3>

Importers seek dedicated SEZ for chemical industry

ISLAMABAD-Leading importers have called for a special economic zone (SEZ) built under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to be specifically dedicated to the chemical industry keeping in view its increasing significance. Following the industrial base built under the CPEC at SEZs, Pakistan’s demand for chemicals used in different industries has surged, and the country imports major chemicals from China and other destinations.

Amir Qaiser from Chemical Linker Pakistan said while talking to WealthPK that chemicals are the main ingredient in various industries like textiles, fertilisers, paints, cement, mining, automobiles, food and beverages, and pharmaceuticals. According to official data, Pakistan imports \$523.4 million worth of inorganic chemicals and \$2.4 billion worth of organic chemicals, which include chemicals such as Methyl Isobutyl Carbinol (MIBC), Sodium Thioglycolate, Ferric Chloride and Sodium Isobutyl Xanthate (SIBX).

Pakistan's chemical industry is among the key sectors of its economy, contributing around 3% to its gross domestic product (GDP) and about 16% to the manufacturing GDP. Amir said the chemical industry in Pakistan has grown significantly over the years with increase in domestic demand and availability of raw material. Iqbal A Qidwai, senior representative of Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association (PCMA), said some chemicals are readily available, while others are imported to fulfill the needs of different industries.

Talking about the challenges in the chemical industry, Qidwai said that the industry has to comply with various environmental, health, and safety regulations, adding that the industry requires constant innovation to develop new products, processes, and technologies that meet the changing needs of customers and markets. He added that Pakistan has a low level of research and development (R&D) spending and a weak innovation ecosystem that limits its ability to innovate effectively.

Qidwai also mentioned that the chemical industry in Pakistan faces trade deficit as it imports more chemicals than it exports. This is due to various factors, such as high import duties on raw material, lack of export incentives, and competitiveness issues. Despite these challenges, the chemical industry in Pakistan also has many opportunities to grow. The demand for chemicals in the country is expected to increase as the population grows and urbanization develops.

Moreover, the government's initiatives to boost economic development, such as the CPEC, will create more demand for chemicals in various sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and industry.

If the chemical industry gets integrated at a dedicated SEZ, the initiative can play a significant role in enhancing Pakistan's economic growth, industrialisation, and social welfare.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-11/page-8/detail-2>

June 12, 2023

Business Recorder

CPEC hydropower project achieves hoisting of last rotor in Mansehra

BEIJING: The Suki Kinari Hydropower project in northwest Pakistan achieved the hoisting of a core component on Saturday, as a 413-ton rotor, crucial to turning water into electricity, was smoothly installed on the last of four generating units.

The successful hoisting of the last rotor will help advance the construction progress of the power station under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), located in the Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Noting the hoisting of the last rotor as a key milestone of the 884-megawatt hydropower project, Yu Zhiliang, assistant general manager of the Suki Kinari Hydropower project of the Overseas Investment Company of China Gezhouba Group, which invests in and implements the project, said that it marks the installation of the unit body of the hydropower station is coming to an end, China's state run Xinhua reported.

It is also a solid step for the waterless commissioning of four generating units in the coming six months, said Yu.

The hydropower project started construction in January 2017. Once getting functional, the CPEC project will annually generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, said Yu.

It will significantly optimize Pakistan's energy structure, boosting the country's economic and social development, he added.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/12/1-page/964837-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani students find China's development model inspirational

Aamir Bizenjo, a 22-year-old student of Gwadar University in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, found China's development quite interesting and inspirational, Xinhua reported on Sunday.

He has been witnessing the development in the port city of Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and has now got a vision for the development of his province during his trip to Pakistan's capital Islamabad, in which he met Chinese officials and visited different platforms and consortiums under the collaboration of the two countries. He was part of a delegation comprising several Gwadar University students and faculty members that visited Islamabad from Thursday to Saturday, which was jointly organized by the Chinese embassy in Pakistan and the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute.

"I am thankful to the Chinese for arranging this visit to give us exposure. We exchanged ideas with each other about economic growth and how the two countries can develop together, and seeing how China achieved prosperity gave me a new sense to work for the development of my province," Bizenjo said in an interview with Xinhua. According to Bizenjo, the delegation visited the Chinese embassy where they saw presentations on China's path to modernization, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and Chinese projects in Pakistan, especially the CPEC. "After

knowing about these initiatives and projects, I got a better understanding of China and the Chinese people,” Bizenjo said, who had earlier got a China-funded scholarship at the university.

“They are not just looking for the future of China but are emphasizing that no one should be left behind and to uplift everybody,” he added. The delegates enjoyed the interaction, and exchanged ideas with the Chinese diplomats and explained to them the situation of CPEC projects in Balochistan, particularly in Gwadar. “Chinese are very nice people. We have seen that they always have smiles on their faces and their hospitality is very good,” Rizwan Asgher, a student of the Information Technology Department of Gwadar University, said in a conversation with Xinhua. The Pakistani delegates appreciated China’s investment, especially their efforts under corporate social responsibility like the distribution of solar panels, laptops, health facilities, vocational institutes, etc.

They specifically thanked the Chinese for the educational scholarships, which they believed were very helpful to the youth of Balochistan and they hoped that the scope of such programs would be further expanded in the future. “Now I want an opportunity to visit China for my capacity building and professional growth in order to learn from the Chinese universities so that I can become a good teacher,” Sadia Naseer, Director of Student Affairs at Gwadar University, told the Chinese diplomats. “On the other hand, highlighting the economy of Pakistan, the Chinese friends told us that youth has the most important role in the economic growth of a country,” Bizenjo said.

A country achieves economic growth when its youth becomes energetic and skillful, he quoted the Chinese diplomats as saying. The delegates also had engagements, and interactions with the members of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association (APCEA), officials of the Chinese desk at Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry, and took a trip to the Confucius Institute at Islamabad-based National University of Modern Languages where they also had a dialogue with its faculty and administration. Bizenjo said the engagement at APCEA had been very productive as he got a lot of business ideas from it and is now interested in exploring them in Balochistan in the future.

The group also took a tour of a China-funded compassionate home Islamabad China-Pakistan Youth One Heart Step and Cure Home, where underprivileged children, including orphans, suffering from long-term diseases, and attendants of patients who had been admitted to hospitals for long-term treatment got free of cost accommodation, food, and education. “The most inspirational moment for me was to visit this place where the Chinese are taking care of orphans and other kids. I gave them my contact number and said that I want to open its branch in my hometown as well,” said Bizenjo. Wang Shengjie at the Chinese embassy said this year marks the harvest year for the Gwadar port as the new international airport will be established this year, and the desalination water plant will also be built. “With the joint efforts made by the Chinese and Pakistani governments, and in particular, the local people, we can make the dream come true,” said Wang.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1102466/pakistani-students-find-chinas-development-model-inspirational/>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 42

کے تحت پانچار اور جامع شہری ترقی ملک کو تہذیبی
کرنے، اقتصادی خوشحالی کو فروغ دینے اور شہریوں
کی زندگیوں کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے تیار ہے۔
پروجیکٹ کے تحت شہری ترقی کے اہم پہلوؤں میں
سے ایک بنیادی ڈھانچے کی بحالی ہے۔ سفل و سفل
کے ناکافی صیف و رس، بجلی کی قلت، اور پرانی
سہولیات برسوں سے پاکستان کی ترقی میں رکاوٹ
ہیں۔ تاہم سی بیک نے سڑکوں کے صیف و رس،
بندرگاہوں، ہوائی اڈوں اور توانائی کے منصوبوں
میں نمایاں سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ گوارا بندرگاہ کی تعمیر
اور قرارم ہائی وے کی اپ گریڈیشن نے سفل
تہذیبی راستے کھولے ہیں، اقتصادی سرگرمیوں اور
علاقائی راہنوں کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ "پاکستان چین اور
وسطی ایشیادوں کے لیے سفل و سفل کا ایک اہم راستہ
بنا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سفل و سفل، وسطی
ایشیا اور چین کو جوڑنے والی اشیاء کے لیے سفل و سفل
کا ایک معتدل اور سستا طریقہ ہے تعمیر شدہ اور اپ
ڈیٹ شدہ موٹروے صیف و رس کے ذریعے فراہم کیا
گیا ہے۔ ڈاکٹر طاہر نے کہا اس کے علاوہ توانائی
کے نئی منصوبوں، بشمول کوئلے سے چلنے والے اور
قابل تجدید توانائی کے پائپس، نے پاکستان کے
توانائی کے بحران کو کم کرنے میں مدد کی ہے، جس
سے شہری مراکز کے لیے قابل استعمال بجلی کی فراہمی کو
بھینچا گیا ہے۔ گوارا کے علاوہ اسلام آباد، کراچی اور
کراچی جیسے دوسرے شہری تہذیبی کی شہری ترقی
کے گوارا ہیں۔ ان شہروں میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز
(SEZs) کے قیام کا مقصد غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو
راغب کرنا، صنعتی ترقی کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنا اور
روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا
کہ "یہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز جدید ترین
انفراسٹرکچر اور سارا کاروبار کی ماحول بنائے گئے
ہیں، جو انہیں مقامی اور بین الاقوامی کاروباروں کے
لیے پرکشش مقامات بناتے ہیں۔ جہاں سی بیک
کے تحت شہری ترقی کے پانچ مواقع فراہم کرتی ہے،
وہیں اسے پختہ بنانے کا بھی سامنا ہے جن سے چینی کی
ضرورت ہے۔ چینیوں میں وسائل کی مصدقہ تعمیر کو
بھینچا جانا، ماحولیاتی اثرات کو کم کرنا، اور پروجیکٹ
کے نفاذ میں شفافیت کو برقرار رکھنا شامل ہے۔
پانچار اور جامع شہری ترقی کو چینی بنانے کے لیے مقامی
کیونٹیرو کو شامل کرنے، ان کی راستے حاصل کرنے
اور ان کے خدشات کو دور کرنے کی کوشش کی جانی
چاہئے۔

سی بیک شہری منظر نامے کو نئی شکل دے رہا ہے ڈاکٹر طاہر شہیر

کے تحت جامع شہری ترقی پاکستان کو تبدیل کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے، ویٹھ پاک

گوارا بندرگاہ کی تعمیر اور قرارم ہائی وے کی اپ گریڈیشن نے سفل و سفل راستے کھولے ہیں
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چائے پاکستان ڈاکٹر طاہر شہیر نے ویٹھ پاک سے گفتگو
اور کہا کہ گوارا اور پاکستان میں شہری ترقی کے لیے کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی بیک بندرگاہی شہروں کی
ایک عمل انگیز بن گیا ہے، جو وسیع اقتصادی ترقی، تعمیر، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز
بنیادی ڈھانچے کی بہتری اور سماجی ترقی کے مواقع کے قیام، اور چین کوئی کی مٹھلی کے ذریعے ہمارے
فراہم کرتا ہے، آئی ٹی ٹیوٹ آف اسٹریٹجک اسٹڈیز، شہری منظر نامے کو نئی شکل دے رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے
اسلام آباد کے چائے پاکستان اسٹڈی سینٹر کے کہا کہ سی بیک (باقی صفحہ 6 بجیہ نمبر 42)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Balistan%20News&Date=2023-06-12

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-06-12

June 13, 2023

Business Recorder

Payment made in Chinese currency: govt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan paid for its first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude in Chinese currency, the South Asian country's petroleum minister said on Monday, a significant shift in its US dollar-dominated export payments policy.

Discounted crude offers respite as Pakistan faces an acute balance of payments crisis, risking a default on its debt obligations. The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank are scarcely enough to cover four weeks of controlled imports.

The first cargo of discounted Russian crude oil arranged under a new deal struck between Islamabad and Moscow earlier this year arrived in Karachi on Sunday. It is currently being offloaded at the port in the southern city of Karachi.

Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, talking to Reuters by phone, did not disclose the commercial details of the deal, including pricing or the discount that Pakistan received, but said the payment was made in Chinese currency.

He said the purchase, Pakistan's first government-to-government (G2G) deal with Russia, consisted of 100,000 tonnes, of which 45,000 tonnes had docked at Karachi port and the rest was on its way. Pakistan made the purchase back in April.

Pakistan's purchase gives Moscow a new outlet to add to growing sales to India and China, as it redirects oil from western markets because of the Ukraine conflict.

Despite being a long-standing Western ally and the arch-rival of neighbouring India, which historically is closer to Moscow, analysts say the crude deal also presents a new avenue for Pakistan at a time that its financing needs are great.

Pakistan's Refinery Limited (PRL) will initially refine the Russian crude, the minister said. He had earlier referred to the purchase of the shipment as a trial run to judge financial and technical feasibility.

Malik on Monday played down concerns around the financial viability and concerns about the ability of local refineries to process Russian crude given the South Asian country's historical importation of Middle Eastern petroleum products. "We've run iterations of various product mixes, and in no scenario will the refining of this crude make a loss," Malik said, adding, "We are very sure it will be commercially viable." —Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/13/1-page/964932-news.html>

Economic, other areas

Pakistan & Iran to discuss framework of cooperation with China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran are all set to discuss the framework of trilateral cooperation with China in economic and other areas including Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), well informed sources told Business Recorder.

An Iranian Investment delegation of Organization for Investment, Economic & Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI) will be reaching Pakistan to discuss different options of cooperation in economic matters.

The delegation will hold meetings with Minister for Investment, Minister for Industries and Production, Secretary Commerce Secretary Petroleum and Natural Resources, Secretary Power, besides attending 3rd meeting of Pakistan Iran Joint Investment Committee.

The sources said third session of Pakistan-Iran Joint Investment Committee (JIC) will focus on the following agenda: (i) discussion on areas of trilateral cooperation between Pakistan, Iran and China;(ii) discussion to identify and define cooperation models in the field of investment with focus on financial and banking interaction, beside specific discussion on Pakistan Iran (PAIR Investment Company);(iii) exchanging information and investment opportunities between Pakistan and Iran;(iv) discussion on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint cooperation on establishment of joint free zone on Gabd-Reemdan border; and (v) negotiations on Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).

The sources said discussion with relevant Pakistani authorities will be held to identify and define areas of cooperation.

Pakistan recently approved bilateral trade with three countries including Iran where banking channels are not available due to international sanctions.

According to the notification, importable items from Iran are as follows: (i) Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables;(ii) Spices;(iii) Minerals & Metals;(iv) coal and its products, Petroleum Crude Oil, LNG and LPG;(v) Misc. Chemical Products;(vi) Fertilizers;(vi) article of Plastics and Rubber (in primary form);(vii) Raw Hides and Skins;(viii) Raw Wool; and (ix) Articles of Iron & Steel.

The exportable items under barter trade mechanism are as follows: (i) Milk, Cream, Eggs and Cereals; (ii) Meat and Fish products;(iii) Fruits and Vegetables;(iv) Rice;(v) Confectionary and Bakery items;(vi) Salt; (vii) Pharmaceutical products;(viii) Essential Oils, Perfumes, Cosmetics, Toiletries, Soaps, Lubricants, Waxes and Matches;(ix) Tanning, Dying Extracts and Misc. Chemicals products;(x) Plastics and Rubber Articles; (xi) Finished Leather & Leather Apparel; (xii) Articles of Wood; (xiii) Articles of Paper & Paper Board; (xiv) Textiles (Intermediates); (xv) Readymade Garments, Textile's Made-ups and Carpets; (xvi) Footwear; (xvii) Iron and Steel;(xviii) Copper and Articles thereof;(xix) Aluminum and articles thereof;(xx) Tool and Cutlery;(xxi) Electric Fans and Home Appliances; (xxii) Electrical equipment; (xxiii) Motorcycles and Tractors - excluding components.; (xxiv) Surgical Instruments; (xxv) Furniture and ;(xxvi) Sports Goods.

Last week, China, Pakistan and Iran held trilateral security discussions on regional security particularly threat of terrorism in the region as China has pledged huge investment in Iran.

Both Pakistan's Prime Minister and Iranian President also held a high level meeting in Gwadar last month wherein different bilateral issues came under discussion.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/13/12-page/965009-news.html>

Daily Times

Beijing hosts sport event to boost Sino-Pak tourism ties

Pakistan and China enjoy a long-standing friendly relationship, with a focus on enhancing people-to-people connections and promoting cultural and tourism cooperation between the two nations. In celebration of the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism, a Chinese company named Dong Fang Yi organized a one-day sports event, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The event, titled “Beijing Big Hitters – Cricket Tournament,” took place at the Cricket field of Dulwich College Beijing. The tournament featured eight participating teams, including teams from the Embassy of Pakistan, Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB), Batie United, Khyber Stallions, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Warriors, Gwadar – Song of the Sea Wind, and Sri Lanka Lions.

The Cricket tournament was followed by an award ceremony, where Pakistan’s ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, was invited as the special guest of the event. In his address at the prize distribution ceremony, the ambassador expressed his appreciation for the interest shown by Chinese companies in organizing the event. He emphasized that cricket is the second-most popular sport in the world and such activities not only enhance people-to-people contacts but also contribute to the promotion of cricket in China.

The ambassador also highlighted the recently launched website by the Embassy of Pakistan. President from the Chinese company, Dong Fang Yi, congratulated the Gilgit Baltistan team for winning the tournament. He spoke about the connection between tourism and cricket, stating that tourism connects people just as the game of cricket does in South Asia. He emphasized that organizing the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 would significantly improve people-to-people contacts and promote tourism cooperation between China and Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1102658/beijing-hosts-sport-event-to-boost-sino-pak-tourism-ties/>

Pakistani exhibitor expresses great expectations for China Cultural Industrial Fair

Pakistani and other foreign exhibitors participating in the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair have expressed great expectations for this year’s expo. The event held in Shenzhen in South China’s Guangdong province.

Abduk Basit Khan, a Pakistani exhibitor participating in the expo for the second time, also expressed high expectations for the fair. He showcased Pakistani jade products, specifically designed for the Chinese market, and expressed hope for a better year compared to the previous one. He mentioned that the Chinese market is significant for jade products, and his business has been operating in China for 10 years.

“I would definitely support any cultural exchange or activity that we could have in China or in Iran to promote culture, not only our culture to China but also China to Iran,” said Mahdi Olyaei, an Iranian exhibitor, in an interview with media outlets. This is his second time attending the cultural exhibition in Shenzhen, and he noted the already strong cooperation between Iran and China. The five-day national-level fair, predominantly featuring offline

events, has attracted over 3,500 government bodies, cultural organizations, and enterprises. It is expected to provide new momentum for the development of China's cultural industry, China Daily reported.

A digital China exhibition area has been set up for the first time to highlight and promote national-level market players, major platforms, and the latest technological innovations in the cultural industries.

Forums, conferences, contract signings, and creative contests will also be organized to share information and boost the innovative development of the cultural industries.

Since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has seen a continuous expansion in its exhibition scale, visitor number and degree of internationalization. It has become an important platform to promote the development and opening up of the Chinese cultural industries.

The forum came along with another grand cultural event, the first Forum on Building up China's Cultural Strength which also opened in Shenzhen on Wednesday, with the theme "Towards Greater Cultural Confidence and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations."

Chinese experts noted that China is building itself as a leading country in culture and enhancing the prosperity of Chinese culture with the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, while the Chinese civilization has also inspired other civilizations across the world through exchanges.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1102801/pakistani-exhibitor-expresses-great-expectations-for-china-cultural-industrial-fair/>

Dunya News

Dar updates Chinese diplomat on IMF affairs

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – Finance Minister Ishaq Dar apprised Chinese Chargé d' Affaires Pang Chunxue about the progress made in the ongoing talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a press release issued by the Public Information Department.

He briefed the Chinese official, who met him in the federal capital on Monday, and also informed her about the positive response by the various sectors of economy to the next year's budget presented by the incumbent government despite difficult economic circumstances.

The development comes as the talks between the two sides on the 9th review of the IMF programme has stalled since November last year, leaving very little room for its completion before June 30 – the date on which the current programme expires.

In a related development, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik told Reuters on Monday that Pakistan paid for its first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude in Chinese currency, representing a significant shift in its US dollar-dominated export payments policy.

Discounted crude offers respite as Pakistan faces an acute balance of payments crisis, risking a default on its debt obligations. The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank are scarcely enough to cover four weeks of controlled imports.

At the same time, Pakistan's purchase gives Moscow a new outlet to add to growing sales to India and China, as it redirects oil from Western markets because of the Ukraine conflict.

With the 9th review still pending, the possibility of next two – 10th and 11th reviews – in the coming days and weeks is near to impossible.

That's why Dar, had told the post-budget press conference last week on Saturday in response to a question, that the government was working on a "Plan B" if the IMF did not release the pending loan.

He, however, avoided to explain or share any details, saying, "Plan-B is always there". He stated that the features of the plan could not be talked about in public and again reiterated that Pakistan would not default.

But he was still hopeful that Pakistan would pass its next IMF 9th review, but that he "didn't think" it would clear reviews beyond that under the current programme.

Coming back to the Monday's meeting between Dar and Chunxue, the finance minister Dar greeted the Chinese diplomat for joining back after a break and extended good wishes to her, the press release said.

He appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between the two nations and much-admired the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts. He also highlighted the need to deepen bilateral relations further in economic, trade, and financial sectors.

Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments and acknowledged the friendly relations between Pakistan and China, as she assured the finance minister continuous support from Beijing to the people of Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/731589-Dar-updates-Chinese-diplomat-on-IMF-affairs->

Pakistan Observer

Sindh to buy hybrid buses from China: Sharjeel

Sindh provincial government plans to buy hundreds of hybrid buses from China in the next fiscal year, starting on July 1, 2023, according to a senior Sindh Minister. Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon told Gwadar Pro that the province needed buses to facilitate the people. "We have purchased buses from China in the recent past, and they are very fuel-efficient.

We plan to buy more in the coming months," he informed. Memon underlined that the government was committed to resolving the transport issue in Sindh. "Chinese buses have been beneficial, and we hope to further capitalize on Chinese technology," he remarked.

Earlier, the Sindh government allocated PKR 10 billion for the procurement of 500 hybrid buses in the provincial budget for the financial year 2023-24. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali

Shah, while presenting the provincial budget on Saturday, announced a total allocation of PKR 13.4 billion for the provincial Transport Department.

He stated that PKR 6.1 billion has been earmarked for the 'Intra-District Peoples' Bus Service,' and PKR 2 billion for the maintenance of transport infrastructure. Additionally, the government has set aside PKR 600 million for new routes. Three new routes will be introduced from next year to facilitate employees of the Sindh secretariat.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who also serves as the Finance Minister, presented the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 in the Sindh Assembly. Addressing the budget session of the Sindh Assembly, CM Murad Ali Shah announced that the total outlay of the budget for the province is estimated at PKR 2.2 trillion.

<https://pakobserver.net/sindh-to-buy-hybrid-buses-from-china-sharjeel/>

Dar vows to further enhance bilateral trade relations with China

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Monday highlighted the need to deepen bilateral relations with China with a special focus on economy, trade and financial sectors.

He was talking to Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Pang Chunxue, who called on the minister here.

According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, Dar appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, and much-admired Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts.

The finance minister further updated the Charge de Affairs about the progress on talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the completion of the 9th review.

He further apprised her about the positive response of the various sectors of the economy on the Budget 2023-24, presented by the incumbent government despite difficult economic circumstances.

Dar expressed gratitude to Pang Chunxue for the support and cooperation Pakistan has been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.

Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments and acknowledged the friendly relations between the two countries. She also assured of continuous support from the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan.

The two sides discussed various avenues, available to both countries in order to enhance the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels, the statement added.

<https://pakobserver.net/dar-vows-to-further-enhance-bilateral-trade-relations-with-china/>

The Express Tribune

China backs Pakistan paying Russia in RMB

This is normal trade cooperation b/w Pakistan and Russia and within scope of their sovereignty, says foreign ministry

ISLAMABAD: China on Tuesday defended Pakistan's decision to make international payment for its first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude oil in the Chinese currency.

The statement came after Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik, while speaking to Reuters by telephone, did not disclose the commercial details of the deal, including pricing or the discount that Pakistan received, but said, the "payment (was) made in RMB". The Renminbi (RMB) is the official name of China's currency.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in a statement said: "This is normal trade cooperation between Pakistan and Russia and within the scope of their sovereignty," in response to *Reuters* query.

"As a matter of principle, we are open to the settlement of crude oil trade in RMB," the ministry said.

Despite being a long-standing Western ally and the arch-rival of neighbouring India, which historically is closer to Moscow, analysts say the crude deal also presents a new avenue for Pakistan at a time when its financing needs are great.

Islamabad earlier this month also outlined a process to open barter trade with Russia, Afghanistan and Iran, another sign of the South Asian economy seeking avenues to buy and sell commodities without trading in dollars, which analysts say could be a shift from West to East.

Pakistan's Refinery Limited (PRL) will initially refine the Russian crude, the minister said. He had earlier referred to the purchase of the shipment as a trial run to judge financial and technical feasibility, but said that all the tests and trials had been done, which found that the Russian crude was fit to refine and market locally.

Energy imports make up the majority of Pakistan's external payments. Islamabad imported 154,000 bpd of oil in 2022, around the same as the previous year, data from analytics firm Kpler showed.

Meanwhile, the minister of state for petroleum said the deal to import Russian crude oil would help the government pass on financial relief to the masses.

"This is historic as it is the first time that crude oil from Russia has arrived in Pakistan," the minister said while addressing a news conference. He refused to divulge details of the commercial terms of the oil deal with Russia due to agreements signed by both the sides for confidentiality.

He said Pakistan had imported 100,000 tons of oil from Russia initially with plans to gradually increase the quantity over time as the country would meet its quarterly oil requirements through the utilization of Russian oil.

Musadik said the government intended to ink a \$10 billion contract, before the end of its tenure, so a new oil refinery could be established in Pakistan.

The minister said that Pakistan had also received a contract from Azerbaijan, which was available to the cabinet. "Under the contract, the Central Asian country would provide

Pakistan a distressed LNG cargo monthly. The LNG price would be much lower than in the international market," he said.

The minister said that under the terms of the contract, it would be Pakistan's prerogative to accept the cargo or not, but Azerbaijan would be obligated to provide distress cargo monthly.

He added that at the same time, the government had offered the European countries to establish LNG plants in Pakistan, therefore, Pakistan could become a transit route for gas transportation from Central Asian countries to Europe.

Pakistan's purchase gives Moscow a new outlet to add to growing sales to India and China, as it redirects oil from Western markets because of the Ukraine conflict. Agencies

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2421543/china-backs-pakistan-paying-russia-in-rmb>

The Nation

Pak handicrafts shine at China industrial fair

ISLAMABAD - The dazzle of Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts - including wood carving, bronze carving, carpets - won the hearts of visitors by its beautiful and artsy look and the deeply rooted tradition behind it at the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF) this week.

Kicked off in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China on June 7, the 5-day national-level fair is expected to inject new impetus into the development of the country's cultural industry, China Economic Net (CEN) reported Saturday.

Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts are internationally popular because of their striking appearance, alluring hues and magnetising textures. In addition, these unique works of craft add to Pakistan's name worldwide.

A visitor told the reporter that the handicraft industry of a country deeply reflects its culture. "Like other forms of arts, Pakistani handicrafts are the expression of the thoughts and feelings of artisans influenced by their environment, culture and social patterns," he said, adding that he and his friends are quite into such exotic handicrafts.

Since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has seen a continuous expansion in its exhibition scale, visitor number and internationalization. It has become an important platform to promote the development and opening up of China's cultural industries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-13/page-4/detail-8>

CPEC hydropower project achieves hoisting of last rotor

ISLAMABAD-The Suki Kinari Hydropower project in northwest Pakistan achieved the hoisting of a core component on Saturday, as a 413-ton rotor, crucial to turning water into electricity, was smoothly installed on the last of four generating units. The successful hoisting of the last rotor will help advance the construction progress of the power station under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), located in the Mansehra district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Noting the hoisting of the last rotor as a key milestone of the 884-megawatt hydropower project, Yu Zhiliang, assistant general manager of the Suki Kinari Hydropower project of the Overseas Investment Company of China Gezhouba Group, which invests in and implements the project, said that it marks the installation of the unit body of the hydropower station is coming to an end. It is also a solid step for the waterless commissioning of four generating units in the coming six months, said Yu. The hydropower project started construction in January 2017. Once getting functional, the CPEC project will annually generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, said Yu. It will significantly optimize Pakistan's energy structure, boosting the country's economic and social development, he added. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-13/page-8/detail-2>

The News

Russian crude price paid in Chinese currency: Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan paid for its first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude in Chinese currency, the South Asian country's petroleum minister said on Monday, a significant shift in its US dollar-dominated export payments policy.

Discounted crude offers respite as Pakistan faces an acute balance of payments crisis, risking a default on its debt obligations. The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank are scarcely enough to cover four weeks of controlled imports. The first cargo of discounted Russian crude oil arranged under a new deal struck between Islamabad and Moscow earlier this year arrived in Karachi on Sunday. It is currently being offloaded at the port in the southern city of Karachi.

Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, talking to Reuters by phone, did not disclose the commercial details of the deal, including pricing or the discount that Pakistan received, but said the payment was made in Chinese currency.

He said the purchase, Pakistan's first government-to-government (G2G) deal with Russia, consisted of 100,000 tonnes, of which 45,000 tonnes had docked at Karachi port and the rest was on its way. Pakistan made the purchase back in April.

Pakistan's purchase gives Moscow a new outlet to add to growing sales to India and China, as it redirects oil from western markets because of the Ukraine conflict.

Despite being a long-standing Western ally and the arch-rival of neighbouring India, which historically is closer to Moscow, analysts say the crude deal also presents a new avenue for Pakistan at a time that its financing needs are great.

Pakistan's Refinery Limited (PRL) will initially refine the Russian crude, the minister said. He had earlier referred to the purchase of the shipment as a trial run to judge financial and technical feasibility.

Malik on Monday played down concerns around the financial viability and concerns about the ability of local refineries to process Russian crude given the South Asian country's historical importation of Middle Eastern petroleum products.

“We've run iterations of various product mixes, and in no scenario will the refining of this crude make a loss,” Malik said, adding, “We are very sure it will be commercially viable.”

“No adjustments (were) needed at the refinery to refine the Russian crude,” the minister told a foreign news agency.

Energy imports make up the majority of the Pakistan's external payments. Islamabad imported 154,000 bpd of oil in 2022, around steady with the previous year, data from analytics firm Kpler showed.

The crude was predominantly supplied by the world's top exporter Saudi Arabia followed by the United Arab Emirates. The 100,000 bpd from Russia in theory greatly reduces Pakistan's need for Middle Eastern fuel.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=210863>

Nawaiwaqt News

امریکا نے چین اور پاکستان کی کمپنیوں کو ایکسپورٹ کنٹرول لسٹ میں شامل کر لیا

امریکا نے اپنے مفادات کے خلاف سنجھی جانے والی سرگرمیوں میں ملوث ہونے کا بہانہ بنا کر پاکستان اور چین کی کئی کمپنیوں کو ایکسپورٹ کنٹرول لسٹ میں شامل کر لیا۔ :واشنگٹن عالمی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق جو بائیڈن انتظامیہ نے 43 بین الاقوامی کمپنیوں کو ایکسپورٹ کنٹرول لسٹ میں شامل کیا ہے جن میں پاکستان اور چین کی کمپنیاں بھی شامل ہیں۔ فہرست میں کینیڈا، لاؤس، متحدہ عرب امارات، جنوبی افریقا اور برطانیہ کی کمپنیاں بھی شامل ہیں۔ جن کمپنیوں پر پابندی لگائی گئی ہے ان میں فرنٹیئر سرومز گروپ لمیٹڈ، ایک سیکورٹی اور ایک ایوی ایشن کمپنی بھی شامل ہے۔

علاوہ ازیں ٹیسٹ فلائنگ اکیڈمی آف ساؤتھ افریقا، شنگھائی سپر کمپیوٹنگ ٹیکنالوجی اور فابریک سلوشنز کو فہرست میں شامل کیا گیا۔ یہ کمپنیاں امریکی برآمدات سے متعلق فوائد حاصل نہیں کر سکیں گی۔

امریکی کامرس ڈپارٹمنٹ نے موقف اختیار کیا ہے کہ یہ کمپنیاں امریکی مفادات اور خارجہ پالیسیوں کے برخلاف کام کر رہی تھیں۔

خیال رہے کہ چین کی کمپنیوں پر ریٹور میں مسلم نسل کشی کا حصہ بننے پر پابندی عائد کی گئی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2497611/10/>

June 14, 2023

Daily Times

POWERCHINA participates in exhibition ‘China Culture Hour’

POWERCHINA has actively participated in the exhibition titled ‘Chinese Culture Hour’ organized by COMSATS University here at its campus.

The event served as a platform for students to showcase their knowledge of Chinese culture, encompassing various aspects such as calligraphy, tai chi, kung fu, cuisine, tongue twisters,

and music, POWERCHINA said on Tuesday. POWERCHINA praised and encouraged the students for their splendid performance demonstrations and generously donated carefully selected Chinese cultural books to the university.

Additionally, outstanding students were presented with commendation certificates in recognition of their remarkable contributions. After the event, POWERCHINA and the university held in-depth discussions and reached a consensus on further solidifying their commitment to cross-cultural exchange and collaboration.

On day of the event, the university campus buzzed with the vibrant atmosphere of Chinese culture as students eagerly displayed their knowledge and appreciation of it.

The art of calligraphy came alive as students demonstrated the charm of Chinese characters, skillfully explaining the meaning behind each stroke to the captivated audience. The performances of tai chi and kung fu embodied the essence of traditional Chinese martial arts, showcasing the students' excellent body control and graceful movements, which garnered the admiration of the audience.

In the food exhibition area, a variety of delicious Chinese cuisine delighted the senses. The students demonstrated their exquisite culinary skills by preparing dishes such as spicy chicken, dumplings, fried noodles, and fried rice. They ingeniously incorporated elements from local cuisine, adding a unique touch. Tongue twisters and music performances contribute to the joyous and lively atmosphere. The students eloquently spoke Chinese and delivered melodious tunes, showcasing the diverse and enchanting facets of Chinese culture.

Representatives from POWERCHINA showered the students with high praises and encouragement for their exceptional performances, and as honored guests and awarded certificates to the students as acknowledgement.

Additionally, to further support the university's Chinese cultural education, a carefully curated collection of books encompassing various aspects of Chinese culture was presented. These valuable resources will offer students more learning material and serve as a source of inspiration, facilitating them to develop a deeper understanding of Chinese culture.

This event not only allowed the students to express their admiration for Chinese culture and enrich their knowledge of it but also fostered an important cultural exchange between Pakistan and China.

The POWERCHINA remains dedicated to advance cultural exchange and understanding with universities, cultivating friendships, and jointly promoting the integration and development of cultural diversity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103002/powerchina-participates-in-exhibition-china-culture-hour/>

KMC completes Pak-China Friendship Park

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the relationship between China and Pakistan is very strong and to further strengthen friendship, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has completed the Pak-China Friendship Park.

He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of Pakistan China Friendship Park on Kashmir Road here on Tuesday.

He said that we have to deal with the cyclone situation bravely; the governor's house is delivering a month's ration to the people living in the coastal areas to help them. On this occasion, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman, Consul General of the People's Republic of China Zheng Heo, Ivory Coast, Indonesia. Consul General of Oman, Iran, Malaysia, Russia, and Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain were present on this occasion. Besides Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan, Senior Director Information and Printing and Media Management Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers were also present.

Earlier, Governor Sindh along with Administrator Karachi and Consul General of China inaugurated Pakistan China Friendship Park, and a large number of citizens were also present on this occasion.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori said that friendship is only strengthened when it is repeated time and time again. The encroachment mafia had a strong grip on the place where the park is built. KMC vacated it with tireless efforts and completed the park in a very short period of time. He congratulated KMC for this achievement. He said that this park is a manifestation of our long-standing and warm friendship with the People's Republic of China, the foundation stone of this park was laid on the occasion of Chinese New Year and on behalf of the citizens of Karachi, we sent a message to the citizens of China that we want to maintain a relationship of love and friendship with them.

He said that KMC has constructed this park very quickly, which shows that KMC is using its land for the purpose for which it was established.

He said that we want to make Karachi a better and developed city together with friendly countries. Their encouragement will pave the way for more development projects in the future which will give an opportunity to beautify Karachi. He said that two Chinese cities, Beijing and Shanghai, are the twin cities of Karachi. It is a matter of pride for us to attribute Pakistan China Friendship Park to our great neighbor China.

Governor Sindh said that during the last seven months the Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman and his team have provided basic facilities to the citizens in Karachi. The steps that have been taken are not only commendable, for which he congratulated KMC and hope that this performance will be continued in the future.

Addressing the event, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman said that the area of this park is four acres and all facilities for the citizens in this park including walking track, jogging track, fountain, benches for sitting, shade trees, flower beds and beautiful corridors are being constructed. He said that the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China have met every test, Pakistan-China friendship is as high as the Himalayas.

The Municipality of Karachi has fulfilled its responsibilities by constructing a park at this place.

Speaking at the ceremony, Consul General of China Zheng Heo said that he congratulated the Municipality of Karachi on the opening of the Pakistan China Friendship Park will further

strengthen the friendship of the countries. He said that Pakistan and China have always proved to be ideal strategic partners and China has always given importance to Pakistan in its foreign policy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103127/kmc-completes-pak-china-friendship-park/>

Pakistani heat-treated beef granted access to Chinese market

In a landmark decision to build China-Pakistan economic partnership, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has granted access to Pakistani heat-treated beef to enter the Chinese market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting an official statement. The imported Pakistani heat-treated beef must originate from cattle younger than 30 months, and the meat must be boneless, having undergone a stringent heat treatment process. The centre of the meat should reach a temperature of at least 70 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 30 minutes.

The statement noted, production enterprises of heat-treated beef have to be located in Pakistan and operate under Pakistani official supervision, adhering to the veterinary health and public health regulations of both China and Pakistan.

Before exporting heat-treated beef to China, the producer must be registered with China, and only the heat-treated beef produced after the registration date is allowed for export. The announcement also details extensive requirements about animal disease management, processing conditions, storage, certification, packaging, transportation, and labeling.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103128/pakistani-heat-treated-beef-granted-access-to-chinese-market/>

Pakistan Observer

Tessori vows to further strengthen China-Pakistan friendship

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that during the cyclone Biparjoy, the helpline 13166 will work round the clock at Governor House. Speaking to media in Karachi on Tuesday, he advised people to contact on the helpline in case of emergency so that their grievances could be allayed. Kamran Tessori said that precautionary measures were being taken to cope satiation arising out of cyclone. Arrangements have been made to distribute ration among ten thousand affectees in coastal areas, he added.

The Governor Sindh said that protecting public lives and properties was top priority of the government. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori Tuesday said that the relationship between China and Pakistan is very strong and to further strengthen this friendship, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has completed the Pak-China Friendship Park. We have to deal with cyclone situation bravely; the governor's house is delivering a month's ration to the people living in the coastal areas to help them. He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of Pakistan China Friendship Park on Kashmir Road on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman, Consul General of People's Republic of China Mr. Zheng Heo, Ivory Coast, Indonesia. Consul General of Oman, Iran, Malaysia, Russia, Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain were present

on this occasion besides Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan, Senior Director Information and Printing and Media Management Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers. Earlier, Governor Sindh along with Administrator Karachi and Consul General of China inaugurated Pakistan China Friendship Park, a large number of citizens were also present on this occasion. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori said that Friendship is only strengthened when it is repeated time and time again.

The encroachment mafia had a strong grip on the place where the park is built. KMC vacated it with tireless efforts and completed the park in a very short period of time. I congratulate KMC for this achievement. He said that this park is a manifestation of our long-standing and warm friendship with the People's Republic of China, the foundation stone of this park was laid on the occasion of Chinese New Year and on behalf of the citizens of Karachi, we sent a message to the citizens of China that we want to maintain a relationship of love and friendship with them. KMC has constructed this park very quickly, which shows that KMC is using its land for the purpose for which it was established. He said that we want to make Karachi a better and developed city together with friendly countries. Their encouragement will pave the way for more development projects in the future which will give an opportunity to beautify Karachi. He said that two Chinese cities, Beijing and Shanghai, are the twin cities of Karachi. It is a matter of pride for us to attribute Pakistan China Friendship Park to our great neighbor China. Governor Sindh said that during the last seven months, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman and his team have provided basic facilities to the citizens in Karachi.

The steps that have been taken are not only commendable, for which I congratulate KMC and hope that this performance will be continued in the future.

Addressing the event, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman said that the area of this park is four acres and all facilities for the citizens in this park including walking track, jogging track, fountain, benches for sitting, shade trees, Flower beds and beautiful corridors are being constructed.

He said that the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China have met every test, Pakistan-China friendship is as high as the Himalayas, I will request the Consul General of China to build a similar Pak-China Park in China. I am grateful to Governor Sindh for that thanks to their trust we could work for the betterment of Karachi, but still a lot remains to be done.

All the credit for the construction of this park goes to the KMC officers, gardeners and contractor who worked very fast and completed it.

The Municipality of Karachi has fulfilled its responsibilities by constructing a park at this place. Speaking at the ceremony, Consul General of China Mr. Zheng Heo said that I congratulate the Municipality of Karachi on the opening of the Pakistan China Friendship Park will further strengthen the friendship of the countries. Pakistan and China have always proved to be ideal strategic partners and China has always given importance to Pakistan in its foreign policy.

<https://pakobserver.net/tessori-vows-to-further-strengthen-china-pakistan-friendship/>

BRI: an Icon for Prosperity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

According to latest reports more than 150 countries and 32 international organizations have signed cooperation documents with China under the BRI framework. More than 3,000 projects have been completed with an investment of nearly \$1 trillion. The project of 10000 villages in Africa has also been successfully completed. Moreover, most of the participants are developing countries and the BRI connects these countries to markets all over the world, not just to China.

The western media has been purposely propagating against BRI in Algeria and terming it as a so-called poisoned chalice which does not have any evidence or scientific substance. It has been an icon for socio-economic prosperity.

According to the published reports of the World Bank, transportation infrastructure projects under the BRI, if fully implemented, are expected to generate \$1.6 trillion in benefits annually by 2030 accounting for 1.3% of global GDP. Of these benefits, 90% will go to partner countries, with low-income and lower-middle-income countries being the biggest beneficiaries. Thus western false and fake propaganda dubbing the BRI as a debt trap has no value because China values long-term economic and social benefits over short-term return.

In this regard, both countries have now entered into a new stage of holistic development, and they intend to deepen cooperation in the diverse sectors of economy, trade, investment, energy, mining and infrastructure construction under the BRI framework, so as to achieve common development which will also benefit other developing countries. Algeria is also prepared to work with China to promote trilateral cooperation with Africa.

Interestingly, China is involved with the development of Algeria's El Hamdania Central Port which will be Algeria's largest and first deep water port and the second deep-water port in Africa. It is located 90 miles from Algiers, Algeria terms the Port of El Hamdania as a regional hub for North Africa in the Mediterranean, competing with Morocco's Tangier-Med Port. It will have a capacity of 25 million tons per year and 23 terminals capable of handling up to 6.5 million 20-foot containers.

With a project budget of US\$3.3 billion, international port development and equipment companies should monitor procurement opportunities for computer systems and software, design and planning services, dredging, security systems, services and technology, terminal technologies and systems and vessel traffic information systems.

Furthermore, Chinese companies have become Algeria's preferred partners for infrastructure projects, and include the East-West Highway, a US\$12 billion contract for a half of the 1,216 km highway which connects Algeria with neighboring Morocco and Tunisia. The six-lane Chinese build section was completed by CITIC-CRCC.

About 1,000 Chinese companies operate in Algeria, assisted by the Algerian Governments waiving of the 51/49 ownership rule (for non-strategic sectors). The government has identified key areas where Algeria can leverage its competitive advantage, including solar

energy, phosphates, gold, uranium, zinc, and iron ore resources vital for the development of both Algeria and China.

Additionally, Algeria is a member of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which has been commenced and has largely abolished all intra-African trade tariffs. It means that ports such as El Hamdania will flourish as Free Trade Zones will also be part of these developments. It further means that component parts can be imported duty free, matched with African sourced products, with finished products either re-exported or sold back onto the African continental market.

Algerian-China trade has been growing in recent years, with China overtaking France as the largest exporter of goods to the country in 2019. China exports about US\$7.9 billion to Algeria, with Algeria exporting US\$1.2 billion to China. The two countries signed a double tax treaty in 2006.

China and Algeria signed a plan for cooperation in key areas during the 2022-2024. The signing of the cooperation plan is a significant move to enhance China-Algeria collaboration within the framework of the BRI.

China and Algeria will establish a committee to jointly pitch prospective cooperation projects in the six key areas of transportation, energy and minerals, manufacturing and R&D, information technology, financial services and medical services to enterprises of the two countries.

Enterprises and financial institutions of the two countries are encouraged to join hands in the research, implementation and operation stages of the prioritized projects so as to promote common development, said the NDRC announcement.

The Algerian-Chinese Fertilizer Company, created in 2022 between the two complexes". Algeria's Asmidal and Algérie Mines and the two Chinese companies, Wuhuan and Tian An, will operate the phosphate mine in the province of Tébessa in the far east of the country, and will carry out the chemical transformation of phosphate and natural gas and the manufacture of phosphate and nitrogen fertilizers and chemical products in the province of Souk Ahras.

China's increasing investment in Algeria in the energy and logistics sector shows China's desire to transform the economies and communities of Maghreb, especially Algeria. In this regard, Algeria's application to join the BRICS is worth noting.

China and Russia have already expressed their willingness for Algeria to join the BRICS, and negotiations are continuing to move forward with this initiative, confirming the North African country's desire to look increasingly towards Asia and reposition itself on the international stage.

To conclude, there is an urgent need to accept inclusion of Algeria in the strategic expansion plan of the BRICS. Moreover, China should encourage developing Algerian SMEs, agriculture, green energy, hydro-power generation, mining, mineral, infrastructure development and last but not least, human development and tourism cooperation in the days to come which would create befitting propositions for both the countries and their respective private companies in the days to come.

The policy makers of China should also help the Algerian government to expedite its Vision 2030 and 2035 enabling it to achieve all desired goals of socio-economic prosperity, greater regional connectivity and qualitative life in the days to come. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune reaffirmed its government's strong commitment to deepen cooperation with China in various fields under the framework of the BRI.

Interestingly, China stands ready to join hands with Algeria to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries and uphold international justice. The mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has great potential and space for development, Wang said, adding that China encourages its enterprises to invest and do business in Algeria.

China is willing to work with Algeria to translate their high-level political mutual trust into tangible results of cooperation, help Algeria accelerate the pace of industrialization, and enhance its capacity for independent development under the flagship project of the BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-an-icon-for-prosperity-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC shines at 10th anniversary

Muhammad ZamirAssadi

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, has promoted Pakistan's sustainable development in a wide range of areas since its start back in 2013.

CPEC, under the BRI, has been playing a vital role in strengthening and modernizing infrastructure in Pakistan that has also pushed forward the economic development in the country.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

Following the 10 years of its successful start, CPEC has achieved so many success stories that are being appreciated in Pakistan and China as it has worked as per the aspirations of people and government on both sides.

If we look back at the development process of CPEC, we will come to know that the credit not only goes to the government on both sides but the success credit of CPEC development also goes to the workers from Pakistan and China who have dedicated their lives for the progress of CPEC. There are multiple emotional stories of the workers performing their duties under CPEC who have worked hard to write the new stories of brotherhood and trust.

It was really a great experience for Pakistani workers as well as for Chinese workers to develop a working relationship and share their experiences of work. Such collaborations really helped both sides to understand each other and to develop deep understanding of different cultures. The success of CPEC in these 10 years will always be credited to these workers who have emerged as a symbol of friendship and progress.

So as far as the investment of CPEC projects is concerned, it is to be well noted that the project has attracted more than 29 billion USD on various projects. This investment helped various Pakistani sectors to re-develop and play their role in the economic growth of the country that cultivated huge benefits for the local people.

This investment of China was without any kind of terms and conditions and without any pressure. This unconditional and sincere investment helped Pakistan work smoothly on CPEC projects so the projects got completed timely in the first phase of CPEC.

The first phase of the CPEC ignited energy and passion among the people working on the projects and also excited Pakistani people. The reason is very clear as back in 2013, Pakistan was facing a severe energy crisis for the domestic users and industries.

This energy crisis created trouble for the people at domestic as well as at industrial level. Our industry was not performing well and many of the industries were shut down following the shortage of energy. Local people were also facing issues of energy shortage at their homes. At that time Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the visionary Belt and Road Initiative and Pakistan was the very lucky country that got CPEC.

This CPEC was a turning point for Pakistan as it started as a project that got the support of Pakistani society at large and every political party supported the initiative. The beauty of this project was that the project started with the mutual consultation of China and Pakistan.

Both countries had very comprehensive and candid discussions on CPEC projects. This process of developing consensus and mutual learning about CPEC laid a solid foundation for the development of the project. With mutual consultation and trust, the great development process started back in 2013 under the leadership of former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The commitment of the Mian Nawaz Sharif-led government of PMLN showed the full commitment and passion towards the start and development process of CPEC. The first phase of CPEC focused on development of energy projects in the country and it really showed great progress. The development of energy projects with the Chinese investment was very quick and environment friendly. These projects really helped the country to tackle the energy shortages and to resume the industrial cycle that was halted following the energy shut down.

The resumption of old power plants and development of new power projects was really a blessing for domestic and industrial users. This really helped Pakistani industry to operate their businesses at normal pace and to fulfill their export orders. This process also helped Pakistan to increase its exports and earned the good economic growth and Pakistani export base started expanding.

Collaborations under the China-proposed BRI, encompassing investments, research and development (R&D), and technology transfer played a vital role in driving innovation and addressing related challenges.

It is to be highly noted that both sides pushed forward the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and explored new areas of cooperation in industry,

agriculture, mining, science and technology and information technology, fostering new growth points, and deepening cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-shines-at-10th-anniversary-by-muhammad-zamirassadi/>

The News

Chinese firm to fix PSCA cameras: IGP

LAHORE: Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar held an important meeting with the officials of a private Chinese company in which the company took responsibility for fixing the non-functional cameras of the Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA) installed on the highways.

IG Punjab said that the equipment of private company was arriving by cargo ship on June 21. He said the Chinese company would fix PSCA's 2,000 cameras in provincial capital by August 14. He said that 500 more cameras were also being repaired through other means.

He said that according to the company, 6,500 PSCA cameras would be fully operational by August 14.

Police Protection Centre inaugurated : Dr Amjad Saqib, founder and executive director of Akhuwat Foundation, inaugurated the Data Darbar Police Protection Centre.

He unveiled the inauguration plaque along with IG Punjab and other officers reviewed the facilities provided in the Police Protection Centre. Victim support officer, in-charge centre and other officials have been appointed at the Centre.

IG gives away cash prizes: IG Punjab gave away cash prizes and commendation certificates to the best performing officers posted in Police Service Centres of different districts.

Among the recipients of awards were the officers of Lahore, Attock, Bahawalnagar, Chiniot, DG Khan, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Jhang, Khushab, Lodhran, Mandi Bahauddin, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Narowal, Okara, Pakpattan, Rahimyar Khan and Rajanpur.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=211332>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین سے نیا قرض لینے کیلئے پرانا ایک ارب ڈالر بیٹنگی ادا

پاکستان نے اس ماہ کے اندر اپنی ری فنانسنگ کو محفوظ بنانے کیلئے 1 ارب ڈالر کا چینی قرض بیٹنگی ادا کر دیا۔ اسلام آباد

ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف نے بجٹ کے اعداد و شمار کے قابل عمل ہونے پر سوالات اٹھائے ہیں، خاص طور پر ایف بی آر کے نان ٹیکس ریونیو اور ٹیکس وصولی کے ہدف پر جبکہ سود کی ادائیگی کیلئے مختص 7.3 ٹریلین روپے پر بھی اعتراض تھا۔

اسٹیٹ بینک اور وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع نے ایکسپریس ٹریبیون کو بتایا کہ ملک نے پیر کو چائنا ڈیولپمنٹ بینک (سی ڈی بی) کا ایک ارب ڈالر کا قرض ادا کیا، قرض 29 جون کو واجب الادا تھا تاہم وفاقی حکومت نے 30 جون کو ختم ہونے والے رواں مالی سال کے اندر قرض دوبارہ حاصل کرنے کیلئے بیٹنگی ادا کیلئے فیصلہ کیا۔

یہ ادائیگی تمام دستیاب ذرائع سے زرمبادلہ بڑھانے کی حکومتی کوششوں کا حصہ ہے، انہی کوششوں میں وہ پیشکش بھی شامل ہے جو سمندر پار پاکستانیوں کو کی گئی ہے کہ اگر وہ ایک لاکھ ڈالر تک کی ترسیلات بھیجیں گے تو ان سے ذرائع آمدن کا نہیں پوچھا جائے گا۔

تاہم ملک کی ایکویٹی مارکیٹ اور کمپنیوں کے ریگولیٹر کے ایک سینئر عہدیدار نے منگل کو خبردار کیا کہ اس ایمنسٹی سکیم نے منی لانڈرنگ کے خطرات کو بڑھا دیا ہے، یہ پیشرفت اس دن ہوئی جب وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے چینی سفارت خانے کے انچارج ڈی ایفیز سے ملاقات کی اور ان سے 1.3 ارب ڈالر کے تجارتی قرضوں کی ری فنانسنگ کو تیزی سے ٹریک کرنے کی درخواست کی، وزیر خزانہ نے چینی سفارت کار کو آئی ایم ایف کے قرض پروگرام کی بحالی کے کم ہوتے امکانات سے بھی آگاہ کیا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چینی حکام نے پہلے ہی پاکستان کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ وہ دونوں قرض ریفرنڈم کر دیں گے تاہم اسلام آباد چاہتا ہے کہ قرض کی ادائیگی کے ساتھ ہی اسے فوری طور پر دوبارہ قرض دیا جائے۔ پاکستان دو ہفتوں سے بھی کم عرصے میں بینک آف چائنا کو 30 کروڑ ڈالر کے قرض کی ادائیگی کرنے والا ہے۔

وزارت خزانہ اور اسٹیٹ بینک نے متعدد کوششوں کے باوجود اس خبر پر باضابطہ تبصرہ کرنے سے گریز کیا، دریں اثنا سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خزانہ نے بیرون ملک سے ترسیلات زر کی مد میں سالانہ ایک لاکھ ڈالر پاکستان بھیجنے کی منظوری دے دی

کمیٹی نے بیرون ملک مقیم پاکستانیوں کی آمدن پر 2 لاکھ روپے ایڈوانس ٹیکس لگانے اور اور سیز پاکستانیوں کیلئے غیر منقولہ پر اپریٹی کی خریداری پر دو فیصد ٹیکس چھوٹ کی بھی حمایت کر دی، البتہ 50 کروڑ سے زائد آمدن پر سپر ٹیکس دس فیصد سے کم کر کے سات فیصد کرنے اور 40 کروڑ روپے سے زائد آمدن پر سپر ٹیکس کی شرح 8 سے کم کر کے 6 فیصد کرنے کی تجویز دی گئی ہے

سلیم مانڈوی والا کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں کمیٹی نے نان فائلرز اور سیز کیلئے 50 ہزار روپے کی ٹرانزیکشن پر 0.6 فیصد ٹیکس لگانے کی مخالفت کر دی

ایف بی آر حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ ٹیکس فارن ڈومیسٹک ورکرز یا سیلپر ز پر لاگو ہو گا، قانون کا مقصد معیشت کو دستاویزی شکل دینا ہے، یہ ٹیکس ایکٹیو ٹیکس پیئر لسٹ میں شامل نہ ہونے والوں سے لیا جائے گا، کمیٹی نے ٹرانزیکشن کی رقم کم کر کے 25 ہزار اور ایڈوانس ٹیکس ایک فیصد کرنے کی تجویز دیدی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2498033/6/>

چین کو پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے اعتماد چاہیے: فضل الرحمن

پشاور (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) جمعیت علماء اسلام کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے چین کو اعتماد کی ضرورت ہے، چین کے ساتھ دوستی میں جو بھی رکاوٹ آئے اسے ملایا میٹ کر دینا چاہئے۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے مولانا فضل الرحمن نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ دوستی کو مزید مضبوط کرنا ہو گا، چین نے اپنے پیسوں سے گوادر میں بین الاقوامی معیار کا ایئر پورٹ بنایا، سی پیک کے 10 سال پورے ہو گئے، اس منصوبے میں پاکستان کی ترقی کاراز ہے۔ مولانا فضل الرحمن نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ دوستی پاکستان میں غیر متنازعہ ہے۔ پیپلز پارٹی اور مسلم لیگ نے چین کے حوالے سے پالیسی کو تسلسل سے اپنایا۔ سی پیک صرف ایک سڑک نہیں اس کے ساتھ بہت سے اور منصوبے منسلک تھے۔ جمعیت علماء اسلام کے سربراہ نے کہا کہ مغربی ممالک پاکستان کو اب بھی کالونی سمجھتے ہیں۔ چین نے بہت سارے منصوبوں میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ ہم گزشتہ حکومت کے عزائم سمجھ چکے تھے۔ دنیا کے ساتھ اعتماد بحال کرنے میں وقت لگے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قومی وحدت کے ساتھ ملک کو آگے لے کر جائیں گے۔ روس کو بھی ابھی سمجھ آگئی ہے کہ اسلامی ممالک کے ساتھ بہتر تعلقات قائم کرنے ہیں۔ ہم نے پہلے ہی سے تمام ممالک کے ساتھ بہتر تعلقات قائم کرنے کی تائید کی ہے۔ سربراہ پی ڈی ایم مولانا فضل الرحمن نے پشاور میں چائنا ونڈو کا دورہ کیا۔ مولانا فضل الرحمن نے چائنا ونڈو کے مختلف حصے دیکھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-14/page-1/detail-30>

June 15, 2023

Pakistan Observer

18 mega uplift projects completed in Gwadar in record 3 months: Ahsan

Following the consistent efforts of the federal government, fruition of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects can be seen as from 2022- till date around 637,124 metric ton of cargoes landed at the deep seaport of Gwadar which is manifold high compared to 166,207 metric tons arrived during 2018 -2021.

This was disclosed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday while chairing a meeting to review progress of projects in Gwadar, a news release said issued here on Wednesday.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the officials of the all relevant ministries, provincial representatives of Balochistan and Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA).

Maritime Affairs Advisor (Planning Commission) Jawad Akhtar Khokhar gave a detailed presentation over the projects.

The meeting noted that since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, the CEPC has been revived which remained neglected during the tenure of the previous government.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, Distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Markran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

The minister said several projects had been completed by the incumbent government in Gwadar particularly related to water and electricity that were neglected by the previous government deliberately. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/18-mega-uplift-projects-completed-in-gwadar-in-record-3-months-ahsan/>

K2 Daily

کئے تھے تو اس پر متاثرہ طلبہ اور ان کے والدین بھی یہ شکایت کر رہے ہیں کہ چین مخالف لیٹی آئی کی حکومت میں تو ان کے بچوں کو چین میں تعلیمی سہولیات حاصل نہیں اور اب جبکہ پاکستان میں چین کے دوست قیادت کی حکومت ہے تو پاکستانی طلبہ سے یہ سہولت چھینی جا رہی ہے؟ اہم سوال ہے جس پر غور ہونا چاہئے۔ صورت حال پر ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ حکومت فوری طور پر اس معاملہ کو چین کی حکومت سے اٹھائے اگر معاملہ آسانی سے حل ہونا ممکن ہو تو پھر حکومت اسے حل کرنے کی کوشش کرے لیکن اگر واقعی مسئلہ گہرا ہو تو پھر پاکستانی قیادت کو چین کی حکومت کو اس بات پر آمادہ کرنا چاہئے کہ زبردستی طلبہ کو اپنا اور تعلیمی سلسلہ عمل کرنے تک پہلے سے دی گئی سہولت برقرار رکھی جائے اور نئے طالب علموں کیلئے آسان شرائط کے ساتھ تعلیمی سلسلہ جاری رکھنے کا طریقہ کار بتایا جائے تاکہ نوجوانوں کو ملکی ترقی کیلئے بیرون ممالک میں اعلیٰ تعلیم کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر ہو سکے۔

چین میں طالب علم مشکلات کا شکار

فضل خالق خان

چین کی حکومت نے دنیا بھر کے دیگر ملکوں کی طرح پاکستانی طالب علموں کیلئے ایک سہولت فراہم کی تھی تو اسے برقرار رکھنا چاہئے اور اگر کسی وجہ سے اس میں مسائل درپوش ہیں تو ان مسائل کے حل کیلئے حکومتی سطح پر اقدامات ہونے چاہئیں، متاثرہ طلبہ کے والدین کے مطابق اس وقت بہت سارے طالب علم چین میں بے یار و مددگار بنی اور دیگر امور کی عدم دستیابی کی وجہ سے شدید پریشانی کا شکار ہیں جبکہ گورنر کے دوران پاکستان آنے والے طالب علموں سے وہاں کے یونیورسٹیوں کے ذمہ دار باقی رہ جانے والے سمسٹر کیلئے ہماری فیس جمع کرنے کا مطالبہ کر رہے ہیں جو ان کی استطاعت سے باہر ہے۔ اب مسئلہ یہ آن پڑا ہے کہ زبردستی پاکستانی طالب علم خواہ چین میں ہیں یا پاکستان میں ان کو درپوش مسئلہ حکومتی سطح پر حل ہونا ہے، انفرادی طور پر یہ مسئلہ حل کرنے کے بس میں نہیں اور نہ ہی اس کیلئے کسی احتجاج یا عظیم کی مدد لی جاسکتی ہے، ہاں انفرادی طور پر ایک ہی حل ہے کہ ہر طالب علم کے والدین اور بچے کو سمسٹر پورے کرنے کیلئے طلبہ کو وہ فیس جمع کرے۔ موجودہ حکومت یہ دعویٰ کر رہی ہے کہ پی ٹی آئی کی چھٹی حکومت نے ہی بیک کے معاملے سے چین کو ناراض کیا تھا جس کی وجہ سے چین نے تعلقات میں رخنہ پڑا تھا اور بہت سارے منصوبے ابھورے رہ

چین میں زبردستی پاکستانی طلبہ و طالبات کا شکار کی سہولت ختم ہونے سے شدید مشکلات کا شکار ہیں، متاثرہ طلبہ اور ان کے والدین کا حکومت پاکستان سے معاملہ حل کرنے کا مطالبہ ہے۔ خبر آئی ہے کہ چین میں پڑھنے والے ہزاروں پاکستانی طالب علم سکارشپ کی سہولت ختم ہونے سے مشکلات میں پڑ گئے ہیں اور ان کا تعلیمی مستقبل تاریک ہونے کا اندیشہ پیدا ہو گیا ہے، متاثرہ طلبہ اور ان کے والدین نے حکومت پاکستان سے فوری طور پر معاملے کا نوٹس لے کر چین کی حکومت سے مسئلہ حل کرنے اور زبردستی طلبہ کو اپنے سمسٹر پورے کرنے تک حمایت دینے کا مطالبہ۔ معلوم ہوا ہے کہ پچھلے کئی سال سے چین کی حکومت نے سوات سمیت ہزاروں پاکستانی طالب علموں کو مختلف شعبہ جات میں میڈیکل، انجینئرنگ اور آئی ٹی سمیت دیگر اہم تعلیمی شعبوں میں سکارشپ کی سہولت فراہم کی تھی اور اس سے ہزاروں کی تعداد میں پاکستانی طالب علم مستفید ہو کر اعلیٰ تعلیم حاصل کر رہے تھے، کورونا کے دوران دیگر شعبوں کی طرح یہ تعلیمی سلسلہ بھی بری طرح متاثر ہوا جس کی وجہ سے ہزاروں کی تعداد میں پاکستانی طالب علم مشکلات کا شکار ہوئے۔ اب خبر آئی ہے کہ چین کی حکومت نے پاکستانی طلبہ سے سکارشپ کی سہولت مستقل طور پر ختم کر دی ہے جس کی وجہ سے چین میں زبردستی پاکستانی طلبہ و طالبات اور ان کے والدین سخت تشویش میں مبتلا ہو گئے ہیں، راقم نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے متاثرہ طلبہ کے والدین نے بتایا کہ پی ٹی آئی

کی حکومت جس کے بارے میں بتایا جاتا ہے کہ وہ چین مخالف تھی لیکن جب بات ہے کہ اس حکومت میں پاکستانی طلبہ کیلئے یہ سہولت موجود تھی اور اب جبکہ پاکستان میں چین کے دوست حکمرانوں کی قیادت حکومت کر رہی ہے ایسے میں پاکستانی طلبہ سے یہ سہولت ختم کرنا افسوسناک ہے، متاثرہ طلبہ کے والدین نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ چین میں زبردستی ایک طالب علم کا تعلیمی سلسلہ مکمل ہونے پر 25 سے 30 لاکھ روپے کا خرچہ آتا ہے جو ان کی استطاعت سے باہر ہے لہذا انہارا مطالبہ ہے کہ اول تو چین میں پڑھنے والے طالب علموں کے سکارشپ کو بحال کیا جائے اور اگر ایسا ممکن نہیں تو پھر زبردستی طلبہ کو اپنا تعلیم مکمل کرنے تک سکارشپ کی سہولت دی جائے۔ موجودہ دور میں تعلیم کے بغیر ترقی کا تصور ناممکن ہے، دین اسلام میں بھی حصول تعلیم کی اہمیت بار بار واضح کی گئی ہے اور اس حوالے سے ایک حدیث کا حوالہ بھی دیا جاتا ہے کہ علم حاصل کرو خواہ تمہیں اس کیلئے چین ہی کیوں نہ جانا پڑے اب جبکہ چین جانے کا موقع آتی آسانی سے دستیاب تھا تو پھر اسے کیوں کونایا چاہا ہے، حالات کے تقاضے میں اس وقت ہر کوئی جانتا ہے کہ ترقی کے اس دور میں چین فروغ پر ہے جہاں ہر علم کے علوم کا حصول اجتماعی آسان کر دیا گیا ہے صرف اس تک رسائی کی ضرورت ہے ایسے میں اگر

کالم نگاروں اور نئے لکھنے والوں کیلئے روزنامہ کے نوے کے کالم نگاروں سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ اپنی تحریریں editorial@dailyk2.com ای میل کریں۔ روزنامہ کے نوے کے صفحوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کو بھی اپنا مشن بنا لیں۔ ہمارے ایڈیٹرز سے گفتگو کیلئے ایڈیٹریل ٹیم سے رابطہ کریں۔ ہمارے ایڈیٹرز سے رابطہ کرنے کے لیے ہر روز ایڈیٹریل ٹیم سے رابطہ کریں۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Editorial&Date=2023-06-15

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستانی بیف کو چینی مارکیٹ تک رسائی کی اجازت دیدی گئی، کمرشل قونسلر

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے کمرشل قونسلر غلام قادر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ہمہ وقت چین نے ادائیگیوں کے توازن کے بحران پر قابو پانے کے لیے پاکستان کی مدد کے لیے ایک بار پھر پاکستان سے ہیٹ ٹریڈ بیف کی درآمد کی اجازت دے کر مدد فراہم کی ہے۔ گوادرو کے مطابق قادر نے تصدیق کی کہ چین کے کسٹمز کی جنرل ایڈمنسٹریشن (جی اے سی سی) نے پاکستانی بیف کو چینی مارکیٹ تک رسائی کی اجازت دے دی ہے۔ یہ خبر دونوں ممالک کے لیے اہم مضمرات رکھتی ہے، کیونکہ چین دنیا کے سب سے بڑے گوشت درآمد کنندگان میں سے ایک ہے، اور پاکستان بیف درآمد کرنے والا نمایاں ملک ہے۔ گوادرو کے مطابق چین میں پاکستانی سفیر معین الحق نے ٹویٹر کے ذریعے اپنی خوشی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی کسٹمز نے پاکستان کے ہیٹ ٹریڈ بیف کو چین کو برآمد کرنے کی اجازت دینے کا نوٹیفیکیشن جاری کر دیا ہے۔ یہ پیش رفت چین پاکستان دو طرفہ تجارت میں ایک اہم سنگ میل کی نشاندہی کرتی ہے۔ یہ پاکستانی درآمد کنندگان کو 15 بلین ڈالر کی چینی مارکیٹ میں داخل ہونے کا ایک بڑا موقع فراہم کرتا ہے۔ گوادرو کے مطابق قادر نے گوادرو کو بتایا کہ پاکستان جو پہلے سے ہی بیف کا ایک اہم برآمد کنندہ ہے، اس نئی مارکیٹ سے اس کی معیشت کو فروغ ملے گا۔ چین کے لیے، یہ اقدام ملک میں گوشت کی بڑھتی ہوئی مانگ کو پورا کرنے اور اپنے صارفین کے لیے زیادہ اقسام

فراہم کرنے میں مدد کرے گا۔ گوادرو پروکے مطابق قادر نے مزید کہا یہ پاکستان کے لیے بڑی خبر ہے کیونکہ یہ 15 بلین ڈالر کی مارکیٹ کھولتا ہے اور اپنی برآمدات کو بڑھانے کا ایک بہترین موقع فراہم کرتا ہے۔ اس کے پاکستان کے توازن ادائیگی پر بھی مثبت میکرو اکنامک اثرات مرتب ہوں۔ گوادرو پروکے مطابق امید ہے کہ اس سال 1.5 ملین مویشیوں سے ہیٹ ٹریڈر سیفین کو برآمد کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ مزید صلاحیت میں اضافے کے لیے نئے فارموں کے ساتھ ساتھ مویشیوں کی گلابانی اور اپ گریڈیشن کی ضرورت ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-15/page-10/detail-51>

چین پاکستان کے کم کاربن اہداف پر عمل درآمد کیلئے اہم قوت بن گیا: پاکستانی سفیر

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے میں تیسرے ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ انرجی پارٹنرشپ فورم کے دوران کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے کم کاربن اہداف پر عمل درآمد میں مدد دینے والی ایک اہم قوت بن گیا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان مشترکہ طور پر سبز اہداری تعمیر کریں گے، فوڈ سیکورٹی اور گرین ڈیولپمنٹ پر توجہ مرکوز کریں گے۔ چین اعلیٰ معیار کی بیج کی تحقیق اور ترقی، صاف توانائی کی بجلی کی پیداوار، الیکٹرک وہیکل کے فروغ، اہلکاروں کی تربیت سمیت دیگر پہلوؤں میں پاکستان کے ساتھ وسیع تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ بدھ کے روز چینی میڈیا کے مطابق 14 جون کو چین نے اپنا 11 واں قومی یوم کم کاربن منایا۔ قدیم زمانے سے ہی، چینی قوم میں ماحول اور حیاتیات کی دیکھ بھال کا سادہ تصور موجود رہا ہے۔ حالیہ برسوں میں، چین نے سبز اور کم کاربن ترقی کو فروغ دینے میں زبردست کامیابیاں حاصل کی ہیں، جو دنیا میں توانائی کے استعمال کی شدت میں تیز ترین کمی والے ممالک میں سے ایک بن گیا ہے اور عالمی پائیدار ترقی کے لئے اپنا نمایاں حصہ ڈال رہا ہے۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2012 کے بعد سے، چین کی صاف توانائی کی کھپت کا تناسب 14.5 فیصد سے بڑھ کر 2021 میں 25.5 فیصد تک پہنچ گیا ہے، کونسے کی کھپت کا تناسب 68.5 فیصد سے گھٹ کر 56.0 فیصد ہو گیا ہے۔ چین نے توانائی کی کھپت میں سالانہ 3 فیصد کی ترقی سے 6.6 فیصد کی اوسط سالانہ اقتصادی ترقی کو سہارا دیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-15/page-10/detail-12>

Chinese Newspapers

June 01, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan: 'Phenomenal Pakistan' cultural feast at Beijing

The Pakistan cultural feast showcases the traditional Pakistani crafts. Photo: Courtesy of Pakistani Embassy in Beijing

The Pakistan cultural feast showcases the traditional Pakistani crafts. Photo: Courtesy of Pakistani Embassy in Beijing

The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and Jinshang Group jointly organized a Pakistani cultural event called the "Phenomenal Pakistan" Pakistan cultural feast at Jinshang Garden in Beijing on Saturday.

Eric Peter Gibb, general manager of Jinshang said that during the two-day event, "we can enjoy traditional Pakistani music, fascinating cultural performances and exquisite cuisine, and had the opportunity to explore the craftsmanship of Pakistani artisans through beautiful textiles and unique handicrafts." He added that this event signifies the strong relationship between China and Pakistan. "We are working together to promote cultural exchange and understanding."

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque delivered a speech at the event, in which he said that the cultural event was part of a series of activities planned by the embassy to celebrate the Year of Tourism Exchange between China and Pakistan, with the aim of immersing everyone in a cultural retreat and discovering the cultural heritage and immense beauty of Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of exchanges and cultural cooperation between the two peoples. He invited Chinese tourists to visit and explore Pakistan where they will be warmly welcomed.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1291790.shtml>

A truck carrying seafood from Pakistan arrives in NW. China's Xinjiang, in major boost for trade connectivity

A truck loaded with cold chain containers from Pakistan has arrived at Kashi City in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross border land route, Pakistan news outlet BOL News reported on Wednesday.

Another Pakistan media Nawaiwaqt said that this is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi in Pakistan to Kashi City along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A representative from the Pakistani transport company said this was the first attempt at bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm. "The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment, our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities from Pakistan," the representative said.

The representative noted that the shipment cost by truck is far below that of air transport, and has simpler customs clearance procedures. In addition, shipment by road shortens transport time to eight days, which is suitable for small-scale and point-to-point logistics, while the sea transport from Karachi Port to Yangshan Port in Shanghai takes nearly a month.

According to Pakistani media reporting, the container truck entered China via the Karakoram Highway, the only land route linking Pakistan with China, undergoing a customs check at the Khunjerab Port, the world highest port.

The largest bilateral cooperation program the CPEC is marking its 10th anniversary this year, has played an important role in bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan and created over 155,000 local jobs for Pakistani people, China's National Development and Reform Commission said on May 17.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also hailed the CPEC as a shining example of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at the 4th round of the Foreign Minister-level Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad.

In order to expand the influence of the CPEC, the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to extend the program to Afghanistan, to further advance cooperation under the BRI.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1291781.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistanis keen to brace Chinese technology to support beekeeping business

By Misbah Saba Malik

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, June 1 (Xinhua) -- On a sunny morning in Pakistan's east Chakwal district, Ali Raza, an entomology master student, was all eyes on a wooden frame with little off-white plastic cells as bees waggled and hummed around him in the vast research farm of the state-owned Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi.

"I grafted the bee larvae in the cells 72 hours ago, so it is the right time to collect the royal jelly which will be around 20 grams. I will extract it and store it for research," Raza told Xinhua while looking at the bees flitting and darting at Acacia Modesta trees.

Raza is part of his university's team working to introduce the Chinese method for producing royal jelly in honey bee hives to make beekeeping a profitable venture for the local community, increase the country's honey production, and create new opportunities for exporting honey to international markets.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Raza's teacher, Muhammad Asif Aziz, associate professor of the Department of Entomology at the university, said that beekeeping is a floundering business in Pakistan and that the people associated with it suffered huge losses due to climate change.

"Due to soaring temperatures and excessive rains, the honey flow seasons in spring and autumn became short, in some cases recently the beekeepers were not able to produce any honey during the season," he noted.

To help the beekeepers, producing royal jelly with bees in the hives is the most viable alternative, but there is almost no production of the jelly in the country because the existing techniques do not offer substantial profit margins, the professor said.

In 2021, Aziz joined a bee breeding and honey processing and production technology online training course sponsored by China's Hunan Agricultural Group Company Ltd. for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) participating countries, which gave him the hope of producing royal jelly in Pakistan.

"Two years ago, I came across some research papers authored by Chinese scientists which mentioned that the royal jelly can be produced by keeping the queen in the hive, it gave me a lot of hope and I reached out to them, and they told me more about the technique, gave me training and enabled me to introduce it in my university last year," he added.

Showing the hives with the old version and Chinese version technique, Raza said the Chinese-styled hive has two portions: a "root section" carrying the queen for breeding and reproduction, and the other section carrying grafted larvae for royal jelly production.

Raza and his class fellows also trained some beekeepers after last year's experiment, and after more research this year, they will train more people on a large scale and tell them about the potential of the Chinese style of beekeeping.

Zakir Khan, a beekeeper from the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, has 1,400 hives of bee colonies. He used to extract over 4,000 kg of honey in the past, but during the last three years, he could not extract more than 2,000 kg.

"I was so surprised when Aziz contacted me and told me that I could have a good yield of royal jelly which is 20 times costlier in the market than honey. I have already ordered Chinese plastic cell bars and wooden frames for my hives, and next season I will be producing the royal jelly," Khan told Xinhua.

He said that the price of the Chinese equipment required for producing royal jelly is only about 2,000 to 3,000 rupees (10.52 U.S. dollars) in the local market. By incorporating it into his hive, he will get a good profit.

Aziz said that he is looking forward to visiting China and getting offline training as Pakistan has successfully achieved the first step of producing royal jelly.

"In the next step, we want to enhance the production like Chinese beekeepers who get a yield of two to five kg from one standard-sized hive," he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230601/699497d27735420c992910f893ff7710/c.html>

June 07, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Art exhibition highlights Pakistan-China friendship

By Raheela Nazir

ISLAMABAD, June 7 (Xinhua) -- Surrounded by lush-green trees, blooming flowers and winding tracks, Islamabad Art Gallery was jammed with art lovers gazing enthusiastically at striking paintings, sculptures, installations and other art pieces with Chinese characters.

The exhibition, named "Star Moon Road, 2023 Pakistan-China Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition," was held on Monday in the heart of the federal capital Islamabad to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

More than 100 innovative artworks from renowned Chinese and Pakistani artists are being showcased at the exhibition, Amna Shah, an organizer of the event, told Xinhua. Among them, at least 70 art pieces are made by Chinese artists, and Pakistani people are showing great interest in them.

She said that the gallery would be open to the public throughout this month, letting visitors have a broader perception of Chinese art and culture.

While appreciating the works of Chinese and Pakistani artists, Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that art and culture is the most effective vehicle for engagement between the people of two countries.

"Exchanges in art and culture should be given priority in further cementing the exemplary friendship between China and Pakistan as it brings people of the friendly countries closer to each other," the minister said.

He added that the exchange of ideas through art and culture can also energize the creative economy and play an important part in bringing about peace, progress and harmony in the region.

Aasma Ismayeel Butt, an enthusiastic participant and president of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, said that such art events play a key role in further strengthening the deep-rooted friendship with China.

Pakistani people consider China as a friendly neighbor, a time-tested and trusted friend who has always supported Pakistan through thick and thin, Butt told Xinhua.

Under CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, China has helped Pakistan build its road infrastructure and overcome a severe energy crisis by constructing multiple power plants, bringing socio-economic development to the country, she added.

On the occasion, Jamal Shah, former director general of Pakistan National Council of the Arts, said that the two countries are proud custodians of enviable cultures and their mutual relationship goes back hundreds of years.

"We share many common elements in our arts and crafts, music and theatre with China and similarly in the rapidly changing technological world. There is a lot we can learn from the Chinese experience and achievements in the realm of Cinema and artificial intelligence," Shah said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230607/462c0f794dbc4567b1c54ab801f9f44b/c.html>

June 08, 2023

Global Times

China, Pakistan and Iran hold first meeting of trilateral consultation on counter-terrorism, security

China on Wednesday held a consultation meeting in Beijing with Pakistan and Iran on counter-terrorism and security, marking the first meeting of its kind.

The meeting creates a more profound institutional mechanism for long-term counter-terrorism cooperation among the three countries, and is likely to also establish a very important foundation for future cooperation in other security areas, experts told the Global Times on Thursday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at the routine press conference on Thursday that "Terrorism is a common enemy of humanity. China firmly opposes and strongly condemns terrorism in all its manifestations. We stand ready to work in close collaboration with Pakistan, Iran and other regional countries to resolutely crack down on terrorist forces that endanger the interests of the three countries and regional security."

During the first meeting of the China-Pakistan-Iran Trilateral Consultation on counter-terrorism and security, which was held at Directors General level, in-depth discussions were held on the regional anti-terrorism situation and joint crackdown on cross-border terrorists, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry in a statement on Wednesday night.

Based on the outcome of the consultations, the three sides decided to institutionalize the trilateral consultation on counter-terrorism and security.

Bai Tian, director-general of the Department of External Security Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Abdul Hameed, director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and Seyed Rasoul Mosavi, assistant to the foreign minister and director-general of the South Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran jointly held the meeting.

On the same day, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Nong Rong met with Mosavi and Hameed. China also held separate bilateral consultation and exchange on anti-terrorism with Pakistan and Iran.

This trilateral meeting marks an expansion of China's multinational security cooperation mechanisms in the neighboring region, Zhu Yongbiao, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times on Thursday.

The participation of Iran in such mechanisms is greatly important for the continuation and further deepening of the mechanisms, he said.

In May, China also held trilateral talks with Pakistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad on the 5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, during which cooperation on counter-terrorism was also discussed.

Zhu noted that the addition of Iran to the cooperation mechanisms is significant from a geographical perspective, as the counter-terrorism situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan could also affect Iran.

"For example, terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan have been crossing borders to hide in Iran, which also poses a threat to Iran itself," he said. "In the face of the current, more complex needs of fighting terrorism in South and Central Asia, it is natural for the three countries to strengthen cooperation."

The agenda of Wednesday's meeting is likely to have included issues regarding the security situation in and around Afghanistan, which is of great regional and international concern, and the situation on the Pak-Iran border in the Balochistan region, observers noted.

According to the Samarkand Declaration issued in April at the 4th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of neighboring countries of Afghanistan in Samarkand, the Republic of Uzbekistan, all parties acknowledged that the security situation related to terrorism in Afghanistan remains grave, pointing out that terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, including "Islamic State," the "East Turkestan Islamic Movement" and "Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan" continue to pose serious threats to regional and global security, and agree that anti-terrorism security cooperation among neighboring countries of Afghanistan should be strengthened and that a united front against terrorism should be established.

Zhu said that China, Pakistan and Iran are likely to reach many common positions on counter-terrorism, such as joint identification of some terrorist organizations and enhanced cooperation in combating cross-border terrorist operations.

"There could also be more integrated and practical cooperation exercises, such as training and exercises for counter-terrorism technicians," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292196.shtml>

South China Morning Post

China, Iran, Pakistan agree to hold regular anti-terror talks as concerns grow over cross-border insurgency

Decision comes after Chinese foreign ministry's external security affairs chief holds first such meeting with Iranian and Pakistani counterparts in Beijing

Move to 'institutionalise' the counterterror security consultation made under China's Global Security Initiative, Chinese foreign ministry says

China, Pakistan and Iran have agreed to hold regular anti-terror talks following their first trilateral meeting on regional security issues.

The Chinese foreign ministry's external security affairs director, Bai Tian, met his Pakistani and Iranian counterparts in Beijing on Wednesday to review regional counterterror efforts and discuss joint action "to tackle the cross-border movement of terrorists", according to a statement from the ministry.

Bai also held separate one-on-one meetings with Abdul Hameed, director general of the Pakistani foreign ministry, as well as Seyed Rasoul Mosavi, assistant foreign minister and director general for South Asia at the Iranian foreign ministry.

Chinese assistant foreign minister Nong Rong also hosted a separate meeting with Hameed and Mosavi.

"[The three sides] decided to institutionalise the trilateral counterterrorism security consultation," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said, describing the consultation mechanism as part of China's "Global Security Initiative" proposed in February.

"China resolutely opposes and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism, and is willing to stand with Pakistan and Iran for close cooperation to crack down on terrorist forces that threaten the three countries' interests and regional security," Wang told a regular press briefing on Thursday.

According to Li Wei, a researcher at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing, the three-way dialogue has "very high significance" and will focus largely on preventing the spillover effects of Afghanistan-based militancy.

"The terrorist threats faced by the belt and road infrastructure constructions will also be a topic of discussion," Li said.

Pakistan has witnessed frequent terrorist attacks since Taliban militants toppled the US-backed government in Kabul two years ago. The ensuing turmoil has provided room for the anti-China insurgent group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, also known as the Pakistani Taliban, to grow. Militant group Islamic State, a key Taliban rival, has also become more active in the region since the Taliban takeover.

“The Taliban taking office ... has caused extremism to reactivate in Central South Asia, including Iran, as a new order is building up when the original regime is replaced by a new one,” said Yan Wei, a professor with China’s Northwest University.

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As the impact of extremist forces is being felt across borders, there is a need for multilateral mechanisms to resolve risks, he said.

Some terror attacks in the region have targeted Chinese nationals, especially those working on Belt and Road Initiative projects. In December, Islamic State Khorasan (Isis-K), the Isis affiliate in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for a deadly terror attack on a Kabul hotel popular with Chinese businesspeople.

“The security of these nearby countries would definitely have an impact on us, especially as we are neighbours of Pakistan while Iran is our distant neighbour,” Yan said.

China has been building closer ties with both Iran and Pakistan in recent years, including signing a 25-year cooperation agreement with Iran and setting up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under the belt and road strategy.

“This [security dialogue mechanism] may be a first step to verify if there is appetite on each side for a more ambitious trilateral dialogue,” said Jean-Loup Samaan, senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute.

China, Iran pledge to deepen cooperation as both grapple with strained US ties

China is also building on the momentum brought about by its role in facilitating an easing of tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran earlier this year, and the new mechanism could add a new dimension to “Chinese ambitions to reshape the regional diplomatic environment”, Samaan said.

China has in recent months stepped up efforts to broker peace in a number of global hotspots, including the Middle East and Ukraine.

In March, it brought Saudi Arabia and Iran together in Beijing for a resumption of bilateral ties after seven years of hostility. China has also reached out to Ukraine and Russia to discuss a potential peace plan, despite admissions that an agreement between the two warring parties would be difficult.

[China, Iran, Pakistan agree to hold regular anti-terror talks as concerns grow over cross-border insurgency | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

June 10, 2023

South China Morning Post

Pakistan looks to sign cooperation agreement on China-led moon research base

Head of Pakistan's space agency visited the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei last month. Chinese lunar exploration programme's chief designer says they 'conducted in-depth exchanges'

Pakistan hopes to identify specific roles it could play in the China-led International Lunar Research Station and to sign a cooperation agreement on the ILRS soon, according to the head of its space agency.

Amer Nadeem, chairman of SUPARCO, made the remarks during a visit to the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in southeast China last month.

The ILRS is expected to be a full-fledged, long-term base on the moon for scientific exploration by 2050.

Nadeem was briefed on the project's progress during his visit to the lab in Hefei, Anhui province, and "conducted in-depth exchanges" with Wu Weiren, chief designer of the Chinese lunar exploration programme and laboratory director, according to its website.

"We welcome Pakistan to fully participate in the ILRS, foster close partnership with the laboratory, and set an example for working together to build a shared future for mankind in outer space," Wu was quoted as saying.

Pakistan is one of half a dozen nations and international bodies to sign letters of intent or cooperation agreements since the China National Space Administration released its first road map for the ILRS in 2021.

China is also negotiating with more than 10 other countries to potentially take part, Wu told the international deep space exploration conference organised by the lab in April.

Pakistan and China have been strategic partners in the space sector for three decades. Since 1992, China has helped Pakistan develop and launch communications satellites and remote sensing satellites, among others.

The two nations signed a series of space exploration agreements in 2019 as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. They include China helping to train Pakistani astronauts and send them into space, and to the newly completed Tiangong space station in low-Earth orbit.

Wu also said work was going smoothly with ICUBE-Q, a Pakistani CubeSat that will be part of China's Chang'e 6 mission to the moon and look for traces of water ice from a lunar orbit in 2026.

"China and Pakistan are good brothers and good partners, with a great tradition in aerospace cooperation," Wu said during the meeting with Nadeem.

Wu invited Nadeem to visit the lab again next year to attend the international space exploration conference.

Senior officials from other national space agencies – including Venezuela and Brazil – have also visited the lab in Hefei in recent months and expressed their intention to join the ILRS.

Meanwhile, Spain recently became the 25th signatory to the Artemis Accords – a separate, US-led multinational effort to send humans to the moon, eventually Mars and beyond.

China and the United States are racing towards a new era of space exploration, and both powers aim to land astronauts on the moon before 2030.

[Pakistan looks to sign cooperation agreement on China-led moon research base | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

June 11, 2023

China Daily

Pakistani official discusses country's agriculture at university

Zou Shuo

Afifa Shajia Awais, education attaché from the embassy of Pakistan in China, delivered a speech on the animal industry and job market demand in Pakistan at China Agricultural University on Saturday.

During her speech, she said Pakistan mainly exports processed dairy products and fresh meat to Middle Eastern countries and wants to introduce processing facilities and cutting-edge technologies from China.

Vocational education on major animal disease control is urgently needed to meet food hygiene inspection, she said. She also expressed her wishes to strengthen education collaboration between top Chinese and Pakistani universities in the sector.

As coordinator of the China-Pakistan Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation and Extension Center, university professor He Cheng served as host for the event.

Regarding major animal disease control, Awais welcomed CAU scientists to visit Pakistan and contribute to construction of a disease-free zone in Pakistan.

Moreover, the Pakistani embassy in China will support China-aided project on major animal disease control in the next two years, she added.

He Cheng will head a delegation to set up a new diagnostic lab for livestock disease control and promote key technology transfers for vaccine and diagnostic kits.

Thirty-five people at the university attended the lecture, including Pakistani students, Chinese undergraduate students and teachers.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202306/11/WS64859512a31033ad3f7bb981.htmls>

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | CPEC hydropower project achieves hoisting of last rotor in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, June 11 (Xinhua) -- The Suki Kinari hydropower project in northwest Pakistan achieved the hoisting of a core component on Saturday, as a 413-ton rotor, crucial to turning water into electricity, was smoothly installed on the last of four generating units.

The successful hoisting of the last rotor will help advance the construction progress of the power station under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), located in the Mansehra district of the South Asian country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Noting the hoisting of the last rotor as a key milestone of the 884-megawatt hydropower project, Yu Zhiliang, assistant general manager of the Suki Kinari hydropower project of the Overseas Investment Company of China Gezhouba Group, which invests in and implements the project, said that it marks the installation of the unit body of the hydropower station is coming to an end.

It is also a solid step for the waterless commissioning of four generating units in the coming six months, said Yu.

The hydropower project started construction in January 2017. Once getting functional, the CPEC project will annually generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, said Yu.

It will significantly optimize Pakistan's energy structure, boosting the country's economic and social development, he added.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/20230611/f9be971054ff4abca96c12be4c8581fb/c.html>

June 13, 2023

China Daily

Pakistan makes first import of Russian crude oil with Chinese currency

Pakistan paid for its first government-to-government import of Russian crude oil with Chinese currency, the country's petroleum minister said on Monday.

The purchase, the first government-to-government deal between Pakistan and Russia, consisted of 100,000 tons, according to Pakistan's petroleum minister Musadik Malik.

Pakistan made the purchase back in April.

Pakistan's Refinery Limited will initially refine the Russian crude, the minister said. He had earlier referred to the purchase of the shipment as a trial run to judge the financial and

technical feasibility, but said on Monday to Reuters that all the tests and trials had been done, which found that the Russian crude was fit to refine and market locally.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202306/13/WS6487b8f1a31033ad3f7bbe3a.html>

Global Times

Giving SCO cold shoulder not a wise strategic decision for India

By Long Xingchun and Wang Geyan

The 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State hosted by India will be held in the virtual format on July 4. After being held online from 2020 to 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCO summit resumed its in-person form in 2022, with the SCO foreign and defense ministers having already met each other face-to-face in India. India's sudden announcement on May 30 that the SCO Heads of State meeting will be held in the virtual format without explaining the reasons has surprised and puzzled the international community.

Moreover, after New Delhi's announcement, some voices in India started to analyze why the SCO summit has turned virtual. Some believe it is "due to its structural flaws," claiming that "the SCO is a gathering of nations mostly tied closely to China and Russia." "By moving the SCO summit to a virtual mode, India is sending out a message that groupings dominated by China are no longer New Delhi's priority," argues a retired major general of the Indian Army, who thinks this also sends a signal that India's priority is the G20.

There is no doubt that the G20, which is consisted of the world's most important economies, carries more weight than the SCO. However, the two groupings are not contradictory, and India is, for sure, not choosing one over the other. As a major country, India is well-positioned to host multiple multilateral summits in one year. Moreover, in recent years, India has actively engaged in multilateral diplomatic mechanisms to expand its international influence and increase its global presence. This includes many minilateral mechanisms, such as BRICS, the Quad, IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil and South Africa), the India-Central Asia Summit, and the I2U2 Group (US, India, Israel and UAE).

On the other hand, the SCO, since its establishment, has achieved fruitful cooperation results and has become the most important organization for regional cooperation in Eurasia. Joining the SCO has provided India with a vital platform to participate in regional affairs, especially counterterrorism, energy cooperation, strengthening connectivity with Central Asia, and participation in solving the Afghan issue. Now India has no reason to act indifferently to the SCO.

India has firmly pushed to enhance its relationship with the Global South this year. It is New Delhi's ambition to play a leading role in some organizations or mechanisms, but India's national strength cannot yet provide support. Objectively speaking, the country is currently not a dominant member in any global or regional organization or mechanism. Even the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in which India is the biggest member, has been paralyzed by the India-Pakistan rivalry. It is more in India's reality and interest to engage

more through the SCO. Now, although New Delhi may show signs of indifference toward the SCO due to frictions with China, it will not move away from or withdraw from the SCO.

First, India cannot prevent cooperation between China and other SCO members. Even if India is cold toward the SCO or acts as an obstacle on certain issues, China and other members can simply exclude India from cooperation. Among the SCO members, China has corresponding cooperation mechanisms with other members, such as the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, the China-Pakistan-Iran trilateral consultation on counter-terrorism and security, the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral cooperation mechanism, and, most recently, the China-Central Asia Summit.

Second, moving away or even withdrawing from the SCO would lead India to self-imposed isolation. While some Indians suggest their country give the SCO the cold shoulder, Iran and Belarus have decided to join the organization, and many other countries have shown interest in the SCO. Apparently, the organization will play a more critical role in the global future. Withdrawing from the SCO would leave India isolated in the region, which would not only weaken India's role in regional affairs but also lower India's strategic value in the US-led West.

Third, India would lose a mechanism to counterbalance Pakistan if it decided to snub the SCO. One of India's motives for joining the SCO in the first place was to offset Pakistan's possible influence in the organization, and India's counterterrorism claims are largely directed at Pakistan. Suppose India shows less presence in the SCO or even ceases to be a member of the SCO. In that case, it will inevitably make Pakistan more prominent, and India will not be able to prevent the SCO from becoming more receptive to Pakistan's claims. Of course, the fact that SCO is being held online does not necessarily mean it cannot achieve results. As long as there is a need and willingness to cooperate, fruitful results can also be expected from virtual summits.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292492.shtml>

June 15, 2023

China Daily

BRI hardware needs matching 'software'

It has been a glorious "BRI decade", to say the least. During the past 10 years, the Belt and Road Initiative — from initial concept to fast, multitracked implementation — has doubtlessly emerged as one of the greatest-ever plans for transnational connectivity and development.

Excellent communications infrastructure — the much-needed hardware of transnational connectivity — and efficient, large-scale energy generation projects, which are key to the smooth running of economic activities, have been constructed in a number of countries as part of the BRI.

Huge economic activity has been generated, large numbers of jobs have been created, industries and production have flourished, trade has multiplied and quality of life has

improved as a result. The BRI is now a wonderful set of cooperative activities involving infrastructure, finance, commerce and technology, as well as people-to-people exchanges. All in all, it has been a decade of win-win cooperation between China and other nations involved in building the Belt and Road.

However, as is universally known, all hardware needs matching software for it to be lasting, durable and sustainable. For a mega-program such as the BRI, it is very important to ensure matching "software", in a new era that highlights high-quality development, along with the crucial hardware that is being built.

So the question is, what do we mean by the "software" of the BRI? To be sure, we aren't referring to software in the computer sense.

In terms of BRI "software", the first and foremost thing is proper image building. The negative portrayal by anti-BRI forces is strong compared with the positive projection of its benefits by China and other countries involved. Untrue propaganda about the so-called "debt trap", and unfounded propaganda from Western media outlets in the name of fallacies such as "new colonialism" are increasing despite a number of clarifications from Beijing and its partner countries.

The need is to bring forth the truth as forcefully as the negative propaganda has unfolded and continues to unfold. Large-scale, specifically targeted, media and social media collaboration, and academic exchanges between China and partner nations for the specific purpose of image building, need to be devised and implemented.

Connectivity is primarily for the purpose of facilitating cross-border trade and the smooth movement of people. Connectivity hardware is to be supplemented by free and preferential, win-win trade arrangements for desired results. China and partner countries need to ensure mutually beneficial bilateral and regional trade arrangements, in which no party feels flooded with one-way traffic of goods or services.

Connectivity also refers to the smooth movement of people. For this, immigration and customs laws, regulations and procedures have to be harnessed in a way that BRI-built infrastructure becomes rewarding for all partners.

We must keep in mind that wherever there is increased business activity, interbusiness frictions are bound to grow. A full-fledged business dispute settlement mechanism — a few steps toward which have already been taken in recent years — would be instrumental to the long-term success of the BRI and should be a priority.

With increased people-to-people exchanges, which are among the major goals of the BRI, it also becomes vital to sensitize businesspeople, investors and the workforce about the cultural, social and religious norms of partner nations. This is of high significance for the mutual goodwill to continue, and for people to feel good about one another.

Moreover, in the prevailing setting, there is an immediate need to bridge the very noticeable digital divide between China and the BRI partner nations. Steps toward that are also being taken, but more needs to be done on the fast track.

The first decade of the BRI, which was proposed in 2013, has been a decade of building phenomenal hardware. The next decade must be one of providing the matching "software".

This is very important for the journey toward a shared future, the journey toward a shared destiny. It is not to say that nothing has been done on the aforementioned points. Some steps have indeed been taken. But the progress on the "software" side has been rather slow, not matching the progress on hardware.

It is hoped that policymakers and decision-makers in China and BRI partner nations, as well as in relevant institutions, will pay greater attention to the "software" of the Belt and Road.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202306/15/WS648a461ea3106e73106c4723.html>

Xinhuanet News

China's technology transfer to revolutionize Pakistan's agriculture

By Misbah Saba Malik

ISLAMABAD, June 15 (Xinhua) -- Hassan Raza, a farmer in Pakistan's eastern city of Multan, was in awe when he saw the demonstration of China-donated corn-cob picker in local fields by the staff of MNS-University of Agriculture.

"The best thing about the newly-introduced machine is that it will help Pakistan meet climate change challenge as it picks the whole cob rather than seeds, giving farmers the flexibility to harvest their crop earlier than the scheduled time," Raza told Xinhua.

He said crops face destruction as local machines in Pakistan selectively pick corn grains. Farmers have to wait until the grains are fully dried, which makes them vulnerable to the risk of crop loss caused by heat waves or excessive rains resulting from unpredictable weather patterns.

"With the new Chinese picker, the farmers can now pick the whole cob and dry it indoors before unfavorable weather conditions arise," he said, adding that it can both save the crop and facilitate their work.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, and expands to the fields of agriculture and livelihood in the new phase.

Echoing the CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China's Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College signed an MoU with the MNS-University of Agriculture in Multan to transfer technology to the Pakistani agriculture, and skill locals to adopt modern farming techniques.

Under the MoU, the parts of the Chinese corn cob picker were transferred to Pakistan as donations, and the machine was assembled in Luban Workshop Multan, a joint project of Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority and Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College.

Sarfraz Hashim, an agriculture engineer and assistant professor at the MNS-University of Agriculture, told Xinhua that the cost of the machine was 55,000 U.S. dollars, but the Chinese university provided it free of cost to Pakistan to modernize its agriculture.

"Our students and engineers received a two-week virtual training to operate and assemble the machine. Some students and engineers will visit China to know more about agriculture machines and farming techniques," he added.

After the demonstration of the picker, it will be lent to the farmers at low prices and they will use it to harvest the crop under the supervision of university's technicians, Hashim said.

"The response to the demonstration was very welcoming and the farmers were really impressed by the machine. People related to the agriculture business can also import it in the next phase and expand its use in other parts and the demand for the machine will sharply increase," he added.

The professor said the best thing about the machine is its efficiency as it can pick corn from one acre of land in an hour, the work which usually takes a laborer 12 hours to complete.

Talking about the impact of technology transfer by China on Pakistan's agriculture sector, Hashim said that in mechanization, China is on the dint of its advanced technology and has much higher yields than Pakistan.

"Under the CPEC agriculture cooperation, it is our basic need to introduce Chinese machines in Pakistan, which will help Pakistan cope with climate change and food security challenges," he added.

Sikandar Raza, a student of agriculture at the MNS-University of Agriculture, told Xinhua that he is excited to visit China to equip himself with modern techniques in agriculture. "I will apply them back home to transform the lives of local farmers and boost agricultural development in Pakistan."

"China, being a global leader in agricultural innovation, can provide the necessary support and knowledge transfer to help uplift Pakistan's agricultural sector," he added.

By embracing advanced farming practices such as precision agriculture, hydroponics and mechanization, Pakistani farmers can enhance productivity, reduce crop losses, and ultimately generate better profits, Raza said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230615/022b2b7363c2459d973b1d0cb86cbec5/c.html>