



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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June 16, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan seeks collaboration with China to tap its bamboo potential

Pakistan looks to collaboration with China to further tap its bamboo potential, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday. Pakistan has only four or five uses of bamboo, but in a bamboo-producing county in China, there are over 200 uses of it”, said Dr. Raja Muhammad Omer, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Forestry Wing, Ministry of Climate Change. He told CEN in an interview that Pakistan looks to further tap its bamboo potential in collaboration with China. “While we are looking at establishing ecological zones in Pakistan, we can have a trans-boundary ecological corridor as well”, he said. Pakistan has limited forestry resources, with the forest area taking up about 5 % of the total land area of the country. “But there is much scope for the bamboo industry. Currently, Pakistan still stays in the primary stage of bamboo utilization, with bamboo mainly used for the production of scaffolding and other construction materials, pens, and furniture”, Dr. Raja Muhammad Omer told CEN. Last year, Pakistan became a state member of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR). Since then, detailed feasibility studies have been conducted on Pakistan’s bamboo potential as well as the value chain development.

According to Dr. Raja Muhammad Omer, the main challenge for Pakistan’s bamboo industry is the market. If there is good market for bamboo, the cultivation increases. If it shrinks, then the farmers do not have much preference to go for bamboo cultivation. “We need to have a consistent and sustainable value chain for bamboo, so that the market will not fluctuate too much and more people will join this group and help increase bamboo resources”, he analysed. He told CEN that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China. “We can develop proposals for bamboo cultivation in Pakistan as well as value chain development in the long run”, he added. Another avenue of cooperation is through the Ministry of Commerce of China that regularly conducts training courses on bamboo sector. It was through one of these courses that Dr. Raja Muhammad Omer had the chance to visit the largest bamboo producing county in China.

In Anji County, Zhejiang Province in eastern China, bamboo forest covers nearly 60% of the area. An assortment of products have been manufactured by utilizing the roots, stems and leaves of bamboo, such as handicrafts, building materials, beverages, food, towels, etc. In the whole processing chain, every part of the bamboo is fully made use of.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/952581/pakistan-seeks-collaboration-with-china-to-tap-its-bamboo-potential/>

Dawn News

Chinese nationals in Islamabad told to inform police about their movement

Munawer Azeem

ISLAMABAD: Chinese nationals in the capital have been asked to inform police prior to their movement, sources told Dawn on Wednesday.

This decision was taken in a meeting held to review the performance of the recently-established District Foreign Security Cell in the capital police for the security of foreigners, especially Chinese nationals.

Officials of the capital police told Dawn that during the meeting a survey report having details about the Chinese nationals living in Islamabad was shared.

Over 1,000 Chinese nationals in the federal capital are attached with over three dozen projects, companies and businesses, the officials said, adding that the Chinese attached with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project were provided security cover by security forces and paramilitary troops.

It was decided in the meeting that either SHOs of police stations, security division or patrolling unit would provide security cover to over 1,000 Chinese nationals during their movement, the officials said, adding that the SHOs were also tasked with collecting their details.

The SHOs will ensure deployment of patrolling staff around the residences of Chinese nationals and would check and verify details of the security guards. CCTV cameras would be installed around the residences of the Chinese nationals as well as on the roads leading to their houses, the officials said, adding that DIG Operations was asked to visit the residential areas where the Chinese were living and prepare a security audit report to plug loophole in the security.

A desk is also being established at Safe City and Police Facilitation, they added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694989/chinese-nationals-in-islamabad-told-to-inform-police-about-their-movement>

Dunya News

PM for strict compliance of projects timelines in Rashakai SEZ

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure strict compliance of timelines of the projects being executed in the Special Economic Zone of Rashakai.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on Rashakai SEZ, also called for addressing the shortcomings including the coordination among the provinces.

He also instructed for extending all out support to the Chinese company to accelerate work on the SEZ.

The prime minister, who also took a round of the Zone, said industrial development and revenue increase required joint efforts, for Pakistan's progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, inviting the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan, said the companies from both the countries could benefit from each other's expertise.

The development of SEZs in smaller provinces is government's priority, he added.

The meeting was told that Rashakai SEZ was being developed under public private partnership mode, with the collaboration between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDEMC) and CRBC of China, through Rashakai Special Economic Zone Development and Operations Company.

In this company, KPEZDEMC had 9 percent shares while CRBC has 91 percent shares with the latter being the responsible for its operations.

Under this SEZ, the sectors including light engineering, automotive, construction, food processing and exports had been targeted which would create job opportunities for the locals as well as the economic activities.

It was told that work on water, gas and civil works were nearing completion.

The construction of two industrial units was underway in Rashakai SEZ while work on more units would be launched soon.

The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline has ensured gas supply to the Zone while National Transmission and Dispatch Company was installing a grid station for power transmission to the area.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Asad Muhammad, Sajid Turi, Advisor Amir Muqam and Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/656193-PM-for-strict-compliance-of-projects-timelines-in-Rashakai-SEZ>

The News

Shehbaz invites Chinese firms to invest in Pakistan

RASHAKAI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was entering the most crucial second phase of implementation as he invited Chinese companies to Pakistan. He said that it was important to focus on the establishment of SEZs to make them a model of development. The PM said that the government was committed to completing the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at the earliest to ensure development and prosperity in the country.

During his visit to the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, he said all problems and hurdles in the smooth execution of SEZs would be addressed on a priority basis. PM Sharif said focusing on establishing SEZs across the country would boost industrialisation and exports and generate employment. He said the solution to Pakistan's economic problems was massive industrialisation

and diversifying the export base. He said massive economic activity in the country would create employment, encourage exports and stimulate import substitution.

The prime minister said nine SEZs have been planned to be developed in Pakistan, which are aimed at promoting industrial infrastructure and technology transfer. He said China had switched to high-tech industrial projects and invited the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan. He said the Chinese expertise in technology and cheap labour of Pakistan could act as a balance to benefit both the sides.

The prime minister proposed the launch of roadshows in China to highlight Pakistan's potential for trade and investment. He emphasised on sharing of expertise between the two countries and the need to further augment development by exploring areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other parts of Pakistan. He directed the authorities to follow the timelines of the projects related to SEZs and announced holding a virtual meeting in future to sort out ways for improvement.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, taking strong notice of the delay in the publication of curriculum material by the Punjab Text Book Board, directed the authorities concerned to address the issue at the earliest.

The prime minister asked Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain to take urgent action on delay in the publication of textbooks and submit a report to him. He urged to mitigate the problems being faced by students and parents by ensuring availability of textbooks. PM Sharif stressed necessary measures in this regard, so that such a situation did not emerge in future.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=98495>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 67

ہوئے کہا ہے کہ صدر جنی بین پک کی تحریک
قیادت میں پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات میں
سے پتہ چلتی ہوئی ہے، ہم ان کے مشترکہ
مشققتوں کی پک چین کیونٹی کی حیرت کے موسم کو
سراپتے ہیں۔ پتہ کو سماجی رابطے کی ویب
سائٹ پر اپنے ایک پیغام میں وزیر اعظم شہباز
شریف نے جنی صدر کو ان کی سالگرہ پر مبارکباد
کا پیغام بھیجا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ صدر جنی
بین پک کی تحریک قیادت میں پاکستان اور
چین کے تعلقات میں سے پتہ چلتی ہوئی ہے۔
انہوں نے کہا کہ ایک آکران برادر کے طور پر
چین، ان کی تحریک قیادت میں، پاکستان کے
آل وچہرہ اسٹیجنگ کو آپرینو پائیز کے طور پر
انجمن ہے۔

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی
جنی صدر کو سالگرہ کی مبارکباد
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر اعظم شہباز
شریف نے جنی صدر جنی بین پک کو سالگرہ کی
مبارکباد پیش کرتے (باقی صفحہ 67 پیج نمبر 67)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

June 17, 2022

Business Recorder

IMF says didn't ask Pakistan to renegotiate CPEC IPP deals

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary fund (IMF) has not asked Pakistan for renegotiating China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Independent Power Producers (IPP) contracts. In statement, Esther Perez Ruiz, IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan stated: "The IMF did not ask Pakistan to renegotiate CPEC IPP contracts. These claims are simply untrue. Rather, the IMF supports the government's multi-pronged strategy to restore energy sector viability which shares the burden of restoring viability across all stakeholders: the government, producers, and consumers." The IMF's statement follows a report claiming that the lender has asked the government to renegotiate CPEC energy deals ahead of payments to Chinese power plants amounting to around Rs300 billion.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/17/1-page/933535-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani mango tasting salon held in Guangzhou to boost bilateral trade

A special salon themed "Pakistani Mango Tasting, Idea Exchange on Business Development" was held in Guangzhou, China to promote communication and trade between Pakistan and Guangzhou, a busy trade hub that knotted friendship city ties with Lahore, Pakistan.

Enjoying the taste and aroma of Pakistan's Sindhri Mango, one of the world's top available varieties, guests including government officers and entrepreneurs from both countries tapped the market potential between China and Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

On the occasion, Muhammad Irfan, Commercial Counsellor of Consulate-General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, China, presented Pakistan's industries and the geographical advantages of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan and China enjoy a long history of economic and trade relations. Besides mangoes, Commercial Section of the Pakistani Consulate-General in Guangzhou is making all-out efforts to showcase Pakistani products, potential for cooperation and is keen to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries, he added.

Lilian Hu, Associate Professor of Institute of International Studies, Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences (GZASS), introduced the dividends and significance of the economic and trade cooperation between both countries. She also provided theoretical experience for quality projects in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture, science and technology.

"When exploring the Pakistani market, Chinese enterprises should strengthen cooperation with local ones to complement each other and achieve win-win development," she said.

Tony Lee, CEO of MERAPC Solutions Pvt., Pakistan, shared his experience in doing business in Pakistan.

According to him, Pakistan is equipped with supportive investment conditions for Chinese investors. And he wished the salon could enhance Chinese enterprises' understanding of the economic environment and business opportunities in Pakistan.

The event is hosted by Guangzhou International Cooperation Centre (GICC) and co-organized by Guangzhou Iron Pak Commerce Co., LTD., China, and MERAPC Solutions Pvt., Pakistan.

Supervised by Foreign Affairs Office of Guangzhou Municipal Government, GICC is a non-profit comprehensive international exchange platform established to further strengthen and deepen exchanges and practical cooperation between Guangzhou and global cities in fields of economy, trade, technology, education, and culture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/953391/pakistani-mango-tasting-salon-held-in-guangzhou-to-boost-bilateral-trade/>

Pakistan Observer

Minister invites D-8 to explore investment opportunities in SEZs

Minister for Board of Investment and Special Initiative, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday said invited the Developing-8 countries for exploring the investment opportunities in Pakistan Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The Minister interacted with the delegates from the Developing 8 countries and welcomed them to explore the immense investment, especially in Pakistan's SEZs, said a press release issued by BOI here. Minister Chaudhary Salik Hussain, and Secretary BOI, Fareena Mazhar are in Istanbul to participate in the D-8 Investment Conference on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the D-8 Organization.

The minister said the government of Pakistan was working with a vision to transform Pakistan into a high-end commercial, technology and manufacturing hub.

"I am happy to state that Pakistan's agriculture sector, being the backbone of our economy, posted a growth of 4.4 percent in FY2022 owing to a 6.6 percent growth in crops and 3.3 percent increase in livestock production" he said.

Salik said the government of Pakistan was focusing on providing special relief in taxes and duties on different agriculture equipment and machinery.

"I invite the D-8 Nations to join hands with Pakistan and work together to make the D-8 alliance food secure and an agriculturally surplus country" he said.

The government of Pakistan was working with a vision to transform Pakistan into a high-end commercial, technology and manufacturing hub, the minister emphasized.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/minister-invites-d-8-to-explore-investment-opportunities-in-sezs>

Senate body abolishes customs duties on bulletproof vehicles for CPEC

Standing committee of the Senate on Finance on Thursday approved abolishing custom duties on the import of bulletproof vehicles for Chinese staff working on China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

According to officials after the approval, bulletproof buses, coasters and double cabins will be exempted from duties at the time of import for those working on CPEC project. The committee agreed that bulletproof vehicles should be exempted from duties for those working on foreign-funded projects.

“The security of those working on government projects is important,” the chairman of the standing committee said.

Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar during the meeting said that if approved, it has been observed previously that bureaucrats and politicians take advantage of such policies. “It is important that FBR is allowed to generate revenue,” he said adding that it would help in upholding rule of law and strengthen the defence of the country.

On May 16, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the telephone conversation between Shehbaz Sharif and Li Keqiang, the two also discussed the overall situation in the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/senate-body-abolishes-customs-duties-on-bulletproof-vehicles-for-cpec/>

Islamabad Police to provide CPEC-level security to Chinese nationals

Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad Police Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan chaired a meeting to chalk out a security plan for Chinese nationals residing in the federal capital, a statement said. According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, Islamabad Police has recently established a dedicated Foreigners Security Cell to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals working on the CPEC and non-CPEC projects in the capital on the pattern of CPEC security.

It was decided that Chinese-speaking Pakistani citizens will be hired to assist the Chinese nationals working on non-CPEC projects for their security. On this occasion, the IG directed Deputy IG (Security) Hassan Raza to regularly monitor the implementation of the decisions made in the meeting. It was decided that a special desk will be established at the Safe City and Police Services Centre for Chinese nationals. The respective station house officers (SHOs) will maintain a record of all Chinese nationals residing in their jurisdictions. The Chinese nationals were requested to provide details regarding their residences and movement to the respective police stations and register on arrival in Islamabad with the special desk.

The IG also directed the DIG (Security) to visit the areas where the Chinese nationals are residing and meet them in person. Additional guards will be deputed in such areas along with the installation of CCTV cameras.

Personnel of Eagle Squad of Islamabad Police will also ensure regular patrolling in such areas, who will also ensure scrutiny of the private guards hired by Chinese nationals or their employers, the statement said. When contacted on phone, an inspector of Islamabad Police told Gwadar Pro that the Foreigners Security Cell had already been operationalized, headed by a Superintendent of Police.

<https://pakobserver.net/islamabad-police-to-provide-cpec-level-security-to-chinese-nationals/>

The Nation

Forest Centre Set Up For Greener, Richer Gwadar

ISLAMABAD – Belt and Road Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest Centre has been established for a greener and richer Gwadar, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

“In the eyes of outsiders, high temperature and scorching sun may be a disadvantage of Gwadar, but in our view, the light and heat conditions here are a natural advantage for the development of agriculture and non-wood forest,” said Zhang Saiyang, Vice Director of the Belt and Road Engineering Research Centre for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest and doctoral candidate of Central South University of forestry and technology.

The project was jointly initiated and established by Central South University of forestry and technology, China Overseas Ports Holdings Co, Ltd and Yulin Holdings Co, Ltd for Gwadar ecological construction and industrial development.

Since 2018, it has systematically improved the local soil conditions in Gwadar. Zhang told Gwadar Pro that the Chinese team combined the organic fertilizer collected from local sheep farm and leaves and other humus to mix with local soil in a certain proportion to improve the fertility and pH of the local soil.

Besides, the local soil conditions were greatly improved by the team members planting legumes to use the nitrogen fixation of legume rhizobia.

By now, nearly 100,000 seedlings such as bananas, dates, orchid and figs have been cultivated here. Among them, bananas (*Musa nana*) are selected local varieties that can adapt to drought and high temperature and produce a large amount of fruit.

In May, the centre successfully held the first non-wood forest products-banana harvest festival in Gwadar Port. “Our production of bananas has attracted the attention of local farmers, who hope to buy banana seedlings to grow on their own land,” Zhang mentioned.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/17/forest-centre-set-up-for-greener-richer-gwadar/>

The News

Strengthening CPEC

Shahzada Irfan Ahmed

In this crucial time when our country is facing economic instability, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – with a massive \$62 billion investment plan – can play a key role as a ‘game changer’ for the national economy, especially for the development and prosperity of Balochistan.

The significance of this multi-billion-dollar corridor is, however, poorly understood. This is a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), designed to connect more than 60 countries across Asia, Europe and Africa. CPEC promises to open up new vistas of socio-economic development and employment opportunities for the people of Balochistan.

We can say that Balochistan, and Gwadar in particular, is the linchpin of this mega project. This project will contribute to the development of the whole province and address various economic and social problems there. Gwadar will be transformed into an economic hub after the completion of several projects under CPEC. It is heartening to see that more countries are taking advantage of the investment opportunities offered by the special economic zones there. With the construction of the western route of CPEC, property value has skyrocketed in areas where these roads have been built. Other cities like Qalat, Quetta and Zhob will also become more vibrant with the completion of the planned road network which will give a boost to economic activities and other development projects under CPEC.

Numerous road and transport, energy, education and training, industrial and other socio-economic projects are also being carried out under CPEC. Energy projects include a 320MW China Hub Coal Power Project, and 300MW Coal-Fired Power Project at Gwadar. Likewise, connectivity projects encompass the 19km four-lanes East Bay Expressway Gwadar which is near completion, linking the Makran Coastal Highway N-10 to the Gwadar Port. Those under construction are Zhob-Quetta, Kuchlak (N-50), Khuzdar–Basima Road (N-30), Hoshab–Awaran Road Section (M-8), Nokundi–Mashkhel Road, Awaran–Khuzdar Road Section (M-8), upgradation of DI Khan (Yarik) –Zhob, N-50 Phase-I, Mashkhel–Panjgur Road and Quetta Mass Transit.

Upgradation and development of fishing, boat-making and maintenance services to protect and promote livelihoods of the local population is being carried out under the Gwadar Livelihood Project. As a matter of fact, CPEC will affect the province economically, commercially as well as geographically. A positive impact is likely to be a step towards mitigation of poverty and reduction of unemployment. It will be a catalyst for change in the shape of reduction of inequities among undeveloped provinces. Soon after PM Shehbaz Sharif took charge as the 23rd prime minister, he turned his attention towards CPEC which had been started by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

In his maiden speech in the National Assembly after winning election, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had said that his government would speed up the construction of CPEC. He had previously spoken highly of CPEC several times, calling it an ambitious blueprint to transform Pakistan into a major emerging economy so that the less-developed parts of the country could enjoy the dividends of development.

The corridor will not only help and benefit Pakistan and China but the whole region, including Afghanistan, Iran, India, and the Central Asian Republics. Road, rail, and air linkages will lead to a win-win model for all and is considered a real hope for a better future with growth and development of the economy. India and Afghanistan will sooner or later join this project.

Per a market pundit: "Pakistan may have some leverage in Afghanistan, but as far as CPEC is concerned, it cannot afford to miss this once-in-a-lifetime chance, especially when the people of the country are getting desperate for the promised future."

Unfortunately, there are those that are working on an anti- state agenda with the support of foreign countries and have been trying to undermine the development of the province by targeting state institutions, security forces and also Chinese nationals. In a span of just one month, the city of Karachi witnessed three bombing incidents – a suicide attack on Chinese teachers at the University of Karachi's Confucius Institute in which three Chinese language teachers and their driver were killed; and bicycle and motorbike improvised explosive device (IED) blasts in the densely populated Saddar and Kharadar areas targeting Pakistan Coast Guards and police..

Moreover, there is no doubt that CPEC is the game-changer in the region and beyond. Both the Pakistani and Chinese leadership need to place special attention and focus – with dedication and commitment – to promoting CPEC and OBOR as a success story. They need to do this with strong political will, wisdom, vision, for real economic growth and common prosperity for the whole region through regional connectivity.

We should strengthen deep strategic cooperation with China and use CPEC to develop infrastructure, hydro-energy resources, and industrial cooperation for real dividends and long-term industrialization. No doubt, CPEC is not only for our economic growth but in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will bring transformation through regional connectivity.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=98629>

منفرد برتری حاصل ہے کیونکہ ہماری موجودگی، ہماری آبادی پاکستان تک محدود نہیں ہے۔ کہتے ہیں کہ پاکستانی دنیا کے ہر کونے میں موجود ہیں اور ہم بین الاقوامی سطح پر بھی زندگی کے تمام شعبوں میں اپنا حصہ ڈالتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا بد قسمتی سے خارجہ پالیسی پر پاکستان کی گفتگو اس سطح پر نہیں بڑھ پاری ہے جو خاص طور پر پاکستانی عوام کو تعلیم دینے، پاکستانی عوام کو ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا اصل تناظر، آج دنیا میں کیا ہو رہا ہے اور پاکستان کے عوام کو سمجھانے کے لیے ضروری ہے۔ شمال میں ہمارا پڑوسی چین ہے، جو ہمارا ہر موسم کا دوست ہے۔ ہم اسے پسند کریں یا نہ کریں، ہم اس حقیقت کو کبھی تبدیل نہیں کر سکیں گے کہ بھارت بھی ہمارا پڑوسی ہے اور دوسری طرف ہمارے پاس ایران ہے جہاں سے میں ابھی واپس آیا ہوں اور یقیناً افغانستان۔ لہذا، یہ دیکھنا بہت آسان ہے کہ عالمی جغرافیائی سیاسی واقعات کی ترقی کا پاکستان پر براہ راست اثر پڑا ہے، لیکن، کیا ہم نے خود کو اس طرح سے چلایا ہے کہ ان چیلنجوں کا مقابلہ کریں اور انہیں نہ صرف چیلنج بلکہ ایک موقع کے طور پر بھی دیکھیں؟ مجھے نہیں لگتا۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ ہم کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان جو فیصلے کرتا ہے، مجھے یقین ہے کہ اس سے نہ صرف واقعات یا سمت بدلے گی، بلکہ پاکستان جو فیصلے لیتا ہے اس کا براہ راست عالمی واقعات پر اثر پڑے گا۔ جس طرح سے دنیا کا بیشتر حصہ آج عالمی واقعات، عالمی طاقت کے تنازعے، عظیم طاقت کے تصادم کو دیکھ رہا ہے۔ کیا یہ عظیم طاقت کا ٹکراؤ پاکستان کے مفاد میں ہے؟ کیا پاکستان تنازعات، تناؤ بڑھانے کے بجائے کم کرنے، ٹالنے یا اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کے لیے کچھ کر سکتا ہے۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ ہمارے پاس ماضی ہے اور ہم دوبارہ ایسا کر سکتے ہیں۔ اگر چین کے ساتھ ہمارے تعلقات کے تناظر میں دیکھا جائے۔ ہم نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے ذریعے بہت کچھ حاصل کیا ہے اور جہاں تک اقتصادی صلاحیت کا تعلق ہے، ہمارے لیے مزید بہت کچھ ہے۔ اگر عالمی واقعات کی ترقی اسی طرح چلتی ہے جیسا کہ ہم آج دیکھ رہے ہیں، تو یہ یقیناً پاکستان کے مفادات کو پورا نہیں کرے گی کہ ہمارے پڑوس میں طاقت کا زبردست تنازع شروع ہو جائے اور اس کے نتائج ہمارے لوگوں اور ہمارے خطے کے لیے اہمیت کے حامل ہوں۔ بھارت کے ساتھ تعلقات سے متعلق بات کرتے ہوئے بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلامو فوبیا کی مہم خطرناک حد کو چھونے لگی ہے۔ بی جے پی رہنماؤں کے بیانات نے بھارت میں تشدد کو ہوا دی ہے۔ وہاں ہندو تو اذہیت پنپ رہی ہے، بھارت کے ساتھ تنازعات کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھارتی حکومت نے 5 اگست 2019 کو اپنے یکطرفہ اقدامات کے ذریعے کشمیر کی بین الاقوامی سطح پر تسلیم شدہ تنازعہ حیثیت کو تبدیل کرنے کی کوشش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارت اپنے غیر قانونی زیر تسلط جموں و کشمیر میں مسلم اکثریت کو اقلیت میں تبدیل کرنے کے اقدامات کر رہا ہے جبکہ مئی میں حد بندی کمیشن کا اقدام اس کی ایک کڑی ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ بھارت کی موجودہ حکومت ہندو تو الیجنڈے پر سرگرم ہے، اسلامو فوبیا اور بی جے پی لیڈروں کے حالیہ ریمارکس سے سنگین ماحول پیدا ہو رہا ہے اور بھارت میں ہندو تو اذ کے نظریے کو بالادست بنایا جا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ حکومت کو مسائل گزشتہ حکومت سے ورثے میں ملے ہیں جن سے نمٹنے کے لئے حکومت بھرپور اقدامات کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ محترمہ بے نظیر شہید کے دور میں بھارت سے معاشی روابط مضبوط تھے۔ ہمیں اس کو بڑھانا ہو گا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ عالمی طاقتوں امریکا اور چین کے درمیان اقتصادی روابط کی بنا پر یہ قضیہ اتنا نہیں بڑھا جتنا بڑھ سکتا تھا۔ ہمیں ان اقتصادی روابط کو اتنا بڑھانا ہو گا کہ ہم ان کی خارجہ پالیسی اور پالیسی سازوں کو متاثر کر سکیں۔ اس طرح سے ہم جارح کو بے نقاب کر سکتے ہیں۔ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا کہ ہم پاکستانی اس وقت انسانیت کے ایک مشکل ترین دورا ہے پر کھڑے ہیں۔ ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کا اتنا سنجیدہ چیلنج ہے کہ کوئی پاکستانی اس کا انکار نہیں کر سکتا۔ ہمیں اس وقت کو وڈ کے باعث سپلائی چین کے براہ راست اثرات کا سامنا ہے۔ یو کرائن کی جنگ کا ہر پاکستانی کی زندگی پر براہ راست اثر پڑا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ وقت ہے کہ اس وقت اقتصادی سفارت کاری پر توجہ دی جائے اور انگریج کیا جائے۔ افغانستان خود تاریخ کے مشکل دورا ہے پر موجود ہے۔ پاکستان کے ہر طرف بحرانوں کا انبار ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو مستقبل میں اعلیٰ مقام دلانے کے لئے کوشاں ہیں، ملک کی خارجہ پالیسی جیو پالیسیکل اثرات سے براہ راست متاثر ہو رہی ہے، اس صورتحال میں ہمیں اپنے جغرافیائی مقام کو استعمال کر کے اچھے مواقع تلاش کرنا ہوں گے۔ نوجوانوں کو مثبت سرگرمیوں میں مصروف رکھنے کیلئے کام کر رہے ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کے ٹویٹ کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ سے قطر کے سفیر شیخ سعود عبدالرحمن آل ثانی نے ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی پر مبنی دو طرفہ علاقائی و عالمی معاملات پر بات چیت

ہوئی۔ قطر کے سفیر سے دو طرفہ تعلقات مزید مضبوط کرنے اور اقتصادی تعاون مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہوا۔ نجی ٹی وی کے مطابق تو انائی کے شعبے میں مشترکہ تعاون کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-17/page-1/detail-18>

June 18, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Xi's GSI and China-Pakistan military cooperation

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

Chinese President Xi Jinping's Global Security Initiative (GSI) has become a hot topic in the global media.

It has disseminated a sense of partnership, protection and prosperity among all the regional countries, especially China's allies around the globe. Unfortunately, it has also rattled important capitals in the world.

The US, EU, Australia, India and even Japan's constant provocations on the complex and complicated issues of South China Sea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Asia NATO and drastic change in Indo-Pacific policies have alarmed China and its defence policy strategists and they are also trying to counterbalance these imperialistic policies and designs through persuasion of peaceful GSI in the region and beyond.

Nevertheless, the GSI stands for self-respect, self-reliance, economic independence, South-South Dialogue, mutual respect of sovereignty and last but not least, territorial integration through collective wisdom, unconditional economic cooperation, befitting propositions of investment, defense cooperation and sustainable development.

Thus Western propaganda does not have any sway in this regard because it is not the culmination of any imperialistic designs.

Most recently, while talking to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Chinese president Xi assured Beijing's support to Moscow on "sovereignty and security".

Xi upheld that China is willing to continue to offer mutual support (to Russia) on issues concerning core interests and major concerns such as sovereignty and security.

It seems that somehow, the Europeans have trapped into their own proxy doctrine in Ukraine, at Washington's initiative, in a move contrary to their interests as Russian gas consumers.

However, some sanity has now prevailed on the political front and Germany, Italy and many other EU countries have started gas contracts with Russia.

China and Russia have stepped up cooperation in recent years as a counterbalance to what they see as US global dominance.

In this context, during the 19th “Shangri-La Dialogue” in Singapore the Chinese top military leadership warned all movers and shakers of power politics to stay away from Taiwan and not play with fire because it would not hesitate to fight anyone who dares to separate the island of Taiwan from China.

China’s State Councillor and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe warned US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin of serious repercussions and consequences of Taiwan misadventure of the West.

The US and its regional allies have been propagating China as a serious threat to regional peace and stability, due to which the US and its strategic partners have been building an iron curtain between China and other Asian countries and to implement its “Indo-Pacific Strategy” by rallying allies; however, China has now shown strong resolve, retaliation and commitment to deal with these wrong motions, notorious designs and military signalling of the US & the West towards Taiwan.

It seems that even Japan is now using the Russia-Ukraine conflict to strengthen its military cooperation with NATO, and trying to channel NATO’s influence into the Asia-Pacific region or promote the establishment of a NATO-like military alliance in the region, and such ill-intended plans actually hijacked regional peace and stability to serve its ambition of strengthening its military power, containing China with a military alliance and getting rid of the constraints of its Pacifist Constitution.

The US must view China’s development and growth rationally and stop smearing or suppressing China, he said, urging Washington not to interfere in China’s internal affairs or harm its interests.

He upheld that Taiwan belonged to China and the one-China principle was the political foundation for China-US relations and warned that attempts at “using Taiwan to contain China” are doomed to fail.

He termed that the U.S.’s recent approval of a \$120-million arms sale to Taiwan as dangerous would seriously harm China’s sovereignty and security interests and that China firmly opposes and strongly condemns it.

However, he agreed to maintain high-level strategic communication, strengthen bilateral strategic mutual trust, properly manage their differences and disputes and prevent their differences and disputes from escalating into conflict and confrontation.

Moreover, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit to eight Pacific Island countries including the Solomon Islands started another blame-game in the region.

Most of the anti-China countries termed it as China’s extended military cooperation. The Chinese Foreign Minister visited Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

That is why the US labelled it as Chinese integrated military strategy in the Asia Pacific region.

However, the US remarks are (PICs) countries Island Pacific with agreement cooperation China's that opaque and do not square with facts, but only expose the US bullying practice of projecting its own image and imposing its own will onto others.

Wang's trip covered cooperation and deals in many fields including economy, infrastructure, climate change, public health, policing and security.

All the regional Islands welcomed the Chinese Foreign Minister's visit which could promote the livelihood of the locals and activate the economic potential of those islands.

However, some Western media have termed it a new Cold War' between China and the West in the region.

The United States, which earlier raised concern about the security pact between China and Solomon Islands, warned South Pacific nations to be wary of "shadowy" agreements with China which has put forth a package to expand cooperation dramatically.

Interestingly, a high-powered Pakistani delegation comprising senior military officials from all three services – Army, Navy and Air Force – visited China and participated in the Pakistan-China Joint Military Cooperation Committee (PCJMCC), which has an apex committee.

Pakistan's Army chief and Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission are part of the committee.

Both countries are iron-clad friends. As tension between China and the West deepens, military leadership of China and Pakistan have further strengthened their strategic partnership in the challenging geopolitical and geostrategic times.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa joined the tri-service military delegation and attended the apex committee's meeting along with the top Chinese Generals.

It dissimulated an important message to the world because tension is deepening between China and the United States.

Pakistan has also faced significant pressure from the West to change its stance on Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Islamabad has so far walked a tightrope even after the change of government. A statement issued by the ISPR, on Sunday, said the tri-service delegation held wide ranging discussions with senior officials of the Chinese military and other government departments.

Both sides discussed their perspectives on international and regional security situation and expressed satisfaction on defence cooperation between the two countries, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations.

Both sides also expressed their determination to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at tri-service level.

To conclude, it seems that military doctrine is on the move in which military diplomacy and military to military cooperation has assumed greater significance in view of the fast changing developments.

There is an urgent need to showcase the real significance of the Xi GSI and initiate integrated efforts to protect our collective vested interests of geo-economy and geopolitics alike.

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<https://pakobserver.net/xis-gsi-and-china-pakistan-military-cooperation-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Why does CPEC need support?

The multibillion project reflects China's economic progress which it wishes to share with its neighbours

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative [BRI], launched in 2015. The multibillion project reflects China's economic progress which it wishes to share with its neighbours. Several commentators refer to it as a 'game changer' due to its plan to connect up a vast arch of regional markets from China to South and West Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

CPEC aims to promote economic development and inter-regional connectivity, partially achieved with infrastructural, industrial and socio-economic development projects, especially in Sindh and Balochistan. Due to its strategic location, Gwadar is already transformed. Besides the infrastructure developments, Gwadar, as one of CPEC's economic zone, is witnessing multiple social welfare programmes, such as Gwadar Women's Employment Development Centre, aimed at skills enhancement and poverty alleviation among women. Furthermore, the planned roads, health facilities, schools and middle and small-scale business opportunities will empower the local communities and eventually make them self-sufficient. And, in collaboration with China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the CPEC Authority has so far installed 3,000 solar panels at Nighori Ward in Gwadar to provide 'free-of-cost' electricity to local users.

Beyond Balochistan, Pakistani and Chinese companies have set up healthcare projects like a 200-bed ICU for accidental emergencies at PIMS in Islamabad. Several NGOs are also active in environmental programmes geared towards combating global warming and promoting Pakistan's green development agenda. In the technology domain, Pakistan and China's leading technology companies are in joint efforts to start manufacturing mobile phones in Lahore, which will immensely reduce the prices of mobile phones. Local companies and individual farmers are also introducing new and cheap technology to improve agriculture – a sector that employs almost 40% of the population, mostly women.

During his first speech to the National Assembly, PM Shehbaz Sharif said his government would work with China to eliminate all obstacles impeding the CPEC progress. Beijing also expressed readiness to work with the new government to accelerate CPEC-related projects.

The responsibility to support CPEC also falls on the people of Pakistan from all walks of life. The general public's goodwill is an essential precondition for maximising CPEC benefits. Therefore, there is a need for pragmatism and enthusiasm from all the stakeholders.

We must know that CPEC is not a 'China-sole' sensation but a massive investment from both Pakistan and China. More so, many other countries – the US, the UK, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, etc – are also investing considerable resources in the mega project. Reports indicate that close to 18 countries have so far invested in the Allama Iqbal Industrial City in textile, IT, agriculture, and science and tech sectors. Therefore, the propaganda against CPEC should be tackled through civic education about the essence of the initiative. Media should also highlight the project's achievements to the ordinary people, offer intelligible discourse about the related developments, and make future projections.

Academic institutions have a significant role in mainstreaming CPEC in research and all academic disciplines. Research on BRI should be available to the public for awareness. Civil society organisations from Pakistan and China can also contribute to the sensitisation initiatives about CPEC. Anti-CPEC elements need to be addressed peacefully and through dialogue and adult literacy. Religious and cultural leaders must be engaged to clarify the initiative's goals. Local communities in the host province must be involved in the decision-making process, and it should be demonstrated to them that the developments in the region are for their prosperity. All participatory approaches and development communication theories ought to be employed to allay the local communities 'fears' – if they exist.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2362030/why-does-cpec-need-support>

Pakistan, China ink MoU to boost agri-cooperation

Envoy says Chinese expertise has contributed to increased crop yield, pest control

KUNMING: China's Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan at an online signing ceremony held in Kunming and Beijing on Friday.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr Wang Jihua, President of YAAS, noted that years of collaboration between YAAS and PARC have yielded fruitful results in the areas of wheat, potato, sugarcane, banana and plant protection.

Wang emphasised "the effective information sharing in desert locust early warning and prevention and the collaborative research on wheat disease and breeding have become good examples of China-Pakistan sci-tech cooperation."

Highlighting the outcome of cooperation between the two sides, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said that he was more than happy to see Chinese experience and expertise contributed to the increased crop yield, plant protection and pest control in Pakistan.

“We are very grateful to China for helping us last year with the prevention of locusts and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas of China has also given us special drones to help us in plant protection and pest control,” said Haque.

The ambassador envisioned that future cooperation between the two institutions will further enhance the capacities of Pakistani scientists, researchers and institutions, and help in boosting crop yields by promoting plant protection and pest control.

As part of the MoU, both sides will work to build a joint agricultural research centre lab and strengthen cooperation in cross-border agricultural pest research, cultivation and scientific and technological training.

It is to be noted that the agreement is an extension of 2014 cooperation between YAAS and PARC.

A couple of months ago, Haque held a virtual meeting with Professor Deng Xiuxin, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and their counterpart from Pakistan, Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

“Pakistan is keen to learn from Chinese experience and expertise for modernising the agriculture sector, with focus on corporate farming, new seed development for enhancing crop yield, the introduction of new varieties of agriculture products, establishing agro-industry and setting a cold chain network,” Haque stated in the meeting.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2362086/pakistan-china-ink-mou-to-boost-agri-cooperation>

The Nation

Industrial Boom And SEZs

Ahsan Munir

PM Shehbaz Sharif recently visited the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), located in KP, along with high-ranking Chinese officials of the company which is developing Rashakai SEZ. At present, nine SEZs are being developed across the country. On the occasion, PM proposed the launch of roadshows in China to highlight Pakistan's potential for trade and investment, hoping Chinese investors would come and invest in these SEZs. The PM also hoped that SEZs would boost industrialisation, and exports, and generate employment. The PM reiterated that all the problems and hurdles in the smooth execution of SEZs would be addressed on a priority basis.

However, there are many operational and policy-level problems, among others, that need deliberation and elaboration to attain the aspirations and hopes attached to SEZs, especially in the scenario of the present financial meltdown. First, cheap labour has been often trumpeted as an attraction and incentive for Chinese investors. But then the question is whether the available

manpower is trained and educated enough for the industries that Chinese investors are willing to relocate to Pakistan. Second, is China ready to the transfer of technology (ToT) with Pakistan and train local manpower accordingly, or would we end up importing SKDs and CKDs kits, just like the auto sector and other consumer-oriented goods industry, of equipment for the next couple of decades, which would be a continuous drain on our foreign reserves?

Third, we are presently making efforts to populate the SEZs, something which should have been started in parallel when the first phase of CPEC was launched. This would have helped to identify the potential investors and their favoured industries, which would have helped to prioritise the infrastructural development of SEZs, instead of presently developing all the nine SEZs at the same time. Fourth, we are hoping that Chinese investors would come to populate these SEZs and roadshows are to be conducted to apprise them of opportunities in Pakistan, but should not the Chinese government be assisting Pakistan by nudging the Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan, as CPEC along with SEZs is the brainchild of China; and Pakistan has taken hard and soft loans of billions of US dollars to finance CPEC and its associated projects.

Now, moving to the policy level: what sort of policies exist at provincial levels to facilitate, populate and develop the SEZs? And if these policies exist, do these provincial-level policies treat each SEZ as a separate, disparate entity, or does the policy look at SEZs as inter-connected, supporting and feeding each other? Similarly, is there a federal level policy, which offers directions on types of industries to be facilitated, fiscal and financial incentives to be made, and help gel provincial governments develop inter-provincial level policies so that all the provinces can help each other in industrialisation, export promotion and employment generation?

Thus, federal and provincial level policies need to be developed with mutual consensus to sort out the issues and problems, and give a general direction to the development of SEZs in the country to help in general industrialisation, export promotion and employment generation.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/18/industrial-boom-and-sezs/>

Nawaiwaqt News

جذبہ ایمانِ افواجِ پاکستان اور پاک چین دوستی

”ملک چین ...“

... سرگزشتِ آدم“ کے عنوان سے شاعرِ مشرق، علامہ اقبال نے، ہند (ہندوستان) یونان، چین اور جاپان کے حوالے سے خُدا ائی پیغام کا تذکرہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ”

!ننایا، ہند میں آکر، سرورِ بانی“

!پسند کی کبھی، یوناں کی سرزمین میں نے

...O...

!ویار ہند نے جس دم میری صدا نہ سنی“

“!بسیا نظر جاپان اور ملک چین ستمیں نے

...O...

”!دوبارہ دورہ چین“

یہ میری خوشی قسمتی ہے کہ ”پہلی بار اگست 1991ء میں (اُن دنوں) وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات شیخ رشید احمد کی قیادت میں گیارہ سینئر صحافیوں کے ساتھ اور دوسری بار 1993ء میں وزیر اعظم محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو کی میڈیا ٹیم کے رُکن کی حیثیت سے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے دورہ کا موقع ملا۔ یہ امر قابل ذکر ہے کہ ”دونوں بار جناب ”لی۔ تنگ عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر تھے۔ (Lee Teng-hui)“ ہوئی

معزز قارئین یہ امر قابل ذکر ہے اُن دنوں سید حسین حقانی وزیر اعظم محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو کے میڈیا ایڈوائزر تھے۔ دورہ چین سے پہلے اُنہوں نے میری محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو سے دو ملاقاتیں بھی کرائی تھیں۔ مجھے دونوں بار عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سیاستدانوں، وکلاء، صحافیوں، شاعروں، ادیبوں اور دانشوروں سے جس طرح کا بھی علم حاصل کرنے کا موقع کے حوض شدہ جسدِ خاکی کو بھی بڑی عقیدت و احترام (Mao Zedong) میں چیز مین ماؤزے تنگ "Box" ملا، میں حاصل کرتا رہا۔ میں دونوں بار شیشے کے ایک بڑے ... سے دیکھتا رہا۔ نظم ملاحظہ فرمائیں

”!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے، پاک چین دوستی“

!یہ فربتوں کی داستاں، یہ لذت ہمسائیگی

!ہیں، رشتے اعتماد کے، ہے احترام باہمی

!دونوں کا مقصد ایک ہے، قائم ہوا امن و آشتی

!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے، پاک چین دوستی

...O...

!خلوص و بے ریائی کے، حسین گل کھلے ہوئے

!سدا سے ہیں، عوام کے دلوں سے دل ملے ہوئے

!محببتوں کی دُھن پہ رقص کر رہی ہے زندگی

!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی

...O...

!خدا کی بارگاہ میں، دانائی ہی قبول ہے

!تم پاؤ علم چین سے“ فرمودہ رسول ہے ”

!اُس دور میں بھی چین تھانج علم و آگہی

!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی

...O...

!کشمیر ہو یا ہونہر عراق یا سرزمین فلسطین

!چمکے گی شمع حریت، ہو گا اجالا بالیقین

!دیوی امن کی ناپے گی، ہوگی فضا میں ننگی
!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی
...O...

!کس درجہ تیزی آئی ہے، رفتار ماہ وصال میں
!خود پھنس گیا ہے سامراج، اپنے پچھائے جال میں
!عفریت ظلم و جور کو، کرنا پڑے گی خودکشی
!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی
...O...

”!پاکستان کلچرل فورم“

معزز قارئین میں بیجنگ سے واپس آیا تو اسلام آباد میں جناب مجید نظامی کے فرید خاص، تحریک پاکستان کے (گولڈ میڈلسٹ) کارکن چاچا غلام نبی بختاوری کے فرزند، 1965ء سے میرے دوست، چیئر مین ”پاکستان کلچرل فورم“ برادر م ظفر بختاوری نے ”پاک چین دوستی“ بارے میری نظم کو ذنیابھر کے سفار تھانوں میں پھیلا دیا، ظفر بختاوری 9 بار ”!کی حیثیت سے عوامی جمہوریہ کا دورہ کر چکے ہیں "State Guest"

پھر جب بھی پاکستان اور چین سے متعلق کسی تقریب کا اہتمام ہوا تو پھر میری نظم سے محبت کا سلوک کیا گیا۔ 1965ء سے میرے دو، دوست، تحریک پاکستان کے (گولڈ میڈلسٹ) کارکنان لاہور کے مرزا شجاع الدین بیگ امر تسری (چیئر مین پیپرا پرو فیسر مرزا محمد سلیم بیگ کے والد صاحب) اور پاکپتن شریف کے چودھری محمد اکرم طور (برادر ام سعید آسی صاحب کے والد صاحب) پاکستان اور پاکستان سے باہر فرزند ان اور ذختر ان پاکستان کو بھجوا دیا کرتے تھے۔
”!دورہ سوویت یونین“

(Novosty Press Agency) ”معزز قارئین قبل ازیں جب سوویت یونین سپر پاور تھی تو میں نے 22 دسمبر 1986ء اور پھر 2 نومبر 1987ء کو سوویت یونین کے ”محکمہ اطلاعات کی دعوت پر ماسکو اور سوویت یونین کے کئی شہروں کا دورہ کیا اور ”دوستی کا سفر“ کے عنوان سے کتاب بھی لکھی جس کی برادر عزیز ظفر بختاوری نے ”پاکستان Agency نے مجھے ” Excellency Abdurrahman Khalil oglu Vazirov“ کلچرل فورم“ کے اہتمام سے تقریب کا اہتمام کیا۔ پاکستان میں سوویت یونین کے سفیر پیش کیا۔ (Pen of the Friendship) ”دوستی کا قلم“
”!تحلیل سوویت یونین“

ہوگئی تو ثابت ہوا کہ ”اُس کی (Dissolution of the Soviet Union) مارچ 1990ء سے 26 دسمبر 1991ء دوسری بڑی ”سپر پاور“ سوویت یونین کی تحلیل، 11 (انقلاب برآمد کرنے کی حکمت عملی) ناکام ہوگئی۔ معزز قارئین پھر میں نے لکھنا شروع کیا کہ ”اِس کے برعکس Revolution Export Policy“ دوسرے ملکوں میں کی وجہ سے محبت کرنے والے ممالک کے دل مُوہ رہا ہے۔ ”Love Export Policy“ عوامی جمہوریہ چین تو، اپنی
"President Xi Jinping"

نے 15 نومبر 2012ء کو اپنا منصب سنبھالا تھا اور وہ اُس وقت سے وزرائے اعظم پاکستان راجا پرویز "President Xi Jinping" عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر عزت مآب اختیار کئے ہوئے ہیں۔ "Love Export Policy" اشرف، میاں نواز شریف، جناب شاہد خاقان عباسی، جناب عمران خان اور اب میاں شہباز شریف سے

”!...جنگ جیو ٹیس ”

جب بھی پاکستان آئے تو، میرے شاعر دوست ” شاعر "President Xi Jinping" معزز قارئین پاکستان کے بہترین دوست ملک عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر عزت مآب

...سیاست “ نے ہر بار اُن کا اس طرح خیر مقدم کیا کہ

!جی “King” ٹیس تے ہو، ساڈے دل دے

!جی “Bring” شالا مڑ، پیار

!جی “Thing” پیار توں وڈی، نہیں کوئی

!جنگ جیو، ٹیس، شی چن، پنگ، جی

...O...

”!ہمارے آرمی چیف کا اعزاز”

نے چین کے دورے پر مدعو "President Xi Jinping" خبروں کے مطابق ہمارے آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ واحد فوجی راہنما ہیں کہ ” جنہیں چینی صدر عزت مآب

کیا تھا۔ معزز قارئین 29 نومبر 2016ء کو ہمارے آرمی چیف جنرل راحیل شریف کی ریٹائرمنٹ کے بعد آرمی چیف کی حیثیت سے جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے حلف اٹھایا تھا تو کیم

دسمبر 2016ء کو ” نوائے وقت “ میں میرے کالم کا عنوان تھا۔ ” آرمی چیف کی چھڑی۔ ” مودی کو تڑی؟“۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-06-18/page-10/detail-4>

June 19, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar Int'l airport to be inaugurated on March 23: Minister

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Saturday that New Gwadar International Airport would become operational from March 23 next year.

The minister announces this while chairing a meeting to finalise the pricing model of fares for airports in Balochistan for higher traffic volumes and enhanced air-connectivity of the provinces.

The planning minister directed authorities concerned to ensure inauguration and shifting of flight operations from old Gwadar Airport to New Gwadar Airport in March next year. “It will be a gift for the people of Balochistan on Pakistan Day,” he added.

The minister further announced to expand international flight operations from Quetta airport by August 14 this year to enhance Balochistan’s connectivity with Middle East.

The meeting was also briefed that PIA is operating 30 flights weekly to three cities of Balochistan.

Advisor Maritime Affairs Jawad Khokhar, Additional Secretary Planning Dawood Muhammad, secretary aviation, Balochistan chief secretary, Pakistan International Airlines chief executive officer and Civil Aviation Authority deputy director general attended the meeting.

It is pertinent to mention here that the airport is one of the major projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The new airport will be suitable for bigger aircraft like Airbus A-380 and Boeing -747 and 777 etc for international and domestic services.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-intl-airport-to-be-inaugurated-on-march-23-minister/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستانی انجینئر کا چینی زبان میں گایا گیت مقبول ہو گیا

ساہیوال (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستانی انجینئر عمر شاہد کا چینی گیت مقبول ہو گیا۔ ساہیوال پاور پراجیکٹ پر کام کرنے والے پاکستانی انجینئر نے چینی ساتھیوں کے ساتھ کام کر رہے ہیں۔

کے دلچسپ تجربے کو گیت کی شکل دیدی۔ پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نے گیت سوشل میڈیا پر شیئر کر دیا جو چینی زبان میں ہے۔
چینی گیت

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-19/page-8/detail-23>

June 20, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Eastbay Expressway turns into road of technology

Eastbay Expressway in Gwadar has turned into a road of technology, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday

As the only expressway in Gwadar, Eastbay Expressway runs through an array of complicated terrains from coast to mountains. Underpinning is the advanced construction technology. Of the over 19-km road, about 4 kilometers of the area is reclaimed from the sea. For this, the “Revetment and Piling Technology” was used for the first time in Pakistan.

“While using this technology, workers bored the sub-oil of 18 feet after every 6 inches and then piled up river stones in them in order to establish strong support beneath the roads to bear the load so that the road won’t sink or suffer any damage”, said Colonel Rtd Naveed Ahmad Shami, Coordinator of the Eastbay Expressway project. “The soft ground along the coast is unfavorable for road construction. In the embankment, about 456,000 square meters of soft ground is treated with the method of ‘vibro-flotation and dynamic compaction’, which greatly improved the safety and reliability of the embankment”, said Mr. Liu Fangtao.

“In China, there is a saying that if you want to get rich, build a road first. We are acting on the same philosophy with the expectation of bringing wealth to the local people”, he added. Two months after the Eastbay Expressway was completed, Gwadar coast is embracing one of the most bustling summers. Cargo to and from the port finds a quick connection with national arteries.

The 19.49km road, which starts from China-Pak Friendship Avenue in Gwadar Port and converges with the existing Makran Coastal N10 Highway, is opening a new chapter for Gwadar to become an international logistics hub. “For many people, the biggest concern when they come to Baluchistan is security, but we have put in place very tight security guards and round-the-clock protection by the Pakistan Army to ensure the security of transport, road, structure, and infrastructure”, said Colonel Rtd Naveed Ahmad Shami.

The locals, too, are enjoying augmented protection from the project. In the past, when the monsoon season comes, sea waves could damage or even crush the houses by the sea. Now barrier boards have been installed and together with 4.34km anti-wave breast wall along the coast, they form the 4.34km revetment to protect the embankment from strikes of the tide. Also under protection are local fishermen.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/eastbay-expressway-turns-into-road-of-technology/>

Pak-China mango coop to give impetus to king of fruit industry

China-Pak mango cooperation will give impetus to king of fruit industry, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday.

There is a dire need for joint ventures with China for establishing quality enhancement centres, fruit processing units, dehydration plants, drip irrigation and cold storage chains so Pakistani fruits could be exported in line with international standards,” Ehsan Chaudhry, Senior Vice President of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said.

From January to September 2021, Pakistan exported 37.4 tons of fresh and dried mangoes to China, which is more than 10 times the 3.6 tons in the same period in 2020. Even so, it is still less than 0.36 percent of China’s total imports of 10,500 tons of mangoes during the same period.

Facing a market with huge potential, how to increase the production of mangoes in Pakistan and let more Chinese consumers feel the charm of this “king of fruits” is undoubtedly an urgent problem for bilateral practitioners.

Commonly known as the “king of fruits” locally, Pakistani mangoes are delicacy and delight that everyone is waiting anxiously for in summer season. It has also won the hearts of people living beyond the borders due to its enticing aroma, high sweetness and fine fiber.

However, local farmers are extremely worrying about production reduction of the succulent, yellow fruit caused by various factors. According to an official of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan last year produced around 1.7 to 1.8 million tons of mango.

And Pakistan’s yearly mango exports amount to 150,000 metric tons, which earns around USD 90 million for 100 million to the nation annually. It is undoubtedly a good deal for Pakistan, which is in desperate need of foreign exchange reserves. Worryingly, “the production figure may be confined to 0.9 million tonnes this year, or less,” according to All Pakistan Fruit and

Vegetable Exporters Association (PFVA) Patron in Chief Waheed Ahmed. So, what on earth is going on here?

Farmer's dreams of raking in big profits were shattered by an unusual spike in temperatures coupled with water shortages and unexpected windstorms in the months of March and April. "Severe water shortages in Sindh leave us without enough water to irrigate fruit trees. And extreme weather, such as hot hurricanes, makes it hard to guard against," Muhammad Khoso, a Mango Orchard Contractor from Hyderabad told CEN, "There are only 20 percent of mango production left in the areas with the worst reductions." Besides, heavy windstorms in the first week of May caused major fruit-shedding.

The huge blow to Pakistani mango industry caused by water shortages and abnormal temperatures brought about by global warming is obvious. The South Asian nation is currently facing huge water shortages due to less snowfall and rains-triggering widespread protests by farmers. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has listed Pakistan among 23 countries facing drought emergencies.

In addition, as a light-loving tropical-subtropical plant, excessive temperature can also cause severe sunburn on mango flowers and fruits. "Unusual temperatures in March and April have wreaked havoc on mango production, causing a significant reduction in its quantity," said Shahid Hameed Bhutta, a grower from northeastern Multan city, a big mango producing district. Temperatures soared to 38-42 degrees Celsius in March and April in Multan, at least 6 degrees higher than usual causing massive fruit-shedding.

In addition to natural factors, rising fuel, transportation, labor, and packaging costs are also poised to lower the production, thus boosting the domestic prices of mangos and affecting exports. Global warming is the common problem that farmers in China and Pakistan need to face, not only mangoes, but all crops will face the increasingly rigorous challenge of climate change in the next few years and even decades.

"Our advanced facility agriculture will be able to systematically improve the reduction of mango production in Pakistan due to extreme weather," said Wang Yan, General Manager of Yangling Qingpita Garden Dragon fruit Demonstration Base in Shaanxi Province. "Located in an arid and semi-arid area, Yangling has similar distribution of water resources to that of Pakistan.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-mango-coop-to-give-impetus-to-king-of-fruit-industry/>

June 21, 2022

Daily Times

Seminar on Pak-China agriculture cooperation under CPEC held

A seminar on "Pak-China Agriculture Cooperation under CPEC" was jointly organized by the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Center, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development (AIERD), to explore ways to

boost agricultural development, and understand opportunities offered by agricultural cooperation under CPEC.

Addressing the seminar, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Azam Khan, Director, CPEC Agriculture Cooperation Center, said that China has made tremendous progress in the field of agriculture in the last few years, which has led to a significant increase in its agricultural output. He said that through the CPEC, not only revival of agriculture sector in Pakistan can be ensured but also food security by bringing innovation in it.

In his address Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, vice chancellor PMAS-AAUR urged Pakistani government to strengthen mutual exchanges with its Chinese counterparts and facilitate Chinese companies to work in the agricultural sector. Being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, Pakistan needs to adopt climate-smart agriculture techniques as the challenges posed by climate change have not only gravely affected the production and quality of crops, but also created numerous problems for farmers, he said. He further said that with the increase in value addition processing in the agricultural sector, Pakistan would not only be able to manufacture its products in accordance with the international standards but also by exporting them, a significant increase in the national exchange rate would be possible.

Dr. Gu Wenliang, agricultural counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan while addressing to the participants said, China is continuously introducing new agricultural technologies, machinery and modern varieties of crops in Pakistan under CPEC, which is improving Pakistan's agricultural sector day by day. He also proposed to formulate a research policy to enhance people-to-people contacts, export Pakistani agricultural products to China, and promote agricultural and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/955269/seminar-on-pak-china-agriculture-cooperation-under-cpec-held/>

Pakistan Observer

Ensure full usage of Thar Coal

REGARDLESS of possessing 175 billion tons of coal reserves in Tharparkar, it is really unfortunate that our country is still relying greatly on imported coal for different sectors including power generation.

Whilst this shows lack of planning and interest on the part of relevant quarters to exploit the indigenous resources, this is consuming the costly foreign exchange reserves.

As the coal prices have shot up to \$400 per metric ton in the international market, the government has now finally decided to convert 3960 megawatt of electricity generation from imported coal onto local coal of Thar.

In fact, this should have been done much earlier to provide cheap electricity to both the domestic and industrial units which would also have given much needed impetus to the economy.

The fact of the matter is that Pakistan can produce enough electricity from this precious source for several decades but it is really lamentable that we so far have failed to fully utilize it.

The electricity prices would not have gone up the way we are seeing today, had we utilized it.

Anyway, it is still time for us to use the indigenous coal not only for power generation but also for production of diesel and petrol.

China has been producing diesel from coal since 2008. According to some estimates, coal to diesel is feasible at \$ 50 per barrel of crude oil prices and the current Brent crude price is hovering around \$ 112 per barrel.

Hence, our authorities concerned should immediately develop a feasible project for producing diesel from Thar coal.

Similarly, we can perform liquefaction and make syngas (synthesis gas) which can be utilized as a raw material for fertiliser manufacturing.

We will ask Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to give special emphasis to the utilization of this resource which has the potential to reduce the country's reliance on expensive imported energy and raw material for fertiliser manufacturing.

This would slash the lofty import bill, help narrow down the current account deficit and accelerate economic growth.

<https://pakobserver.net/ensure-full-usage-of-thar-coal/>

After over two years, first batch of Pakistani students leaves for China to resume studies

The first batch of 105 Pakistani students, who were stuck in Pakistan due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposition of travel ban in China, left Islamabad for Xi'an, the capital city of Shaanxi Province in central China via Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), chartered flight PK-6854 on Monday.

The students left after going through necessary tests and health protocols. They have been pressing the Pakistani government to take up the issue with the Chinese government as their education career was at stake while the Coronavirus too was on the decline.

They were excited and overjoyed at their return to China and expressed gratitude to the Pakistani government and officials for making it possible.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain visited the Islamabad International Airport to see off the Pakistani students going back to China.

These students had been waiting for over two years for things to normalize and Covid-19 cases to decline and now with the efforts of the Shehbaz Sharif government they have finally made it.

On the occasion, the Education Minister congratulated the students on their return to China to resume and complete their education. He said that it is our national duty to facilitate the youth in their pursuit of knowledge.

He acknowledged that the students had been facing difficulties for two years. A round of deliberations was held between all relevant stakeholders including Chinese Embassy, Islamabad, MoFEPT, HEC and MoFA to address the subject issue of 5,832 students who provided their particulars online to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Rana Tanveer said that it was the first batch of students returning to China and soon the rest would also fly back. The students' return to China will be completed in three phases.

Three phases for completion were decided according to the following plan. Priority-I includes 492 students who were due to complete their degree programs in 2019-20 and 2020-21. The priority-II will be 1,529 students who were to complete their degrees in 2022 and the priority-III are 3,196 remaining students due to complete their degrees in 2023 onwards.

In order to facilitate Pakistani students, this is a pilot project of sending the first batch of students back to China, which has been a tremendous team effort led by the federal minister of education and all other stakeholders, the Pakistan Ministry of Education stated.

A member of the Pak-China Students Council, Dr Asmat Malik who was also accompanying them requested all students to follow the strict standard operating procedure (SOP) that the remaining students' future is dependent on their successful journey.

Thank God, the students' pre-departure PCR tests are negative. Good luck for the 1st batch of Pak students, he expressed.

Last month, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Guangzhou, where he thanked the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for allowing the safe and secure return of Pakistani students in a phased manner to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/after-over-two-years-first-batch-of-pakistani-students-leaves-for-china-to-resume-studies/>

CPEC Will Provide Long Term Welfare For Local Residents

Qaiser Nawab

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. The two countries have formed a rock-solid friendship.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark project of the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" by China and Pakistan, and an important manifestation of the ever-growing "Iron-clad Friendship" between the two countries.

The CPEC is of over 3000 kilometers, it is a bond, connecting the Silk Road Economic Belt to the north and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to the south.

While building a bridge for economic and trade exchanges between China and Pakistan, the CPEC is also constantly enriching the connotation of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

In 2013, the CPEC was formally proposed and positioned as a “Four-sphere Integrated” channel and a trade corridor covering roads, railways, oil and gas pipelines, and fiber-optic cables; in 2015, the “1+4” cooperation layout was formed with the construction of the corridor as the center, with emphasis on Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation.

In December 2017, the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Vision Plan (2017-2030)” was officially released, combining China’s “The Belt and Road Initiative” and Pakistan’s “Vision 2025”.

In December 2017, the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Vision (2030)” was officially released, dovetailing China’s “Belt and Road Initiative” and Pakistan’s “Vision 2025”, with a focus on development in areas including connectivity, energy, trade and industrial parks.

CPEC construction bears fruitful results since its start of construction in 2013, the CPEC has created miracles one after another: China-Pakistan cross-border optical cable, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project, Karot Hydropower Station, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, second stage of dam cut-off achieved at the Sugejinaree Hydropower Project, etc.

As of September 2021, the 22 priority projects from the first phase of the CPEC are almost complete, half of which are energy projects. For example, the Port Qasim coal-fired power station, since it entered commercial operation in April 2018, has generated about 10% of the power supply of Pakistan’s national grid.

It is reported that the coal-fired power station will exceed 4.6 billion kWh in 2021. While accelerating its construction as a power supply base, the CPEC also attaches great importance to the development of clean energy.

In November 2021, the Karot Hydropower Station, the first hydropower investment project under the CPEC, has successfully completed the closure of its diversion tunnel and officially started storing water in the reservoir, laying a foundation for the commissioning of subsequent generators.

It is reported that the construction of the Karot Hydropower Station and the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station is progressing smoothly, and the construction of the Kohala Hydropower Station project will also begin after the signing of the franchise agreement in May 2021.

During the first phase of construction, China and Pakistan are not only committed to improving energy shortage problems, but also focused on infrastructure constructions.

There are many highlight projects, including Gwadar Port, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project Phase-II, China-Pakistan

Cross-Border Optical Cable Project, etc. These mass transport infrastructure constructions are of great significance to Pakistan's economic development.

Thanks to highways and energy infrastructures, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have come to invest in Pakistan, effectively promoting Pakistan's economic development and at the same time, laid down a solid foundation for industrial cooperation in the second phase of the corridor.

Under the framework of the CPEC, China and Pakistan have greatly facilitated inter-regional connectivity through the construction of various infrastructure facilities.

Taking Gwadar port in Balochistan as an example, it is not only one of the four key points of the CPEC, but also a pilot project for the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" between China and Pakistan.

In November 2016, Gwadar port was officially opened, and from this place, the first Chinese commercial ship set sail. From its humble beginnings as a small fishing village, over years of development, Gwadar port gradually turned into a regional logistics hub. Even during the epidemic period, the construction of Gwadar port continued to advance.

It is worth mentioning that Gwadar Port has also created many "firsts" in 2020: for example, the launch of transit trade through Afghanistan, fully showing its transshipment potential; for the first time, it is expected that 10,000 tons of LPG will be shipped to Pakistan each month through Gwadar Port; and it is the first time where commercial operation was realized.

In July 2020, a medium-sized cargo ship loaded with 16,000 tons of chemical fertilizers docked at Gwadar port for the first time, and completed the unloading, warehousing and storage of all goods, this marks the official launch of Afghanistan's re-export business.

It also shows that the CPEC can be extended to Afghanistan and further to Central Asia. From this point on, Afghanistan and the landlocked countries of Central Asia have a connecting access channel.

Relying on the location advantage and connectivity of Gwadar port, in July 2020, a series of industrial projects such as Gwadar Fertilizer Factory, Gwadar Exhibition Centre and Gwadar Lubricating Oil Factory also started construction in Gwadar port Free Trade Zone. CPEC construction continues to benefit people's livelihoods.

The changes brought about by the construction of the CPEC are noticeable. According to a 2012 study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the power shortage has resulted in an average annual loss of \$13.5 billion in Pakistan's GDP.

The shortage of electricity has led to chronic power shortage in Pakistan, with rotating blackouts in all regions of the country, ranging from about 10 hours per day in major cities to 22 hours per day in rural areas, with an average national power shortage of 4,000 megawatts.

Since the construction of the CPEC, Pakistan's domestic power shortage has been greatly alleviated. According to Pakistan's CPEC Affairs Bureau, as of January 2022, the total capacity of completed energy projects under the CPEC framework has reached 5.32 million kilowatts.

Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on CPEC, has said that these power capacities have provided a large amount of residential and industrial electricity, relieving Pakistan from long power outages.

The local impact of the CPEC on Pakistan is also largely reflected in the boosting of local employment.

According to some statistics from the Planning Commission of Pakistan, the early harvest projects of the first phase of the CPEC have created about 38,000 jobs, more than 75 percent of which are local employment, with energy projects creating the most employment, absorbing 16,000 Pakistani workers and engineers in total. In addition, the construction of transportation infrastructure has created about 13,000 jobs. Chinese companies are also actively fulfilling their social responsibility when carrying out project construction.

Starting from 2021, the CPEC has smoothly entered its second phase of construction. The development priorities are also gradually shifting to the industrial sector and expanding agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan is an agricultural country with a population of 220 million and with a good location, so it is reasonable for the second phase of the CPEC's construction to focus on industrial cooperation, with a layout that focuses on sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and textiles. With the joint efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC's constructions keep stepping up to new levels.

China and Pakistan are willing to work together to build the CPEC with the goal of higher standards, sustainability and benefit for people's livelihood, and accelerate the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-will-provide-long-term-welfare-for-local-residents-by-qaiser-nawab>

CPEC and Strategic Priorities of New Government

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Time and again, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged China's strong willingness to work with Pakistan to accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, bring benefits to the people of the two countries, provide impetus for regional cooperation and contribute to world peace. Moreover, Xi recently announced the Global Development Initiative (GDI) has further consolidated the concept of sustainable development in which early completion of the CPEC project may play an important role in the country.

Right from the beginning, the incumbent government has been striving hard to speed-up the CPEC and remove all irritants to start its phase-II as soon as possible. Series of high officials meetings, consultations and consensus have been carried out to provide a perfect security system

for all the Chinese living and working in ongoing projects of CPEC in the country. Moreover, policy flaws in the approval, allocation, disbursement, coordination and last but not least implementation has been further streamlined and systematized.

In this regard, the sincere efforts of prime minister Shehbaz Sharif the “Speed-Man” and federal minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal “die had” spirits have been revisiting all the policies, programs and projects pertaining to CPEC and trying to introduce the culture of efficiency, productivity, honesty and nationalism in the early completion of ongoing projects of CPEC in the country.

In this connection, time and again, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif termed CPEC as “life-line” and “X-factor” for socio-economic prosperity of Pakistan and pledged that all efforts will be made to transform the outlook, utility, scope and importance of CPEC project mix changing from coal, gas to green energies especially to hydropower generation in the country.

Moreover, the Federal minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal reassured that the new government would actively engage China to speed up various projects under China CPEC in the country.

He termed revival and further strengthening of macro-economy as the top priority of the new coalition government because it was the only pre-requisite for any country’s sovereignty. Pakistan’s first National Center for Artificial Intelligence is near to completion. It would be a game changer for youth. Furthermore, artificial intelligence, automatic robotic, big data cloud, cyber security and applied mathematics are driver sectors of the fourth generation industrial revolution, so that the youth could apply their skills globally. It is being built with the help of China. In this connection, Pakistan plans to train 100,000 youths so that they can become part of the global digital intelligence”.

Now let us discuss the strategic priorities of the incumbent government. Paradigm shift from traditional sources of energy to greener means (wind, solar, hydro), expanding canvas of outdated agricultural production methods to modern ways of cultivation inching towards agriculture revolution, isolated policies, programs and projects of health to integrated and coordinated national system of health capacity building mechanism (vaccine, medicines, equipment, research, training, JVs etc.), energy consuming industries to energy efficient production units, costly housing system to affordable and environment friendly ways of living, import syndrome to export oriented policies and last but not least, massive industrialization and completion of already selected 9 special economic free zones in the country under the flagship projects of CPEC I & II in the country.

Ours is the age of innovation and artificial intelligence. The government should try to include some important projects under CPEC Phase-II for that widening gap between energy may be managed. A plant of “electric car”, “lithium battery” production, joint venture with transfer of technology in “solar & wind panels”, agricultural drones, smart technologies of water

conservation, climate change and bio-diversity apparatus should be re-negotiated and ultimately included in the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

Moreover, Chinese have rich expertise in transforming deserts into “greenery” which should be sought and implemented in the desert landscapes of the country. It would be a giant leap in the overall agriculture production in the country.

Integrated efforts should be initiated to attract more and more Chinese private companies in the special economic free zones. That is why prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has already instructed all the ministries, department and stakeholders to remove all hurdles in the early completion and operationalization of special economic free zones in the country which would catalyst for rapid FDI, industrialization, innovation, modern technologies, reduction of poverty and last but not least generation of new jobs in the country.

It is a good omen that the present government is determined to meet the deadline for the completion of development projects under CPEC in order to compensate for the delay made in the tenure of the previous government.

The Prime Minister termed the joint venture of Chinese industry and technology with Pakistan’s labor and investment as a win-win corporate model of development for both countries. Energy production, road infrastructure and Gwadar port have been completed as part of the first phase of the CPEC.

Massive industrialization will be one of the top priorities of CPEC Phase-II. Special Economic Zones will be further developed in this phase. It hopes that with the completion of SEZs, the Chinese industries will also be shifted to Pakistan and the country’s industrial sector will also get a boost.

It is a positive sign that the incumbent government values the development projects of CPEC. The CPEC has the potential to change the landscape of the country. The first phase of this mega project was dedicated to energy production and in that phase Pakistan managed to add 10,000MW electricity into the national grid. The focus in the second phase of CPEC will focus on boosting industrialization. It hopes that in Phase-II many Chinese industries will be relocated to Pakistan. The industrial sector in the country will definitely get a boost with the Chinese support. The government is determined to address the energy issues prevailing in the country on an emergency basis.

To conclude, the incumbent government should strive hard to complete the pending or derailed projects of CPEC in the country. It is determined to restart the delayed projects with new vision, determination and accurate planning.

Unfortunately, somehow, the previous government did not pay attention to actively engaging China to speed up various projects under the CPEC. The politicians and policy makers of the country should understand that CPEC has become a “strategic asset” for the national economy, industry, energy and people alike which should not be used/ misused for any personal gain or

political mileage. CPEC is not a play-ground or political gallery; rather it is an ideal platform for socio-economic prosperity in the country. Thus a “Charter of Economy” is the dire need of the country and its people.

Obviously, CPEC will ensure and promote greater regional connectivity and make possible fast pace development in the region. CPEC extended projects in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Central Asia by clubbing with BRI (proposed mega projects of transportation and energy) would be game and fate changer.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-strategic-priorities-of-new-government-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan>

The Nation

CPEC To Help Address Food Security Challenge Of Pakistan

BEIJING – The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help address the looming food security challenge of Pakistan by introducing modern farming to enhance the country’s yield through agricultural cooperation, a government official has said.

Pakistan has realized that food security is an important component of national security, and agribusiness is being promoted through more investments in the agriculture sector, which will be further enhanced under the CPEC framework, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, a top official of ministry of planning, development and special initiative, told Xinhua in a recent interview. “As a part of improving food security, this year we are investing more in the water sector and the agriculture sector to increase our yield ... all these sectors are strengths of China, which has shown great performance and productivity,” he added.

Talking about the potential of his country’s agriculture sector, the official said that it is a big producer of milk, vegetables and fruits, but a huge chunk of it goes wasted due to the unavailability of processing units and the supply chain.

Chinese investors can tap the potential of the sector as they invested in other sectors, he said. The secretary said that his country is committed to CPEC, and no matter which political party is in power, there is a joint consensus that the project is important for the economic development of Pakistan. CPEC is a multifaceted program that catered to the needs of Pakistan, including the most urgent and pressing demand to meet the electricity needs of the country that was facing up to 18 hours of load shedding when CPEC was introduced, he said. Shah noted that CPEC invoked a new life to the economic development of Pakistan by bringing large foreign direct investment (FDI) through different projects.

Talking about CPEC’s role in the overall development of Pakistan, he said that it started off with infrastructure, followed by a new phase of industrialization which is going to be started in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the framework of CPEC. “FDI in SEZs has played a great role in the countries which were short of capital ... China being one of the largest investors in the

world is our close friend, so we are hopeful that the Chinese investment will contribute a lot to the economic development of Pakistan,” Shah said.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/21/cpec-to-help-address-food-security-challenge-of-pakistan/>

Express News

سی بیگ عالمی ویسینار؛ تصادم یا نئی سرد جنگ کا تصور مسترد، تعاون اور رابطہ کاری پر زور

سی بیگ عالمی ویسینار کے دوران وبائی امراض کے بعد ورلڈ آرڈر میں تعاون اور رابطہ کاری کی ضرورت پر زور دیا گیا۔ اسلام آباد تین براعظموں کے ماہرین پر مشتمل عالمی ویسینار نے تصادم یا نئی سرد جنگ کا تصور مسترد کرتے ہوئے ماحولیاتی تبدیلی، جھوک، غربت اور وبائی امراض جیسے مشترکہ آزمائشوں سے نمٹنے کیلئے تعاون اور رابطہ کاری پر زور دیا۔

اس ویسینار کا انعقاد پاکستان چائنا انسٹیٹیوٹ نے فلگ شپ 'فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ' سیریز کے تحت کیا۔ جس کا عنوان تھا ”وبا کے بعد عالمی منظر نامہ اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو میں بڑی طاقتوں کا مقابلہ” تھا۔ اس میں پاکستان، چین، کمبوڈیا، سری لنکا، برطانیہ اور امریکہ کے مقررین نے شرکت کی۔ صدارت سابق سیکرٹری خارجہ تہینہ جموعہ نے کی۔ انہوں نے افتتاحی کلمات میں کہا چین نے 80 کروڑ لوگوں کو غربت سے نکال کر حیرت انگیز کامیابی حاصل کی۔ انہوں نے پی آر آئی کو وبا کے بعد بہترین اقتصادی موقع قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا امریکی حلقوں میں اس کا اقتصادی بنیادوں کے بجائے اسٹریٹجک ہونے کے خدشات نے چین کے خوشحال طبقے کی تعمیر کے عزم کو نقصان پہنچایا۔ انہوں نے چین کو محدود کرنے کیلئے امریکہ اور اتحادیوں کی کوششوں کو قابل مزمت قرار دیا۔

سینیٹ کی دفاعی کمیٹی اور پاک چائنا انسٹیٹیوٹ کے چیئرمین مشاہد حسین نے کہا پاکستان میں بڑی تبدیلیاں رونما ہو رہی ہیں جن میں امریکی اثر و رسوخ کا خاتمہ، چین کا پرامن عروج اور پاکستان کا سی بیگ کے ذریعے علاقائی رابطوں کا مرکز بننے کی کوششوں کے ذریعے سے جیو پالیسی سے جیو اکنامکس کی طرف رخ موڑنا شامل ہے۔ افغانستان میں 42 سالہ جنگ کے بعد، جس نے پاکستان کو براہ راست متاثر کیا، ملک نئے تنازع، تصادم یا سرد جنگ کا فریق نہیں بن سکتا کیونکہ رابطہ کاری اور تعاون وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے یوکرین جنگ کے خاتمے کا مطالبہ کرتے ہوئے کہا اس سے خوراک اور ایندھن کی قلت پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔ سی بیگ فروغ 21 ویں صدی کا بڑا سفارتی اور ترقیاتی اقدام قرار ہے جبکہ امریکہ بدستور فوجی نقطہ نظر اور عزائم رکھتا ہے۔

سری لنکن بحریہ کے سابق کمانڈر جینا تھ کو لمبیج نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کو قرض کا جال قرار دینے کو رد کرتے ہوئے کہا سری لنکا غیر ملکی قرضوں کا 10 فیصد سے بھی کم چین کا مقروض ہے، اس 10 فیصد نے لنکن شہریوں کیلئے اقتصادی امکانات پیدا کئے۔

چین کی ریمنن یونیورسٹی کے چونگ یانگ انسٹیٹیوٹ فار فنانشل سٹڈیز کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر پروفیسر وانگ وین نے کہا امریکہ، تائیوان میں تنازع شروع کرنے کیلئے یوکرین بحران کی نقل تیار کر رہا ہے، چینی مفادات پر امریکی حملے نہ صرف چین بلکہ خطے میں اقتصادی خوشحالی کے مقصد حاصل کرنے سے نہیں روکیں گے۔ فرینڈز آف سوشلسٹ چائنا کے شریک ایڈیٹر کیتھ سینیٹ نے کہا 31 برس قبل دیوار برلن گرنے کے بعد مغرب نے امید ظاہر کی گلوبل ساؤتھ میں جدید جمہوری اقدار کی فتح ہو گی جس کے نتیجے میں اقتصادی کامیابی حاصل ہوگی لیکن ایسا نہیں ہوا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2338685/6/>

چینی باشندوں کی رہائش گاہوں اور دفاتر کی سیکورٹی ہائی الرٹ

پنجاب پولیس نے چینی باشندوں کی رہائش گاہوں اور دفاتر کی سیکورٹی کو ہائی الرٹ کر دیا۔ لاہور

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق ایس پی صدر حسن جاوید بھٹی نے بتایا کہ چینی شہریوں کی حفاظت کے لیے سیکورٹی کو ہائی الرٹ کیا گیا ہے، متعلقہ ایس ایچ اوز نے ڈیوٹی پر مامور اہلکاروں اور سیکورٹی گارڈز کو اس حوالے سے تفصیلی بریفنگ بھی دی۔

حسن جاوید بھٹی نے کہا کہ نقائص کو دور کر کے مؤثر سیکورٹی کو یقینی بنایا جائے، متعلقہ ایس ڈی پی اوز اور ایس ایچ اوز کو اطراف میں پٹرولنگ مزید مؤثر بنانے کی ہدایات کی گئی ہے۔

ایس پی صدر نے متعلقہ افسران کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ گرد و نواح میں لاوارث سامان اور مشکوک افراد پر کڑی نظر رکھیں، متعلقہ سرکل افسران حفاظتی انتظامات کو روزانہ کی بنیاد پر چیک کریں۔

اُن کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چینی باشندوں کی فول پروف سیکورٹی کے انتظامات کو مزید بہتر اور یقینی بنایا جا رہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2339033/1/>

June 22, 2022

Daily Times

Need stressed for China and Pakistan to promote joint degree programs

A group of high-level talents with strict professional and cultural training is critical for the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China and Pakistan should strengthen cooperation and promote joint degrees to meet the needs of the two countries.

This was stated by Prof. Tan Biyou from China's Hunan Normal University, according to Gwadar Pro, on Tuesday. On the 2nd South Asia Forum with the theme of "Pakistan in social transition" hosted by China-Pakistan Educational Cultural Institute (CPECI), Prof.

Tan said that if engineers at all levels involved in management and operation do not truly understand the people at the bottom of Pakistan and do not know how to interact with them effectively and safely, it will bring great risk to the multibillion-dollar investment and pose a threat to the personal safety of Chinese managers.

In fact, talent is the most scarce resource for the Belt and Road Initiative, including CPEC. Prof. Tan emphasized the need to expand the scope of joint degree programs and cultivate more talents.

He explained that, "A group of high-level talents proficient in Chinese and Pakistani culture, including masters and doctors, in the joint degree program jointly engaged by Chinese and Pakistani universities is a must."

CPEC is a new development in the history of China-Pakistan exchanges. It not only promotes economic cooperation, but also brings about broad cooperation in education and culture.

In this context, the joint degree was put on the agenda. China-Pakistan cooperation in education has gone through a long period of exploration and has been continuous since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan in 1951.

Nevertheless, due to the different national conditions of the two countries, in the long historical period, China-Pakistan friendship is mainly limited to political and military cooperation, and the development of educational cooperation is relatively slow.

Since about 2003, the number of Pakistani students studying in China has been increasing.

However, further collaboration between universities is generally limited. In 2005, when China and Pakistan exchanged the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, education was listed as a separate section for the first time.

The Confucius Institutes, which were widely established in Pakistan, were an important result of the treaty. The Confucius Institutes mainly carry out language teaching, not degree education.

In the Joint Statement on Strengthening China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, Building Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era issued in 2018, China and Pakistan agreed to encourage respective universities to develop bilateral linkages including through joint degree and exchange programmes.

On March 2022, China and Pakistan signed an agreement on mutual recognition of higher education certificates and degrees, providing study guarantee for international students from both countries and dispelling their concerns.

In terms of the future development direction of the joint degree, Prof. Tan believes that it is necessary to reinforce the confidence of the cooperation.

“We should decentralize the cooperation projects, minimize the number of projects, tilt the cooperation center toward the universities in Islamabad, and establish a regional center of appropriate size.” Prof. Tan added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/955787/need-stressed-for-china-and-pakistan-to-promote-joint-degree-programs/>

Pakistan’s exports to China up nearly 6pc in Jan-May

Pakistan’s export to China crossed \$1.605b in the first five months of 2022, up 5.42pc year on year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC).

Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, said that despite the epidemic of COVID-19, bilateral trade has increased significantly. “The Pakistani government is also fully committed to tapping its industrialization potential and paying particular attention to the construction of special economic zones to enhance its trade with other countries”, he added.

Badar expressed that the 2nd phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement provides zero-tariff market access for Pakistan’s 313 major export commodities, and has greatly promoted Pakistan’s manufacturing industry to expand production and exports, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

“The China-Pakistan free trade agreements would create more space for Pak-China service trade. The bilateral trade will cross \$50b within next five years. This year bilateral trade would cross \$32b”, he said.

The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan has amounted to \$12.06b, up nearly 19pc compared with 2021 which was \$10.14b due to COVID-19. Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts, textiles, seafood, and other agricultural products have increased year on year, which has promoted Pakistan’s economic recovery.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/956085/pakistans-exports-to-china-up-nearly-6pc-in-jan-may/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی باشندوں، غیر ملکی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی فول پروف ہے: آئی جی

لاہور (نامہ نگار) انسپٹر جنرل پولیس پنجاب راؤ سردار علی خان نے کہا ہے کہ صوبے کے تمام اضلاع میں نجی و سرکاری شعبوں میں کام کرنے والے تمام غیر ملکیوں شہریوں بالخصوص چینی باشندوں کی فول پروف سکیورٹی پنجاب پولیس کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ چینی شہریوں کی پنجاب آمد پر ایئر پورٹس پر قائم سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے انفارمیشن ڈیسک پر اندراج کیساتھ ہی سکیورٹی اقدامات کا آغاز کر دیا جاتا ہے اور چینی باشندوں کی سکیورٹی سے متعلق محکمہ داخلہ کے جاری کردہ ایس او پیز پر عمل درآمد ہر صورت یقینی بنایا جاتا ہے۔ صوبہ بھر میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے آنے والے تمام غیر ملکی شہریوں کو محفوظ ماحول فراہم کر رہے ہیں اور دفاتر، ورکنگ سائٹس کیساتھ ساتھ رہائش گاہوں کو بھی فول پروف سکیورٹی فراہم کی جاتی ہے۔ سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ چینی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی کے فرائض پوری جانفشانی کیساتھ ادا کر رہی ہے جبکہ چینی شہریوں کے سکیورٹی انتظامات کی نگرانی کیلئے 24/7 سنٹرلائزڈ مانیٹرنگ کا نظام تشکیل دے رہے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے تعینات ہونے والے چینی قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرن سے سنٹرل پولیس آفس میں ملاقات کے دوران کیا۔ دوران ملاقات چینی شہریوں، ماہرین، سرمایہ کاروں اور ورکنگ سائٹس کے سکیورٹی انتظامات، باہمی تعاون سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرن نے چینی باشندوں کے تحفظ کیلئے سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ اور پنجاب پولیس کی کارکردگی کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ استعداد کار میں اضافے اور تکنیکی معاونت کیلئے دو طرفہ تعاون کو مزید موثر بنایا جائیگا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-22/page-4/detail-7>

June 23, 2022

Business Recorder

First China-Pakistan ‘Belt and Road’ transportation and logistics conference held at NUST

ISLAMABAD: Under the umbrella of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization the first China-Pakistan “Belt and Road” Transportation and Logistics conference was held in a hybrid mode. This forum was jointly initiated by the Shandong Jiaotong University, Kashgar University and National University of Sciences and Technology - Pakistan under the background of the rapid development of world logistics, significant progress in the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the deepening of China-Pakistan friendship.

The BBS through the way of combining online, multinational perspective, famous professors' vision, arguments, and other forms, the transportation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor construction big data to think and the problem of the development of modern logistics industry and refining, transportation logistics industry cooperation between China and Pakistan to investigate the challenges and opportunities.

Renowned researchers from the Research Institute of The Ministry of Transport of China, professors from the other world-renowned universities delivered keynote speeches. At the same time, several presidents and branch deans from Shandong Jiaotong University, Xinjiang Kashgar University and Pakistan National University of Sciences and Technology also attended the forum. From Pakistan National University of Science and Technology Pro Rector Academics Dr Usman, Principal of School of Social Sciences and Humanities Dr Ashfaque Hassan Khan, Director NIPS Brig Amir Yaqoob (R) and Assistant Professor Farah Naaz participated.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/23/18-page/934343-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC's 720MW Karot hydropower plant put to final pre-commissioning test

The 720 megawatts Karot hydropower plant is now a week away from starting commercial operations after it was put to 168 hours long reliability run test (RTT) on Tuesday. According to Gwadar Pro, RTT is the last test before the commissioning of the project, a senior official of Karot Power Co. told Gwadar Pro. Karot Power is a special-purpose vehicle incorporated in Pakistan for executing the project by China Three Gorges (CTG) South Asia Investment Ltd., a subsidiary of CTG.

The test run was launched at 9:30 am on June 21 and will conclude on June 28, after which all four units of the plant will be ready for full-scale electricity generation, the official said.

Karot is the first-ever hydropower project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative to be completed at a cost of \$1.72 billion. The project will play a vital role in Pakistan's energy security by providing clean and affordable electricity.

The run-of-river facility is already contributing electricity to the national grid free of cost. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said during a recent visit to Karot that the plant will provide free electricity worth Rs4 billion to the national grid as a gift to the Pakistani people until it starts commercial operations.

According to the Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA), the project contributed 244.25 million units of free electricity to the national grid in May.

The RTT is being witnessed by independent international engineers and officials of the relevant government departments, the official said. He added that before the RTT, the plant successfully went through the load rejection test at a full capacity of 720MWs.

This is a vital test in which load from a running unit is suddenly removed to check that if it safely shuts down without damage to electromechanical installations and the civil foundations in case of tripping of the power plant. The reactive capability test was also successful, the official said.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is expected to inaugurate this landmark clean and cheaper energy project of CPEC on June 30.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/956352/cpecs-720mw-karot-hydropower-plant-put-to-final-pre-commissioning-test/>

Dawn News

\$2.3bn Chinese loan expected ‘within couple of days’, says Miftah

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said on Wednesday that Chinese banks had signed an agreement for about a \$2.3 billion loan that would flow into Pakistan’s account within a couple of days.

Since February, Pakistan has been seeking a rollover of loans expiring very shortly to support the fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan that stood at \$8.99bn as of June 10.

“The Chinese consortium of banks has today signed the RMB [renminbi] 15bn (about \$2.3bn) loan facility agreement after it was signed by Pakistani side yesterday,” Mr Ismail tweeted. “Inflow is expected within a couple of days. We thank the Chinese government for facilitating this transaction.”

Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin and incumbent minister Ismail have repeatedly been claiming that an agreement had been reached for loan rollover, but this did not materialise as Islamabad remained held up to divergent interests of the big powers — China and the United States — in the face of the Russia-Ukraine war.

During the February visit of former Prime Minister Imran Khan to China, Pakistan sought about a \$20bn support package. This included a \$4bn debt rollover, an extension in currency swap from the existing \$4.5bn to \$10bn and \$5.5bn in additional financial support.

China had since rolled over about \$2bn some two months ago but the remaining items have been swept under the carpet.

On June 10, Islamabad had again requested China a \$2bn debt rollover. In one of the recent public appearances, Mr Ismail said the government had received a letter from the Chinese government for loan rollover, but the signing of the agreement with relevant banks took time to materialise.

Interestingly, the budget books for the 2022-23 fiscal year had missed reporting about \$7bn-9bn worth of Chinese and International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans.

The minister had conceded in his post-budget news conference that underreporting of these loans was a mistake that would be rectified.

Once taken into account, foreign economic assistance to Pakistan during the next fiscal year is estimated to be around \$24bn. Two Chinese SAFE deposit loans of \$1bn each are maturing within this month and the next.

China also rolled over \$2bn in SAFE deposit loans in March. These loans are mostly secured to shore up foreign exchange reserves, budget support and project financing.

The government is expecting foreign assistance inflows to gear up after it formally inks an agreement with the IMF for \$5bn extended size of the remaining package.

The two sides have largely reached an understanding on budget 2022-23 and the authorities expect to sign a staff-level agreement with the IMF over the next few days.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1696252/23bn-chinese-loan-expected-within-couple-of-days-says-miftah>

June 24, 2022

Business Recorder

PSX ends the day on positive note over Chinese deal

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange on Thursday witnessed a bullish trend and closed on strong positive note with healthy gains on the back of strong buying in almost all sectors. The market opened on a positive note and remained in green zone throughout the day due to across the board rally as Chinese consortium of banks signed an RMB 15 billion (\$2.3 billion) loan facility agreement which resulted in recovery of Pak Rupee against USD.

The benchmark KSE-100 index surged by 258.83 points or 0.61 percent and closed at 42,716.97 points. During the session, the index hit 42,987.88 points intra-day high however closed at slightly lower level due to profit taking in some stocks.

Trading activities also improved as total daily trading volumes on ready counter increased to 349.488 million shares as compared to 266.090 million shares traded on Wednesday while total daily traded value on ready counter increased to Rs 10.136 billion against previous day's Rs 8.468 billion.

BRIndex100 gained 32.45 points or 0.77 percent to close at 4,264.27 points with total daily turnover of 314.389 million shares. BRIndex30 increased by 200.26 points or 1.3 percent to close at 15,602.32 points with total daily trading volumes of 219.400 million shares.

The foreign investors however remained on the selling side and withdrew \$1.053 million from local equity market. Total market capitalization increased by Rs 43 billion to Rs 7.093 trillion. Out of total 347 active scrips, 235 closed in positive and only 87 in negative while the value of 25 stocks remained unchanged.

Cnergyico PK was the volume leader with 37.401 million shares and gained Re 0.22 to close at Rs 5.78 followed by Pak Refinery that inched up by Re 0.56 to close at Rs 19.54 with 29.344

million shares. K-Electric closed at 2.85, up Re 0.19 with 27.961 million shares. Bata Pak and Mehmood Textile were the top gainers increasing by Rs 150.33 and Rs 56.26 respectively to close at Rs 2166.83 and Rs 806.48 while Sapphire Fiber and Thal Ind Corp were the top losers declining by Rs 83.08 and Rs 21.74 respectively to close at Rs 1027.02 and Rs 268.25. An analyst at Arif Habib Limited said the KSE-100 index was dominated by the bulls. Across the board rally was witnessed as Chinese consortium of banks signed an RMB 15 billion (\$2.3 billion) loan facility agreement which resulted in recovery of Pak Rupee against USD. Volumes remained healthy across the board.

The IPP sector remained in limelight as Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved Rs 149 billion for the power sector to be paid to the IPPs and K-Electric in the current fiscal year. Moreover, profit taking was observed in the last trading hour.

Sectors contributing to the performance include Power (up 74.8 points), Banks (up 52.2 points), Technology (up 26.4 points), OMC's (up 25.9 points) and Cement (up 15.0 points).

BR Automobile Assembler Index gained 55.9 points or 0.56 percent to close at 10,030.82 points with total turnover of 4.279 million shares.

BR Cement Index inched up by 20.54 points or 0.49 percent to close at 4,191.98 points with 25.335 million shares.

BR Commercial Banks Index added 50 points or 0.56 percent to close at 8,931.90 points with 10.009 million shares. BR Power Generation and Distribution Index surged by 197.67 points or 3.61 percent to close at 5,670.11 points with 41.280 million shares.

BR Oil and Gas Index closed at 3,879.63 points, up 6.79 points or 0.18 percent with 13.775 million shares.

BR Tech & Comm Index increased by 36.14 points or 1.08 percent to close at 3,394.74 points with 43.762 million shares.

An analyst at Topline Securities said Pakistan equities witnessed a positive session on the backdrop of acknowledgement received from IMF country representative regarding significant progress has been made as far as Budget FY23 goes. The KSE-100 index initially opened on a positive, stayed positive throughout the day and eventually settled at 42,717, up 0.61 percent.

Power, Banks, Technology and OMC sector stocks contributed positively to the index where HUBC, BAHU, MCB, SYS and PSO added 105 points, cumulatively. On the flip side, HBL, FFC and PPL have witnessed some profit taking as they lost 70 points collectively.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/24/1-page/934359-news.html>

Govt committed to expediting ongoing CPEC projects: governor

LAHORE: Terming the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game changer not only for Pakistan but also for the region and the whole world, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur-Rehman said on Thursday the government was committed to expedite the ongoing CPEC development projects under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

He said this while talking to the newly appointed Consul General of China in Lahore, Zhao Shiren, who called on him, here at Governor's House today. Issues of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations and CPEC were discussed during the meeting.

The Governor maintained that China has stood by Pakistan in every difficult time and relations between Pakistan and China were unparalleled in terms of mutual trust and unity.

He added that people-to-people contact between Pakistan and China would be further strengthened and Pakistan values China's cooperation in education, health, energy infrastructure and other areas.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/24/2-page/934370-news.html>

PNS TAIMUR commissioned in China

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy ship TAIMUR has been commissioned at Hudong Zhonghua (HZ) Shipyard, China. Head of Pakistan Navy Mission at China Commodore Rashid Mehmood Sheikh graced the occasion as chief guest.

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

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

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

Later, Deputy Director General Military Product Department China in his address highlighted that Pakistan and China are cognizant of changing geopolitical environment and taking effective measures to deal with the added responsibilities and evolving challenges together. He underscored that friendship between the two countries is a pillar of peace and stability in the region.

The ceremony was attended by high level dignitaries from BOMETEC, OIMC, SASTIND, PLA (N) and CSSC besides Chairmen of CSTC & HZ Shipyard along with prominent figures of Pakistan community in China.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/24/2-page/934364-news.html>

CPEC projects

China to work under vision of shared prosperity: official

ISLAMABAD: Pangchunxue, Charge de Affaires of the Embassy of People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail at the Finance Division Thursday, said a press release.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha was also present in the meeting.

Finance Minister Ismail extended a warm welcome to the guest and highlighted the deep-rooted friendship and brotherly relations between Pakistan and China.

Referring to the CPEC, the federal minister said that the corridor will play an important role in taking Pakistan's economy forward as well as cementing the bilateral relationship between both the countries.

He further assured his full support for the assistance in that regard.

The Chinese Charge de Affaires assured full support and cooperation of Chinese government and said that China is committed to developing the CPEC projects under the vision of shared prosperity and it will further strengthen and expand economic cooperation between both the countries.

The finance minister and Pangchunxue expressed their plan for further enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

In his concluding remarks, the finance minister affirmed full support and cooperation to Chinese investors and businessmen.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/24/16-page/934449-news.html>

Daily Times

China's Gansu province to transfer dryland farming techs to Pakistan

Gansu will transfer modern Chinese agricultural science and technology, particularly applicable to arid and semi-arid regions, to Pakistan.

This was stated during memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS), China and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Pakistan, held online, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday.

Sharing similarities in climate, crop types and environment, based on the MoU, the Chinese agricultural technologies of efficient use of water and fertilizer with drip irrigation under mulch, farmland water utilization and regulation with plastic-film mulching on dry land, green and high-yield planting of potatoes in semi-arid areas, breeding and quality control of virus-free seed potato, storage and cold chain logistics of fruit and vegetable, fruit germ plasm resources in cold and arid regions, solar greenhouse and related vegetable culture, forage sorghum cultivation and feeding, high-yield cultivation of melon in semi-arid areas, breeding and release of crop new

cultivars of wheat, potato, rape, flakes, minor, etc. in cold and arid regions, etc. will be transferred from GAAS to IUB in the near future, which are urgently needed by Pakistan at the current stage and are expected to give new impetus to Pakistan's agricultural progress.

Most notably, both parties agreed to establish China-Pakistan Crop Research Center, focusing on high yield and high-quality composite crops, to cooperate in research, demonstration, and promotion of variety selection, optimization of cultivation technology, plant protection, and agricultural mechanization.

“GAAS scientific research achievements’ overseas development will support countries along the Belt and Road route like Pakistan to upgrade its agricultural sector. We’re looking forward to GAAS-IUB contribution to sustainable and high quality agricultural development of the two countries.” Dr. Ma Zhongming, GAAS President remarked.

“The collaboration between GAAS and IUB will benefit people of both countries. We believe the cooperation will further strengthen Pak-Sino friendship and exchanges between the two peoples, and promote sustainable development for our next generations,” Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, IUB said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/957027/chinas-gansu-province-to-transfer-dryland-farming-techs-to-pakistan/>

Dawn News

KCR expansion not possible without Chinese help: railways minister

Shazia Hasan

Saad Rafique claims govt doesn't have time or funds to turn around 'fledgling' Pakistan Railways

Cost-cutting options to keep ML-1 project going being explored

KARACHI: The Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project is not likely to be expanded anytime soon, and will be operated within the limitations of existing infrastructure, Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique admitted on Thursday.

Speaking to media persons at an informal interaction, which turned into a media talk, at the City Station on Thursday evening, the minister said the government only had 12 to 13 months, which was not enough time to work miracles.

He said Pakistan Railways had many shortcomings and the government doesn't have the time or the resources to turn it around. “We can only give a new direction to Pakistan Railways during this time, not turn it around completely. Plus we don't even have enough funds,” he said.

When asked about what was happening with the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) expansion or loop, he said that it will not happen. “Looking at our circumstances, I don't see the KCR happening, really. Railways is finding it hard to run itself, what to say about KCR?” he said.

“Whatever has happened there on the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan is all that will happen, call it the KCR or whatever you like. Basically, Karachi needed a metro train, but the KCR is not really a metro train where one train follows another within minutes,” he pointed out.

Explaining the various challenges facing the project, he recalled how KCR was once a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “It was doable then, but we cannot do it ourselves.”

The minister also implied that the Chinese had backed off due to problems with land acquisition for the project. “It is sad how many people were rendered homeless to make way for the KCR; they should have been properly compensated and provided alternate housing. Perhaps then the Chinese wouldn’t have backed off either,” he said.

When asked about the laying of new railway tracks, the minister said that this was altogether different from building roads. “Laying tracks requires a different kind of expertise. Here, we are running a 150-year old system,” he said, while adding that the Main Line-1 (ML-1) was still on his government’s agenda. “But the ML-1 has seen a four-year delay now and the costs have really gone up. Right now, we are looking at ways to carry on with the work. We want to do some major cost cutting without compromising on quality,” he said.

He said his government was trying to build trust with China. “Then we’ll see what to do about the ML-1. The initial plan was to build the main line between Lahore and Multan, but now we are looking to start from Kotri to Rohri, or, if funds allow, from Karachi to Kotri in the first phase. Since we don’t have the funds for ML-1, we are hoping to get the work done through CPEC or through the Asian Development Bank, which gives soft loans.”

Khawaja Saad Rafique also said that he had fond childhood memories of arriving in Karachi with friends via train at the Cantonment Railway Station, but said he was very unhappy to notice men ogling women traveling with their families. “I want to build a purdah system there for our womenfolk,” he said, while also saying that trains and stations here needed better cleaning as the janitorial staff was not doing their work.

To a suggestion that the Cantonment Railway Station also needed a few elevators, since even new Green Line bus stations were equipped with lifts, to cater to the elderly or the disabled, the minister outrightly said that this was just not possible. “The truth is that we just can’t have lifts or elevators at stations because we just don’t have money,” he concluded.

Visit to PIA HQ

The minister, who also holds the portfolio of Aviation in the federal cabinet, also visited Pakistan International Airlines headquarters on Thursday and directed their top brass to improve services and utilise their resources to their maximum potential.

A PIA spokesperson said in a statement that the minister was apprised of PIA’s working and performance, as well as its present and future plans of action.

He held detailed discussions with PIA’s board of directors that followed a presentation by acting PIA chief Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat.

The minister also visited PIA Training Centre and flight simulator building, where he was apprised of the commissioning and installation of A-320 flight simulator, which is expected to bring savings of Rs250 million per annum. He directed PIA officials to complete the installation of A320 flight simulator in the shortest possible time.

On Wednesday, the minister had visited the headquarters of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and Karachi Airport and received a briefing about CAA performance and projects including expansion of Karachi Airport operations and upgrading of facilities. He instructed officials to provide maximum convenience to passengers at airports. He also asked them to upgrade Sukkur Airport for international flights.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1696427>

Pakistan Observer

Buses provided by Chinese company start operation

Following a successful trial, the intra-city bus service under “Peoples Bus Service” will start benefiting the residents of Larkana, Sindh from Thursday.

According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, the service will provide the people of Larkana with a comfortable, convenient, and affordable journey experience and will create jobs for the local community. A batch of 10 buses arrived in the city of Larkana on Monday, followed by its successful test drive the following day.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday during his visit to the city inspected the newly arrived buses and directed authorities concerned to “start Intra-City Bus Service from June 23, so that people of Larkana City get benefited,” according to an official statement. “The Minister was delighted and congratulated the people of Larkana on modern and comfortable transport service,” reads the statement.

<https://pakobserver.net/buses-provided-by-chinese-company-start-operation/>

PM Shehbaz to pay one-day visit to Gwadar today

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave for Gwadar on a one-day visit today (Friday). This will be the second visit of the prime minister to Gwadar within a short span of a month.

During the visit, PM Shehbaz will be briefed on different ongoing development schemes in Gwadar, including the Gwadar International Airport and power and infrastructure projects. He will also be given a briefing on the law and order situation.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will attend an MoU signing between Indus Hospital and Gwadar Development Authority for the construction of a state-of-the-art hospital.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-to-pay-one-day-visit-to-gwadar-today/>

CPEC & food security

AS Pakistan has started facing critical shortage of wheat, sugar and some other agricultural products, officials have expressed the confidence that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help address the looming food security challenge of Pakistan by introducing modern farming to enhance the country's yield through agricultural cooperation.

Secretary Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, told Xinhua news agency in an interview that as a part of improving food security, this year more investment is being made in the water and agriculture sectors to increase our yield ... all these sectors are strengths of China, which has shown great performance and productivity.

Despite the fact that China has the world's largest population and only 7% of the world's cultivable land, it has been able to feed its population – thanks to the agricultural development and growth sparked by reforms carried out since 1978.

In the 1990s, China's agriculture and rural economy faced unprecedented difficulties and challenges but now China leads the world in output of grain, cotton, oil plants, fruit, meat, eggs, aquatic products and vegetables.

Experts say that China has made notable progress over the years in the modernization of the agriculture sector, having enhanced productivity while focusing on quality yield.

Pakistan has a lot to learn from the Chinese experience for the growth of its agriculture sector as harsh weather, unscientific farming systems and expensive inputs have marginalized the sector, which resulted in food insecurity in the country.

Luckily, China has repeatedly expressed its willingness to share its experience and transfer technology and know-how to Pakistan to help the country exploit the maximum potential of its agriculture sector.

It is a fact that Pakistan is one of the largest producers of milk, vegetable and fruit, but a huge chunk of it goes wasted due to the unavailability of processing units and the supply chain.

Agricultural cooperation under CPEC will further enhance value addition processing to help more Pakistani products meet the international standards.

It is for the relevant ministries and departments to analyze the situation and formulate plans for concrete cooperation between Pakistan and China in the agriculture sector but the two countries need to work together in the fields of seed technology, agricultural material and machinery, agricultural product processing and supporting service systems to promote the transformation and upgrading of the agriculture sector.

Per acre yield in Pakistan is much lower than China and introduction of high quality seed, technology and best agricultural practices could bring about a fundamental change in the overall situation.

Cooperation in the field of modern agricultural equipment, seed industry, food processing and storage and animal and plant disease control has already helped improve the quality and production of various valuable crops and livestock products in Pakistan but the scope and magnitude of the cooperation needs to be expanded significantly in view of growing shortage of food items.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-food-security-2/>

Chinese consul general discusses trade prospects with LCCI chief

Consul General of China Zhao Shiren said on Thursday that collaboration in various sectors of economy between the private sector of Pakistan and his country could take bilateral trade to new heights.

The Consulate will fully cooperate for exchange of trade delegations between the two countries, he said while talking to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Nauman Kabir. LCCI Senior Vice President Rehman Aziz Chan, Vice President Haris Ateeq and former senior vice president Ali Hussam Asghar were also present. The consul general identified some issues regarding policy, taxation and duty tariff and said that the visa issues would be resolved soon. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-consul-general-discusses-trade-prospects-with-lcci-chief/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC to help increase tax receipts

Billions of dollars allocated for mega projects in Balochistan

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Finance Sardar Abdur Rehman Khaitran said on Wednesday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will enhance the provincial government's tax collection.

Speaking at a post-budget news conference, the minister predicted that the CPEC projects and development of mining sector would increase tax and non-tax revenue of the province in the future.

“CPEC will multiply tax collection. Billions of rupees have been allocated for plenty of mega projects to be initiated in Balochistan. The businesses, as a result of the investments, will pay tax,” he maintained.

“These include Nag-Washuk road project, construction of small and medium dams, water-solar schemes, highway security projects, provision of laptops and internship to students, and dams and roads for south Balochistan,” he added.

To a question, the minister mentioned that the government accorded priority to the education, employment and health sectors as 1.8 million families will be provided with health cards facility.

“A total of 8,000 people mainly from Chaghi and Taftan areas of Balochistan will be given employment opportunities, as agreed upon by the mining company in the Reko Diq project,” he contended.

Khaitran underscored that the government took serious steps for resolving the Reko Diq investment dispute and tried to bring maximum possible benefit to the province along with foreign direct investment, in addition to bringing vast economic resources and employment opportunities.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363021/cpec-to-help-increase-tax-receipts>

The News

Governor, Chinese envoy discuss CPEC projects

LAHORE: The newly-appointed Consul General of China in Lahore Zhao Shiren called on Punjab Governor M Baligh-ur-Rehman at Governor’s House on Thursday. Issues of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations and Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were discussed during the meeting.

Talking on the occasion, Punjab Governor said that Pak-China friendship is unparalleled and time tested. He said that China has stood by Pakistan in every difficult time and our country valued China's cooperation in education, health, energy infrastructure and other areas.

He said that people-to-people contact between Pakistan and China would be further strengthened. Talking about CPEC, Punjab Governor said that CPEC is a game changer not only for Pakistan but also for the region. He said that the government was committed to expedite the ongoing CPEC development projects. “CPEC would open new avenues for development in infrastructure, agriculture, energy sector and industry in Pakistan”. Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren on this occasion said that Pakistan is his second home and hoped that the government would expedite and complete the CPEC projects as early as possible. Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren also called on Commissioner Lahore Capt (retd) M Usman here on Thursday. Chinese Consul Attaché Lahore Shen Bo was also present in the meeting.

The Commissioner Lahore, on the occasion, said that Pakistan has special affectionate feelings for China. Chinese Consul General said that Lahore was a city of friendly people. He said that efforts would be made to work together in various sectors including turning Lahore into the city of literature.

Chinese Consul General also presented a shield of Chinese art to Commissioner Lahore.

Meanwhile, Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman said that engineering played a key role in economic growth besides contributing significantly improving the life of people. He said this while talking to Chairman Engineering Development Board (Federal Ministry of Commerce and Investment) Almas Hyder who called on him at Governor’s House on Thursday. Later, Almas Hyder briefly informed the Governor about the working of EDB that 21 cellular companies

assembled 46 million mobile phones in Pakistan in the last 11 months of which 98 per cent have so far been sold out in local markets.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=101201>

June 25, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese loan to help stabilise falling reserves

KARACHI: The much-awaited Chinese inflows amounted to \$2.3 billion received on Friday to boost the sliding foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Pakistan and China, on June 23, signed a commercial loan deal of RMB 15 billion equal to \$2.3 billion. The agreed amount arrived into the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) account on Friday. “SBP has received the Chinese consortium loan of RMB 15 billion today (Friday)”, SBP confirmed on twitter.

Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail also announced on twitter that a Chinese consortium loan of RMB 15 billion (roughly \$2.3 billion) has been credited into SBP account, increasing our foreign exchange reserves.

Sources said that with the arrival of these inflows, the total liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the country are likely to cross the \$16 billion mark after accumulating the external debt payments. The country’s total liquid foreign exchange reserves stood at \$ 14.21 billion as of Jun 17, 2022.

Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserves have declined for the past few months due to lower foreign inflows and higher external debt. Cumulatively, during the last three weeks, the country’s foreign exchange reserves dropped by \$1.56 billion to \$15.771 billion as of May 27, 2022 as against \$14.210 billion as of June 17, 2022.

In order to avoid default and maintain the country’s foreign exchange reserves at a sustainable level, the federal government is making efforts to get foreign inflows from different resources. On the request of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia last month redepot some \$3 billion with Pakistan.

As the same, Pakistan locked a deal with Chinese Development (CDB) for a loan facility of RMB 15 billion which is equal to \$2.3 billion.

Pakistan is also negotiating with the IMF for the release of the next tranche of one billion dollar of Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The IMF is also likely to approve and release the EFF loan tranche very soon as the country has fulfilled all requirements and conditions of the IMF.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/25/1-page/934489-news.html>

Daily Times

China, Pakistan to hold joint scientific research to build Green CPEC

Pakistan looks forwards to China-Pak joint scientific research for the building of Green China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque made the remarks when met Huang Wenjiang, a Research Fellow of the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Zhou Jinfeng, Secretary-General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) here at the Embassy of Pakistan. According to China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday, Huang's team recently released the latest Report of Monitoring and Assessment of Desert Locust in Africa and Asia.

As per the estimate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), up to 40 percent of global crop production is lost to pests annually. Each year, plant diseases cost the global economy over \$220 billion, and invasive insects at least \$70 billion.

Among the invasive insects, desert locust and fall armyworm are the main reasons for the grain reduction and environmental deterioration in Pakistan.

To fight the invasive species and safeguard food security, Huang's team has also released a series of reports of Monitoring and Assessment of Desert Locust specially for Pakistan since 2020. Huang briefed the Pakistani envoy on how China-Pak scientists cooperate in the prevention and control of locusts by the use of remote sensing system for plant pests and disease monitoring and forecasting.

Huang also presented fruitful results and good prospects of China-Pakistan cooperation in food security and biodiversity monitoring with the help of the Global Crop Pest Monitoring and Risk Forecasting system, which was developed by Huang's team.

The Pakistani envoy said these are very important to the two nations' agriculture and Pakistan's need. He hoped to have further communication on the high-quality building of Green CPEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/957518/china-pakistan-to-hold-joint-scientific-research-to-build-green-cpec/>

Dawn News

Pilac launches free Chinese language course

Shoaib Ahmed

LAHORE: The Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture (Pilac) is about to start a free Chinese language course.

Pilac Director General Dr Sughra Sadaf told Dawn this free-of-cost basic Chinese language course was being launched for encouragement of Chinese language learners.

The three-month certificate course, starting in the first week of July, won't have an age or education bar, she said and added that 26 students had got enrolled for the course, so far. The certificate course would have classes two days a week, on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 6pm to 8pm. Those who would clear the basic course could later take admission to HSK1 and HSK2 levels of Chinese language courses.

Ms Sadaf said such courses were immensely important, keeping in view the importance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) where a lot of opportunities for Pakistanis would be created to bridge the communication gap. She added that a ceremony would be held at the beginning of the course for students and teachers.

To a question about the upgrade Pilac has recently done at its Punjab Museum, Ms Sadaf said the museum reflected Punjab's cultural heritage. In the first phase of upgrade, she said, classical poetry books by eminent Sufi poets of Punjab had been added to the museum and the addition of these classical poetry books was of immense value for the collection of the museum.

Sughra Sadaf added that some big scale paintings made by noted artist Aslam Kamal, depicting poetry of different Sufi poets from Punjab, were also a part of the museum. Bulleh Shah's line Ilmoo Bas Kareen O Yar, Sultan Bahu's verse Alif Allah Chambay Di Booti and verses of Mian Muhammad Bakhsh had been illustrated by Kamal, she said and added that a large painting depicting Sufi Poets of Punjab had also been put on display at the Museum recently.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1696573/pilac-launches-free-chinese-language-course>

Pakistan Observer

Sindh, Centre agree to expedite work on KCR under CPEC

The Sindh government and the federal government have unanimously decided to remove all the nags to start mega projects of national interest including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), laying of railway track to transport Thar coal to upcountry, functionalization of different airports and resolution of land dispute between provincial government and Civil Authority on top priority basis.

This emerged in a meeting held between Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Railways & Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique along with their respective teams here at CM House on Friday. The CM was assisted by Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon, Advisor law Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Secretary Energy Abu Bakar, Secretary Transport Haleem Shaikh. The Federal Minister was assisted by his team members, including CEO Railways Farukh Tamiur, Additional GM Railways Amir Baloch, CEO Railways Nisar Memon, DS Kashif Yusfani, PD KCR Ameer Daupoto and DG Aviation Khaqan Murtaza, according to a CM's spokesman. The chief minister said that Karachi was a megalopolis city and its traffic issues could only be solved with the establishment of a modern KCR system which would be supplemented and integrated with different BRT lines. Tracing the history, Mr Shah

said that the KCR was commissioned in 1964 and till 1984 it remained an effective mass transportation project. He added that after 1984 its operational efficiency kept deteriorating which resulted in reduction of commuters opting for it and subsequently closed in December 1999.

The CM said that the project was included in CPEC priority projects and was approved by the CPEC-related Joint Coordination Committee in December 2016. The ECNEC had approved the project at a cost of Rs207,546 million, including Chinese loan of \$1.971 billion, he said and added the National Railway Authority, China had approved the feasibility being in conformity with Chinese standards in November 2017.

Mr Shah said that the project has been approved from all the relevant forums but nothing has been done on ground. Minister Railways Saad Rafiq said that the prime minister's visit to China is scheduled shortly where he would accompany him. He added that the KCR was on the agenda of the discussion and hopefully it would be approved. The project envisages construction of 43.225 km standard gauge dual carriage track urban rail mass transit system to be built within a period of three years. The total at grade section is 17.935 km and elevated is 24.21 km and underpass is 1.08 km. Out of 30 stations, 14 are at grade and 16 are elevated. The daily ridership is estimated at 457,608 which is expected to soar to one million per day. Passenger carrying capacity per train is estimated as 814.

The chief minister said that the time has come to fuel all the coal-fired power projects of the country with indigenous Thar coal. "This would not save the foreign exchange but would be cheaper than the imported coal," he said and urged the railway minister to expedite laying of railway track from Thar Coal Mines to the main line. The meeting, after thorough discussion on different tracks, finally approved a 105 km Thar Coal Fields to New Chhor Halt station on Mirpurkhas-Khokhrapar Section. It was decided that the existing signaling system on Mirpurkhas-New Chhor section to be improved and two universal loops with a length of 700 meter on all crossing stations from Mirpurkhas to Chhor would be established.

The chief minister and the federal minister constituted a committee comprising a member, one each from Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission, a member from Ministry of railways, Chairman P&D Sindh and Secretary Energy Sindh. The committee would analyze and recommend the financial and technical aspect for approval. The committee would give its report within a month so that work on the project could be started.

The chief minister disclosed that the project would be started on PPP mode for which some international companies have shown interest. However, international tenders would be issued, the meeting decided. The chief minister took up the issue of functionalization of three airports, Hyderabad, Sehwan and Mai Bakhtawar Airport Thar. The Minister Railways & Aviation said that his team has told him that there were some encroachment issues at Hyderabad Airport. Transport Minister Sharjeel Memon said that he would resolve the issue if the aviation agreed to functionalize the airport.

The meeting decided to send a technical team to study ways and means to functionalize the Hyderabad Airport. Similar inspections would be conducted at Sehwan and Thar Airport. The chief minister said that Thar airport was most important as chartered flights were landing there, therefore its functionalization has commercial value.

The chief minister told the visiting federal minister that around 80 acres of Sindh government land has been claimed by the Civil Aviation as its property near the airport. He added that the provincial government has to utilize it for the establishment of depot for its Red Line BRT.

<https://pakobserver.net/sindh-centre-agree-to-expedite-work-on-kcr-under-cpec/>

The Nation

China Is Pakistan's Closest Friend, Not East India Company: PM

Shehbaz Sharif urges people of Balochistan to value foreign investors | Says 10pc 'Super tax' on large scale industry aimed at poverty alleviation

GWADAR – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced the provision of 200 acres of land for the establishment of a residential colony for the fishermen of Gwadar, besides the distribution of 2,000 motorboat engines to help them earn a livelihood.

The prime minister stated this in an interaction with local fishermen at Gwadar Business Centre during his day-long visit to the port city on Friday. The measures were announced in view of the problems faced by the fishermen of Gwadar in the shape of displacement and difficulty in access to the sea that was affecting the fishery sector.

The prime minister said his second visit within a month was aimed at holding direct interaction with the fishermen and to get their feedback on the issues being faced by them. To ensure merit based distribution of marine engines among the fishermen, he directed the Planning Ministry to define a criterion with a set of parameters at the earliest. The process of transparent bidding, he said, would be carried out within three months in line with the PEPR Rules. PM Shehbaz assured the fishermen of addressing their problems on priority, saying the development of the province was “meaningless” without resolution of the problems of the locals. It was the government's responsibility to address the challenges faced by the locals, he added.

He said the federal government would take the provincial government on board for consultations on the development projects. On supply of clean drinking water, he said the Gwadar Development Authority had given assurance to complete the process of laying new pipes by September. Regarding electricity, the prime minister said 29-kilometre long transmission lines for supply of 100 megawatts from Iran was delayed by the previous government, whereas the Iranian side had completed the project on its side. He said the government would bring the matter before the cabinet for approval to ensure availability of power for Balochistan. He said it would develop a base-load of electricity and would be later supplemented by solar projects. An announcement would soon be made on the provision of solar panels to the people of Balochistan, he added. He lauded the sacrifices of local people by braving the challenges during the

construction of Gwadar Port, which was a harbinger for their prosperity. The PM said the establishment of Gwadar University had been included in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and maximum funds would be provided for the education of students at par with rest of the country. He mentioned that the federal government allocated a massive amount of Rs100 billion in the PSDP for the development of Balochistan. Terming the four provinces brothers, he emphasised the importance of sharing resources among them for a win-win situation for all.

The prime minister said China was a closest friend of Pakistan, dispelling the impression that the Chinese projects in Pakistan had any semblance with those of the “East India Company” during the British Raj. He said China had always supported Pakistan at diplomatic and economic levels, and urged the people of Balochistan to value the foreign investors whose contribution was significant to the development of Pakistan. Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bezinjo linked the development of Gwadar with the prosperity of Pakistan. He said the Federal Government had allocated Rs 1,652 million for the development of Balochistan projects, including the supply of drinking water, and health and education facilities. He said the provincial government gave approval to over 200 decisions aimed at the prosperity of locals. He mentioned that unnecessary security check-posts were being removed keeping in view the trouble faced by the people, while the establishment of commercial markets in border areas was on the cards.

The prime minister also listened to the grievances pointed out by fishermen on the occasion and assured them their redressal on priority. Earlier, he witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on establishment of a 100 bed hospital with collaboration of GDA and Indus Hospital. The world class hospital will provide medical facilities to the people of Gwadar and adjoining areas. PM, CM Balochistan discuss administrative matters, political situation Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bezinjo called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Friday. Administrative matters of the province as well as the political situation were discussed in the meeting. Chief Minister Bezinjo appreciated the Prime Minister for visiting Gwadar twice in a month and his vision of giving priority to the development of Gwadar. He also welcomed the government’s decision of providing targeted subsidy on five essential items during the next fiscal year and the Prime Minister direction for increasing the number of Utility Stores in Balochistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/25/china-is-pakistans-closest-friend-not-east-india-company-pm/>

The News

\$2.3bn Chinese commercial loan credited to Pakistan

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has received the much-awaited \$2.3 billion commercial loan from China, helping it to boost the dwindling foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to cross the \$10.5 billion mark.

The foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP had nosedived to \$8.2 billion after it decreased by \$748 million. According to the SBP, during the week ending 17-June-2022, the SBP reserves decreased by \$748 million to \$8.2 billion, mainly due to external debt repayments. The SBP reserves are expected to increase in the coming days on the realisation of the proceeds of CDB loan.

In a tweet, Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail on Friday announced, “I am pleased to announce that Chinese consortium loan of RMB 15 billion (roughly \$2.3 billion) has been credited into the SBP account today, increasing our foreign exchange reserves”. China will charge 1.5 per cent SHIBOR (Shanghai Inter-Bank Offered Rates) on this commercial loan of \$2.3 billion. Soon after making progress on the IMF deal whereby both sides evolved a broader consensus on the budgetary framework, China moved forward and provided the commercial loans by three banks. Earlier, the Ministry of Finance was expecting this amount in March 2022 but it did not materialise on an immediate basis as Beijing awaited the finalisation of the IMF deal. However, difficulties were being faced by the economic team as the US and Chinese tensions created problems for Islamabad to strike a balance. Pakistan has also made requests to China for the rollover \$2 billion deposits, which were due in June and July 2022. Pakistani authorities expect that these rollovers will be done without any further delays or the foreign exchange reserves will again decline.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=101347>

June 26, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan, China can promote tea production through joint ventures: experts

Pakistan and China can promote tea on commercial scale through joint ventures, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday, quoting experts. As potential suitable sites and land for tea cultivation are located alongside China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), therefore, China has a big role to play in promoting tea on a commercial scale through joint ventures and technical and financial support, experts said.

China from the beginning has played a crucial role in tea promotion in Pakistan. With the technical and financial assistance of China, at Shinkiari in Mansehra, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) established a tea estate of over 50 acres along with green and black tea processing units, but it is yet to be adopted by the private sector on a sustainable basis. Tea plantation and processing have already proved successful in northern Pakistan. However, its commercialization under the market mechanism needs decision-makers’ attention.

The federal government has engaged private sector companies for experimentation and commercialization of tea. However, the pace and quantum of commercialization have been very slow.

According to the online data platform Observatory of Economic Complexity, Pakistan imported \$646 million worth of tea in the fiscal year 2019-20, largely from Kenya. This has listed Pakistan

as the largest importer of the commodity in the world. In the 10 months of this fiscal year, tea imports have jumped by 9% to \$532.4 million, compared with \$580.5 million in the entire FY 2020-2021. In view of the growing population and increasing consumption of tea in Pakistan, the government is working out a plan to commercialize tea cultivation for curtailing the import bill to this effect. Talking to media, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that a huge chunk of foreign exchange is spent every year on importing tea in Pakistan. If local tea production is promoted, the country's import bill could be significantly reduced.

The minister visited National Tea & High Value Crops Research Institute (NTHRI) at Shinkiari, Abbottabad and had a briefing on tea cultivation, its processing and commercialization in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan could not attract foreign direct investment in the tea industry despite huge domestic demand. Neither it is advanced in research & development on tea production. Earlier in his tweet the planning minister mentioned that Pakistan is the largest importer of tea in the world, racking up an import bill of whopping \$589.8 million in 2020 alone. Tea has emerged as a major import commodity and is draining huge foreign exchange every year. Local tea production is fast becoming a matter of urgency as domestic consumption of tea will increase by another 10% in the next five years, the experts added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/957970/pakistan-china-can-promote-tea-production-through-joint-ventures-experts/>

Pakistani ambassador visits ByteDance; discusses promotion of Pak products in China

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque paid a visit to ByteDance and discussed steps to enhance cooperation and strengthen Pakistan Pavilion on Douyin for promoting Pakistani products in the Chinese market.

The ambassador was received by the company's Department of China Public Affairs and Strategy.

He was briefed about the business operation of the company and its various products such as Douyin. ByteDance team acknowledged the active presence of Pakistani Embassy Beijing on its various social media platforms. Later, the ambassador was given a tour of the various facilities of the company.

During his interaction, Moin praised the tremendous growth of ByteDance in the short span of a decade and discussed ways and means to expand cultural cooperation and promote Pakistani products in the Chinese markets on Douyin.

ByteDance is a technology company with a strong presence in e-commerce and social media. Embassy's account on Douyin has over 100,000 followers and the promotional content of the Embassy is seen by millions of viewers.

Commercial Counsellor Badar uz Zaman, Press and Cultural Attaché Syeda Saira Raza and other officials of the embassy were also present.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/958217/pakistani-ambassador-visits-bytedance-discusses-promotion-of-pak-products-in-china/>

The Express Tribune

More Chinese investment in renewable energy likely

Introduction of wholesale electricity market to attract investors

ISLAMABAD: The introduction of a wholesale electricity market in Pakistan will attract more Chinese investment in the renewable energy sector of the country, an investment expert said.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on June 6 awarded market operator licence to Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee (CPPA-G) under the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) initiative. The new regime allows large consumers of one megawatt or above to directly purchase electricity from the generation or transmission company of their choice at mutually agreed tariffs and terms and conditions.

The new regulations will also allow generation companies to supply electricity to their clients via existing transmission lines in case of remote generation facilities.

Pakistan was struggling for the last 30 years to implement this regime, Nepra said.

CTBCM will open Pakistan's power sector, especially the renewable energy market, to international investors.

Since Chinese renewable energy firms are already involved in several solar and wind energy projects in Pakistan, they will be able to play a lead role as they have better knowledge of the local market dynamics, an investment analyst with Dubai-based Burj Capital said.

He said that as Chinese firms are executing larger projects, they will engage local firms for smaller projects, thus expanding opportunities for Pakistani companies as well.

For example, Huawei is already establishing its mark in the Pakistani market with its solar inverters by providing quality devices at affordable costs, the analyst said.

Similarly, other Chinese firms will also enter the market after the introduction of CTBCM, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363365/more-chinese-investment-in-renewable-energy-likely>

The News

Pakistan not invited to dialogue held in China

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been ignored by China as not being invited for the High Level Dialogue on Global Development (HLDGD) concluded a day earlier in Beijing.

The event was hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping and among others India, Iran, Egypt, Fiji, Algeria, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and two CAS were the participants of the dialogue.

Russian President Putin also attended it. The Foreign Office and its spokesman are mum about the adverse development. Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the dialogue of 19 countries and addressed it via a video link concluded on Friday. He delivered important speech titled “Forging High-quality Partnership for a New Era of Global Development.”

According to the media reports focusing on the theme “Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the leaders of all the countries had in-depth exchange of views on such major issues as strengthening international development cooperation and accelerating the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also discussed ways to promote development cooperation and reached wide and important common understandings.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that development is a timeless theme for humanity, adding that only through the continuous development, the people’s dream for a better life and social stability can be realised.

“Over the years, the developing countries have worked unremittingly to explore development paths suited to their national realities and to pursue economic and social development. Such efforts have produced remarkable outcomes,” he said.

“Today, the emerging markets and developing countries account for half of the world economy, and notable progress has been made in science and technology, education, social development, culture and many other areas,” the president said.

“We are meeting at a time, when the Covid-19 pandemic is eroding decades of gains in global development as the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encountering difficulties, the North-South gap keeps widening, and crises are emerging in food and energy security,” he said.

“At the same time, the people in all the countries are keener about pursuing peace, development and cooperation and the emerging markets and developing countries are more resolved to seek strength through unity, and the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is bringing more opportunities to the countries around the world,” he said.

President Xi Jinping stressed that this is an age rife with challenges, but it is also an age full of hope, adding: “We must get a good grasp of the overarching development trend in the world, firm up confidence, and act in unison and with great motivation to promote global development and foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win situation and common prosperity.”

“First, we need to jointly build international consensus on promoting development. When the people all over the world will live better lives, the prosperity can be sustained, security safeguarded and human rights solidly grounded. It is important that we put development front and centre on the international agenda, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development, and build political consensus to ensure everyone values development and all the countries pursue cooperation together,” the Chinese president said.

“Second, we need to jointly create an enabling international environment for development. Protectionist moves will boomerang; anyone attempting to form exclusive blocs will end up isolating himself; maximum sanctions serve nobody’s interest, and practices of decoupling and supply disruption are neither feasible nor sustainable. It is important that we pursue development in real earnest and promote development in concert, build an open world economy, and shape a global governance system and institutional environment that are more just and equitable,” he said.

“Third, we need to jointly foster new drivers for global development. It is important that we promote scientific, technological and institutional innovation, speed up technology transfer and knowledge sharing, boost the development of modern industries, close the digital divide and accelerate low-carbon transition, with a view to achieving stronger, greener and healthier global development,” he said.

“Fourth, we need to jointly forge a global development partnership. Only by working together, we can accomplish big and great things with a far-reaching impact. The developed countries need to fulfill obligations, the developing countries need to deepen cooperation, and the North and the South need to work in the same direction to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership.”

In this process, he said, no country or individual should be left behind, adding that it is important that we support the UN in steering and coordinating global development cooperation, and encouraging business communities, social groups, the media and think tanks to take part in such cooperation.

President Xi stressed that China has always been a member of the big family of the developing countries, adding that the country will take pragmatic steps to give continued support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“China will allocate more resources for the global development cooperation. We will upgrade the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to a Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. We will also increase input to the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. Such efforts will further support and cooperation under the Global Development Initiative (GDI), he said.

“China will work with all sides to advance cooperation in priority areas and mobilise resources for development to deepen global cooperation on poverty reduction and eradication, build capacity for food production and supply, and promote clean energy partnerships; step up innovation, research and development and joint production of vaccines; work on the conservation and sustainable use of land and marine ecology; and raise digital literacy and skills of the public, transform and upgrade the path to industrialisation at a faster pace, and enhance connectivity in the digital era to inject new impetus into the development of all the countries,” he said.

President Xi pointed out that as an ancient Chinese adage goes, “With one heart and one mind, we can accomplish everything we aspire for.” “Let us firm up confidence, stride forward in pursuit of high-quality partnership, and usher in a new era of prosperity and development.”

Leaders attending the Dialogue delivered remarks respectively. They thanked China for initiating and hosting the dialogue and commended President Xi’s insights into global development cooperation.

They said the emerging markets and developing countries are a crucial force in building a more equitable and balanced international order and promoting peace, security, equality and development. They need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and work with the international community to put the issue of development front and center and build a better world that meets the needs and expectations of most developing countries, they added.

They said the Dialogue is most opportune and relevant as it helps the parties to reach new understandings on international development cooperation, safeguard common interests of developing countries, and inject new impetus into maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

The leaders applauded and supported the GDI and the Global Security Initiative proposed by China. They all agreed that development is the foundation of security and security is the prerequisite for development.

They believed that China’s initiatives address the concerns and meet the needs of developing countries, and are conducive to forging international consensus, mobilising development resources and expediting the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

They expressed the hope to step up cooperation in such areas as poverty alleviation, epidemic prevention and control, food security and energy security and create more synergy between the GDI and regional development plans to jointly tackle poverty, inequality and development challenges.

The parties raised serious concerns over the negative spillover of unilateral sanctions and the heavy toll they have taken on vulnerable developing countries and stressed the need to practice true multilateralism, defend the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, uphold fairness and justice, and advance reforms of the global governance system.

They said the emerging markets and developing countries need to better coordinate and cooperate, strive for greater representation and voice in international affairs, ensure the sound and steady operation of the international economic and financial system, work for the steady recovery and sustainable development of the world economy, and together forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership.

The chair’s statement was issued after the Dialogue. It fully outlined the participants’ political consensus on global development and measures for practical cooperation in priority areas under the GDI.

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria, President Alberto Fernandez of Argentina, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt, President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, President Seyyed

Ebrahim Raeisi of Iran, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, Vice President Hamilton Mourao of Brazil, Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama of Fiji, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob of Malaysia, and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand attended the Dialogue.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and the FO spokesman didn't respond to the query about Pakistan's absence from the significant forum.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=101940>

June 27, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC road projects

NHA to settle disputes with Chinese firms

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways Authority (NHA) Executive Board has approved to initiate an amicable settlement process of all the disputes between the Authority and Chinese companies for two projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sources revealed to Business Recorder that the Board meeting held with Capt (retired) Muhammad Khurram Agha, chairman NHA in the chair which deliberated on an amicable settlement of all the disputes between NHA and Chinese companies as per the directive of the Prime Minister's Office.

The NHA Executive Board approved to initiate an amicable settlement process of all the disputes between the NHA and Chinese companies as per the directive of the Prime Minister's Office and the MoPD&SI for the following projects: a. Havelian-Thakot; b. Multan-Sukkur Motorway. The Board also accorded approval to address all the contractual issues by way of a settlement agreement between the parties and submit the draft settlement agreement for approval of the Executive Board.

The NHA Executive Board approved the settlement of disputes regarding the construction of Hassanabdal-Havelian Expressway (E-35) Contract No. ICB-E-35-III: Sarai Saleh to Simlaila (Km 39+611 to Km 58+711) and payment of an amount of Rs.350 million against DB Awarded Amount Rs.1.841 billion of all four claims; the Employer (NHA) shall have a financial saving of at least Rs.1.491 billion in term of claims duly reviewed and decided by the Engineer and Dispute Board.

The Board also approved the settlement of disputes regarding the construction of Hassanabdal-Havelian Expressway (E-35) Contract No. ICB-E-35 Package-I of M/s CGGC – GRC JV, (Km00+000 – Km 20+400) and payment of an amount of Rs.200 million against DB Awarded Amount Rs1.276 billion of all four (04) claims; the Employer shall have a financial saving of at

least Rs1.076 billion in term of claims duly reviewed and decided by the Engineer and Dispute Board.

The NHA Executive Board also decided to annul and re-tender the consultancy services for feasibility study and detailed design for road tunnel across Babusar Pass and its link access roads owing to no competition on a highly technical project of national importance.

The Board approved the award of 33x toll plaza to the highest bidders, where quoted bids are more than the previous year's bids and subject to the difference in reserved price & quoted bid price is in single-digit after provision of data by NTRC.

The Board allowed NHA to handover O&M of toll operation of remaining 28 toll plaza to the GMs concerned after the expiry of the contracts, i.e., June 30, 2022, under an interim arrangement as per Clause 12(b) of NHA Code Vol-I till the finalization of re-tendering of these toll plazas and mobilization of a new operator through regular procurement.

Moreover, the regional GMs concerned will ensure to collect maximum revenue during the interim period.

The Board directed that instead of three years or one year, bids for re-tendering toll plazas be invited for a period of two years, subject to satisfactory performance of first year.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/27/1-page/934675-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

BRI: Challenges and opportunities

Dr Muhammad Khan

THE transcontinental gigantic Chinese project known as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is primarily designed to connect three continents; Asia, Africa and Europe.

From European continent, there already exists an established linkage to American continents.

The Australian continent and countries of Oceania will be accessed through maritime passage.

In a way, the BRI is a global project with enormous opportunities for all those states and communities which will be linked and connected towards its successful completion.

There are two broad components of BRI; the Silk Road Economic Belt and New Maritime Silk Road.

The economic belt is primarily designed to connect China with countries of Central and South Asia and onwards to countries of Europe whereas, the new maritime silk road, will create a linking between China and the ASEAN region (countries of South East Asia), the Middle Eastern region, Africa and onwards to Europe.

Through six economic corridors all countries and regions will be linked with China in the process of completion of BRI, in fact a global connectivity and linkage.

The Chinese roadmap for the BRI is a well-conceived idea with a broader desire to create connectivity and linkages at three levels; the political engagement, economic viability and social linkages.

The political engagements also known as political relationships include a broad range of actions and activities through which nation states develop broad consensus on issues of common interests.

This is the foundation of other two aspects; economic and social relationship, indeed it is building bridges between nations and regions.

The economic viabilities and opportunities are incentives for the states which act as a pivot to other aspects in an era of globalization.

It is in fact the outcome of political relationship and a way forward to create long-term social linkages.

On its part, the social linkages are meant to reinforce and cement the political engagements and economic opportunities by creating the most needed social space.

At the time of conceiving BRI, the Chinese leadership must have thought of these significant aspects mentioned above.

These aspects can be broadly interpreted into opportunities and challenges. Covering the opportunities first, there are numerous opportunities.

The economies linked via BRI project are accounted for “one-third of global GDP and trade”. Similarly it is almost two-thirds of global population, covering bulk of international community.

The sheer size of BRI itself is the biggest opportunity initially for the nations and regions which will be connected through various economic corridors.

These economic corridors will provide further connections and opportunities for the states and regions otherwise not forming part of the initial plan of BRI.

Starting from South and Central Asia and reaching over to African continent, the projects planned within the ambit of BRI would benefit a massive number of deprived societies and communities and classes and “huge swaths of the world’s economies, with large positive spill over effects on global welfare”.

The unique opportunity, BRI will provide for various regions and states are the integration of unexplored and unexploited regions and their economic resources which have stalled the developmental process in those areas.

Resultantly, the people of these states and regions are behind the developed parts of the world from all aspects.

Through the systematic process of connectivity and infrastructural development, the BRI project will enable the exploration of local unexplored resources for their greater usages through trade and commerce which ensure local development and economic wellbeing of the people.

The outcome and the biggest opportunity will be the integration of these dormant and ignored regions and their resources into global economic prospects while enabling the people to economically empower themselves with multiple avenues open to them.

The process of connectivity and regional integration which constitute essence of BRI will greatly reduce the time and space problems, needed for the smooth flow of raw material as well as the manufactured goods from the place of origin to local and international markets.

Analysing the BRI project from the perspective of connectivity would reveal that, its major focus is on two aspects; the infrastructural development (connectivity) and the needed projects of energy.

In a way, it is a two way passage for boosting the process of trade and commerce from state to state and globally to international markets.

While being away from African and European continents China would be the primary beneficiary of this process.

Through improvement of capacity and network of roads and railways and other transport infrastructure would greatly facilitate the “cross-border trade, increased investment, and improved growth in BRI economies.”

While there are enormous opportunities, emerging from BRI, upon its successful completion, there are intrinsic challenges too which may hamper the smooth progress of BRI.

The primary challenge is an undeclared economic war between United States and China. The clashing interests of these two great powers are dividing the states and regions for securing their respective economic and political interests in an environment of uncertainty.

Besides, there is general impression that major economic benefits of BRI would go to China despite reliance of the project on the existing infrastructure of the local states and their own economic resources.

The general perception is that, there will be less benefit to other countries linked with BRI project besides draining their own economies and resources.

Even among the countries found willing to be part of BRI there exist suspicion, resistance, and public criticism, considering it as a Chinese project rather owning it.

Indeed, BRI is a transcontinental long-term project which will directly and indirectly benefit more than two-third of the global population.

In order to benefit from it, let's concentrate on its sheer size, vitality, enormity, transcontinental connectivity and widespread political, economic and social linkages which will integrate global

international societies by two ways; minimizing the conflicts and empowering through economic opportunities.

— The writer is Professor of Politics and IR at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-challenges-and-opportunities-by-dr-muhammad-khan>

Make Gawadar a success model

It was during previous government of PML (N) that practical work on multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was not only started but several important infrastructure projects such as those of power and road were also completed in their tenure.

Hence, expectations are high that since the party is once again back in power, pace of work on the project will see rapid acceleration.

It is also expected that once complete operation of Gawadar port starts it would accrue real economic benefits.

Addressing a ceremony in Karachi on Saturday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also admitted that Pakistan's economic future is linked to the success of CPEC with Gwadar Port as an important component.

The PM is absolutely right in his assertion, as ports undeniably constitute an important economic activity in coastal areas.

The higher the throughput of goods and passengers year-on-year, the more infrastructure, provisions and associated services are required which ultimately bring varying degrees of benefits to economy and to the country.

Ports are also important for support of economic activities in the hinterland since they act as a crucial connection between sea and land transport.

As a supplier of jobs, ports do not only serve an economic but also a social function. In terms of load carried, seaway transportation is the cheapest and most effective transportation system compared to other systems.

Industries require a safe and cheap means of exporting finished goods and importing raw materials.

Hence majority of industries in the world are located in coastal belts, in the vicinity of major ports.

These industries in turn, influence lives of the employees and indirect benefactors. The way ports of UAE and Singapore are immensely contributing to economies of their respective countries is before everybody and we have no doubt in saying that given its strategic location and proximity to the Strait of Hormuz, Gawadar deep sea port also has the potential to become one of the busiest ports in the region.

The strategic importance of Gwadar lies because of its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz (connecting Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman).

More than twenty percent of world's oil passes and more than seventy percent of world trade passes through it every day.

Hence, Gawadar with right kind of interventions can emerge a key port that should not be seen in the context of a competitor rather it would supplement regional trade.

Given the macroeconomic challenges faced by Pakistan, Gawadar port and industrialisation there is a low hanging fruit that can be plucked at the earliest considering its prospect of international connectivity and suitable cost of transportation.

Without wasting any further time, there is a dire need to address problems faced by Gawadar.

A state of the art infrastructure needs to be established there, which attracts international traders and foreign businessmen to this land. In the context of Gawadar port, role of Pakistan Navy has also gained far more significance.

PM Shehbaz Sharif, at the Karachi ceremony, also stressed the need for a strong and vibrant Navy than ever before because of growing blue economy, marine security and strategic defence.

It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan Navy has always lived up to the occasion. It has adopted a multi-pronged approach to deal with prevailing challenges such as beefing up security at Gwadar Port, conducting security patrols and coastal exercises, enhancing maritime domain awareness and engaging law enforcement agencies.

It is really important to lace naval force with all the necessary equipment and latest weaponry system as safe and secure maritime environment in the Indian Ocean region in general and the Arabian Sea in particular is very important to make Gawadar Port a success model.

Our enemy will never refrain from its ploys to undermine this process. Hence we have to further strengthen our naval force by ensuring availability of necessary resources to it in order to foil evil designs of the enemy.

<https://pakobserver.net/make-gawadar-a-success-model/>

Chinese companies play vital role in Pakistan's PV Sector

As the Government strives to make transformational changes in the power system by exploring affordable alternative energy sources, Chinese companies are playing a leading role as installers and service providers for on-grid, off-grid, and hybrid energy in the country.

According to Gwadar Pro, alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), Ministry of Energy besides its main objective to facilitate, promotes alternative and renewable energies (AREs) also carries out certification of service providers, vendors, and installers of solar systems under AEDB (Certification) Regulations, 2018 to facilitate the consumers and distribution companies (DISCOs).

According to AEDB's list issued on June 24, 2022, amongst the certified installers under AEDB (Certification) Regulations, 2021, Category C-1 (up to and above 500 kW), China's Zonergy (Tianjin) Company Limited is on top of the list of 84 companies.

Zonergy has captured over 30% market share of distributed optical storage, making the company a well-known brand in Pakistan.

Similarly, in the list of companies falling under Category ARE-V1, with installations of capacity up to 1000 kW, China's M/s Ningbo Green Light Energy (Private) Limited has occupied the second position. The list is also issued on June 24 under AEDB Certification Regulation 2018 which contains 19 companies. Currently, there are more than 160 active AEDB certified installers compared to 104 in 2021 which shows an increase of 55 percent. Different Chinese companies are included in categories V-1, V-2, V-3, C-1, C-2, and C-3 of AEDB.

The potential for solar power in Pakistan is high, as sunlight is available abundantly almost throughout the country. Currently, the capacity share of these renewable resources is small, but it is expected to increase sharply, as reflected in the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy 2019. The installed capacity of solar is 600 MW which is around 1.4 percent of the total installed capacity.

Overall, there is an increase in the percentage share of renewable energy including solar which is a good sign for the economy as well as for the environment. "The percentage contribution of solar has increased from 1.07 percent in July-April FY2021 to 1.4 percent during July-April FY2022," according to an official document available with Gwadar Pro.

The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB), which is now merged with AEDB, is aiming to continue prioritizing indigenous and renewable-resource. During July-Mar FY2022, a total of 10,783 net metering-based systems of 196.77 MW capacity were installed by different segments of consumers. As of December 31, 2021, the number of net-metering-based solar installations had reached 17,950 with a cumulative capacity of 305.79 MW.

The Government is committed to the global agenda of SDGs goal 7 and investing in renewable and alternative sources of energy to cater to Pakistan's growing energy demand.

In this regard, the gigantic target would be to add 37,339 MW of renewable energy projects (Wind, Solar, Bagasse, and Hydro) by 2030.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-companies-play-vital-role-in-pakistans-pv-sector/>

New electricity market regime to attract more Chinese investment

The introduction of a wholesale electricity market in Pakistan will attract more Chinese investment in the renewable energy sector of the country, an investment expert told Gwadar Pro.

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on June 6 awarded market operator license to Central Power Purchasing Authority-Guarantee (CPPA-G) under the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) initiative.

The new regime allows large consumers of 1 megawatts or above to directly purchase electricity from the generation or transmission company of their choice at mutually-agreed tariffs and terms and conditions. The new regulations will also allow the generation companies to utilise existing transmission lines to supply electricity to their clients in case of remote generation facilities.

Pakistan was struggling from the last 30 years to implement this regime, NEPRA said.

CTBCM will open Pakistan's power sector, especially the renewable energy market, to international investors. As Chinese renewable energy firms are already involved in several solar and wind energy projects in Pakistan, they will be able to play a lead role as they have better knowledge of the local market dynamics, an investment analyst with Dubai-based Burj Capital said. He said that as the Chinese firms executing larger projects, they will engage local firms for smaller projects, thus expanding opportunities for Pakistani companies as well.

For example, Huawei is already establishing its mark in the Pakistani market with its solar inverters by providing quality devices at affordable costs.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/new-electricity-market-regime-to-attract-more-chinese-investment/>

The Nation

Super Tax Timing Reversed Benefit Of Chinese Loan To Support Economy

ISLAMABAD – The business community on Sunday said that the wrong timing of Super Tax announcement has reversed positive impact of Chinese loan to help stabilize falling reserves and support the economy.

Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) newly-elected Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Haroon Shafiq Chaudhary and vice chairman Raja Adeel Ashfaq, observed that the much-awaited Chinese inflows of \$2.3 billion is supposed to boost the sliding foreign exchange reserves of the country but the mismanagement, incompetency, lack of vision and inappropriate timing of super tax imposition has reversed the situation at all.

The PIAF chairman said that Pakistan and China, on June 23, signed a commercial loan deal of RMB 15 billion equal to \$2.3 billion. The agreed amount arrived into the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) account, increasing our foreign exchange reserves. After the arrival of these inflows, the total liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the country are likely to cross the \$16 billion mark after accumulating the external debt payments. But the untimely imposition of 10% Super Tax on large-scale industries has shaken the whole economy as it has rattled the stock market, which fell by record more than 2,000 points (almost 5%) in a single day though the same market was flying up while rupee strengthened against dollar by almost Rs5 following the news of Chinese loan approval for Pakistan. He said that for the sake of an installment of only \$ 900 million from the International Monetary Fund the government has destroyed the country's economy. He said that due to expensive electricity and rising prices of gas and petroleum products, factories and industrial zones were already in a state of turmoil. And yet the coalition government imposed a

super tax on major industries — including cement, fertilizer and LNG, banking, automobile, oil and gas, sugar, steel, chemicals, beverages and aviation — which was equal to closing down these industries. Haroon Shafiq Chaudhary said that these industries created most of the employment opportunities in the country as they provided jobs to millions, and pointed out that soon after Finance Minister Miftah Ismail's speech about the revised federal budget, the stock market crashed, causing a loss of Rs 230 billion to the traders. This was the third time that the exchange had crashed in the last 11 weeks.

PIAF vice chairman Raja Adeel Ashfaq said that the economic policies of the present government were beyond the comprehension of traders and industrialists and it seemed as if the country was rapidly moving towards default. He said that imposition of super tax by the government would have a very negative impact which would not only increase the prices of our products from the rival countries but also deprive the country of earning a lot of foreign exchange. Raja Adeel said that we are already competing in the global markets with limited resources which are no less than fighting a war. He said the cost of doing business in the country is already at an all-time high and 13.75% interest rate will not allow the economy to grow at any meaningful level and as far as exports are concerned, raw material prices have already made them uncompetitive.

Businessmen call for making efforts to bring unregistered sectors in tax net

Meanwhile, the business community on Sunday said that the super tax means taxing the already taxed even more, as it would squeeze the formal and registered sectors of the economy. Hitting hard at the government for levying 10 percent super tax on businesses, Friends of Economic & Business Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar warned that it would trigger an avalanche of inflation, leading to closure of documented small businesses, factories and SMEs owing to unbearable cost.

He was of the view that the tax would destroy small traders and it would unleash a storm of inflation in the country. He was of the view that if the government imposed fixed tax, then the big fish would have dodged it. Kashif Anwar said that the economy is nose-diving and such a measure at this time will reverse the industrialization momentum. He said that the industry was already facing crippling costs due to rising prices of commodities and energy, adding this super tax will be priced in their balance sheets and passed on to the customers in many cases, leading to escalate the inflation further.

He lashed out at the government for putting 10 percent levy saying it would result in closure of many industrial units. Lambasting the government for levying the tax, he said that it would crush the economy, exacerbate inflation and joblessness in the country, besides increasing imports and sliding the country into economic disaster. He said this tax is an attack on those sectors of the economy that have the potential of growth and which can increase production and livelihood. It would further squeeze the formal sector of economy and traders would pass on the tax to customers in the shape of higher prices of commodities, he added.

He said that putting more burdens on trade and industry would lead to a severe crisis in the country. He suggested to the government that instead of imposing more burdens on the already registered sector, efforts should be made to bring other unregistered sectors in the tax net so as to increase the revenue of the country in the right direction. He said that in order to get rid of the IMF, it was necessary to increase its exports by giving incentives to the value added sectors so that a lot of foreign exchange can be earned for country and the country can avoid default. No country in the world can charge 39 percent tax to corporations and still keep the economy afloat, he added. Additionally, new private-sector and foreign investments dry up completely in an uncompetitive market, he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/27/super-tax-timing-reversed-benefit-of-chinese-loan-to-support-economy/>

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Business Recorder

Chinese CG visits PCJCCI

LAHORE: Zhao Shireen, Consul General China visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) yesterday. Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI welcomed him along with other executive members of PCJCCI. The visit was followed by a press conference which was attended by many top notch businessmen from China and Pakistan which includes Tan Zidiong, CEO Norinco Intl Alen, Representative, Chen Hui Company, Sew, Representative Miniso Pakistan, Zhang Hin Ping, Representative, Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, Li Huaxin, General Manager, Xinjiang Jinghua Seed, Khalid Raffique Choudhry, EC Member PCJCCI, Moazam Ghurki, CEO Intute PVT Ltd, Daud Ahmed, EC Member PCJCCI, Zaki Aijaz, CEO Roshan Packages.

Zhao Shireen Counsel General of China appreciated the working of PCJCCI related to regional connectivity and bilateral trade. He also praised various initiatives of chamber which includes; Pak China Knowledge Portal, China-Way magazine, Chinese language courses and Pak China Technology Gateway. He apprised that we stand with Pakistan at this hour of crisis and economic instability.

He also said that China's foreign policy is crystal clear and unbiased; we do not interfere in other country's economic and foreign affairs around the world nor do we want to see interference by other foreign powers in to China's. We assure our fullest mutual support and help for Pakistan without any discrimination or biasedness for any political party.

Upon questioning about CPEC he said that Pakistan is the owner of all the CPEC projects and we are here to facilitate them in all aspects. The trade, investment, business between two nations could be much better if we work with unity and harmony. So here I will raise my motto; "Let's work together; let's grow together".

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said while his welcome address that China has emerged as second largest economy of the world and International experts are envisaging a far bigger role for China on the economic horizon of the world. The way China managed the global financial crisis is commendable and an example of hard work for all of us.

Wang Zihai, President PCJCCI also joined the press conference through zoom and he said that Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry is resolute to serve as a model chamber and a vibrant platform for promoting mutual investment and friendship between Pakistan and China. Our objective is to adopt an innovative stratagem to promote trade and development not only between Pakistan and China but also over the entire region in order to ensure future stability, security and prosperity for all of us.

Sarfraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General thanked the Consul General China for his precious time and said that we are endeavouring to build a better and prosperous future of Pakistan with the cooperation of China.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/28/4-page/934822-news.html>

Daily Times

Sino techs to increase Pakistan's cherry presence in China

It's cherry season in China now and there is nothing better than champing on some sweet tasting cherries for summer.

On the online shopping platforms, cherries imported from overseas have been well received by Chinese consumers, of which mostly are from Chile.

The price of Chile cherries (32+mm) on China's online shopping websites is equivalent to about \$55 per kilogram, revealing enormous profit potential. Pakistani cherries, with beautiful appearance and high sweetness, can't miss the chance to enter China, one of the largest consumer markets in the world.

"Pakistani cherry looks quite good and the colour turns dark when it matures. At present, cherries of dark colour are especially loved by Chinese customers," Wang Zhihua, General Manager, Shaanxi Jinguo Cherry Industrial Development Co., Ltd. told CEN.

More importantly, "there is a time difference of 10 days to half a month between most Chinese cherries and foreign cherries' maturity. Therefore, if Pakistani cherries can enter the Chinese market, there're profitable opportunities," Li Wei, Business Representative, Huazhilong International Trade Co., Ltd. said. In addition, as he sees it, the big temperature difference between day and night as well as the adequate sunlight in Pakistan confers more competitiveness on Pakistani cherry's taste.

So far, the cherry planting area in Pakistan has exceeded 2,500 hectares, and Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan are the two main cherry-producing places. It is learned that GB region produces 4,000 metric tons of cherry per season, and local consumption is limited. If GB's cherries can enter China, the export value can be huge.

“When the pandemic ends, Pakistani cherry should have the chance of being exported to China,” Li Wei said.

Before being allowed to export, many Chinese enterprises are eager to help Pakistani farmers with leading technologies to let their cherries better prepared for entering China.

In China, virus-free cherry seedlings, having the advantages of healthy root system, robust growth and high survival rate in field planting, are being used to realize high and stable yield.

“We take the stem tip of a cherry bud. When its diameter grows to 0.02mm, we extract it from a special nutrient solution, and let it expand to 10 times and 100 times and become a virus-free cherry seedling, with which the main cherry tree diseases can be prevented,” Wang Zhihua said.

Chinese agricultural experts also shared their experience of the pesticide application. “During early flowering, pesticides must not be used. Once pesticides are applied, bees will fly away as soon as they smell them, which will greatly affect pollination,” Lv Pinghui, Professor, College of Forestry, Northwest A&F University said.

“In the evening, poplar and willow branches sprayed with 50pc malathion EC and 50pc phoxim EC 1000-1500 times can be erected in the orchard clearing, which can trap and kill scarab beetles. Appropriate intercropping of spinach and rape in cherry orchard in spring can also help trap pests and then kill them with pesticides,” • he added.

Due to the limitations of fresh keeping and logistics technology, which need to be updated simultaneously, cherries in GB valley are hard to reach Karachi, let alone China thousands of miles away.

“It can only survive for 6 to 7 days. You can keep it safe at a maximum of one week. We used our old traditional ways to transport these cherries to the markets. However, it caused many loses,” Muhammad Ali Akbar, Pakistani fruit businessman told CEN.

Chinese companies are making efforts to deepen cooperation with Pakistan in cherry cultivation and transportation.

With advanced Chinese technology, they hope Pakistan’s high-quality cherries could arrive China soon.

“At present, with our orchard management technology, we are able to make Pakistani cherries’ variety, appearance and quality better.

We will also send technicians of inorganic fertilizer bagging, picking, disinfection and transportation to Pakistan.

Moreover, we have our own logistics team. Next year, in Pakistan, we will put great emphasis on developing the cold chain technology of agricultural products,” Li Wei said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/959248/sino-techs-to-increase-pakistans-cherry-presence-in-china/>

Dawn News

Islamabad's participation in China-hosted event 'blocked by New Delhi'

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: India obstructed Pakistan's participation in a conference hosted by China last week. Pakistan's absence from the 'High-level Dialogue on Global Development' on the sidelines of BRICS summit on Friday prompted speculations about the reasons for not being invited to the multilateral event.

Foreign Office, while clarifying the situation on Monday, said: "Regrettably one member blocked Pakistan's participation." The FO did not name any country, but a diplomatic source on the background confirmed that it was India.

Besides the five members of BRICS — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — the event held in a virtual format was participated by Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Malaysia and Thailand.

A communique issued after the meeting said the leaders of 18 countries discussed global development issues of common interest and reached extensive consensus on promoting cooperation in the areas of poverty reduction, for development, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing climate change and green development, industrialisation, digital economy and connectivity.

Indian opposition to Pakistan's participation in multilateral events is well known, but it was surprising for many that Beijing succumbed to Indian pressure.

FO spokesman Asim Iftikhar said China had engaged with Pakistan on this issue prior to the BRICS meetings. He explained that at BRICS decisions are taken after consultations with all members, including on extending invitation to non-members.

Pakistan's absence was significant because this event is being seen as the first step towards the expected expansion of BRICS.

Mr Iftikhar expressed the hope that "principles of inclusivity" would be observed at future events of the organisation in view of the overall interests of developing world. He cautioned against taking such a decision on the basis of "narrow geo-political considerations".

The spokesman noted Pakistan's desire to work with developing countries, including the BRICS members, for addressing the challenges faced by the global community. He said Pakistan appreciates China's role in promoting the interests of developing countries.

"Together with China, Pakistan has been a strong voice for global peace, shared prosperity and inclusive development. Pakistan is the current chair of G77 plus China and also part of group of friends of the Global Development Initiative(GDI)," he added.

Rejecting rumours of China turning a cold shoulder to Pakistan, Mr Iftikhar said Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and their iron brotherhood remains rock solid. “The two countries are fully committed to taking our all-round cooperation to higher levels both bilaterally and multilaterally,” he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697097/islamabads-participation-in-china-hosted-event-blocked-by-new-delhi>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan important member of group of friends of GDI: China

China says Pakistan is an important member of the group of friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian during a regular briefing in Beijing Monday said that China highly values the important role of Pakistan in advancing implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for a sustainable development.

“China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperative partners. Pakistan is an important member of the group of friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI),” he said.

“China highly values the important role of Pakistan in promoting global development and advancing implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for a sustainable development and booting regional cooperation,” he said. Zhao Lijian said that China and Pakistan maintained close communication and coordination.

“We have conducted substantial cooperation in the field of development, which has delivered tangible benefits to the people of both countries and the region,” he added. He remarked that China would continue to make Pakistan a priority partner in implementing the global development initiative.

“We will continue to work with the country (Pakistan) to advance the global development agenda,” he added. The spokesperson said that the decision to hold the high level dialogue on global development was based on consultation among BRICS countries. NNI

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-important-member-of-group-of-friends-of-gdi-china/>

CDWP okays 132 kV transmission line for Gwadar

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved a 132kV transmission line from Jiwani to Gwadar.

The CDWP meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, which approved 13 projects including the 132kV line for Gwadar, worth Rs 34.8 billion, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

As per details, the project namely the Construction of 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV, transmission line from Jiwani to Gwadar (94km), will be completed with Rs 2,322.940 million.

The 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV will be financed through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

In the FY 2022-23 budget, the government has earmarked Rs 83,101.262 million for various ongoing and new schemes in the power sector. PSDP is an important policy instrument aiming to achieve sustainable economic growth and socio-economic objectives of the Government.

Gwadar relies on imported electricity from Iran and with the construction of the 132kV line, the port city will be connected to the National Grid for the first time.

The Government is making all-out efforts to solve the electricity problem of Gwadar city at the earliest. Earlier this month, Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement to supply additional 100 megawatts of electricity to fulfill the electricity needs of Gwadar.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Gwadar last Friday stated that the contractor would be “mobilized within 15 days” to start work on importing electricity from Iran to the coastal areas of Balochistan. He also ordered the completion of the project “in three months” instead of the proposed six months, the deadline set by the government earlier.

<https://pakobserver.net/cdwp-okays-132-kv-transmission-line-for-gwadar/>

The Express Tribune

China vows support for industrial growth

Will help Punjab in development of industrial parks, technology transfer

LAHORE: Newly-appointed Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren has said that collaboration in various sectors of the economy between Punjab and China can push economic ties to new highs and vowed that the Chinese Consulate in Lahore will fully cooperate to accelerate business to-business engagement for industrial growth.

The consul general expressed these views while visiting the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) where issues of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations and enhancing investment by Chinese enterprises in Punjab were discussed. The consul general said that China wanted to see stable and sustainable development in Punjab, adding that agricultural technology, social sector, training of manpower and industrial development were the main areas at the current development stage of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“China will help Punjab in the development of industrial parks, transfer of technology and capacity building of human resources,” he announced.

The Chinese envoy emphasised that cooperation between Punjab and China in the fields of agriculture, technical education, livestock and tourism needed to be enhanced to utilise the real potential. PBIT CEO Ahmer Mallick said that the current government was focusing on promoting export-led progress of the industry and import substitution for sustainable economic growth.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363682/china-vows-support-for-industrial-growth>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین ہمہ وقت سٹریٹجک شراکت دار: پاکستان

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے برکس اجلاس کی کامیاب میزبانی پر چین کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے تنظیم کے ایک رکن ملک کی جانب سے پاکستان کو اجلاس میں شرکت سے روکنے پر افسوس کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ برکس اجلاس کے موقع پر منعقدہ 'عالمی ترقی پر اعلیٰ سطحی مکالمے' کے بارے میں ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے جاری بیان میں کہا کہ پاکستان عالمی برادری کو درپیش چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کے لیے برکس کے رکن ملکوں سمیت تمام ترقی پذیر ممالک کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے۔ اس سال "عالمی ترقی پر اعلیٰ سطحی ڈائیلاگ" برکس کی جانب سے منعقد کیا گیا جس میں متعدد ترقی پذیر اور ابھرتی ہوئی معیشتوں کو مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔ بیان میں کہا گیا کہ چین میزبان ملک ہونے کے ناطے برکس اجلاس سے قبل پاکستان کے ساتھ بات چیت میں شامل رہا ہے، برکس رکن ممالک کے ساتھ مشاورت کے بعد فیصلے کیے جاتے ہیں جبکہ غیر رکن ممالک کو اجلاس میں شرکت کی دعوت دی جاتی ہے۔ ترجمان نے اس بات پر افسوس کا اظہار کیا کہ ایک رکن نے پاکستان کی شرکت کو روک دیا تاہم ہم امید کرتے ہیں تنظیم کی مستقبل کی شمولیت ترقی پذیر دنیا کے مجموعی مفادات کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اور اس انداز میں شمولیت کے اصولوں پر مبنی ہوگی جو کہ تنگ جغرافیائی سیاسی تحفظات سے مبرا ہو۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے اپنے بیان میں مزید کہا کہ ہم ترقی پذیر ممالک کے مفادات کے فروغ میں چین کے کردار کو سراہتے ہیں، پاکستان چین کے ساتھ مل کر عالمی امن، مشترکہ خوشحالی اور جامع ترقی کے لیے ایک مضبوط آواز رہا ہے۔ پاکستان جی 77 پلس چین کا موجودہ سربراہ ہے اور گلوبل ڈویلپمنٹ انیٹی ایٹو کے دوستوں کے گروپ کا بھی حصہ ہے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین ہمہ وقت سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں اور ہمارا آہنی بھائی چارہ مضبوط بنیادوں پر استوار ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین دو طرفہ اور کثیر جہتی سطحوں پر ہمہ جہتی تعاون کو اعلیٰ سطحوں تک لے جانے کے لیے پوری طرح پر عزم ہیں۔ یہ امر قابل ذکر ہے کہ برکس تنظیم میں برازیل، روس، بھارت، چین اور جنوبی افریقہ شامل ہیں۔ اس کے جواب میں چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے بیجنگ میں ڈویلپمنٹ ڈائیلاگ میں پاکستان کی عدم شرکت پر وضاحت دی ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ ڈویلپمنٹ ڈائیلاگ برکس ممالک کی مشاورت سے ہوا تھا۔ پاکستان گروپ آف فرینڈز کا اہم رکن ہے۔ چین گلوبل ڈویلپمنٹ کیلئے پاکستانی کوششوں کی قدر کرتا ہے۔ گلوبل ڈویلپمنٹ کے ایجنڈے پر پاکستان کے ساتھ کام جاری رکھیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-28/page-1/detail-28>

June 29, 2022

Dawn News

BRICS exclusion

FOR Pakistan's sustained economic progress, it is essential for the country to maintain strong linkages with multilateral bodies that focus on trade and development. In this regard, it is unfortunate that Pakistan was unable to attend the High-level Dialogue on Global Development hosted on the sidelines of the virtual BRICS summit by China. Aside from the BRICS members, a number of states, including from this region, participated in the event, which is being viewed as the first step towards the expansion of the multilateral body. The Foreign Office says "one member" blocked Pakistan's attendance, with sources telling this paper that India — a founding member of BRICS — was responsible for this country's exclusion. This, sadly, is the same attitude that has resulted in the paralysis of Saarc. Moreover, the authorities need to explore the

reason why China did not push harder for Pakistan's inclusion in the event, even though decisions within BRICS are taken with the consultation of all members. And though the FO insists Islamabad-Beijing ties are as strong as ever, irritants, if any, must be removed using diplomatic channels to ensure that bilateral relations remain strong.

It is possible that China is concerned about the security of its nationals working in Pakistan, especially after the terrorist attack at Karachi University in April in which three Chinese citizens were among the victims. The state needs to convince Beijing that it is doing all possible to ensure the security of Chinese nationals, and to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist attacks targeting Beijing's citizens. However, it must also be said that were it not for China's behind-the-scenes help, Pakistan's exit from the FATF grey list would have been more difficult. It is therefore hoped that bilateral cooperation continues at the highest levels, and Pakistan is able to one day join BRICS and other development-focused bodies. Where India's malevolent actions towards this country are concerned, there needs to be a new thinking in the subcontinent that focuses on cooperation instead of perpetual confrontation. India's efforts to isolate Pakistan internationally will do little to bring peace to the region. Instead of indulging in mutually damaging behaviour, both states need to start afresh and work towards regional integration and South-South cooperation in general. Pakistan, thus, must liaise with its foreign friends, and keep channels open with perceived external foes, to ensure that this country has representation at all forums where developing economies gather for mutual benefit.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697287/brics-exclusion>

Pakistan Observer

People's bus service: 100 more buses reach Karachi from China

Good news for Karachiites as 100 more buses for Peoples Intra-District Bus Service have arrived at Karachi Port from China on Tuesday. Sindh Minister for Information and Transport and Mass Transit Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that 100 more buses of Peoples Intra-District Bus Service from China have reached Karachi port.

Memon said that route one of People's Bus Service has become operational, yesterday and Inshallah, red buses will be seen running on route 2 on July 1, while buses will be seen operational on all seven routes in Karachi within two months.

The provincial minister said that Pakistan People's Party is fast-moving to fulfill the promise made to the citizens of Karachi. Soon after the launch of the Red Bus Service, Orange Line will also be launched for the citizens of Orangi.

Sharjeel Memon said that a total of 240 modern buses of the Peoples Bus Service have reached Karachi. He promised the citizens of Karachi that the PPP government will bring thousands of buses in a year or two. Progress has been made on setting up a manufacturing plant.

The provincial minister said that the credit for bringing buses goes to PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former president Asif Ali Zardari and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

<https://pakobserver.net/peoples-bus-service-100-more-buses-reach-karachi-from-china/>

Can CPEC add benefits to Pakistan-Turkey Relations

Dr. Farah Naz

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), reminiscent of the Silk Road, is a massive infrastructure project that would stretch from East Asia to Europe.

The Silk Road Initiative is aimed to expand China westward. With this Central Asia became the epicentre of globalization by connecting eastern and western markets.

This route peaked during the Roman and Byzantine empires but the Crusaders and Mongols dampened the trade routes and left behind Central Asian countries economically isolated and the matter of the fact is that today they depend on Russian remittances.

But here the issue arises: where is China standing today? Did China stop working on its Silk Road project despite knowing the immense benefits involved?

Well, China will never give up on this project. China came up with a plan One Belt One Road initiative, later known as Belt and Road Initiative.

President Xi Jinping launched BRI in 2013 intending to introduce a vast collection of development and investment initiatives from East Asia to Europe. This project streamlined border crossings both westwards through the mountainous former Soviet Republics and Southward to Pakistan – India and the rest of South-East Asia.

The BRI plan is two-pronged: 1) The overland silk road economic belt; 2) The Maritime Silk Road. The aim is to set a new trend toward a multipolar world; Economic globalization; Cultural diversity; Greater IT application, a global free trade regime and an open world economy in the spirit of open regional cooperation.

President Xi's vision is the establishment of a network of railways, energy pipelines, highways, IT industry, Special Economic Zones, international airports and maritime ports etc. The aim and vision seem to be an excellent opportunity for all the regional states to achieve their larger economic and security interests.

So far 146 countries (as of March 2022) with roughly 2/3 of the world population, over 40% of world GDP and ¾ of global energy reserves have joined the BRI. But here the question arises can CPEC be extended to include Turkey or not? The answer is yes! CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI worth \$60 billion.

CPEC is not just a bilateral initiative but it has a regional perspective. It has the potential to become a truly regional initiative where CPEC can be extended to the Central Asian States, Afghanistan, Turkey and Oman.

It is aimed at promoting: An orderly and free flow of economic factors; Highly efficient allocation of resources and deep integration of markets; Encouraging the countries along the Belt and Road to achieve economic policy coordination and carry out broader and more in-depth regional cooperation of higher standards; and jointly creating an open, inclusive and balanced regional economic cooperation architecture that benefits all.

The project aims to enhance/establish energy, roads, ports, special economic zones and international airport infrastructure.

CPEC, as a symbol of cooperation between China and Pakistan, envisages the establishment of 2700 kilometers of road, railway, fiber connection, energy pipelines, industrial zones, and exclusive economic zones (MONE).

Starting from China's Xinjiang region and reaching the Gwadar coastal city of Pakistan's Arabian Gulf exit, the line is one of the most important steps for China's Belt and Road Initiative.

With its strategic partnership, CPEC has a cooperation mode, "1+4", with the following four pillars: Development and operation of Gwadar Port under modern conditions, construction of infrastructure, the establishment of trade and power lines from China to Pakistan and exclusive economic zones in China's investment in Pakistan.

The corridor has a leading position in the growth of the Pakistani economy as well as providing access to the Hormuz and Bab al Mandab straits, which play an important role in the energy import from China and Gwadar Port. But in the existing CPEC environment how to include Turkey?

Pakistan and Turkey are iron brothers. They supported each other through thick and thin. If we look at the GDP of both countries they stand at: Pakistan's GDP is \$348 B (44 ranked) while Turkey's GDP is \$692 B (23 ranked).

CPEC being a bilateral partnership can be transformed as a "trilateral partnership" between China, Pakistan, and Turkey.

All three states can work towards achieving common trade, investment and improving on major imports and exports on both sides. If we look at the imports and exports between Pakistan and Turkey, Pakistan imports from Turkey was US\$533 million during 2021 while Pakistan exports to Turkey was US\$293.58 million during 2021.

Pakistan largely exports electric generator sets (\$92 million), cotton (112 million) etc. while importing machinery, nuclear reactors and boilers (\$102 million), cotton (\$79 million) etc.

Both Turkey and Pakistan are at the most strategic locations in the region. Throughout history, the South Asia region has been the apple of the world's eye with its ancient culture and wealth. By joining BRI-CPEC both countries can further improve their defence arrangements; maximize their regional connectivity and increase trade; can further enhance their economic partnership; improve their cultural ties; further build on mutual political and diplomatic relationships; and

work towards public welfare and better tourism facilities. It is a win-win situation. Now the question arises is it doable? The answer is again yes! This is not something new.

Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have been the members of the Regional Cooperation for Development RCD in the past. Therefore, through CPEC, the RCD can be revived with new and latest trends of development projects.

Pakistan and Turkey are already connected through RCD Asian Railway network and Asian Highway network hence CPEC will not be something starting from scratch. CPEC will help in achieving the old development and prosperity plan. Then why not?

<https://pakobserver.net/can-cpec-add-benefits-to-pakistan-turkey-relations-by-dr-farah-naz/>

CPEC Phase-II and New Kazakhstan

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is now on the rollercoaster. The incumbent government has been trying its best to remove all barriers for its early completion since its beginning.

On the other hand, the Republic of Kazakhstan has become an ideal country for CPEC participation because of its “booming economy”, “massive industrialization”, strong political will for greater regional connectivity and, above all, diversification of means of transportation. Especially the concept of New Kazakhstan has further consolidated its statehood, macro-economy and society alike. Thus prospects of CPEC connectivity with Kazakhstan are bright.

Time and again, Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin, has reiterated its resolve to extend all out cooperation to Pakistan to meet its growing energy needs which is indispensable for economic growth.

Most recently, during his visit to the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI), he met with the numerous business leaders of the province. He promised for early approval of visa applications sent through the QCCI and consequently would issue visas to the business people without any delay.

He pledged that Kazakhstan would further enhance its cooperation in trade, industry and education. He urged investors of the two countries to play a positive and productive part in further strengthening of bilateral trade relations by investing on a reciprocal basis. He mentioned that Kazakhstan has educational, tourism and business opportunities which should be tapped by Pakistani businessmen.

On the contrary to unending instability and uncertainty in Afghanistan encouraged many regional countries to follow a holistic and comprehensive means to overcome this perpetual hurdle in the greater regional connectivity by avoiding it through the implementation of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) which is a transit trade deal between China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for facilitating transit trade.

Obviously, the QTTA provides an alternative gateway to Central Asia by completely circumnavigating Afghanistan. Pakistan would use the Karakoram Highway, which connects Gilgit-Baltistan to China's Xinjiang region which links with Central Asian States. Pakistan would support the desire of many CIRs to become part of the QTTA. Kazakhstan has since long been expressing seriousness to implement the QTTA, which will enable Pakistan to export its products under QTTA to Central Asia.

In this connection, Kazakhstan is also very keen to invest in Pakistan's ports as it wants to have access to the market of Middle East countries and beyond. This expected investment will also help increase the regional connectivity for trade among the regional economies.

Kazakhstan Ambassador Kistafin said Gwadar port has immense potential for trade and Kazakhstan is keen in exploiting the port to increase its trade with other countries. In this context, he proposed that there are various areas of cooperation between the two brotherly countries, specifically in tourism and sports which could bring two nations even closer.

Most recently, for further strengthening of bilateral relations a large exhibition of Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan) products was arranged in the largest metropolis Almaty. Moreover, various business groups, tourist groups visited Pakistan and Kazakhstan is keen in signing an MoU regarding tourism with Pakistan.

Interestingly, the Republic of Kazakhstan is the starting point and connecting hub of the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI).

Kazakhstan shares a border to the East with China. It borders Russia to North and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and Iran to the South. It has an ideal "geographical" location for connecting China and the West through important routes under the flagship of BRI.

Today two of the six economic corridors of BRI pass through Kazakhstan connecting China with Europe, Iran and Western Asia. Mainly the New Eurasian Land Bridge and the China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor pass through it.

Interestingly, the unending Russia-Ukraine conflict has now transformed the so-called landlocked status of Kazakhstan into land-linked. It has now become an ideal connecting hub for trade between China and the EU.

BRI comprises 51 mega projects of US\$35 billion in Kazakhstan, in which US\$3.5 billion is invested in the International Centre for Border Cooperation Khorgos and a dry port on the eastern border with China.

Its remarkable investment includes the Shalkar-Beyneu Railways, the Zhezkazgan-Suksanl Railways, the Kuryl Seaport, the Unified System of Management "NOMAD" and Almaty-Sha Railway Line, Almaty bypass railways etc. Thus Kazakhstan is the "jewel" of BRI in Central Asia and beyond and CPEC is the flagship project of the BRI.

Furthermore, Kuryk Seaport has direct access to railway tracks which has already enhanced its "strategic" value.

The port is well located at the intersection of the East-West and North-South trade corridors (Iran, India and Russia) creating one of the fastest multinational routes for cargo delivery. It is meant to perform multi tasks mainly to increase Kazakhstan's trade activities with Caspian Sea Region (CSR) and transit potential of the Caspian Sea.

Furthermore, the Khorogos International Centre for Border Cooperation has been one of the important projects of BRI which supports Kazakhstan's state program of Nurly Zhol. It is indeed an entry point for Chinese goods shipped for Asia and Europe.

Thus Kazakhstan has an important place in BRI which has already further enhanced its socio-economic ties, geopolitical affiliation and geostrategic orientation with China. It has actually further diversified its energy supplies.

To conclude, CPEC and Kazakhstan have now become complementary partners of greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic prosperity.

In this connection many companies of Kazakhstan have shown keen interest to invest in Pakistan, especially in railways, infrastructural development of ports, pharmaceutical, sports and tourism sectors.

Kazakh-Pakistan Business Forum was held in Almaty. It was attended by more than 100 representatives of the business circles of the two countries. The Pakistani business was represented by manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods as well as a number of other companies.

In recent times, a Joint Business Council (JBC) comprising Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPBCCI) and Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan has been established that would further improve bilateral trade relations by getting together private business companies.

In another development, the Federal Cabinet has allowed the Kazakh Air Company SCAT Airlines to operate in Pakistan to start air travel between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, enabling direct air travel between the two countries and helping boost bilateral trade. Hopefully a direct air corridor will be established during this year.

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized the first ever Engineering and Health Care Show at Expo Centre Lahore where the relevant SMEs displayed their products. A large number of Kazakhstan private companies rigorously participated in this event.

I suggest that business-to-business links, reactivation of Bilateral Business Council, diversification of trade mix, signing of PTA/FTA, cooperation in education, culture, media, tourism and CPEC would be game changer for both the countries.

Moreover, reciprocal trade houses in Islamabad and Khorogos International free trade center would act like a balancing act for further promotion of bilateral trade.

Meaningful custom incentives, start of preferential items/sector trade, speeding up of non-trade items, media cooperation and formation of corridor of Knowledge would be the way forward. In which the Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) would play a vital role in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-ii-and-new-kazakhstan-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China's firm wins M-8 section contract

NHA says Rs9.2b contract given to 'most advantageous' bidder

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has declared a joint venture arrangement between two Pakistani firms and China's Geological Engineering Complex (SPGEC) as the "most advantageous" bidder for the construction of a section of Ratodero-Gwadar Motorway (M-8) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

SPGEC has offered to construct Package 2B of the 168km Awaran-Nall section of the Hoshab-Awaran-Khuzdar missing link in the M-8 motorway at the lowest cost of Rs9.18 billion, the NHA said in a statement.

As per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules, the NHA has to award the contract to the most advantageous bidder in two weeks.

The section is part of the project to construct a two-lane motorway facility from Hoshab to Khuzdar in Balochistan.

The project road starts from Awaran and terminates at the Basima-Khuzdar Road (N-30) in Nall area near Khuzdar. M-8 will follow the alignment of N-30 after Nall to connect with the Ratodero-Khuzdar section of M-8 at Khuzdar, which is already operational, the NHA said.

N-30 is currently under construction as a Rs400 billion Balochistan Development Package has been announced by the federal government, including CPEC, to connect Gwadar with the eastern parts of the province as well as Iran.

M-8 is an 892km-long east-west motorway connecting Sukkur and Larkana areas of Sindh to Gwadar.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363810/chinas-firm-wins-m-8-section-contract>

The Nation

PM To Inaugurate First CPEC Hydropower Project Today

ISLAMABAD – The 720-megawatts Karot hydropower project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has successfully passed the 168-hour long reliability test run and will start commercial operations from today, a testing engineer at Karot Power Company told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif will inaugurate the landmark CPEC project the same day, another official of Karot Power said.

Karot Power is a special-purpose vehicle incorporated in Pakistan for executing the project by China Three Gorges (CTG) South Asia Investment Ltd., a subsidiary of CTG.

The test run was launched on June 21 and concluded in the morning of June 28, the testing engineer said. During the period, all other necessary tests were also carried out, including the initial capacity test (ICT) meant to test all four units of the plant at a full capacity of 720MWs, he added.

All the tests were successful and the first hydropower plant under CPEC will achieve commercial operations date (COD) on June 29, he said.

Karot HPP has been completed at a cost of US\$1.72 billion. The project will play a vital role in Pakistan's energy security by providing clean and affordable electricity. The run-of-river facility has already contributed Rs4 billion worth of electricity to the national grid free of cost. The government has determined a tariff of 10 US cents per unit of electricity for Karot Power. "We will start charging electricity charges from June 29," the official said.

The reliability test was witnessed by independent international engineers and officials of relevant government departments, the official said.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/29/pm-to-inaugurate-first-cpec-hydropower-project-today/>

PIA To Start Islamabad-Chengdu Flights From July 6

ISLAMABAD – PIA will start direct weekly passenger flights between Islamabad and Chengdu, China from July 6, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday quoting a statement of the national flag carrier.

Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan, China, is the third destination other than Beijing for which PIA recently got operating licences from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

In March, PIA said that CAAC had allowed it to operate flights for Chinese cities of Xi'an and Guangzhou from Pakistan. Previously, the state-run airline was allowed to conduct flight operations for Beijing only. CAAC has also allowed PIA to operate chartered cargo flights for Kunming and Shenzhen while approval for flights for Kashgar (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) is under process, the airline said.

PIA has attributed the launch of weekly flights to a new destination in China to Pak-China friendship and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The new direct flights are expected to enhance trade and education cooperation between Pakistan and Sichuan, which already have multiple linkages. Pakistani students studying in China have also expressed their pleasure over the development.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/29/pia-to-start-islamabad-chengdu-flights-from-july-6/>

Jang News

عالمی ترقی میں پاکستان کا اہم کردار، ملکر کام کرتے رہیں گے، چین، برکس اجلاس کے بعد بیان

. بیجنگ (جنگ نیوز) چین نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی ترقی میں پاکستان کا کردار بہت اہم ہے اور چین ساتھ ملکر کام کرتا رہے گا

. تفصیلات کے مطابق برکس اجلاس کے بعد بیان دیتے ہوئے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ عالمی ترقی پر ڈائلاگ کا فیصلہ برکس ممالک میں مشاورت سے ہوا تھا

پاکستان گلوبل ڈیولپمنٹ انیشیٹیو کے دوستوں کے گروپ کا اہم رکن ہے۔ چین نے ایک رکن کی جانب سے برکس اجلاس میں شرکت روکنے کے بعد پاکستان کی حمایت کا اعادہ

کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ عالمی ترقی کا فروغ آگے بڑھانے میں پاکستان کے اہم کردار کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1105169>

June 30, 2022

Business Recorder

Bilawal reaffirms staunch support to One-China policy

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday received the high-level Chinese delegation at the Foreign Office led by Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Director of the Central Commission on Foreign Affairs of the CPC.

Director Yang was accompanied by Vice Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Vice Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and Deputy Secretary General of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

During the talks, the two sides held wide-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and comprehensively reviewed developments at the regional and international levels. Welcoming Director Yang to Islamabad, the Foreign Minister underscored that his visit reflected the strong momentum in high-level exchanges in recent months, and also signified the importance attached by both sides to further deepening and broadening the unshakable and time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's staunch support to the "One-China" policy and all core issues of China including Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and South China Sea. He also thanked for China's firm support to Pakistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty as well as steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The Foreign Minister underlined that over the years, China had immensely contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development. CPEC, the flagship of Belt and Road Initiative, had significantly bolstered Pakistan's energy and transport infrastructure. The Government was committed to fast-tracked progress on ongoing CPEC projects, and advance new projects, like ML-1 and Karachi Circular Railway, for Pakistan's development and the well-being of its people. Special focus was being accorded to increased Chinese investments in CPEC SEZs in order to catalyze industrial development and enhance employment and livelihood opportunities for the local people.

The Foreign Minister thanked China for its invaluable assistance for economic well-being and development. He thanked for the renewal of the RMB 15 billion (US \$ 2.3 billion) syndicate facility.

The Foreign Minister highlighted that the people of Pakistan had strong affinity with the brotherly Chinese people, who had always reinforced Pakistan's efforts for national development. He added that the Government was fully committed to ensuring safety, security and protection of Chinese workers and projects in Pakistan

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation and coordination between Pakistan and China in the security and defence sector, which was a factor of peace and stability in the region.

In the regional context, the Foreign Minister expressed concern at the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, aggravated by the recent earthquake. He highlighted the importance of unfreezing of Afghanistan's assets to ease the suffering of the Afghan people. The two sides agreed to remain in close contact and work together to further deepen the multi-faceted, strategic cooperative partnership for mutual benefit.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/30/2-page/935095-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan offers incentives, foolproof security to Chinese investors

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the growing economic linkages had deepened the roots of the abiding friendship between the peoples of Pakistan and China.

“Atop this unshakeable foundation, the Pakistan-China partnership would continue to play its valuable role as a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond,” the prime minister said during a meeting with Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its Foreign Affairs Commission, who called him.

The prime minister said that Pakistan stood ready to work closely with China for realizing both countries' shared vision of connectivity, prosperity and public well-being.

Pakistan would also continue to support Chinese investors with competitive incentives, access to high-quality infrastructure and unwavering security arrangements, he added. Director Yang Jiechi is accompanied by Vice Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Vice Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and Deputy Secretary General of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). The prime minister underscored the significance of Director Yang's visit for accelerating the implementation of the leaders' consensus on further enhancing bilateral relations across all domains. He highlighted that economic cooperation had become a mainstay of the wide-ranging Pakistan-China partnership. He expressed satisfaction at growing bilateral trade and financial linkages, with China's unstinting support playing an invaluable role in helping Pakistan offset

external shocks to the global economy and demonstrating the continued resilience of Pakistan-China cooperation at a time of heightened uncertainty on the world stage.

The prime minister particularly thanked China for renewal of the RMB 15 billion (US \$ 2.3 billion) syndicate facility. The prime minister also thanked China for its support and assistance to Pakistan's efforts towards preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic by providing millions of vaccine doses as well as protective and medical equipment. He underlined that as a flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development. He reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest. The prime minister also underscored the high importance Pakistan attached to the strategic ML-I and other key projects including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalinization plant in Karachi. The prime minister reiterated his strong condemnation of the Karachi terrorist attack and underscored Pakistan's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/960099/pakistan-offers-incentives-foolproof-security-to-chinese-investors/>

Dawn News

Top Chinese diplomat promises to help reinvigorate ties

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: High-ranking Chinese politician Yang Jiechi on Wednesday pledged to help in reinvigorating ties with longstanding ally Pakistan as he opened his two-day trip to Islamabad with a meeting with Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

“He assured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels,” the ISPR said after Mr Yang met Gen Bajwa at the General Headquarters.

Mr Yang, who is considered a personal representative of President Xi Jinping because of his position in Chinese hierarchy, is leading a high-level delegation comprising vice ministers for foreign affairs and commerce, vice chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), and deputy secretary general of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on the visit that is taking place at a crucial juncture in bilateral ties.

It was probably in this context that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent his special assistant and point man on foreign policy Tariq Fatemi to receive him at the airport.

Yang holds talks with Bilawal, army chief

While emphasising the significance of his trip, China experts say Mr Yang is ranked even higher than Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He has in the past represented China in National Security Advisers' talks with the United States. Therefore, it is said that whatever demands and concerns he conveys and any commitments that he makes during his meetings here will be seen as coming directly from President Xi.

The bilateral relationship currently appears under deep stress because of growing terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens. Beijing is particularly concerned about the lack of progress in the prosecution of the April 26 attack in which three Chinese language teachers were killed in Karachi. It is said that neither the mastermind nor other major actors involved in the attack have been apprehended.

The Chinese had demanded permission for deployment of private Chinese security guards for the protection of Chinese personnel and installations. Though Pakistani authorities did not allow that, the issue remains very much on the table.

The Chinese, moreover, are pushing for Majeed Brigade, the banned Balochistan Liberation Army's Fidayeen (suicide) unit, to be listed on the UNSC 1267 Terror Sanctions list. The group has been behind most of the attacks on Chinese.

Gen Bajwa, during his visit to China earlier this month, sought to assuage the Chinese concerns by reiterating the army's commitment to ensuring 'foolproof security'. His effort helped in showing Pakistani top brass' seriousness on CPEC security, but Chinese are waiting for words to be matched by deeds.

The ISPR, in its statement on Bajwa-Yang meeting, however, suggested that the Chinese side was satisfied with the renewed commitments. "The visiting dignitary thanked COAS for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment for Chinese personnel employed on various projects in Pakistan," it said.

Secondly, Beijing is upset over the issue of more than Rs300 billion receivables of the Chinese companies operating in Pakistan.

Mr Yang also met Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

"The two sides discussed entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the FO said in a statement.

During the visit, Mr Yang will also call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697413/top-chinese-diplomat-promises-to-help-reinvigorate-ties>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan values China's role in global, regional affairs: COAS

Mr. Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of Central Committee of Communist Party of China and Director of Central Committee on Foreign Affairs, China called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff at GHQ, on Wednesday.

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

The COAS said that Pakistan values China's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our strategic partnership. The Army Chief reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to cooperate with its international partners for peace and stability in the region.

The visiting dignitary thanked Gen Bajwa for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment for Chinese personnel employed on various projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability.

He also assured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-values-chinas-role-in-global-regional-affairs-coas/>

The Express Tribune

China to help Pakistan maintain financial stability

Will continue to support improvement in people's livelihood

BEIJING: China will continue to support Pakistan in developing its economy, improving people's livelihood and maintaining financial stability, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Zhao Lijian.

“China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. China always supports Pakistan in developing its economy, improving people's livelihood and maintaining financial stability,” Zhao said on Wednesday during his regular briefing at the International Press Centre (IPC).

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail announced on Friday last week that a Chinese consortium loan of RMB 15 billion (\$2.3 billion) had been credited into the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) account.

The Chinese loan would help increase Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, he said.

Zhao said that the Chinese side was willing to continue to work with Pakistan in the wake of the consensus reached by their leaders, deepen practical cooperation in various fields including finance, address risks and challenges and build a closer China-Pakistan community with shared future in the new era.

Responding to a question about the safety of Chinese citizens and assets, the spokesperson said that the relevant functional departments of China and Pakistan, Pakistani government, Chinese embassy and consulate in Pakistan had been maintaining close communication and coordination on the protection of Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan.

“We have noticed that the Pakistani government has set up a special security force to protect the Chinese personnel participating in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and inter-governmental cooperation projects,” he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363974/china-to-help-pakistan-maintain-financial-stability>

China's affection for Pakistan has limitations too

Driven by a culture of consideration and empathy for friends, Beijing once again reached out to Pakistan

Once again China stepped forward to bail Pakistan out. It underscored its time-tested friendship by providing a near interest free loan worth \$2.3 billion to Pakistan for its balance-of-payments support, well ahead of the grueling, demand-loaded deal with the IMF.

To underscore the “all-weather partnership”, General Zhang Youxia, Deputy Chairman of China’s Military Commission, received Pakistan’s Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Tianjing for exclusive bilateral consultations.

But continued political theatrics, selfish power games and an absence of sincere commitment among Pakistan’s key stakeholder appear to have partially shaken the Chinese trust.

The latest “snub” was the exclusion from the “High-level Dialogue on Global Development” held recently on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. Pakistan was conspicuous by its absence in a dialogue to which leaders of a number of developing emerging economies had been invited.

Even though the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained the reasons behind Pakistan’s exclusion, the extremely dubious circumstances around the vote of no-confidence against former prime minister Imran Khan gradually tipped the balance, and the Chinese apparently discerned a gap in walk and talk, with the apparent inclination to the US and its allies.

But driven by a culture of consideration and empathy for friends, Beijing once again reached out to Pakistan in view of its precarious foreign exchange situation, and eventually green-signalled the funds through a consortium of three banks.

This also demonstrated that unlike the West, which tends to use IMF as a strategic warfare tool, China deals with friends like Pakistan with compassion and not vengeance for geopolitical bargains. IMF programmes are primarily a tool to subjugate economies, kill investment and growth and thus proliferate economic despair — so do the Chinese believe. And they see what has happened in Pakistan.

Below I would like to list down some bitter messages out of China — an extrapolation of discussions with some influential thinkers/officials in Beijing and Shanghai.

First, Pakistan remains an all-weather friend for China but that friendship has its limitations too. China desires political stability in Pakistan that is the prerequisite for economic development. But how can Pakistan achieve economic growth in a vindictive, divisive climate of protests and long marches? This is a point addressed to all key stakeholders who have been using politics of agitation against one another every now and then.

Second, unless Pakistan tries to walk the talk made under CPEC — i.e. accelerating decision-making and honouring contracts — it cannot stand on its feet. And in that case, it cannot industrialise, meaning thereby no escape from the begging bowl.

Third, post-pandemic global recession has changed China's circumstances too. The feeling, it appears, is that we have earned political stability and achieved high economic growth on the back of four decades of hard work centred on internal political and radical structural reforms. We cannot dish out dividends of that hard work to a country that is constantly embroiled in domestic political wars and lacks the real focus on economic development.

Economic growth, it is pointed out, requires business-friendly environment, ease of doing business and integrity of those on top. How can foreign investors deal with a corrupt institution such as the Federal Board of Revenue and officials in other aligned ministries, as they all act as predators and extractors without the long-term interest of the country in mind?

Does Pakistan boast such “strongmen/women” of integrity like Chairman Mao, Deng Xiaoping or Xi Jinping — leaders of unblemished character?

Fourth, for putting Pakistan on a real growth path and getting rid of external straws such as IMF loans or handouts from China and other friends, top military and civilian leaders will have to divorce the 19th century elitist model of governance. Unless they give up the expensive top-heavy governance regime, they can't expect to take the country out of woods.

China certainly cannot finance the obscene cost of the luxurious style of governance of the Pakistani elites, is a very clear message that Beijing has drawn in the last decade or so.

Fifth, (relates to the over-commissioning of the power projects), if you didn't have the vision on how you will be able to utilise and pay the additional 12000 MW electricity sought under CPEC, then why did you push our banks into financing?

The much-touted ML-1 Railway project has also apparently stalled because “your” politicians and bureaucrats never really came prepared with practical solutions. Financial situation has now changed.

That is true as well. I had been told that providing \$7-8 billion is peanuts for Beijing. But the international economic conditions have now prompted Beijing to step back and preserve its resources accumulated through sheer focus and hard work. So much for ML-1 — as of now.

Sixth, fighting the evil of corruption is unavoidable but President Xi launched that crusade nearly a decade ago after economic consolidation of over three decades.

This, too, is a strong rebuke to all those who have harped the anti-corruption agenda — Imran Khan and the establishment. Chinese officials also realised that NAB — instead of curbing real corruption — only stymied decision-making. It also generated the perception of being extremely partisan.

Countries don't work like that. First develop and then pursue graft, is the message.

Lastly, if Pakistan's civil and military elites — the real power brokers — are on a suicide mission for short-term tactical gains, even the best of support from China won't help.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2363902/chinas-affection-for-pakistan-has-limitations-too>

The Nation

CPEC, Economic Linkages Deepen Abiding Pak-China Friendship: PM

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the growing economic linkages had deepened the roots of the abiding friendship between the peoples of Pakistan and China.

“Atop this unshakeable foundation, the Pakistan-China partnership would continue to play its valuable role as a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond,” the prime minister said during a meeting with Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its Foreign Affairs Commission, who called on him.

Earlier, Yang Jiechi also called on Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa at the GHQ here.

The prime minister said that Pakistan stood ready to work closely with China for realizing both countries' shared vision of connectivity, prosperity and public well-being. Pakistan would also continue to support Chinese investors with competitive incentives, access to high-quality infrastructure and unwavering security arrangements, he added.

Director Yang Jiechi is accompanied by Vice Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Vice Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and Deputy Secretary General of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister underscored the significance of Director Yang's visit for accelerating the implementation of the leaders' consensus on further enhancing bilateral relations across all domains. He highlighted that economic cooperation had become a mainstay of the wide-ranging Pakistan-China partnership.

He expressed satisfaction at the growing bilateral trade and financial linkages, with China's unstinting support playing an invaluable role in helping Pakistan offset external shocks to the global economy and demonstrating the continued resilience of Pakistan-China cooperation at a time of heightened uncertainty on the world stage.

The prime minister particularly thanked China for renewal of the RMB 15 billion(\$2.3 billion) syndicate facility.

Shehbaz says Pakistan to continue supporting Chinese investments at all stages n Appreciates Beijing for renewal of \$2.3b syndicate facility n Yang Jiechi thanks Pakistan for providing special security to Chinese working on projects in Pakistan

Pakistan desires to enhance strategic partnership with China: Gen Bajwa

The prime minister also thanked China for its support and assistance to Pakistan's efforts towards preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic by providing millions of vaccine doses as well as protective and medical equipment.

He underlined that as a flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest.

The prime minister also underscored the high importance Pakistan attached to the strategic ML-I and other key projects including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalinization plant in Karachi.

The prime minister reiterated his strong condemnation of the Karachi terrorist attack and underscored Pakistan's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhanced measures for safety, security and protection of the Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in the country.

Recalling the recent visit of tri-services delegation to China led by the Chief of Army Staff, he expressed satisfaction at the expanding defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China which was contributing to the regional peace and stability.

While emphasizing the need for enhanced people-to-people contacts, he thanked China for facilitating return of Pakistani students to resume their on-campus studies, and expressed hope that the remaining students would be able to return soon.

The prime minister also appreciated Chinese decision for the resumption of PIA flights to China and increasing the frequency of weekly flights.

Exchanging views on international issues of mutual interest, he also highlighted the adverse impact of India's unabated repression and gross violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister thanked China for its principled stance and steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The prime minister and director Yang also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan including the humanitarian and economic crises.

The need for international cooperation and unfreezing of assets to avert humanitarian catastrophe and ease the misery of the Afghan people was underscored.

Extending a warm welcome to Director Yang, the prime minister extended most cordial greetings and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

The prime minister noted that director Yang's visit marked the continuation of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, which were the hallmark of the time-tested all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

He also recalled his extensive conversation with Premier Li Keqiang in May 2022, during which both leaders had reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchanged views on the regional and international situation.

Earlier, in his meeting with Yang Jiechi, Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa reiterated that Pakistan remains committed to cooperate with its international partners for peace and stability in the region.

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

The Army Chief said that Pakistan values China's role in global and regional affairs and "we look forward to enhance our strategic partnership with China."

The visiting dignitary thanked the COAS for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment for Chinese personnel employed on various projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability. He also assured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

According to the Foreign Office, Yang Jiechi is in Pakistan on a two-day visit to meet leadership and discuss bilateral ties.

He will also hold talks with the foreign minister and call on the prime minister, it said in a statement.

Director Yang Jiechi is accompanied by Vice Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Vice Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), and Deputy Secretary-General of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

As Director of the Central Commission on Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi has a prominent role in China's foreign relations. He has previously served as China's Foreign Minister from 2007-13 and State Councilor from 2013-17.

The visit is part of the regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

Pakistan yesterday rejected Indian media reports which linked a Pakistani organisation to a murder in India.

In response to reports appearing in a segment of the Indian media regarding investigations into a murder case in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India, the FO Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed said: "We have seen reports in a segment of the Indian media, referring to investigations into the murder case in Udaipur, mischievously seeking to link the accused individuals, Indian nationals, to an organisation in Pakistan."

He added that we categorically reject any such insinuations, which are typical of the BJP-RSS 'Hindutva' driven Indian regime's attempts at maligning Pakistan including by externalising their internal issues through pointing of fingers towards Pakistan. Such malicious attempts will not succeed in misleading the people, either in India or abroad, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/30/cpec-economic-linkages-deepen-abiding-pak-china-friendship-pm/>

The News

PM tells top-ranking Chinese official: Govt to complete CPEC projects at earliest

ISLAMABAD: In the latest development on economic front, China has announced to grant a fresh rollover of \$2 billion safe deposits to Pakistan. Besides, it also decided to export 200,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser to Pakistan.

In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Pakistan and China during the visit of high-level Chinese delegation to Pakistan. As per the understanding between the two countries, the Chinese government will provide Pakistan 3,000 sets of solar home system while Pakistan will export embryos to China for quarantine and health requirements for buffalo and Rhodes Grass to China.

In addition, an understanding on the terms of reference of G2G joint technical working group for realignment of Karakoram Highway from Thakot to Raikot was also developed. The high-level delegation, under the leadership of Yang Jiechi, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of its Foreign Affairs Commission, is on a two-day visit to Pakistan.

On arrival in the capital, SAPMs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Zafaruddin Mahmood, Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, additional secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received the delegation.

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

The prime minister recalled his extensive conversation with Premier Li Keqiang in May 2022, during which both leaders had reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchanged views on the regional and international situation.

He underscored the significance of Director Yang's visit for accelerating the implementation of the leaders' consensus on further enhancing bilateral relations across all domains. "Economic cooperation has become a mainstay of the wide-ranging Pakistan-China partnership," said the PM.

The prime minister thanked China for renewal of the RMB 15 billion (US \$ 2.3 billion) syndicate facility and its support and assistance to Pakistan's efforts towards preventing the

spread of Covid-19 pandemic by providing millions of vaccine doses as well as protective and medical equipment.

He underlined that as a flagship of the visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic base and strengthened capacity for self-development. Besides, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate the pace and complete CPEC projects at the earliest. He also underscored the high importance Pakistan attached to the strategic ML-I and other key projects including Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Babusar Tunnel, and desalinisation plant in Karachi.

“Pakistan stands ready to work closely with China for realising both countries' shared vision of connectivity, prosperity and public well-being,” said PM Shehbaz. He added Pakistan would also continue to support Chinese investors with competitive incentives, access to high-quality infrastructure and unwavering security arrangements.

CPEC and growing economic linkages had deepened the roots of the abiding friendship between the peoples of both countries, the Prime Minister noted. Atop this unshakeable foundation, the Pakistan-China partnership would continue to play its valuable role as a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The PM reiterated his strong condemnation of the Karachi terrorist attack and underscored Pakistan's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhanced measures for safety, security and protection of the Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in the country.

Recalling the recent visit of tri-services delegation to China led by the Chief of Army Staff, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the expanding defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China, which was contributing to regional peace and stability.

While emphasizing the need for enhanced people-to-people contacts, he thanked China for facilitating return of Pakistani students to resume their on-campus studies, and expressed hope that the remaining students would be able to return soon. The prime minister also appreciated Chinese decision for the resumption of PIA flights to China and increasing the frequency of weekly flights.

Exchanging views on international issues of mutual interest, he highlighted the adverse impact of India's unabated repression and gross violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He thanked China for its principled stance and steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The prime minister and Director Yang also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, including the humanitarian and economic crises. They urged for international cooperation and unfreezing of assets to avert humanitarian catastrophe and ease the misery of the Afghan people.

Reiterating cordial invitation to President Xi Jinping, the prime minister stated that the people of Pakistan were looking forward to welcoming President Xi on his next state visit to Pakistan at the earliest.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=103065>

K2 Daily



بقیہ 3
 حمایت جاری رکھے گا، یہ ملک کی جمہوری ترقی میں اپنا حصہ ڈالیں گے، ہم پاکستان کے ساتھ فرانسپورٹ اور ہائی وے کے دیگر شعبوں میں عملی تعاون کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے پیش قدمی کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ پاکستانی سفیر آکٹا ک نیف کے مطابق چین میں پاکستانی سفیر عظیم الحق نے صدر پاکستان کی جانب سے چین کے وزیر فرانسپورٹ لی شیائو چیانگ کو پاکستان کا سول ائیر لائن 'جہاز' پاکستان' حطا کر دیا۔ یہ اہواز ان کو بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں منعقدہ ایک خصوصی تقریب میں حطا کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے سفیر عظیم الحق نے وزیر لی شیائو چیانگ کو پاکستان چین دوستی کو مضبوط بنانے کی کوششوں اور پاکستان میں مراکز کے رابطے کے اہم منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے ان کے کردار کو زبردست شراحت دینے کی خواہش ظاہر کی۔ سفیر نے اس بات پر روشنی ڈالی کہ یہ بیجنگ پاکستان کے ہمکنار اقتصادی ترقی کے دہانے کا ایک مرکزی ستون ہے اور دونوں ممالک اپنی قیادت کے تصور کے مطابق اس کے سوار اور حاکم نفاذ کو یقینی بنائیں گے۔ چنانچہ آکٹا ک نیف کے مطابق سفیر نے کہا سرگرمیوں اور ہل چلنے کو جڑ سے اور قائلے تم کرتے ہیں اور دور دراز علاقوں میں رہنے والے بہت سے الگ حلقہ لوگوں کی مدد کرتے ہیں۔ چین کے وزیر فرانسپورٹ کی حیثیت سے ان کا کردار پاکستان اور چین کے لوگوں کے دلوں اور دماغوں کو جوڑ رہا ہے۔ وزیر لی شیائو چیانگ نے پاکستان دوستی کے پر جوش حامی ہیں اور انہوں نے یہی بیجنگ فریم ورک کے تحت پاکستان میں فرانسپورٹ کے کئی بنیادی ڈھانچے کے منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد کی قیادت کی۔ چنانچہ آکٹا ک نیف کے مطابق اسپر ریڈارکس میں لی شیائو چیانگ نے سول

ایوارڈ سے نوازنے پر حکومت پاکستان اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ آل ویدر اسٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو پلاننگ اور آئرن برادر کی حیثیت سے چین پاکستان میں سی بی کے تحت چلنے والے اہم فرانسپورٹ منصوبوں کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا جو ملک کی جمہوری ترقی میں اپنا حصہ ڈالیں گے۔ انہوں نے پاکستان کے فرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر نیٹ ورک کی سب گریڈیشن کے لیے ضروری ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کے لیے اپنی وزارت کے تعاون پر بھی زور دیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم پاکستان کے ساتھ فرانسپورٹ اور ہائی وے کے دیگر شعبوں میں عملی تعاون کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے پیش قدمی کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ تقریب میں چینی وزارت فرانسپورٹ کے اعلیٰ حکام، میڈیا افسروں کے نمائندوں اور پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے افسران نے شرکت کی۔

پاکستان نے چینی وزیر فرانسپورٹ کو ہلال پاکستان عطا کر دیا

چین کی بیجنگ کے تحت چلنے والے اہم فرانسپورٹ منصوبوں کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا

فرانسپورٹ، ہائی وے کے دیگر شعبوں میں ہمیشہ ملکر کام کریں گے، لی شیائو چیانگ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان نے چینی وزیر پاکستان اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ فرانسپورٹ کو ہلال پاکستان ایوارڈ عطا کر دیا، لی چین پاکستان میں سی بی کے تحت چلنے والے اہم فرانسپورٹ کے نوازنے پر حکومت فرانسپورٹ منصوبوں کی (باقی صفحہ 7 جہز نمبر 3)

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