



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

November 01-15, 2022

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November 01, 2022

Business Recorder

It's time to build B2B ties with China: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed hope that Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum would play a proactive role in further strengthening the relations between the two countries.

Addressing the first meeting of Pakistan China Business Investment Forum, he said he is optimistic that this forum would be very proactive in building relations between the two very friendly and brotherly countries.

He said that today he would be leaving for visit to China and look forward to meeting Chinese leaders to have very productive meeting with visionary leadership of China to further enhance business, strategic and cultural relations between the two countries.

He said he strongly believe that China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) has been a game changer in building the two countries' business relations and billions of dollars' investment under CPEC has already been committed by Chinese companies.

As a result of CPEC Pakistan has been able to escape massive load shedding during those years when the country was facing 20-hour power outages.

He said that industry and agriculture were able to come back into life as 20-hour power outages at that point in time had crippled Pakistan economy. Thus CPEC has been a game changer, he added.

Sharif said that now it is a time to build business-to-business relations between the two countries for which there is huge potential, adding that it is very important to understand that China being the second largest economy in the world and now one of the largest investors in Pakistan provides an opportunity to advance Pakistan export to China and import from China. He said that this can be happened by relocating Chinese labour-intensive industry in special economic zone and Pakistan still being cheaper can make production of goods which can be re-exported to china and other countries.

He said that this would be a win-win situation for Chinese and Pakistani business houses. He further stated that in agriculture the two countries can cooperate in a big way as Chinese modern technology can increase Pakistan's per acre yield which would be very helpful for Pakistan agri industry and then based on Pakistan agri production, in the rural areas we can install ago-based industrial houses.

The prime minister said that that agri production can be converted into industrial parts and can be exported to Middle East and other part of the world.

The premier directed the minister for planning and chairman BOI, as well as, other relevant officials to the initiatives to move forward and create a win-win position for Chinese and Pakistan businessmen.

He also thanked China for being largest donors for flood affected people of Pakistan and dispatching important items for flood affected people.—ZAHEER ABBASI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/01/1-page/946347-news.html>

PM's China visit to give bilateral ties new dimension: Ahsan

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's China visit would give a new dimension to Sino-Pak bilateral relations and it would take the trade relations to new heights as the both countries would sign multiple projects worth billions of dollars.

Speaking at a presser, he said that the prime minister's visit to China will help preparing a roadmap to take the country's annual exports from \$32 billion to \$100 billion and beyond.

"During the visit of the prime minister, Pakistan will sign an agreement with China to seek first-hand technical experience from the all-weather friendly country," he added.

He said that Sharif will be the first foreign leader visiting China after re-election of President Xi Jinping for his third term in the office.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is inevitable for the progress and prosperity and it has to be diverted towards industrial cooperation.

"China, on many occasions has expressed its desire to help Pakistan making industrial economy but unfortunately previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wasted four precious years by suspending the most important mega project of CPEC. China's economic development is based on its industrial progress, now industrial cooperation will be promoted under the CPEC. It will bring new opportunities for jobs and employment," he said.

The minister highlighted that Pakistan's most important project was the railway's ML-1 as the existing system had become outdated therefore this project would have to be initiated on emergency basis.

He claimed unfortunately, due to the criminal negligence of the previous government, this project witnessed zero progress during last several years which also caused increase in cost by \$3 billion from earlier approved cost of \$6.8 billion to \$9.8 billion.

He said that a new project of Karachi-Hyderabad motorway would also be signed during the visit and the work on new motorway between Karachi and Hyderabad would be started after the visit. He said that similarly Karachi's KCR project would also be signed during the visit to provide the citizens state of the art transportation facility in line with the orange train in Lahore.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/01/3-page/946362-news.html>

Police declares Chinese residences in Karachi 'vulnerable establishments'

KARACHI: The District City Police, South Zone Karachi on Monday decided to declare Chinese residences in the city 'vulnerable establishments' under the Sindh Security of Vulnerable Establishments Act, 2015.

A district city police spokesman said SSP City Shabbir Ahmad Sethar while chairing a meeting on law and order situation held at SSP City Office in Baghdadi Complex, instructed SHOs to install Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras at Chinese residences as well as their offices to protect them from any possible untoward incident, in future.

SDPOs, SHOs, other participated in the meeting. SSP City directed that the Chinese residences in the city should be declared ‘vulnerable establishments’ by the committee formed under the Sindh Security of Vulnerable Establishments Act.

He has sought a report from SDPOs and SHOs on the progress made in serious cases during the last one month. He directed his subordinates to ensure more patrolling outside banks and enhance police security.

Instructions were also issued to enhance combing operations, targeted operations patrolling, and snap checking to nab criminals involved in street crimes and drugs.

The number of Shaheen Force should be increased, walkie-talkies should be provided to them, use of bullet-proof jackets should be ensured. Fugitives, accused involved in recent incidents should be arrested as soon as possible, actions against active criminals, dacoits, narcotics peddlers should be intensified. SSP City strictly instructed to carry out a targeted operation against the accused that hurt the citizens during the robbery and bring them to the justice.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/01/12-page/946413-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese delegation meets Pervaiz, to invest Rs45b in Punjab

A Chinese delegation led by Gao Qiang, vice president of Sinovac Global, met Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi at his office on Monday and expressed willingness to invest 200 million dollars (about 45 billion rupees) in Punjab.

The Chinese company will set up a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab which will cost about 45 billion rupees. It will also export items worth 500 million dollars.

The CM said that the Sinovac company will be provided land on a priority basis in CPEC Industrial Estate Faisalabad.

“I laid the foundation stone of this industrial estate in my previous period which contains all the necessary facilities, he said. All the required facilities will be provided to the company in Punjab,” he said, and added that this project will not only benefit Punjab but the whole of Pakistan, and it will be carried forward on a fast-track basis to ensure early completion.

“This project will create new employment opportunities and will become a new example for Pakistan-China friendship,” he added.

“Sinovac company’s plan to set up a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a milestone. The company’s willingness to invest billions of rupees in Punjab is very welcome. We thank Sinovac company for supplying vaccines to Pakistan during the

Corona epidemic. Planning a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a big step,” he added.

Chairman Dean Holdings SM Naveed, Chairman Fazal Deen & Sons Suhail Ahmad Kabir, former president Bank of Punjab Hamesh Khan, secretary industries, secretary primary and secondary health, special secretary specialized healthcare and medical education, chief executive officer PBIT and others were present. The Chinese delegation included technical consultants Mr Sun Sicai, Mr Gu Hao, Mr Lu Feng, Ms Sun Shasha, Ms He Likun, Ms Li Zixuan and others.

Meanwhile, the daughter of senior journalist Sadaf Naeem, Nimra Naeem, son Azan Naeem, uncle Naveed Bhatti and a close friend Marwa Ansar called on Pervaiz Elahi in Lahore.

The CM expressed heartfelt sympathies with them and offered Fateha for the departed soul. He presented a cheque worth Rs5 million to Nimra Naeem as financial assistance. He also announced government jobs for the daughter of Nimra Naeem and husband of Sadaf Naeem as a photographer.

Parvez Elahi paid tribute to Sadaf Naeem’s services in journalism and said: “We cannot bring her back but will continue to take care of her family in every way.” He said: “We are deeply saddened and share your grief in this hour of grief.” Sadaf Naeem was a hardworking and professional journalist and her services would be remembered forever, he added.

Speaker Punjab Assembly Sibtain Khan, Provincial Minister Mian Mahmood-ur-Rasheed, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Muhammad Khan Bhatti, Assembly Secretary Inayat Lak, Deputy Commissioner Lahore and officials were also present.

Meanwhile, a meeting held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi at his office and gave approval in principle to upgrade the shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajveri Data Ganj Bakhsh.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said that automatic umbrellas would be installed so that thousands of pilgrims could be able to sit in the courtyard during the summer season. While approving the plan to expand the verandah around the shrine, the CM said that the expansion of the shrine would provide convenience to the visitors. Explosive detectors would be installed to make the underground parking safe, he added. Pervaiz Elahi ordered action to end encroachments and illegal occupation around the complex.

In the meeting, proposals to build a vertical parking plaza near the shrine and to build an underground or an overhead bridge for visitors crossing the road in front of the Mazar complex were reviewed. The chief minister directed to replace the lines supplying water to the shrine complex.

MPA Hafiz Ammar Yasir, Provincial Adviser Aamir Saeed Raan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Muhammad Khan Bhatti, Commissioner Lahore Division, secretaries, NESPAK officials, chairman and members of Data Darbar Affairs attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Pervaiz Elahi sought a report from Inspector General of Police (IGP) about violence against journalists in Kamoke. SHO Kamoke City Police Station Manzar Saeed and the responsible officials have been suspended.

The CM said that departmental action should also be taken against the suspended SHO and other officials. Violence against journalists was not acceptable in any case, he added.

The incident should be investigated and a report should be submitted to him within 48 hours, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1020777/chinese-delegation-meets-pervaiz-to-invest-rs45b-in-punjab/>

China looks forward to enhancing Pakistan strategic cooperation

China on Monday warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit and said it looked forward to further advancing high-level strategic cooperation between the two countries and bringing more fruitful outcomes from Sino-Pak friendship to the benefit of the two people.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit will begin on Tuesday. China warmly welcomes him and looks forward to further advancing our high-level strategic cooperation and bringing more fruitful outcomes from our friendship to the benefit of the two people," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said during his briefing held here at the International Press Center (IPC).

The prime minister will arrive in China on a two-day official visit on Tuesday at the invitation of Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang. A high-level delegation will accompany the prime minister who will be on his first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022.

Responding a question, the spokesperson said that China highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and his expectation to the visit. "The prime minister said in a recent interview that CPEC has made great development and he also expressed his expectation for the upcoming China's visit. "We believe they show the importance he (the prime minister) attaches to the visit to China, high-quality of China-Pakistan relations and deep friendship between our two peoples" the spokesperson commented. Zhao Lijian said that no matter how the international or domestic situations had evolved, China Pakistan friendship had been carried on from generation to generation. "Our two countries have always supported each other on issues concerning respective major interests and have stood together and help each other in the face of major natural disasters," he added.

He said that the Chinese side would also like to take this opportunity to commend the major outcomes of CPEC. The spokesperson said that as a flagship program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has become a landmark of China-Pakistan cooperation, adding, "It has boosted economic development, improved people's livelihoods and generated positive socio-economic effects in Pakistan." Zhao Lijian said that recently, the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) had successfully been held. Multiple common understandings were arranged about future development of CPEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1020808/china-looks-forward-to-enhancing-pakistan-strategic-cooperation/>

Pakistan sesame exports to China register 46% increase

Pakistan's sesame export to China witnessed a 46% increase in the first half of the current fiscal year. Sesame seeds selected by the Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (AARI) in Faisalabad will be tested in Hai Nan, China in November.

Last month, researchers and farmers from Pakistan detailed the outlook of Pakistan's sesame industry to us during an online seminar hosted by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) and AARI.

“Our institute is confident in finding solutions in new sesame varieties breeding, cultivation technology research and lab-to-market transformation for our ‘iron brother’” Xu Guizhen, Director of Sesame Research Office, Hebei Academy of the Agriculture and Forestry Science, told China Economic Net.

Sesame has a long planting history in Pakistan. The crop is not hard to grow, and requires not much water and fertilizer, yet farmers seem to be hesitant about planting sesame.

“The biggest difficulty is finding labourers. Harvesting and planting have to be done by hand here. If farmers can't find skilful labourers to harvest the crop, matured sesame seeds will fall off. This year, my sesame seeds have almost all fallen off.” Chaudhary Abdul Razzaq, a Pakistani sesame farmer told China Economic Net, “Middle men find labours for us, and they take quite a large amount of shares from the paychecks that we send.”

Chaudhary's case was not alone. Farmers used to be tepid with sesame planting majorly due to dismal domestic demand, high labour costs and improper methods in planting. All these factors have driven sesame farmers to battle for a profit overseas. However, Pakistan's sesame seeds, without proper care, sometimes find themselves struggling in the global market.

“The Pakistani team were particularly interested in mechanical means to harvest sesame seeds during our last meeting”, Xu Guizhen said.

Sesame seeds are protected by a capsule before they mature, and the time for each capsule to dehiscence is different. Thus, traditionally, farmers cut the crops by hand and set them in an upright position for the seeds to ripe and capsules to pop.

“We have successfully developed a type of sesame germplasm called ‘definite inflorescence sesame germplasm’. Compared with other types of sesame, this type of sesame is shorter and diseases resistant. Its capsules normally all pop at the same time and can be harvested by machine,” Xu said.

“There is another one that we've created called ‘dehiscence resistant sesame germplasm’. When this type of sesame crops ripe, only the tip of the capsule pops and the sesame seeds stay inside of the capsule, which means it can be harvested completely by mechanical means. The Pakistani team was satisfied with the results”.

China, although being a major producer of sesame, its ever-growing market demand for the crop was rarely fulfilled. Different from Pakistan, the Chinese take sesame seeds as an essential ingredient in daily meals.

In 2021, China's demand for sesame seeds is 1.58 million tons and has imported 1.18 million tons. Freight costs raised concerns for Chinese traders.

“Under China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistan has become an ideal exporter to China due to its ports and land routes advantages. We are willing to provide technical supports and market experiences to Pakistani farmers, a win-win opportunity is ahead of us”, Xu concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1020947/pakistan-sesame-exports-to-china-register-46-increase/>

Experts call new technology, skills crucial to benefit from CPEC

The experts at special discussion on Monday called new technology and technical skills crucial to benefit from the mega China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative as the master plan of Gwadar smart port city envisioned the development of industrial base that would make it the hub of trade and economic activities, and a great attraction for tourists, investors, and labour.

These views were expressed by Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani, the Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) while speaking at a special session on “Gwadar and the Road to Sustainable Development” organized here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute, a news release said.

He said that the master plan of Gwadar port city was inspired by China's city of Shenzhen and GDA was vigorously executing it for a timely delivery. “More than five years were spent on refining this master plan with close collaboration between Pakistan, China, and other stakeholders,” he added.

He apprised the participants regarding various projects, including Asia's largest airport to be functional in 2023, plans for implementing a safe city model, oil and gas infrastructure for smart energy modeling in the city, maritime tourism, and extensive plans for ferry transport and freight and railways network connecting Gwadar with Karachi and other parts of the country.

He said this year the GDA would inaugurate work on the ambitious Central Business District in Gwadar to be spread over 12.3 square kilometers to encourage fast-track development through public-private partnerships.

The District would be developed in 10 years which would cost around Rs 84-90 billion and Rs 400 billion of profit was estimated to be generated.

Cognizant of the environmental concerns in development, he said there were plans for a solar park as well as various on and off-grid solutions to meet the energy demand of the city.

Mentioning initiatives to meet the energy demand, he said that 100MW would be added to the system in Gwadar to bridge the energy demand-supply gap through a partnership with Iran.

On water supply management initiatives, he informed that two freshwater dams have been connected to meet the high water demands. Though water is ample, management issues have marred the distribution system, which would be replaced.

He said that a separate governance structure has been agreed upon by the federal and provincial governments for one-window operations to enable swift decision-making.

Senior Advisor, China Study Centre, Dr Hassan Daud Butt said that keeping in view the demand for new jobs in the country, it was crucial to embrace technology faster than our current pace to improve productivity and avail future economic opportunities.

He said that Sino-Pak cooperation in connection with CPEC and COVID-19 has transformed our technological pace.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1020946/experts-call-new-technology-skills-crucial-to-benefit-from-cpec/>

Dawn News

PM hopes to revive CPEC, expand trade with maiden China visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is embarking on a two-day official visit to China on Tuesday (today) in an effort to revive the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), expand trade and investment ties with the neighbouring country by making optimal use of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), PM Sharif is paying his first visit to China since assuming office in April, at the invitation of Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

“Pakistan can serve as the manufacturing base for China and an extension of its industrial and supply chain network,” the PM wrote in an opinion article published in Chinese newspaper Global Times on Sunday.

“There are three types of good friends: one that is direct and honest; one that is trustworthy, dependable and generous when you need help; and one that is knowledgeable and talented to guide you and show you what you can't see,” he quoted Confucius as having once said about friends and friendships.

Mr Sharif further said in the article that the 21st century demanded a new paradigm to deal with the emerging challenges as well as opportunities, and to wean the region away from conflict and conflagration.

“We seek friendly relations with our neighbouring countries on the basis of mutual respect and spirit of cooperation, and desire peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes, including the Kashmir issue, through dialogue and diplomacy based on the UN charter and resolutions,” he stated.

He also wrote that the two countries could fast-track bilateral cooperation to boost corporate farming, efficient water usage, development of hybrid seeds and high yield crops and establish cold storage chains. “This cooperation has assumed an added importance to address common concerns related to food security,” he added.

He also said the CPEC's next phase would encompass key areas such as industry, energy, agriculture, ICT, rail and road network and developing Gwadar port as a hub of trade and transshipment, investment and regional connectivity.

“Our overall aim is to harness the potential of CPEC for Pakistan's inclusive and sustainable growth, socioeconomic development and for improving the livelihoods of our people,” he added.

The PMO said Prime Minister Sharif was looking forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of “productive and fruitful meetings” aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

Later, addressing the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), he emphasised on creating a favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship.

“Let's join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors,” he added.

He termed the CPEC a game-changer for development in Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies. He stressed the need for relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of cheap labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for both sides.

The PM expressed gratitude to China for being one of the largest donors of relief assistance for the flood-affected people in Pakistan and also for setting up an air bridge for the supply of tents, food and medicine.

He also lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution to strengthening Pak-China relations in diverse fields.

Economic potential

Later, in a press conference, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal while terming Pakistan and China iron brothers stressed the need for exploiting the potential of their economic cooperation. He said the CPEC had added a new dimension to the bilateral relations of Pakistan and hoped the PCBIF would encourage Chinese investment in Pakistan because the future belonged to “turning the iron brotherhood into economic partnership”.

The minister urged the PCBIF to work towards the inclusion of Pakistani enterprises into China's global supply chain.

“The best help China can provide to Pakistan is to help improve its export potential,” he said, adding the government looked forward to building a robust private-sector partnership with Chinese enterprises. He assured removing bottlenecks to attract Chinese investors.

Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain said the board was fostering business cooperation between Pakistan and China and also signed a framework agreement on promoting Special Economic Zones and relocation of industries to Pakistan.

Aimed at industrial cooperation, he said, the BOI had drafted a set of joint initiatives that would be submitted to the Chinese investors and enterprises during PM Sharif's visit to China.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, who is also the PCBIF patron, expressed satisfaction with the forum's pace of work, which included holding of the first-ever meeting of the steering committee and the launch of an exclusive website.

In line with the directives of Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said, the country would continue to provide flood relief assistance to Pakistan.

According to the PMO, a high-level delegation would be accompanying the prime minister during his visit to China where he would meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

"The visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee on Oct 27," an official statement said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718109>

Three CPEC projects get swift nod on eve of PM's China visit

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Hours before Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing, back to back meetings of various forums approved almost \$12 billion worth of three major projects for inclusion in the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and cleared a longstanding demand by Chinese investors for escrow accounts for automatic payment of their dues against electricity supply.

To set a positive atmosphere for the high-profile visit, these major decisions were taken swiftly by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) in hurriedly called meetings that took up summaries prepared the same day and delivered to the members on table. Both meetings were presided over by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

Interestingly, all the three summaries for development projects for inclusion in the CPEC framework were moved the same day, but assumed exchange rate of Rs200 per dollar for the \$9.85bn railway project from Karachi to Peshawar, Rs230 per dollar for Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and Rs176 per dollar for a small hydropower project in Azad Kashmir.

Ecneec approved in principle a summary of the Ministry of Railways' modified plan for upgrade of the existing Main Line-1 (ML-1) project at a total cost of \$9.85bn (Rs1.97 trillion) from its previously approved cost of \$6.5bn in August 2020 — an increase of 45 per cent.

This is expected to be formally pitched for Chinese participation during PM Sharif's visit and involve Chinese share of \$8.4bn.

The approval, in the meantime, is subject to recommendations of cost, technical details and preferably an equity participation financial model on the basis of third-party validation by an independent consultant and in consultation with the Chinese side.

Ecneec also approved the KCR project at a total cost of Rs292.388bn (about \$1.27bn) with a foreign share of Rs263.149bn. It approved the establishment of a 48MW hydropower project in Neelum district, Azad Kashmir, subject to revision of cost based on the exchange rate of dollar at Rs220.

Separately, the ECC approved for immediate activation a Rs50bn escrow account — Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) — for automatic payment of dues to Chinese power suppliers because insurer Sinasure stopped providing insurance to investments in Pakistan because of heavy buildup of dues in the existing investments. The power sector's payables to Chinese investors have gone beyond Rs300bn.

The Ministry of Energy (power division) presented another summary on PERF. The ECC, after deliberation, approved the opening of an assignment account under the title of PERF to be opened with the SBP Islamabad and operated by the CPPA.

The ECC also approved as a special case changes to commissioning period of Shanghai Electric's 1320MW Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (TBC). The power division had sought amendment to the power purchase agreement (PPA) for commissioning of designated project — CPEC's TCB-I (on Thar Coal) without financial close.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718105>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China to expand cooperation in diverse sectors

Pakistan and China will further expand cooperation in key areas of trade, investment, infrastructure, industry, agriculture and Information Technology.

In a statement ahead of Prime Minister's visit to China, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque said both sides will discuss important issues, especially cooperation in addressing global challenges like pandemic, climate change, inflation and poverty.

The ambassador said that the CPEC marks a new phase in Pakistan-China relations as it places economic cooperation and connectivity at the center of bilateral agenda. He said the CPEC would emerge as a lynchpin of region's connectivity and economic integration.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-to-expand-cooperation-in-diverse-sectors/>

China visit

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed the confidence that his visit to China would lead to further improvement in relations between the two countries in different spheres of life, especially under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In an interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN) on the eve of his landmark visit, the Prime Minister said he would also discuss expanding the role of CPEC under the Belt and Road Initiative.

This is the first visit of the Prime Minister to China after assuming the office and carries significance as he is among the first batch of foreign leaders to visit China after the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing.

This itself is reflective of the depth of the friendship and the commitment of the leadership of the two countries to strengthen and diversify their mutual relationship as per aspirations of their people.

People of Pakistan have attached much hope to the visit as preparatory work done by the two sides raises hopes that there would be visible and significant forward movement on expanding cooperation under the CPEC initiative.

As has been highlighted by the PM himself, has entered a high-quality second phase, he said that the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has transformed the energy sector and infrastructure in Pakistan.

The road network constructed under CPEC in all parts of the country has shortened the travelling time and now people can easily reach from one place to another.

There is no denying the fact that the CPEC has accelerated the pace of socio-economic development in different regions of Pakistan and provided direct and indirect employment opportunities to thousands of people, especially in the far-flung and backward areas of the country.

The two sides have already reached an understanding to launch three more corridors – green (agriculture), health and IT – besides implementation of the much delayed but critically vital ML-I project and it is hoped that the stage is ready for initiation of physical work on all these fields.

Similarly, the work on Gwadar-related projects could not pick up momentum as originally envisioned by the two countries mainly due to the lacklustre approach adopted by the previous government in Pakistan.

Gwadar is designed to serve as a regional hub for trade and investment and for this to happen all projects that are necessary for its fuller operation should have been implemented at a fast pace.

The present leadership in Pakistan has the necessary vision about economic development of the country and, therefore, one hopes these projects would, once again, get priority.

All hurdles in this regard should be removed through meaningful talks with the Chinese side.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-visit/>

The Express Tribune

PM to discuss CPEC in maiden visit to China today

Shehbaz among first leaders to visit Beijing following the historic 20th National Congress of the CPC

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that he will discuss the revitalisation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in his talks with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang during his two-day official visit to China.

The premier left for Beijing today and is among the first few leaders to visit the neighbouring country following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that elected Xi Jinping as general secretary of the party.

This will be the prime minister's first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President Xi in Uzbekistan last month.

Earlier, Shehbaz appreciated this "honour" as well as the continued friendship and partnership between Pakistan and China during challenging times.

The premier said that his discussions with the Chinese leadership will be centred on the "revitalisation of CPEC" among other important topics.

Earlier, addressing the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), PM Shehbaz said he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of "productive and fruitful meetings" aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

He stressed that Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity and emphasised the importance of creating favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship.

"Let's join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors," he said, calling for streamlining the business procedures in Pakistan to benefit from China.

The prime minister termed CPEC as a "game-changer" and recalled how the flagship programme of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) resulted in helping Pakistan overcome its massive power outages.

He stressed the relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of the cheap local labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both countries.

He lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution towards strengthening Pakistan-China relations in diverse fields.

Additionally, Shehbaz met Chinese ambassador Nong and discussed diverse matters with him before the China visit, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The Prime Minister's Office also said that a high-level delegation would accompany the prime minister on the China visit. "During his stay, the prime minister will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang," it said.

"The visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on October 27, 2022," the statement added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384150/pm-to-discuss-cpec-in-maiden-visit-to-china-today>

ECNEC approves \$11.3b CPEC projects

Govt calls emergency meeting ahead of prime minister's visit to China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday rushed to approve two infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at a cost of over \$11.3 billion aimed at putting them before the Chinese authorities for fast-track implementation during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the \$10 billion Mainline-I project of Pakistan Railways and the \$1.3 billion Karachi Circular Railway project. It was an emergency meeting as no Ecneec huddle was slated for Monday.

The committee gave "in principle" approval to both the schemes as no proper homework had been done before calling the meeting. Ecneec met hours before PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting.

Ecneec approved, in principle, a 45% increase in the cost of ML-I project to nearly \$10 billion. China had refused to provide funding at the earlier approved cost of \$6.8 billion, which delayed the project for years.

Recently, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal appealed to China to fast-track the processing of ML-I project, else the railway's main network would collapse in a year.

"Ecneec considered and approved, in principle, the Ministry of Railways' modified PC-1 for up-gradation of Pakistan Railways' existing Mainline-1 (ML-1) project at a total cost of \$9.85 billion subject to the recommendation of cost, technical details and preferably an equity participation financial model," said an announcement of the Ministry of Finance.

Last week, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) – the first tier for the approval of mega development schemes – cleared the ML-I project for final approval by Ecneec.

While clearing the project, the largest CPEC scheme, the CDWP issued certain directives, which remained largely unimplemented.

CDWP instructed that a project monitoring and implementation unit should be established by the Ministry of Railways to implement and monitor the project. It said that the increase in cost from \$6.8 billion to \$9.9 billion should be vetted by a third-party consultant and the certified cost should be submitted by the Ministry of Railways before the presentation of a summary to Ecneec.

Also, the CDWP gave directives that the packaging and phasing of the project may be reviewed and intra-packaging adjustment may be carried out by the Ministry of Railways in consultation with the Chinese to make the work packages more realistic and practical.

The Ministry of Railways would also present an updated business plan and a copy of the already prepared Pakistan Railways Strategic Plan (PRSP), it said.

It will provide a complete plan for future transformation of the existing system into an electric traction system.

However, these details remain elusive due to the decision to call an emergency meeting and approve the largest-ever project, which involves a Chinese loan of \$8.4 billion. Pakistan has reduced China's financing share to 85% from 90% due to Beijing's refusal to provide up to 90% financing.

In rupee terms, the project cost is a staggering Rs2 trillion. Due to the negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the ML-I project was left in the cold storage and as a result its cost in rupee terms increased multiple times, said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday.

CDWP gave its stamp of approval almost two weeks before PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China. The premier will seek the concurrence of China's National Railway Administration to start bidding process for the project.

Islamabad is keen to perform the groundbreaking ceremony of the project on March 23, 2023.

During the PM's visit, Pakistan will propose the signing of a joint memorandum, indicating the timelines of project milestones, according to an official of the Ministry of Planning.

Under the project, a 1,733km-long route will be rehabilitated, 482 underpasses, 53 flyovers, 130 biker bridges and 130 stations will be constructed along the route.

ML-I starts from Karachi, passes through Kotri/ Hyderabad, Rohri, Multan, Lahore, Rawalpindi and terminates in Peshawar.

Even the nearly \$10 billion cost was understated, as the Ministry of Railways had used a four-month-old exchange rate of Rs200 to a dollar. At today's exchange rate, the project cost is understated by Rs190 billion, or about \$856 million.

Ecneec also approved the China-funded KCR project at a cost of Rs292.4 billion, which was 44% higher than the initial estimate. The cost includes a Chinese loan of Rs263 billion, or \$1.2 billion.

The last government of PTI had approved the financing structure of the project based on public-private partnership (PPP) mode. But the current coalition government instead decided to take a Chinese loan of \$1.1 billion to implement the project on the model of Lahore Orange Metro Line.

The project is sponsored by the government of Sindh and all the local share of the cost will be borne by the provincial government. No funding will be provided by the federal government.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384136/ecneec-approves-113b-cpec-projects>

Chinese viability

Pakistan-China relations are time tested and with the passage of time have stood their mark

Pakistan-China relations are time tested and with the passage of time have stood their mark. In the post-Covid era, the need is to buoy it on a new arithmetic, as Pakistan also faces the additional challenges of being ravished at the hands of monsoon floods. Thus, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's debut visit to Beijing will remain glued on the economic matrix, and there is a lot that the economic superpower can do to ameliorate the lot of a country that is at the

verge of default. Salient features of the two-way dialogue, accordingly, will revolve around global economic slowdown, spiral in food and oil prices, as well as how fast to restore the supply chain disruptions.

The premier luckily will be meeting an all-empowered Chinese leadership in the backdrop of re-election of President Xi Jinping as secretary general of the Communist Party, and his all set third-term as the head of state. Given to understand the cordiality of relations, Pakistan will be in a better position to reorient the soft lines of re-engagement and plead a viable case of bailout and direct foreign investment from Chinese resources. Islamabad is already looking forward to a rollover of \$6.5 billion Chinese loan, as well as going lenient with Chinese commercial banks.

The all-weather friendship is up for a catalyst test too, especially as the United States is bent upon drawing the lines of alignment in the region. Pakistan and China should stick to the special status of their versatility, and go ahead with their new stated resolve of geo-economics. The fact is that Pakistan is willing to cooperate with all the regional states, including India, in an attempt to make the Chinese flagship initiative of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a success.

While Pakistan is China's largest trading and investment partner, with a staggering \$60 billion investment in CPEC, it must walk ahead for a free trade agreement, and industrial technology amalgamation. Areas such as climate change, agriculture and informational technology can pave the way for a robust and profitable interaction.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384084/chinese-viability>

The Nation

Let's move forward, PM says ahead of maiden China trip

BEIJING /ISLAMABAD - China on Monday warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit and said it looked forward to further advancing high-level strategic cooperation between the two countries and bringing more fruitful outcomes from Sino-Pak friendship to the benefit of the two people.

"Tomorrow, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit will begin. China warmly welcomes him and looks forward to further advancing our high-level strategic cooperation and bringing more fruitful outcomes from our friendship to the benefit of the two people," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said during his briefing held here at the International Press Center (IPC) on Monday.

The prime minister will arrive in China on a two-day official visit on Tuesday (today) at the invitation of Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang. A high-level delegation will accompany the prime minister who will be on his first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022.

Responding a question, the spokesperson said that China highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and his expectation to the visit.

“The prime minister said in a recent interview that CPEC has made great development and he also expressed his expectation for the upcoming China’s visit. “We believe they show the importance he (the prime minister) attaches to the visit to China, high-quality of China-Pakistan relations and deep friendship between our two peoples” the spokesperson commented.

Zhao Lijian said that no matter how the international or domestic situations had evolved, China Pakistan friendship had been carried on from generation to generation. “Our two countries have always supported each other on issues concerning respective major interests and have stood together and help each other in the face of major natural disasters,” he added. He said that the Chinese side would also like to take this opportunity to commend the major outcomes of CPEC.

‘ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT’

The spokesperson said that as a flagship program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has become a landmark of China-Pakistan cooperation, adding, “It has boosted economic development, improved people’s livelihoods and generated positive socio-economic effects in Pakistan.”

Zhao Lijian said that recently, the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) had successfully been held. Multiple common understandings were arranged about future development of CPEC.

This is PM Shehbaz Sharif’s first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President

Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022. A high-level delegation will accompany the prime minister, the PM Office said in a statement on Monday. The prime minister will be among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. “The prime minister’s visit represents the continuity of frequent leadership level exchanges between Pakistan and China,” the PM Office said.

During his stay, the prime minister will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang. The two sides will review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments. “The visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on October 27, 2022,” the statement added.

‘Ambassador Nong Rong calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held an in depth meeting with Chinese ambassador Nong Rong encompassing diverse matters ahead of his two-day official visit to China starting Tuesday. It was highlighted in the meeting that the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would further strengthen trade and economic ties, the PM Office said. Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting. ‘China’s development model’

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of “productive and fruitful meetings” aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

Shehbaz Sharif, who is set to embark on a two-day visit to China on Tuesday, said Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity.

Addressing here at the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), he emphasised creating favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship. “Let’s join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors,” he said. The prime minister mentioned the huge potential existing between the two countries and called for streamlining the business procedures in Pakistan to benefit from China being the second-largest economy in the world.

He termed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a game-changer for development in Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies. He also recalled how the CPEC projects resulted in helping Pakistan overcome its massive power outages. Pacing up the CPEC projects, he said, would not only boost dividends for Pakistan but also increase the country’s business presence in China.

He stressed the relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of the cheap local labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both countries.

In the agriculture sector, he proposed learning from the Chinese modern techniques to increase yield and establish in this regard agro-based industrial houses. Shehbaz Sharif expressed confidence that launched in January, the PCBIF would promote business linkages besides identifying promising investment opportunities to nurture the business environment between the two countries. He expressed gratitude to China for being one of the largest donors of relief assistance for the flood-affected people in Pakistan and also for setting up an air bridge for the supply of tents, food, and medicine.

He lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution towards strengthening Pak-China relations in diverse fields. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Dr Ahsan Iqbal terming Pakistan and China as iron brothers stressed the need to further exploit the potential of their economic cooperation.

He said the CPEC had added a new dimension to the bilateral relations of Pakistan and hoped that PCBIF would encourage Chinese investment in Pakistan because the future belonged to “turning the iron brotherhood into economic partnership”.

He urged the PCBIF to work towards the inclusion of Pakistani enterprises into China’s global supply chain.

“The best help China can provide to Pakistan is to help improve its export potential,” he said, adding that the government looked forward to building a robust private sector partnership with Chinese enterprises.

In this regard, he assured removing bottlenecks in a way to attract Chinese investors.

Federal Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain said BOI was fostering business cooperation between Pakistan and China and also signed a framework agreement on promoting Special Economic Zones and relocation of industries to Pakistan. Aimed at industrial cooperation, he said, the BOI had drafted a set of joint initiatives which would be submitted to the Chinese investors and enterprises during the visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif to China. Chinese Ambassador and Patron PCBIF Nong Rong expressed satisfaction with the pace of work of the forum which included the holding of first-ever meeting of steering committee and the launch of an exclusive website. He said China was always ready to support Pakistan in difficult times and mentioned the solidarity shown by the Chinese leadership for Pakistan in the wake of the unprecedented flood disaster resulting in the loss of lives and property.

In line with the directive of Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said the country would continue to provide flood relief assistance to Pakistan.

He said China's relief assistance had reached 644 million RMB and added that a medical team from China was already in Pakistan to help out the people in distress. He said that during the upcoming visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif to China, the leadership would announce further assistance for Pakistan. He said Pakistan and China supported each other, no matter what the international or domestic situation turned into. "The Chinese side is committed to playing the role in the development under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," he said.

The Secretary PCBIF highlighted that the forum was extending facilitation to the Chinese and Pakistani investors through an exclusive website providing information about the business procedures to ensure an optimal environment.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-01/page-1/detail-0>

Chinese company to invest \$200m in Punjab

Lahore-The Chinese delegation led by Mr Gao Qiang, vice president of Sinovac Global met Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi at his office on Monday and expressed willingness to invest \$200 million in Punjab.

The Chinese company will set up a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab which will cost about Rs45 billion. It will also export items worth 500 million dollars.

The CM said that the Sinovac company will be provided land on a priority basis in CPEC Industrial Estate Faisalabad.

"I laid the foundation stone of this industrial estate in my previous period which contains all the necessary facilities. All the required facilities will be provided to the company in Punjab", he said. Parvez Elahi said that this project will not only benefit Punjab but the whole of Pakistan, and it will be carried forward on a fast-track basis to ensure early completion. "This project will create new employment opportunities and will become a new example for Pakistan-China friendship", he added.

He termed Sinovac company's plan to set up a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab a milestone. "The company's willingness to invest billions of rupees in Punjab is very welcome. We thank Sinovac company for supplying vaccines to Pakistan during the Corona epidemic. Planning a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a big step", he averred.

Chairman Dean Holdings SM Naveed, Chairman Fazal Din & Sons Suhail Ahmad Kabir, former president Bank of Punjab Hamesh Khan, secretary industries, secretary primary and secondary health, special secretary specialized healthcare and medical education, chief executive officer PBIT and others were present. The Chinese delegation included technical consultants Mr Sun Sicai, Mr Gu Hao, Mr Lu Feng, Ms Sun Shasha, Ms He Likun, Ms Li Zixuan and others.

CM condoles death of driver constable Liaquat Ali Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the death of police driver Constable Liaquat Ali due to a heart attack while on duty and announced financial assistance of Rs two million for the heirs. Punjab government will take care of the bereaved family and they would not be left alone, he added.

CM seeks a report from IGP Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi has sought a report from IG police about violence against journalists in Kamoke. On the notice of the CM, SHO Kamoke City Police Station Manzar Saeed and the responsible officials have been suspended. Chief Minister Parvez Elahi said that departmental action should also be taken against the suspended SHO and other officials. Violence against journalists is not acceptable in any case. The incident should be investigated and a report should be submitted within 48 hours, he directed.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-01/page-10/detail-7>

Express News

چین کا پاکستان کو مزید 50 کروڑ یو آن امداد دینے کا فیصلہ

چین نے پاکستان کو اضافی 50 کروڑ یو آن امداد دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔: اسلام آباد

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے دورے سے قبل چین نے پاکستان کو اضافی 50 کروڑ یو آن امداد دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ نجی ٹی وی نے حکومتی ذرائع کے حوالے سے بتایا کہ یہ اضافی رقم سیلاب زدہ علاقوں میں تعمیر نو کیلئے دی جائے گی۔

چین نے اضافی ایئر جنسی معاونت کی پیشکش سے پاکستان کو آگاہ کر دیا ہے اور اس حوالے سے وزیراعظم کے دورے کے دوران سمجھوتے پر دستخط ہونگے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2394567/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی کمپنی پنجاب میں 45 ارب کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گی، داتا گنج بخش مزار کو اپ گریڈ کریں گے: پرویز الہی

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چودھری پرویز الہی کی زیر صدارت اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا، اجلاس میں حضرت علی ہجویری داتا گنج بخش کے مزار کی اپ گریڈیشن کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ اجلاس میں طے پایا کہ مزار کے احاطے میں زائرین کیلئے خود کار چھتیاں نصب کی جائیں گی۔ مزار داتا گنج بخش کمپلیکس کے ارد گرد تجاویز اور ناجائز قبضے ختم کرنے کیلئے کارروائی کا حکم، سڑک عبور کرنیوالے زائرین کیلئے انڈر گراؤنڈ یا اوور ہیڈ برج بنانے کی تجاویز، وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے مزار کمپلیکس کیلئے بوسیدہ واٹر سپلائی تبدیل کرنے کی ہدایت کی، عمودی پارکنگ پلازہ بنانے کی تجویز، وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے کہا کہ مزار داتا گنج بخش کی توسیع سے زائرین کو سہولت ملے گی۔ انڈر گراؤنڈ پارکنگ کو محفوظ بنانے کیلئے ایکسپلو سوڈی ٹیکنالوجی نصب کئے جائیں گے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی سے آج چین کی کمپنی سائٹو ایک گلوبل کے نائب صدر گاؤ کیانگ کی قیادت میں وفد نے ملاقات کی، چینی کمپنی نے پنجاب میں 200 ملین ڈالر (تقریباً 45 ارب روپے) کی سرمایہ کاری پر آمادگی کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی کمپنی پنجاب میں پلازما میڈین پروڈکٹس تیار کرنے کی فیٹری لگائے گی، جس پر تقریباً 45 ارب روپے لاگت آئے گی۔ چینی کمپنی 500 ملین ڈالر کی ایکسپورٹ بھی کرے گی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے چینی وفد کے ساتھ گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سائٹو ایک کمپنی کو سی پیک انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ فیصل آباد میں ترجیحی بنیادوں پر اراضی فراہم کی جائے گی۔ اس انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ کا سنگ بنیاد میں نے اپنے سابق دور میں رکھا۔ فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ میں تمام ضروری سہولتیں موجود ہیں۔ سائٹو ایک کمپنی کو پنجاب میں ہر طرح کی سہولتیں فراہم کریں گے۔ منصوبہ پاک چین دوستی کے لئے نئی مثال بنے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چودھری پرویز الہی نے چینیل فائو کی سینئر صحافی صدف نعیم مرحومہ کی بیٹی نمرہ نعیم، بیٹے اذان نعیم، چچا نوید بھٹی اور قریبی سہیلی مر وہ انصر سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے صدف نعیم مرحومہ کے اہل خانہ کے ساتھ افسوسناک واقعہ پر دلی ہمدردی اور تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے مرحومہ کے بیٹے اور بیٹی کو دل لاسہ دیا اور انکے ساتھ شفقت کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے صدف نعیم مرحومہ کی بیٹی نمرہ نعیم کو 50 لاکھ روپے مالی امداد کا چیک دیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ چودھری پرویز الہی نے بیٹی نمرہ نعیم کو سرکاری ملازمت اور صدف نعیم مرحومہ کے شوہر کو سرکاری محکمے میں فوٹو گرافر کی ملازمت دینے کا اعلان کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چودھری پرویز الہی نے دوران ڈیوٹی پولیس ڈرائیور کا نشیبل لیاقت علی کے ہارٹ ایک سے جاں بحق ہونے کے واقعہ پر گہرے دکھ، لواحقین سے دلی ہمدردی و تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔ لواحقین کے لئے 20 لاکھ روپے مالی امداد کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پنجاب حکومت جاں بحق کا نشیبل لیاقت علی کی فیملی کی مکمل دیکھ بھال کرے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/laohore/2022-11-01/page-1/detail-15>

وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین، احسن اقبال، چینی سفیر کی متوقع سمجھوتوں پر گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر لونگ لونگ نے وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات پروفیسر احسن اقبال سے ملاقات کی، ایک گھنٹے تک جاری رہنے والی ملاقات میں سی پیک کے تحت جاری منصوبوں پر بات چیت کی گئی جو کہ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے حالیہ دورہ چین کے دوران میں پیش کیے جائیں گے اور ان منصوبوں کے ایم او یوز پر دستخط ہوں گے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے سی پیک کے متعدد منصوبوں کی اہمیت پر زور دیا اور اس بات کا اعادہ کیا کہ ان منصوبوں کو شروع کرنے کیلئے نر عزم ہے۔ ایم ایل ون سے پاکستان اور چین دونوں (KCR) اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے ML-1 کہ حکومت ان منصوبوں خاص طور پر ملکوں کے معیشت پر بڑے اقتصادی اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ وزیر نے مختلف شعبوں جیسے توانائی، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، زراعت، ثقافتی اور دیگر میں کئی دیگر منصوبوں کی اہمیت پر بھی زور دیا جو کہ کم نومبر کو وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران اٹھائیں جائیں گے اور مختلف منصوبوں پر دستخط ہوں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے حکومت بالخصوص وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات کی کاوشوں کو سراہا اور اپنے مکمل تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پیر کو پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے پاکستان کی سالانہ برآمدات کو 100 بلین ڈالر اور اس سے آگے لے جانے کے لئے روڈ میپ تیار کرنے

میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دورے کے دوران پاکستان چین کے ساتھ ایک معاہدے پر دستخط کرے گا جس کے لئے موسم کے حوالے سے تکنیکی تجربہ حاصل کیا جائے گا۔ دریں اثناء نجی ٹی وی سے گفتگو اور ایک تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ ہماری توجہ سیاست پر نہیں اس لئے ہار ہے ہیں، ابھی الیکشن کیلئے میدان نہیں سجا۔ انتخابی میدان سجا تو عمران خان کو لگ پتہ جائے گا۔ سوئی گلیوں میں نیازی گھوم رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے جھوٹا مقدمہ بنوانے پر عمران پر 10 ارب روپے ہر جانے کا دعویٰ کرنے کا اعلان کیا۔

احسن اقبال

<http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-01/page-8/detail-4>

وزیر اعظم، چینی ہم منصب کی دعوت پر دورہ بیجنگ پر روانہ

وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین یکم نومبر سے 2 نومبر

فرحان علی

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف آج یکم نومبر سے 2 نومبر تک چین کے سرکاری دورے پر روانہ ہو رہے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد میں وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری سمیت دیگر وفاقی وزراء شامل ہیں۔ 11 اپریل 2022ء کو منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا یہ پہلا دورہ چین ہے جس کی دعوت چین کی ریاستی کونسل کے وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ نے دی تھی۔ حالیہ دورے میں دونوں ممالک کے مابین تجارت اور معاشی تعاون سمیت متعدد معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوں گے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے درمیان ازبکستان میں 16 ستمبر 2022ء کو بھی ملاقات ہوئی تھی۔ کمیونسٹ پارٹی چین کی 20 ویں نیشنل کانگریس کے تاریخی انعقاد اور صدر شی جن پنگ کے تیسری بار جنرل سیکرٹری منتخب ہونے کے بعد وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چین کا دورہ کرنے والے اولین رہنماؤں میں شامل ہیں۔ یہ دورہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان قیادت کی سطح پر مسلسل رابطوں کی کڑی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اپنے دورے میں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے بھی ملاقات کریں گے۔ دونوں ممالک کے وزرائے اعظم کے درمیان وفود کی سطح پر بھی مذاکرات ہوں گے۔ دونوں ممالک کے قائدین سدا بہار آزمودہ اسٹریٹجک کوآپریشن پارٹنرشپ کا جائزہ لیں گے۔ اس سلسلے میں ہونے والی ملاقاتوں اور اجلاسوں میں علاقائی اور عالمی سطح پر صورتحال پر بھی تبادلہ خیال ہو گا۔ دورے سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان وسیع تر دو طرفہ تعاون کے ایجنڈے پر پیش رفت متوقع ہے جب کہ مفاہمت کی متعدد یادداشتوں اور معاہدوں پر دستخط ہونے کا بھی امکان ہے۔ دورے سے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی رفتار مزید بڑھنے کی توقع ہے جبکہ سی پیک جو اینٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی کے 27 اکتوبر کو ہونے والے 11 ویں اجلاس کے تناظر میں سی پیک منصوبے پر تعاون کی رفتار کو مستحکم کئے جانے کی بھی توقع ہے۔ دورہ چین کے دوران وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چین کی تاجر برادری سے بھی ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف دورے کے دوران پاکستان چائنا انکناک کوریڈور پر اجیکٹ، کوویڈ 19 کے بعد پاکستانی طلباء کی چین واپسی، کلچرل ایکسچینج پروگراموں کے اہم معاہدے ہوں گے جبکہ عالمی اور علاقائی سطح پر ہونے والی تبدیلیوں پر بھی تبادلہ خیال ہو گا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا دورہ چین اس لیے بھی اہمیت کا حامل ہے کیونکہ چین آئندہ 5 سالہ ترجیحات کا تعین کرنے جا رہا ہے۔ دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان وفود کی سطح پر ملاقاتیں ہو گی جن میں سی پیک کی سیکورٹی کے حوالے سے معاملات پر بات چیت ہو گی۔ سی پیک دونوں ممالک کیلئے اہم پراجیکٹ ہے اس لیے دونوں حکومتوں کی توجہ کا مرکز بھی ہے۔ سی پیک سیکورٹی کے حوالے سے مختلف طریقہ کار بھی بنائے جاسکے ہیں دورہ چین کے دوران ان پر بھی بات چیت ہو گی۔ اس سے قبل بھی سی پیک سیکورٹی کے حوالے سے پاک چین سفر کے درمیان بھی بات چیت ہوتی رہی ہے جسے دونوں جانب سے مسلسل بریف کیا جاتا رہا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد چین کا پہلا دورہ کریں گے۔ دورہ چین کے دوران وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چین کی جانب سے سیلاب متاثرین کی بروقت امداد سیلاب کے بعد بحالی کے کام میں بھرپور امداد پر چین حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ بھی ادا کریں گے۔ اس مشکل وقت میں چین نے ایک مرتبہ پھر پاکستان کیساتھ دوستی کا حق ادا کرتے ہوئے ہنگامی بنیادوں پر اضافی 50 کروڑ یو آں (6 کروڑ 89 لاکھ 41 ہزار 700 سے زائد امریکی ڈالر) امداد دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

کے چین کے دورے سے قبل چین نے بڑا فیصلہ کرتے ہوئے سیلاب زدہ علاقوں میں تعمیر نو کے لیے 50 کروڑ یو آں امداد دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ چین نے اضافی ایمر جنسی معاونت کی پیشکش سے پاکستان کو آگاہ کر دیا ہے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ چین میں ایم او یو پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے ستمبر 2022 میں چین نے پاکستان کیلئے 30 کروڑ یو آں دینے کا اعلان کیا تھا تعمیر نو کیلئے چین کی مجموعی امدادی رقم بڑھ کر 80 کروڑ یو آں ہو جائے گی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز میں چھپے آرٹیکل میں کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی، سرمایہ کارانہ تعلقات بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز میں چھپے آرٹیکل میں کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کو سرمایہ کاری کے پرکشش مواقع فراہم کر رہے ہیں چینی کمپنیوں کو صنعت، زراعت اور انفراسٹرکچر کے شعبوں میں پرکشش مواقع فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں اور ان کے منصوبوں کی حفاظت اولین ترجیح ہے پاک چین دوستی نے اندرونی اور بیرونی تبدیلیوں کو برداشت کیا ہے۔ پاکستان کے لیے چین کے ساتھ تعلقات ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کی بنیاد ہیں چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کاری کا شراکت دار ہے۔ انہوں نے لکھا کہ پاکستان چین کے لیے مینوفیکچرنگ بیس، صنعتی، سپلائی چین نیٹ ورک بڑھانے کے لیے کام کر سکتا ہے، پاکستان اور چین کارپوریٹ فارمنگ، ہائبرڈ بیجوں کے لیے تعاون تیز تر کر سکتے ہیں۔ شہباز شریف نے اپنے آرٹیکل میں یہ بھی لکھا کہ زیادہ پیداواری فصلوں کی ترقی اور کولڈ اسٹوریج چین کے لیے پاک چین تعاون بڑھا سکتے ہیں، کسی کو پاک چین مضبوط اقتصادی شراکت داری کو نقصان نہیں پہنچانے دیں گے۔ بھارت کے ساتھ تعلقات کے حوالے سے وزیر اعظم نے اپنے آرٹیکل میں لکھا کہ پڑوسی ممالک سے باہمی احترام اور تعاون کی بنیاد پر دوستانہ تعلقات چاہتے ہیں، مسئلہ کشمیر سمیت تمام تنازعات کا حل بذریعہ مذاکرات اور سفارت کاری چاہتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-01/page-9/detail-0>

November 02, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC vital to ensuring SCO's vision of shared prosperity: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday emphasized the importance of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the SCO member states, saying that building greater connectivity across the region would help unlock the political and economic potential of intra-SCO cooperation.

The foreign minister was addressing the 21st meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The meeting was virtually hosted by China, as the current chair of the SCO-CHG. The heads of government of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives from the SCO Observer States attended the meeting.

The foreign minister, in his address to the forum, emphasized the importance of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between SCO member states. He underscored that building greater connectivity across SCO region would help unlock the political and economic potential of intra-SCO cooperation.

He stressed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, supplements SCO's vision of shared prosperity through regional connectivity and integration.

Reaffirming the importance Pakistan attaches to SCO, the foreign minister highlighted actions taken by Pakistan under various agreements and projects for advancing regional cooperation based on principles enunciated in the "Shanghai Spirit."

Sharing Pakistan's experience of several successful initiatives to alleviate poverty, the Foreign Minister also announced that the first meeting of the SCO Special Working Group on Poverty Alleviation will be held in Islamabad in December.

Thanking the SCO countries for expressing solidarity with and extending support for the flood-affected people in Pakistan, the Foreign Minister highlighted the significance of collective action to combat the far-reaching devastating impact of Climate Change. He also urged the developed countries to fulfil their commitments on climate finance to help developing countries address Climate Change for meeting sustainable development goals.

Reflecting on the importance of achieving lasting peace and security in the region for economic development, the foreign minister stressed the need to address the scourge of terrorism in all its manifestations, including state terrorism.

He also underlined the importance of sustained and practical engagement with Afghanistan in order to help the Afghan people overcome the humanitarian and economic crises afflicting their country.

The CHG is the second highest forum of the SCO, where heads of government of member states exchange views and provide policy guidance on emerging regional and global issues in the context of regional connectivity, economic integration as well as socio-cultural and humanitarian cooperation among member states.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/02/1-page/946423-news.html>

PM in Beijing to discuss debt, CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to meet Chinese leaders and discuss plans for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a \$65 billion investment in the South Asian nation.

The major investment in development and energy projects in Pakistan is part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve China's road, rail and sea routes with the rest of the world.

Islamabad and Beijing are considered longtime close allies, and Sharif is also expected to discuss security issues while on his visit.

On his two-day maiden visit to Beijing since taking office in April, Sharif will also seek some debt relief from China, in particular the rolling over of bilateral debt, an aide travelling with the prime minister told Reuters.

Chinese loans - around \$23 billion - make up the largest chunk of Pakistan's \$27 billion of bilateral debt.

Sharif will be one of the first leaders to meet President Xi since he secured a third term in power.

Pakistan had been struggling with a balance of payments crisis even before devastating floods hit the country over the summer, causing it an estimated \$30 billion or more in losses. "My discussions with the Chinese leadership will focus on revitalization of CPEC among

many other things,” Sharif said in a statement adding that he will be meeting President Xi and other Chinese executives while there.

Sharif’s govt allege that the CPEC project was slowed down during the tenure of ousted former premier Imran Khan, a charge the latter denies.

Sharif’s delegation among others includes the finance and energy ministers.

Pakistan has indicated previously that it will seek bilateral debt relief to lessen its balance of payment problems, but it hasn’t made any official announcement on whether it will formally ask Beijing for such help.

Pakistan’s central bank reserves have fallen to as low as \$7.4 billion, barely enough for one and a half months of imports. Reuters

APP adds: On his arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, the prime minister was given a red carpet welcome as the smartly turned-out contingents of the Chinese forces presented him with the guard of honor, a PM Office statement said.

During his first official visit to China after assuming office, the prime minister will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

He is heading a high-level delegation including the federal cabinet ministers, special assistants as well as Sindh chief minister.

He is among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party (CPC) of China that elected Xi Jinping as general secretary of the party. Prime Minister Shehbaz is also scheduled to meet Chinese investors and Pakistani businessmen.

The visit is expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held on October 27, 2022.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/02/1-page/946422-news.html>

ML-1 project, KCR under CPEC

Pakistan, China committed to starting works: minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan and China are committed to start work on ML-1 Railway Project and Karachi Circular Railway under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The minister said that several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements will be signed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China.

He said in a statement on Tuesday that both sides are committed to commence work on ML-1 and Karachi Circular Railway.

He said that the ML-1 Railway Project will have a positive impact on the economies of Pakistan and China.

The minister said industrial cooperation would be promoted under the CPEC which would also create job opportunities. He said that there would also be a discussion on agricultural cooperation under the CPEC.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/02/3-page/946439-news.html>

Daily Times

PM gets red carpet welcome in China

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday landed in Beijing on a two-day official visit to meet Chinese leadership and review All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and discuss regional and global developments. On his arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, the prime minister was given a red carpet welcome as the smartly turned-out contingents of the Chinese forces presented him with the guard of honor, a PM Office statement said. During his first official visit to China after assuming office, the prime minister will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

He is heading a high-level delegation including the federal cabinet ministers, special assistants as well as Sindh chief minister. He is among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party (CPC) of China that elected Xi Jinping as general secretary of the party.

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Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said during his visit to China today, he would hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly revitalization of the multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The prime minister said the second phase of CPEC promises to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that would uplift quality of the people's lives. "There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle," he said in a tweet, stressing that his discussions with Chinese leadership would focus on revitalization of CPEC among many other things.

The prime minister said he was honoured to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

"At a time when the world is grappling with multiple challenges, Pakistan and China stand together as friends and partners," he said.

Shehbaz Sharif is leaving for China today on a two-day visit accompanied by a high-level delegation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1021306/pm-gets-red-carpet-welcome-in-china/>

Quest for Debt-free Infrastructure

Muhammad Hamza Qamar

China's economic and political footprint has expanded rapidly over the world in recent past decades. More and more countries have been engaging in Chinese projects in the region and beyond in multiple ways. The monetary and infrastructure investment has engaged many countries with robust economic and civil institutions, and others with weak economic structures, the implications have statistically proved passive for many recipient countries. The economic activism is more visible in two strategic regions, south Asia and Africa where the outreach of Chinese economic and political profile has grown remarkably in recent years. However, countries in this region lack the institutional depth to evaluate the domestic implications of Chinese activism and policy recommendations.

Sri Lanka is currently in throes of a vicious economic meltdown and it is essential to evaluate and compare the economic situation in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the context of global economic crises that have ravaged developing nations. Pakistan has a large amount of debt, high inflation, a spike in unemployment and a lot of other macroeconomic problems which shows that the country's economy is like a ticking time bomb. The factors that contributed to Sri Lanka's economic crisis have also had a significant impact on Pakistan, whose economy faces similar challenges. The import dependence of essential commodities, limited foreign exchange sources, restrictions on free trade and accumulated external debt are among the other alarming similarities between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Sri Lanka provides a historical illustration in this case. In a debt/equity swap, Sri Lanka has transferred the Hambantota port, and power plant and may transfer the airport to Chinese control because it is unable to pay off its debts. Additionally, debt service consumes 90 per cent of Sri Lanka's revenue. Another example could be Venezuela, where China made the largest investment of any single country so far, investing \$52 billion from 2008 to 2014.

One cannot deviate from the fact that China is one strong ally in the region that Pakistan needs for both its sustained economic gains and political stability.

In the case of the African region, Sub-Saharan Africa's public debt has increased from 34 per cent in 2013 to 53 per cent in 2017. A major portion of Kenya's \$36.4 billion worth of external debt (as on June 2022) is from China. Kenya has already paid USD 972.7 million on Chinese debt so far and Kenya's treasury projects and debt repayments to the Exim bank of China will raise to USD 800 million in the next financial year. Kenya's auditor general recently issued a warning that if the country defaults on loans from the China Exim Bank, it runs the risk of losing control of Mombasa port. The terms of a US\$2.3 billion loan for Kenya Railways Corporation specify that the port's assets are collateral, and due to a waiver in the contract, they are not protected by Kenya's sovereign immunity. China has provided 30 per cent of Ethiopia's total new public external debt over the past five years and China's Exim bank has recently refused to release USD 339 million meant for Ethiopia's infrastructure projects.

The same can be applied to Pakistan, where the country's total debt, is close to \$72 billion, or close to 70 per cent of GDP, and the current account deficit has increased close to 120 per

cent. With the Chinese silk road project, the interest will be in the range of seven per cent, payable in 25 to 40 years, and Pakistan will be required to pay roughly seven to eight billion dollars as EMI for the ensuing 43 years, beginning in 2018 and so on. It appears impossible for the nation to pay back both the principal amount and such a hefty interest rate.

No doubt, the Chinese silk road project is a colossal entity in the region, where China has been investing in the infrastructure sector of Pakistan, but necessary measures may be taken at the earliest to avoid Pakistan going Srilanka's way. The latest developments have not only transmuted the region, generating a pool of jobs for locals but also purportedly offer long-term sustainable economic gains. The situation is however contentious regarding the local concerns of Gwadar in Baluchistan. People including local fishermen purveying the marine resources had been at risk of losing their livelihood because of Chinese investment in Gwadar. Moreover, the locals had not been provided with a substitute for their loss of profession. The recalcitrant behaviour of locals is justified at their end but there's another side of the coin, which is more striking.

The piled-up foreign debt and shrinking foreign reserves are egregious to indulge in further loan programs which are required to proceed with the Chinese project. While these are enough signs to prove that Pakistan will go down the exact path shortly, the situation in Sri Lanka should serve as a warning to Pakistan's upper echelons that financial and governance mismanagement could lead to a Sri Lanka-like situation in its backyard.

To resolve Pakistan's monetary issues, the public authority ought to reconsider settling the economy in a manner that wouldn't reserve its gains and political uprisings don't plunge into societal strife. In essence, Pakistan's economic recovery and stability can only be sustained with the support of a broader dialogue and citizen engagement. While projecting the bigger picture, one cannot deviate from the fact that China is one strong ally in the region that Pakistan needs for both its sustained economic gains and political stability, but the foreign affairs echelons also bear the responsibility to generate a wide range of regional investors to help mitigate the eminent effect of the debt trap, on the same patterns, which resulted in the downfall of Sri Lanka. This requires a cohesive national economic approach to set the patterns, which allows Pakistan to engage with more than one economic partner. The Shanghai Corporation Organization is also one such platform that safely vouches for its members the opportunity to engage in enhanced cooperation, which Pakistan must seek. Missing out on the opportunity for Russian oil and Iranian gas would be a blunder. The potential to explore the enhanced trade routes with its neighbours would also be a good direction to help alleviate the poor conditions at ground level. Eventually, it's a matter of national interest and Pakistan shall take effective corrective measures to evade this precarious debt trap economic situation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1021358/quest-for-debt-free-infrastructure/>

Railways to receive 46 new coaches from China on December 15

Pakistan Railways would receive the first batch of 46 new coaches from China on December 15 which would not only upgrade the current rolling stock but also provide modern travelling facilities to the passengers.

“Out of the total 230 coaches, 46 will be provided as completely built units and the remaining 184 to be manufactured in the county by the department’s engineers and technical staff under the supervision of the Chinese experts,” an official told APP. He said the coaches would have the capacity to run at the train’s speed of 160 kilometres per hour and the teams of Pakistan Railways were in China for the inspection of the prototypes of the coaches as well as the modern high-capacity wagons.

The official said the experts of China were also providing training to the technical staff of Pakistan Railways on the manufacturing of such rolling stock. He said Pakistan Railway was planning to upgrade the dilapidated track as the Khanpur-Kotri section was not fit for high-speed train operation while most of the Main Line-I (ML-I) parts were fit for the 120km per hour train operation.

“After the completion of the ML-I project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the entire ML-1 track would have the capacity to bear the rolling stock operations at the speed of 160km per hour,” he added. He said that under another similar nature contract, a Chinese company would manufacture 800 freight wagons and 20 brake wagons. The manufacturing of 184 coaches in Pakistan would be under the ‘Transfer of Technology’ project.

For the coaches planned to be manufactured in Pakistan – Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory, Islamabad – the Chinese firm would provide spare parts and raw materials, he added. The official said the teams of Pakistan Railways had left for China mid of August consisting of 18 officials for design inspections, 20 for other inspections and the others for participating in the training related to the transfer of technology.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1021540/railways-to-receive-46-new-coaches-from-china-on-december-15/>

Dawn News

PM lands in Beijing to ‘breathe new life’ into CPEC

Syed Irfan Raza

- Shehbaz to meet Chinese leadership, review strategic partnership, discuss regional and global developments
- Bilawal says CPEC to build greater connectivity across SCO region

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Beijing on Tuesday on his maiden visit to the neighbouring country with the basic purpose of revitalising the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seeking investment in various sectors in Pakistan and increasing bilateral trade.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), the prime minister, during his visit, will meet the Chinese leadership and review the all-weather strategic partnership and discuss regional and global developments.

Upon his arrival at the Beijing airport, PM Sharif was accorded a red carpet welcome as smartly-turned out contingents of the Chinese forces presented him with a guard of honour, the PMO statement said.

During his first official visit to China after assuming office in April, the premier will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. He is heading a high-level delegation, including federal ministers, special assistants as well as the Sindh chief minister.

The PM is among the first world leaders to visit China following the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that elected Xi Jinping as the party's general secretary.

Prime Minister Sharif is also scheduled to meet Chinese investors and Pakistani businessmen. The visit is expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of memoranda of understanding/agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held on Oct 27.

The coalition government in Islamabad has already accused the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government of slowing down the pace of CPEC rather putting it "in the doldrums".

China's 'economic miracle'

Earlier, the prime minister had said in a tweet that during his visit, he would hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly revitalization of the multi-billion-dollar CPEC project. He said the second phase of the project promised to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that would uplift the quality of people's lives.

"There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle," he tweeted, stressing that his discussions with the Chinese leadership would focus on revitalization of the CPEC among many other things.

Mr Sharif also said he was honoured to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the "historic" 20th National Congress of China's Communist Party.

"At a time when the world is grappling with multiple challenges, Pakistan and China stand together as friends and partners," he said.

'CPEC to supplement SCO vision'

Over in Beijing, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said the CPEC was significant in supplementing the vision of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), aimed at ensuring shared prosperity through regional connectivity and integration.

Addressing at the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the SCO, the minister said the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative would build greater connectivity across the SCO region and help unlock the economic potential of intra-SCO cooperation, as reported by APP.

The meeting was virtually hosted by China, as the current Chair of the SCO CHG, and attended by the heads of governments of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives from SCO observer states.

The foreign minister emphasized the importance of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between SCO member states. Reaffirming the importance Pakistan attached to the forum, the foreign minister highlighted actions taken by Pakistan under various agreements and projects for advancing regional cooperation based on principles enunciated in the ‘Shanghai Spirit’.

Sharing Pakistan’s experience of several successful initiatives to alleviate poverty, he also announced that the first meeting of the SCO Special Working Group on Poverty Alleviation would be held in Islamabad in December.

Commenting on the importance of achieving lasting peace and security in the region for economic development, Mr Bhutto-Zardari stressed the need to address the scourge of terrorism in all its manifestations, including state terrorism. He also underlined the importance of sustained and practical engagement with Afghanistan.

Obstacles removed

Meanwhile, regarding the PM’s visit to China, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb was confident it would give impetus to the CPEC as envisioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Talking to the media in Islamabad, APP reported that she regretted the multi-billion-dollar project was “halted” during the PTI government, adding not even a single meeting of the JCC was held during its tenure. She claimed the present government had removed all obstacles in the way of Chinese investment and put all the halted projects back on track.

Ironically, she said, PTI chief Imran Khan had once again launched a long march “to spread chaos and anarchy” when the prime minister left for China. During the visit, new accords would be signed with focus on the progress of ongoing projects, she added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718376/pm-lands-in-beijing-to-breathe-new-life-into-cpec>

Chinese firm vows to develop Pakistan’s mining sector

Saleem Shahid / Ali Raza Rind

SAINDAK: The MCC Resources Development Co Ltd (MRDL), a Chinese company working on Saindak copper-cum-gold project, on Tuesday celebrated the completion of its 20 years of operations and vowed to continue efforts to develop the mining sector in Pakistan.

A ceremony to commemorate the event was attended by MRDL Chairman He Xuping, President Zhang Zhijun, Senior Vice President Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Vice President Humayun Mehmood, Saindak Metals Limited (SML) Managing Director Muhammad Raziq Sanjrani and tribal elders.

Mr Xuping said MRDL arrived in Sandak in 1987 and since 1992, Pakistan and China have worked together and set up a non-ferrous metal mine which integrates mining, concentrating and smelting.

He added that in 2002 the company was entrusted by the governments of the two countries and it marked the beginning of “stable operations” in Saindak, which continued even after 20 years.

He recalled that the mine had been shut for many years in 2002, but the Chinese and Pakistani workers strived to achieve systematic restoration of the entire production process in just 11 months, which would take three years as per standard practices in the industry.

“Over the past two decades, the company has standardised its management, fulfilled cooperation agreements and worked together with SML for development while maintaining stability and high efficiency.” Even during the economic crisis of 2008 and Covid-19 pandemic, the project achieved brilliant results and uplifted the surrounding areas, he added.

The project has so far produced more than 290,000 tonnes of blister copper, resulted in foreign exchange worth \$2.6 billion, paid more than \$500 million to the lessor, created more than 1,900 jobs and paid \$1.2b for local procurement.

As a positive outcome of the project, Mr Xuping said MRDL has trained a large number of mining engineers and other experts which will fulfil the future needs of the mining sector. “We are committed to building a bigger and strong mining industry for Pakistan.” He also announced the project has been incorporated as a “mega project” in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718378/chinese-firm-vows-to-develop-pakistans-mining-sector>

Rs50bn escrow account activated for payment of dues to Chinese IPPs

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government had to relax contractual conditions and shift about Rs50 billion worth of budgetary allocations for electricity subsidies to an escrow account for automatic partial payments to Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to pacify M/s Sinosure, a Chinese insurance company, into facilitating future projects in Pakistan.

This was one of the key outstanding issues hampering the signing of new power projects as Sinosure had been reluctant for quite some time to provide insurance cover to Chinese investment in Pakistan. At least two major hydropower projects in Azad Kashmir with a combined capacity of about 2,000MW had been delayed for at least two years because of Chinese unease.

Over the past two weeks, the ministries of planning, foreign office, finance and power had been engaged with the Chinese side in hectic consultations to “resolve pending matters related to IPPs under CPEC”, particularly those relating to the expedited settlement of delayed payments before Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s ongoing visit to Beijing, sources in Power Division said.

At a meeting on Oct 26, organised by power and finance divisions, Sinosure emphatically expressed its inability to provide future insurance without “early resolution of Revolving Account Agreement (RAA) pending between Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) and

Chinese IPPs since 2017”. Under the CPEC Energy Project Cooperation Agreement for the development of power projects under CPEC framework signed on Nov 8, 2014, the CPPA and Chinese IPPs had agreed on terms of RAA for automatic payment of at least 22pc payables to IPPs directly through the recovery of electricity bills of distribution companies (Discos).

“However, due to various technical and financial constraints, RAA could not be implemented” over the past five years, the Power Division said explaining that lately a summary was moved on May 30 for approval of the government to operationalise the account but in vain. This continued to be agitated by the Chinese investors and government agencies through the defunct CPEC authority and the foreign affairs ministry.

On Oct 31, the Ministry of Finance came up with an interim arrangement for the Power Division to open “an assignment under the title of Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) till such time matters pertaining to RAA are resolved”. The account would be opened at the National Bank of Pakistan and operated by the CPPA and Rs50bn allocation from the finance ministry’s subsidy account would stand shifted to the new account — PERF — with a monthly limit of Rs4bn on withdrawal of such account. This “will not fully fulfill the revolving account requirements under the RAA, but it will provide additional comfort to Chinese IPPs”.

Secondly, the CPPA’s board of directors approved early last month amendments to the power purchase agreement (PPA) of 1,320MW Shanghai Electric’s Thar Coal project as high-level contacts had desired that the “Power Division should ensure financial closure” since the project was 90pc complete.

Among the ‘prioritised projects’ under CPEC framework, the project was originally subject to the normal policy regime of the 2015 power generation policy and all of the rights, incentives and obligations accruing under the letter of support were to become effective on the declaration of financial close — meaning the availability of loans for drawdown. On October 6, 2022, Shanghai Electric reported that it was unable to achieve financial close due to unforeseen events and reasons beyond its control and thus non-availability of Sinosure and resultant lenders’ approvals. However, in the interest of expediency, the project sponsors started project implementation through their own equity and achieved 90pc completion by investing about \$2bn in project development and coal mining and promised commercial operation date (COD) by end of December 2022.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718393>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC’s Strategic Expansion & Visit of PM to China: An Expert Opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Hopefully, during the ongoing maiden visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be further transformed on the path of a “qualitative development” and “strategic expansion”.

Lots of proposals, propositions, plans, programs and projects have already been discussed and finalized for signing of MOUs/agreements during the visit of Premier Sharif in Beijing.

The visit of PM Sharif will have “multiplier effects” in terms of future socio-economic development, geopolitical stability and last but not the least geo-strategic “sustainability” for both sides.

It seems that during the visit to China, the CPEC Phase-II will be officially “commenced” in which lots of new mega projects of energy i.e. solar energy, hydro-power generation, coal and even wind energy will be discussed and subsequently approved.

In this regard, the government of Pakistan plans to develop solar energy production in the country up to 10000 MW and its modalities will be finalized during this visit which is good omen.

The completion of the 10,000 megawatts solar project will be a “value addition” in our national energy mix enabling us to meet the energy shortage at a “cheaper price”.

Thar coal energy production has been accelerated in the country and it has now been included in the agenda of the PM visit to China.

Moreover, the Gwadar coal project is also a mega energy project which will further stimulate social development in Gwadar and reduce poverty too.

Kohala Hydropower Project, Azad Patan Project, Electricity Meter Project and Hub Gwadar Transmission Line Project will be thoroughly discussed and approved during the PM’s visit to China.

The energy projects of the Gilgit- Baltistan (GB) the “Window of the CPEC” should also be pushed forward during this important visit.

The rigorous persuasions of the incumbent government of Pakistan in terms of new energy production shows, “sustainable energy vision” of the incumbent government to overcome widening energy deficits in the country along with achieving the “diversified” energy mix and cheaper energy production in the country.

The mega project of rail has become one of the main attractions in the current visit of PM Sharif to China.

Previously the mega project of ML-1 has been pending but somehow, the incumbent government has convinced the Chinese counterpart to include this project which is very important for the “rehabilitation’ and further “development” of Pakistan Railways in the country. Moreover, Karachi Circular Railway will also be discussed. Moreover, the future development of various important highways will be signed.

The MoUs of Babusar Tunnel, Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway, Mansehra-Muzaffarabad Road, Sago-Yub Road, realignment of Karakoram Highway (KKH) and M9 will also be discussed and may be approved during the recent visit.

The current visit of PM Sharif will open a new “window of opportunity” for both countries in terms of “manufacturing” and “supply chain networking”.

The proposed production facility of the solar panels with “Transfer of Technology Facility” in the country would be value addition in the country.

It would further enhance scope, utility and horizon of Pak-China Trade Agreement Phase-II. It would further expand the outreach of the CPEC projects in the country.

Hopefully, Pakistan will get new “impetus” in energy, infrastructure, investment, joint ventures and trade and last but not the least social development after the visit of PM Sharif to China.

The government of Pakistan should focus on the development of Information Technology (IT) sector under the flagship of CPEC Phase-II and include setting of six sub-working groups on communication technology infrastructure, application innovation, policy and regulation, HR development, cyber security and radio spectrum regulation, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, science & technology, quantum computing, robotics and big data study.

In this regard, proposed building of the Pak-China Technology Business Forum (PCTBF) would further foster IT & ICT cooperation between two countries in the days to come in which the private sector of both the countries including Software Houses and IT companies would play an important role.

To conclude, for achieving the desired goals of immense socio-economic integration, high volumes of trade, investment, industrialization, successful transition towards green energy production, agricultural revolution, sustainable disaster management cooperation, anti-climate change technologies, weather monitoring system and last but not the least further diversification of energy resources should be included in the CPEC-Phase-II.

I suggest that both countries should launch new corridors mainly, China-Pakistan Digital Corridor (CPDC), China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), China-Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Corridor (CPAIC), China-Pakistan Agriculture Corridor (CPAC) and last but not the least China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor (CPKC) which should be expedited and thoroughly discussed during the visit of PM Sharif to China.

In this connection, The “Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS)” Islamabad and the “Pakistan Observer ” would play an important role in the days to come.

Hopefully, these corridors would further enhance cooperation in different fields of Information Technology (IT), formation & building of Software Development Houses, institutionalization of e-commerce, quantum communications, block-chain technologies, IT Supply Chains, CHIPS, big data processing and integration, ICT and last but not the least, qualitative development in science and technology and space sciences in the days to come in CPEC Phase-II.

Furthermore, transition from carbon peak to carbon neutrality may be geared-up with the formation of CPGC in the country which would definitely promote development of green energies in the countries.

In this regard, China being the champion of renewables (wind & solar) should cooperate with Pakistan under the flagship project of the CPEC and stimulate its growth in the country by establishing solar planes production houses.

Building of lithium batteries, water storage batteries (GB geography is ideal for this innovative idea), production of electric vehicles, carbon capturing technologies, production of global warming control technologies along with an early warning system in weather monitoring technologies should also be discussed in the visit of the PM.

It anticipates that formation of the China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC) will further enhance capacity building, efficiency in the medical field, vaccines and medical equipment in Pakistan.

Artificial Intelligence Health Production (AIHP) may be an innovative and value addition in the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

In addition to this, China-Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Corridor (CPAIC) would be a value addition in the CPEC Phase-II because it would accelerate a qualitative development path in the country.

It would foster modernization in the country. An Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence in Pakistan would be a game changer for both the countries.

Moreover, China-Pakistan Agriculture Corridor (CPAC) would focus on the agricultural environment, food security and green revolution in the country.

Duality of cropping technologies, diversification of crops technologies, drone agricultural production, hybrid seed center, bio-fertilizer production units, organic cultivation technologies and last but not the least, water conservation gadgetry should also be discussed during the maiden visit of PM Sharif to China.

The pending issues pertaining to speedy construction of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), LNG, mining, banking and finance cooperation (swapping of national currencies) and integrated social development projects in the GB and Balochistan through the development of SME should also be included in the CPEC Phase-II.

Irritants pertaining to bureaucratic hurdles, execution, implementation and completion of the CPEC Phase-II in the country should also be amicably settled.

Matters of proper security of the Chinese personnel working in different projects of the CPEC along with pending payments should also be thoroughly discussed and resolved for the easy and smooth sailing of CPEC Phase-II projects in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-strategic-expansion-visit-of-pm-to-china-an-expert-opinion-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

China appreciates PM Shehbaz's remarks on CPEC, Sino-Pak relations

Beijing: China has once again lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks on China's development achievements, China-Pakistan relations, and the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) before PM Shehbaz set off on his maiden official visit to the People's Republic of China on Tuesday.

In a regular press conference, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said: "We deeply appreciate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks. We believe they show the importance he attaches to his visit to China."

Underlying the iron-clad relationship between the two countries, Zhao said: "China-Pakistan friendship has been carried on from generation to generation, and our two countries have always supported each other on issues concerning our respective major interests, and have stood together and helped each other in the face of major natural disasters."

Zhao went on to say that as a flagship program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC had become a landmark of China-Pakistan cooperation.

"[CPEC] has effectively boosted economic development, improved people's livelihood, and generated positive socioeconomic effects in Pakistan. The recent 11th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC was a success. Multiple common understandings were reached about CPEC's future development."

He added that China warmly welcomes PM Shehbaz on his first official visit and looks forward to further advancing our high-level strategic cooperation and bringing more fruitful outcomes from our friendship to the benefit of the two peoples.

Pakistan needs to 'emulate' Chinese development model: PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity.

He said that he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of "productive and fruitful meetings" aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations. He termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a "game-changer" for development in Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies.

Pacing up the CPEC projects, he said, would not only boost dividends for Pakistan but also increase the country's business presence in China. He stressed the relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan given the cheap local labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both countries.

In addition, PM Shehbaz on Tuesday said that he was honoured to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the historic 20th National Congress of the CPC.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-appreciates-pm-shehbazs-remarks-on-cpec-sino-pak-relations/>

Pakistan needs to 'emulate' Chinese development model: PM Shehbaz

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to embark on his maiden two-day visit to the People's Republic of China on Tuesday.

Addressing the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), the Prime Minister emphasized creating favorable environment for building a business-to-business relationship.

“Let’s join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors,” he said.

PM Shehbaz said that he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of “productive and fruitful meetings” aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

He termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a “game-changer” for development in Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies. Pacing up the CPEC projects, he said, would not only boost dividends for Pakistan but also increase the country’s business presence in China.

He stressed the relocation of the labor-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of the cheap local labor by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both countries.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the huge potential existing between the two countries and called for streamlining the business procedures in Pakistan to benefit from China being the second-largest economy in the world.

The premier expressed confidence that launched in January, the PCBIF would promote business linkages besides identifying promising investment opportunities to nurture the business environment between the two countries.

He expressed gratitude to China for being one of the largest donors of relief assistance for the flood-affected people in Pakistan and also for setting up an air bridge for the supply of tents, food, and medicine. He lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution towards strengthening Pak-China relations in diverse fields.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-needs-to-emulate-chinese-development-model-pm-shehbaz/>

CPEC: Beyond regional connectivity

Professor Dr Muhammad Khan

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif is currently visiting China on the invitation of Prime Minister Li Keqiang (November 1-2, 2022).

During the visit the Pakistani Premier will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Li. After the successful meeting of 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Prime Minister of Pakistan is the first leader to visit China.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) started on 16 October 2022 and closed on 22 October 2022.

President Xi has already been nominated for the third term and he is well on his way to complete his mission: Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) being the most significant mission he

has assumed for himself and China in 2013. The primary objective of BRI is connecting China with the rest of the world through a number of corridors.

These economic corridors are to connect China with its neighbours and then other countries and regions beyond Asia. It is pertinent to mention that the ancient Silk Road started during the westward expansion of the Chinese Han Dynasty from 206 BCE to 220 CE.

Within the ambit of BRI, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the most significant component.

During the visit of the Prime Minister, the Chinese leadership and Pakistani team will deliberate the grey areas of this gigantic project.

The broader dimension of CPEC is that it is a project of larger regional integration. Besides, CPEC provides economic prosperity for various regions of Asia, especially the economically deprived regions.

Pakistan is a key state for the success of this project since it (CPEC) covers over 3000 kilometre area of Pakistani geopolitics. CPEC is a project of immense significance for Pakistan and China.

Wolf, an author, had researched and highlighted the philosophy behind Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and more about the strategy of Economic Corridors (ECs).

The Gwadar Deep Sea Port is central to CPEC and its connectivity towards the Middle East and Africa.

CPEC was chosen as the flagship project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). There were many reservations and misgivings about the completion of the CPEC right from its beginning.

Among many others security was the chief concern since Pakistan was combating the menace of terrorism and militancy at the time of conception of the idea of CPEC.

This primary issue was immediately resolved once the Pakistan Army took over the responsibility of security of the CPEC by raising two security divisions.

With this guaranteed security arrangement there has been no mishap from the security point of view all along the CPEC.

Recently, there have been many rumours that under pressure or otherwise, Pakistan has slowed-down progress on the CPEC. In the first phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the major focus remained on the development of projects related to energy and communication infrastructure (road network).

Indeed, energy is the most needed component for the development of all other projects of CPEC and the road network is essential for the passage of all stuff needed for the initiation, development and completion of a comprehensive corridor.

The next focus of the road network was on Western Route (alignment); Islamabad-Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan) Motorway is in the completion phase and DI Khan to Zhob motorway project has also been approved by China.

The salient feature of the Western alignment is that it passes through poverty-ridden remote areas, promising to provide job opportunities for the poor masses and economic prosperity for the entire region.

While the essential aspects of the road infrastructure and energy projects are well on their way to completion, the second phase of the CPEC is all about the establishment and development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), science and technology and related aspects of economic development all along the corridor.

These are the major projects of the CPEC which would boost the national economy of Pakistan, enable local masses to develop their own business, agriculture and job markets.

In a way, Phase-II of the CPEC is all aimed at reducing the poverty and economic prosperity of the masses at regional level. With the introduction of modern agriculture technology, the trends of corporate farming and community farming will take route in various parts of Pakistan which will substantially boost the agricultural sector of Pakistan.

As part of SEZs, the industrial sector is boosted with work on Rashakai and Faisalabad industrial zones in full swing.

In Rashakai SEZ, more land is being procured for the expansion of this industrial zone, covering an area of 3,600 acres. Similarly, for the development of Allama Iqbal SEZ Faisalabad, German and Canadian firms have applied for a joint venture.

Besides, SEZs of Dhabeji is considered for the development on priority since it has close proximity with Karachi port. The Gwadar Free Zone is being expanded in the second phase to an area of 2,200 acres.

In the first phase it was expanded to 60 acres of land only which is mostly populated and developed now. There is a growing interest of foreign investors for their investment in various sectors.

Pakistan and China are working on a bilateral framework agreement on industrial cooperation which will be signed as part of CPEC. It will be a government-to-government (G2G) deal, earlier launched in 2015 but shut down, to be restarted later.

In summary, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is moving ahead as per the laid-down master plan. Owing to its significance, neither Beijing nor Islamabad can afford to relegate or abandon it all together.

During the meeting of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, CPEC will be the primary focus. Indeed, beyond regional connectivity, CPEC is a new symbol and trademark of Pakistan-China friendship which must be completed in the given time-frame.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-beyond-regional-connectivity-by-professor-dr-muhammad-khan/>

PM Shehbaz meets Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang

Beijing: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang at the Great Hall during his maiden two-day official visit to the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz and Premier Li Keqiang agreed on the early completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects and the expansion of CPEC.

Upon his arrival at the Great Hall, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was presented with the guard of honor.

PM Shehbaz Sharif is visiting China at the invitation of Premier Li Keqiang. PM Shehbaz, President Xi agree to strengthen cooperation on CPEC, strategic partnership

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping as well. During the meeting, the two leaders agreed to strengthen multilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and strategic partnership. The two leaders also met at the People's Great Hall of China and discussed broad-based cooperation in economy and investment, besides exchanging views on regional and global developments.

PM Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Beijing on Tuesday on a two-day official visit and is among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party (CPC) of China.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz congratulated President Xi on his reelection as General Secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He also thanked him for China's invaluable assistance to Pakistan's relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in the wake of the devastation caused by super floods in the country.

The two leaders reviewed the progress in Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries that has withstood the test of time.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-meets-chinese-counterpart-li-keqiang/>

PM Shehbaz, President Xi agree to strengthen cooperation on CPEC, strategic partnership

Beijing: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday agreed to strengthen multilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and strategic partnership.

The two leaders met at the People's Great Hall of China and discussed broad-based cooperation in economy and investment, besides exchanging views on regional and global developments.

PM Sharif and President Xi expressed the desire to further promote the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership between their countries.

PM Shehbaz Sharif, who arrived in Beijing Tuesday on a two-day official visit, is among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party (CPC) of China.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz congratulated President Xi on his reelection as General Secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He also thanked him for China's invaluable assistance to Pakistan's relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in the wake of the devastation caused by super floods in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-shehbaz-president-xi-agree-to-strengthen-cooperation-on-cpec-strategic-partnership/>

Where will China go after the 20th National Congress of the CPC?

Zhou Rong

The two leaders reviewed the progress in Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries that has withstood the test of time.

Historic China-Pak ties

Reaffirming Pakistan's historic ties with China and the salience of bilateral friendship for regional peace and stability, PM Shehbaz strongly said that Pakistan-China friendship enjoyed complete consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan and was a model of inter-state relations.

Paying tribute to President Xi's leadership for China's prosperity and his vision for strengthening of the bilateral relationship, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan drew inspiration from China's socioeconomic development and national resolve to the country's progress and prosperity.

Trade consensus

The two leaders discussed cooperation across a range of issues, including defense, trade and investment, agriculture, health, education, green energy, science and technology, and disaster preparedness. They reaffirmed their mutual commitment to CPEC while highlighting that CPEC's high-quality development would further strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and China.

In this regard, PM Shehbaz and President Xi agreed that as a project of strategic importance, both sides would make joint efforts for launching ML-1 as an early harvest project, under the CPEC framework. They also acknowledged the need for a mass-transit project in Karachi and agreed to finalize all formalities for the early launching of the Karachi Circular Railway.

Additional support for flood victims

President Xi Jinping assured that China would continue to extend its support to Pakistan for sustainable economic development and to harness its potential as the geo-economic hub. He also announced an additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for Pakistan's post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The two leaders exchanged views on the rapid transformation in the international environment, which had exacerbated economic challenges for developing countries. They agreed that contemporary challenges like climate change, health pandemics, and growing

inequalities needed unqualified cooperation among states, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping also discussed key issues, pertaining to the region, including the situation in IIOJK and in Afghanistan. Both leaders acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote regional security and economic development and agreed that CPEC's extension to Afghanistan would strengthen regional connectivity initiatives.

This is PM Shehbaz's maiden official visit to China after assuming the PM office earlier this year. A high-level delegation, including federal ministers, SAPMs as well as Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah is also accompanying the premier on the visit.

On his arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, the Prime Minister was given a red carpet welcome as the smartly turned-out contingents of the Chinese forces presented him with the guard of honor.

A day before leaving for China, PM Shehbaz had said that Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/where-will-china-go-after-the-20th-national-congress-of-the-cpc-by-zhou-rong/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC revitalisation in focus as PM arrives in Beijing

Shehbaz says there is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Beijing on Tuesday on a two-day official visit to meet Chinese leadership and review the 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' and discuss regional and global developments.

Upon his arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, Assistant Foreign Minister of China Wu Jinaghao warmly received the prime minister and his delegation.

During his first official visit to China as the prime minister, Shehbaz will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Prime Minister Shehbaz is also scheduled to meet Chinese investors and Pakistani businessmen.

Shehbaz is among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that elected Xi Jinping as the General Secretary of the party.

Before his departure for Beijing, Shehbaz said that during the visit he would hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on bilateral relations, particularly revitalisation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The prime minister said in a tweet that the second phase of CPEC promised to usher the country in a new era of socio-economic progress that would uplift quality of the people's lives.

“There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle,” he said, stressing that his discussions with Chinese leadership would focus on revitalisation of CPEC among many other things.

On Monday, Shehbaz addressed the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), saying that he looked forward to the “productive and fruitful meetings” with the Chinese leadership.

He stressed the relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of the cheap local labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both countries.

Additionally, Shehbaz met Chinese ambassador Nong and discussed diverse matters with him before the China visit, the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384199/cpec-revitalisation-in-focus-as-pm-arrives-in-beijing>

Bull-run extends on China visit optimism

Benchmark KSE-100 index rises 544.03 points to settle at 41,808.69

KARACHI: Bulls held on to their positions for the second consecutive trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday as the benchmark KSE-100 index gained nearly 550 points due to expectations of a positive outcome from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China. Investors remained optimistic as PM Shehbaz landed in Beijing on Tuesday for a two-day official visit to meet the Chinese leadership.

Buying activity accelerated in anticipation of a likely debt rollover by China and the revival of CPEC, which kept the KSE-100 index in the positive zone. Bullish spell continued despite concerns over the PTI’s long march and the growing political noise. Market participants took fresh positions and pushed the index close to the 42,000-point mark. Earlier, the trading session commenced on a positive note with a spike. The index remained in the positive territory throughout the day, touching an intra-day high of 41,833.43 points in late hours. At close, the benchmark KSE-100 index recorded an increase of 544.03 points, or 1.32%, to settle at 41,808.69.

Topline Securities, in its report, said that Pakistan equities closed positive where the benchmark KSE-100 index settled at 41,809 (up 1.32%). The day kicked off on a positive note as initial gains were led by the cement sector over decline in international coal prices. Lucky Cement, Maple Leaf Cement Factory, DG Khan Cement Company and Pioneer Cement closed higher, it said. However, in the second half, investor interest was also witnessed in the technology sector where TRG Pakistan and NetSol Technologies hit their upper limits.

Avanceon Limited and Systems Limited also closed higher. Traded volume and value for the day stood at 190.53 million shares (up by 95%) and Rs6.29 billion (up by 1.5 times) respectively. WorldCall Telecom was the volume leader with trading in 22.93 million shares, Topline added. Arif Habib Limited, in its report, said that a positive session was witnessed at the PSX. In anticipation of a positive outcome from the prime minister’s visit to China and with the plummeting international coal prices, the bulls made a comeback after continuous

dry sessions. The market reached an intra-day high of 568 points, giving investors the much needed confidence, it said.

“Main board volumes improved dramatically, yet third-tier stocks continued to lead the volumes board.” The index closed at 41,808.69, up by 544.03 points (+1.32% day-on-day). Sectors contributing to the performance included technology and communications (+131.2 points), power generation and distribution (+41.8 points), cement (+83.7 points), E&P (+64.7 points) and fertiliser (+42.6 points). Volumes increased from 97.5 million shares to 192.1 million shares (+97.1% day-on-day). Traded value increased by 152.6% to \$28.6 million as against \$11.32 million. Stocks that contributed significantly to the volumes were World Call Telecom, Cnergyico Pk, TRG Pakistan, Pakistan Refinery and G3 Technologies. Overall trading volumes increased to 192.1 million shares compared with Monday’s tally of 97.5 million.

The value of shares traded during the day was Rs6.3 billion. Shares of 356 companies were traded. At the end of the day, 250 stocks closed higher, 82 declined and 24 remained unchanged. World Call Telecom was the volume leader with 33.1 million shares, gaining Rs0.15 to close at Rs1.48. It was followed by Cnergyico PK with 11.6 million shares, gaining Rs0.11 to close at Rs4.75 and TRG Pakistan with 8.2 million shares, gaining Rs8.2 to close at Rs118.07. Foreign investors were net sellers of Rs42.8 million worth of shares during the trading session, according to data compiled by the National Clearing Company of Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384228/bull-run-extends-on-china-visit-optimism>

The Nation

Pakistan, China stand together as partners: PM

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday reached Beijing on a two-day visit to China. Senior Chinese officials received the prime minister and his delegation at the Beijing Airport. During his stay in China, the prime minister will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation level talks with Premier Li Keqiang. The two sides will review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments. This is the first visit of Shehbaz Sharif to China since assuming office in April this year. PM’s visit represents continuity of the frequent leadership level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

‘CPEC’S REVITALISATION IN FOCUS’

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said during his visit to China that he would hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on the strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly the revitalisation of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The prime minister said the second phase of CPEC promises to usher in a new era of socioeconomic progress that would uplift the quality of the people’s lives. “There is a lot to learn from the Chinese economic miracle,” he said in a tweet, stressing that his discussions with Chinese leadership would focus on the revitalisation of CPEC among many other things.

The prime minister said he was honoured to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

“At a time when the world is grappling with multiple challenges, Pakistan and China stand together as friends and partners,” he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also scheduled to meet the Chinese investors and Pakistani businessmen. The prime minister is leading a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister of Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood, Minister of Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Minister for Defence Production Sardar Israr Tareen, and PM’s Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, Fahd Hussain, Zafaruddin Mahmood, Jahanzeb Khan and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-02/page-1/detail-0>

Cabinet okays 4 MoUs related to CPEC

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - The federal cabinet has granted approval to four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/agreements likely to be signed between Pakistan and China, including financing for construction of Breakwater at Gwadar port, security of Chinese nationals, an additional emergency assistance of 500 million yuan and Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Dozens of MoUs have been proposed for signing between Pakistan and China during the prime minister’s ongoing visit to China, official source told The Nation.

Moreover, important project such as financing Framework of ML-1, Karachi Circular Railways (KCR), Solar projects, projects related to culture, agriculture and formation of new Joint Working Groups, agreed by the 11th JCC of CPEC, are on the agenda of the prime minister’s visit.

The federal cabinet through circulation has granted approved to four MoUs, the source said. The MoU related to strengthening development cooperation and promoting the implementation of Global Development Initiative(GDI) will be signed between China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)of the People Republic of China and Pakistan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The areas agreed upon in the MoU include: poverty reduction, health care, education, agriculture, infrastructure development, plan and consultation, culture and sports, law enforcement cooperation, etc. Similarly Framework Agreement on Development of Breakwater at Gwadar Port is also on the agenda of the PM’s visit to China. In order to implement the strategic arrangements of ‘Belt and Road initiative’ and ‘China Pakistan Economic Corridor’, the government of People’s Republic of China and the government of Islamic

Republic of Pakistan are proactively pursuing the CPEC related Gwadar Projects, which are mutually beneficial for both the countries. In various CPEC JCC meetings, both the countries agreed on the need of construction of Breakwater at Gwadar

Port. A draft framework agreement is likely to be signed between both the countries for updating of feasibility study for construction of Breakwater at Gwadar Port, preparation of PC-1 and its construction.

Another MoU between CIDCA and Ministry of Economic Affairs on post disaster reconstruction has also been approved by the federal cabinet.

China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) has proposed to sign a MoU on Post-Disaster Reconstruction with Pakistan, during the PM visit.

China has decided to offer an additional emergency assistance worth 500 million RMB in favour of the Pakistani side, in addition to the 300 million RMB announced by government of China in September, 2022 for reconstruction to support Pakistan's post-disaster reconstruction effort.

Another MoU related to the security of Chinese Nationals in Pakistan is also approved by the cabinet.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-02/page-1/detail-6>

Visit To China

The first official visit of the Pakistani premier to China is always an instrumental foreign trip, considering that China is our closest ally and the importance of the continuation of Pakistan-China cooperation due to our several joint ventures. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's first visit to China as head of government comes at a testing time, right when a protest movement has been launched by the Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the form of a long march against the federal government.

Fortunately, it appears that the Prime Minister has not let the trials and tribulations of domestic affairs affect the visit, and the trip seems to be headed off in a positive direction so far. The agenda and goals planned out for the dialogue are on track—the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects look to be the main focus but the big question is whether the aim of getting a rollover on \$6.3 billion debt appears to be achievable, judging by the positive reactions of the leaders of both countries in the days prior.

The government looked to expedite projects and Chinese investor demands before making this visit which will undoubtedly help any further negotiations. As CPEC continues into its second phase, the benefits of CPEC, as well as timely negotiations, have started to become more apparent. Various leading Chinese companies have invested billions of dollars in different sectors. While CPEC had initially been coming in slow, these developments as the project now progresses indicates how consequential it is to make sure that the investment coming in from China is made to work effectively.

Some previous Chinese companies have complained of slow work and red tape in the past and it is important these factors slowing down business be countered. This approach should

be kept up to ensure that CPEC should be profitable for all stakeholders. These visits are therefore essential to ensure that China and Pakistan are on the same page at all stages of this long-term project.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-02/page-6/detail-0>

The News

Reviving CPEC: road to prosperity

Ahsan Iqbal

Initiated in 2013 by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was conceived and designed as the flagship project of the Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Aimed primarily at harnessing Pakistan's important geo-strategic location into geo-economic gains through improved regional and economic integration, CPEC encompassed a full spectrum of projects ranging from physical and digital connectivity to power generation and promotion of industrialization through Special Economic Zones. After extensive research and consultations and deliberations between representatives of the Governments of China and Pakistan, a comprehensive portfolio of projects was identified for implementation under the early harvest phase (2018), short-term projects (2020), medium-term phase (2025), and long-term phase (2030).

Given the severe energy crisis faced by the country in 2013 – estimated to have imposed a cost of about two per cent of GDP annually on the economy – power generation projects under the IPP policy were prioritized for the early harvest phase of CPEC. By the end of the early harvest phase, over 5,000MW power had already been added to the national grid while another batch of projects with a cumulative capacity of nearly 2500MW was near completion under the aegis of CPEC. Similarly, six major infrastructure projects were either completed or near completion by the end of 2018, including the Multan-Sukkur Motorway (392 kms), the Havelian-Thakot section of KKH (120 kms), Hoshab-Sorab road N-85 (449 kms; financed through PSDP), Hakla- DI Khan motorway (297 kms; financed through PSDP), Orange Line Metro train (27 kms), and cross-border optical fiber from Khunjerab to Rawalpindi (820 kms).

The total investment made in the completed and under-implementation projects stood around \$22-23 billion approximately. This massive influx of Chinese investment on the one hand boosted economic growth and helped bridge critical gaps in power, digital and physical infrastructure and aroused the interest of investors from other countries in Pakistan on the other hand.

However, unfortunately just as the PML-N government managed to steer the country out of the economic crisis and put it on the track of inclusive growth, a wave of political instability hit the country, posing a threat to the hard-won economic stability achieved with the help of CPEC. The challenge to CPEC was compounded as the PTI-led government assumed power in 2018. The multi-billion-dollar initiative lost steam under the PTI, thanks to the latter's poor understanding and weak management of CPEC.

Members of the PTI-led cabinet publicly spewed baseless allegations and propaganda with regard to CPEC projects. As if the latter was not enough, the inter-governmental and inter-provincial coordination mechanisms established and institutionalized over the course of the preceding five years were needlessly rolled back with the creation of a parallel body in the form of the ‘CPEC Authority’. These ill-advised steps not only affected the pace of under-implementation of CPEC projects but also undermined the confidence of existing and prospective Chinese investors. The outcome was that progress on existing projects slowed down and not even a single new project could be implemented under CPEC between 2018 and 2022.

Ever since coming into power, the current government has made herculean efforts to not only revive CPEC but also expand the scope of cooperation to include other critical areas such water resources management and climate change, mining, agriculture, and business-to-business investments in the energy and industrial sectors. In the 11th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee held on Thursday, the two governments have agreed in principle to revive CPEC, expand areas of cooperation and augment/complement the strong foundation laid by government-to-government cooperation with business-to-business linkages.

The official announcements of some of the major initiatives are likely to be made in the upcoming first official visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

We are expecting the signing of formal financing agreements of the strategic infrastructure projects of ML-1 and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR). Similarly, the government of Pakistan is also actively encouraging Chinese investors to participate in the investment opportunity offered by the recently announced initiative of generation of 10,000MW solar power.

Furthermore, the two governments have also agreed to deepen cooperation in the industrial sector through expedition of work on the development of priority SEZs and development of institutional linkages between Pakistani SEZs and Chinese SEZs, companies and local governments. Lastly, the government of Pakistan has also taken a number of measures to ensure foolproof security to Chinese personnel working in Pakistan. The security of Chinese personnel working in Pakistan is a top priority for the government.

In addition to reviving CPEC and expanding areas of cooperation, the government has also made dedicated efforts to address the genuine socio-economic issues faced by the residents of Gwadar. The prime minister of Pakistan is personally spearheading efforts to ensure the provision of safe drinking water and electricity to the people of Gwadar. The prime minister has also issued directions for making 0.5 million additional households from Balochistan beneficiaries of BISP, including the entire poor population of Gwadar district.

Similarly, special measures have been taken in collaboration with the government of Balochistan to address the long-standing valid concerns of fishermen of Gwadar with regards to deep-sea trawling. The government of China has also generously agreed to implement grant-funded projects worth RMB200 million for the socio-economic development of people of Gwadar. The afore-mentioned measures will ensure that CPEC spurs equitable growth and generates wider benefits for the local people.

Managing complex and strategic projects like CPEC requires not only a well-coordinated, mature and transparent approach but also administrative and policy continuity and political stability. Our government is determined to deliver all these.

The writer is the minister for planning, reforms and special initiatives. He tweets

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=143545>

Jang News

پاکستان کو نئے مواقع فراہم کرنے کی بنیادی پالیسی جاری رکھیں گے، چینی صدر

چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کا کہنا ہے کہ ہم پاکستان کو نئے مواقع فراہم کرنے کی بنیادی پالیسی جاری رکھیں گے۔

وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے اپنے دورے کے دوران چینی صدر اور چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقاتیں کیں۔

اس موقع پر چینی صدر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے مالی استحکام کے لیے چین اپنی بھرپور کوشش جاری رکھے گا۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین نے اپنی علاقائی سفارتکاری میں پاکستان کو ہمیشہ ترجیح دی ہے۔

صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چین، پاکستان کے ساتھ ہر قسم کا اسٹریٹیجک تعاون بڑھانے کا خواہشمند ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر یلوے کے فوری اپ گریڈ کیلئے پاکستان چین مل کر کام کریں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان سے معیاری زرعی مصنوعات کی مزید درآمد کا خیر مقدم کریں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1154604>

پاکستان و چین کا اسٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق، مشترکہ اعلامیہ جاری

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے مشترکہ اعلامیہ جاری کر دیا گیا۔

اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے کیم اور دونو ممبر کو چین کا سرکاری دورہ کیا۔ چینی صدر نے پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات کی۔

مشترکہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی ہم منصب سے بھی مذاکرات کیے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چیئر مین نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس اسٹیڈنگ کمیٹی سے

بھی ملے۔ وزیر اعظم کا عہدہ سنبھالنے کے بعد شہباز شریف کا چین کا یہ پہلا دورہ تھا۔

مشترکہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کا اسٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہوا ہے۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق شہباز شریف نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کیلئے اپنی حکومت کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔

اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چین نے پاکستان کی خود مختاری، علاقائی سالمیت اور سلامتی کے لیے حمایت کا اعادہ کیا، جبکہ پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے حمایت

کا بھی اعادہ کیا۔

چین نے پاکستان میں حالیہ سیلاب میں جانی و مالی نقصان پر تعزیت اور اظہار ہمدردی کیا۔

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے سیلاب متاثرین کیلئے چین کی بروقت امداد کو سراہا۔

مشترکہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق قدرتی آفات پر امدادی سامان کی فراہمی، متاثرین کیلئے چینی ماہرین کی خدمات قابل تعریف ہیں، پاکستان نے قدرتی آفات کے بعد کی تعمیر نو اور بحالی میں مدد پر چین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ متاثرین کیلئے چینی امداد دونوں ممالک میں اسٹریٹجک تعاون اور شراکت داری کی عکاس تھی۔

<http://jang.com.pk/news/1154616>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پر خصوصی توجہ دیں گے، وزیر اعظم

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + این این آئی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ ایک ایسے وقت میں جب دنیا کو کئی چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے، پاکستان اور چین دوست اور شراکت دار کے طور پر ایک ساتھ کھڑے ہیں، دورہ چین کے دوران چینی قیادت سے سی پیک کو تقویت دینے کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال ہو گا۔ منگل کو اپنے ٹویٹ میں وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ وہ دورہ چین پر جا رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ میرے لئے یہ اعزاز کی بات ہے کہ میں ان چند اولین رہنماؤں میں شامل ہوں جنہیں چین کی حکمران جماعت کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کی 20 ویں تاریخی نیشنل کانگریس کے بعد چین کے دورے کی دعوت دی گئی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ایک ایسے وقت میں کہ جب دنیا کو کئی مسائل کا سامنا ہے، پاکستان اور چین دوست اور شراکت دار کے طور پر ایک ساتھ کھڑے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دورے کے دوران چینی قیادت کے ساتھ بات چیت میں دیگر چیزوں کے ساتھ ساتھ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کو تقویت دینے پر خصوصی توجہ مرکوز ہوگی۔ سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ ہمارے لوگوں کی سماجی۔ معاشی ترقی کے لئے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی معاشی کامیابیوں سے بہت کچھ سیکھا جاسکتا ہے۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چین کے دورے پر بیجنگ پہنچ گئے۔ جہاں وہ چین کے صدر سے ملاقات کریں گے۔ سرکاری میڈیا کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف جی کے دورہ سرکاری دورے پر بیجنگ پہنچنے کے ساتھ اعلیٰ حکام کا وفد بھی موجود ہے۔ بیجنگ ایئر پورٹ پر وزیر اعظم کا چینی حکام کی طرف سے پرتیما استقبال کیا گیا۔ وزارت عظمیٰ کا منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد شہباز شریف کا چین کا یہ پہلا دورہ ہے جس کے دوران تجارت، معیشت، دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون کے کئی معاہدوں پر دستخط کا امکان ہے۔ شہباز شریف چین کی ریاستی کونسل کے وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ کی دعوت پر یہ دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ شہباز شریف چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کریں گے۔ وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار، وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو، وفاقی وزیر مواصلات مولانا اسعد محمود، وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال، وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات مریم اورنگزیب، وفاقی وزیر ریلوے و ہوا بازی خواجہ سعد رفیق، وفاقی وزیر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ چوہدری سالک حسین، وفاقی وزیر دفاعی پیداوار سردار اسرار ترین، معاونین خصوصی طارق فاطمی، سید فہد حسین، ظفر الدین محمود، جہانزیب خان اور وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ وزیر اعظم کے وفد میں شامل ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے روانہ ہونے سے پہلے ٹوئٹ میں کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات ہر گزرتے وقت کے ساتھ مزید مضبوط اور مستحکم ہو رہے ہیں۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ دورے کے دوران وہ چینی رہنماؤں سے پاک۔ چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی تجدید سمیت کئی اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم آفس سے جاری کیے گئے بیان میں کہا گیا کہ اعلیٰ سطح کے ہمراہ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کریں گے اور اپنے ہم منصب کے ساتھ وفد کی سطح پر مذاکرات کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم کے چین کے پہلے سرکاری دورے میں دو طرفہ ایجنڈے کے تحت معاہدے طے کیے جائیں گے اور 27 اکتوبر کو ہونے والے سی پیک جوائنٹ کوآپریشن کمیٹی کے گیارہویں اجلاس کے موقع پر سی پیک کی تجدید اور استحکام پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا جائے گا۔ شہباز شریف نے امید ظاہر کی کہ دورے کے دوران چین کے ساتھ تجارت کو بھی فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعظم نے پاک۔ چین تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے کے استعمال کے ساتھ چین کے ساتھ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینے کی امید ظاہر کی ہے۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے بین الاقوامی مشروب ساز کمپنی پیپسی کولا کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر برائے افریقا، مشرق وسطیٰ و جنوبی ایشیا یو جین ولیمسن کی قیادت میں وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم آفس میڈیا ونگ کے مطابق ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر صنعت و پیداوار مخدوم مرتضیٰ محمود بھی شریک

تھے۔ وزیراعظم نے وفد کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے۔ کمپنی کو پاکستان میں زرعی صنعت میں سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کی ترغیب دی۔ یو جین ولیم سن نے حکومت کی کاروبار دوست پالیسیوں پر وزیراعظم کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ یو جین ولیم سن نے وزیراعظم کو مزید بتایا کہ پیپسی کو نے سیلاب متاثرین کیلئے 50 لاکھ راشن پیکٹ فراہم کئے جبکہ دنیا بھر میں پیپسی کو کے ملازمین کی طرف سے سیلاب متاثرین کی مدد کیلئے عطیات اکٹھے کرنے کی مہم بھی جاری ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے پیپسی کو کی طرف سے اس مدد کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کمپنی کی طرف سے زراعت کے شعبے میں جدت لانے کیلئے سرمایہ کاری کو سراہا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-02/page-1/detail-12>

سی پیک کے تحت صنعتی تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائیگا: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ نوائے وقت + نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے چین کے دورے میں مختلف شعبوں میں مفاہمت کی متعدد یادداشتوں اور معاہدوں پر دستخط ہو گئے، وزیراعظم کیساتھ دو روزہ دورہ چین کی روانگی سے قبل بات چیت میں انہوں نے کہا کہ وسیع پیمانے پر دو طرفہ تعاون کے ایجنڈے کو آگے بڑھانے اور سی پیک جو اینٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی کے 27 اکتوبر کو ہونے والے 11 ویں اجلاس کے تناظر میں سی پیک منصوبے پر تعاون کی رفتار کو مستحکم کرنے کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ دونوں ممالک ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے منصوبوں کو شروع کرنے میں پر عزم ہیں، ایم ایل ون سے پاکستان اور چین دونوں ملکوں کی معیشت پر مثبت اقتصادی اثرات مرتب ہوں گے، تحریک انصاف کے دور میں ایک بھی صنعتی زون بھی ممکن نہ ہو سکا۔ ”قرضوں میں اضافہ اور پیداوار میں کمی کے باعث اس وقت کاشتکار مشکلات کا شکار ہیں اس کے لیے حکومت نجی شعبے کے ساتھ مل کے کسانوں کی بھرپور مدد کرے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے جاز ایپ کی افتتاحی تقریب کے دوران کیا۔ جاز نے سیلاب متاثرہ علاقوں کے کسانوں میں بیج تقسیم کرنے کے لیے ایپ متعارف کرا دی ہے۔ اس ایپ کی اہم خصوصیات میں کسانوں کی رجسٹریشن، کلیم جمع کروانا، ٹاک کی دیکھ بھال، دعوے کی تصدیق اور بیج کی تقسیم شامل ہیں۔ اس ایپ کی مدد سے کسانوں کو موثر، فوری اور شفاف طریقے سے بیج کی تقسیم ممکن ہو سکے گی۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا چاول کی فصل تقریباً 15 فیصد ضائع ہوئی ہے، کپاس کی فصل تقریباً 40 فیصد زیر آب آگئی ہے جبکہ 40 لاکھ ایکڑ رقبے پر کھڑی فصلیں پانی میں بہہ جانے کے بعد ایسی ٹیکنالوجی کو سامنے لانے کے لیے شراکت داری ضروری ہو چکی ہے۔ یہ بات واضح ہوتی ہے کہ کسی بھی آفت سے نمٹنے میں ڈیجیٹل حل بہتر مدد کر سکتے ہیں۔

احسن اقبال

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-02/page-8/detail-22>

November 03, 2022

Business Recorder

China to help stabilise Pak economy: Xi

BEIJING: China will continue to support Pakistan as it tries to stabilise its financial situation, state media quoted President Xi Jinping as saying on Wednesday, during a visit by Pakistan's prime minister to Beijing.

Pakistan had been struggling with a balance of payments crisis even before devastating floods hit the country this summer, causing it an estimated \$30 billion or more in losses.

Pakistan was expected to seek debt relief from China, particularly the rolling over of bilateral debt of around \$23 billion.

China's central bank and the State Bank of Pakistan have signed a memorandum of cooperation recently for the establishment of an RMB clearing arrangement in Pakistan, in a bid to facilitate the use of RMB for cross-border transactions by enterprises and financial institutions in both countries, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on Wednesday. China and Pakistan should also move forward more effectively with the construction of their economic corridor, as well as accelerate the construction of infrastructure for the Gwadar Sea Port, Xi told Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during their meeting at the Great Hall of the People. China has been involved in major mining and infrastructure projects in Pakistan, including the deep-water Gwadar port, all part of the \$65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Xi added that the countries should work together to create conditions for the early implementation of the Mainline-1 (ML-1) railway upgrading project and the Karachi Circular Railway project.

China will also export technology for a 160 km/h high-speed railway train to Pakistan, state broadcaster CCTV said on Wednesday.

The developments and projects in Pakistan, a longtime Chinese ally, are part of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve China's road, rail and sea routes with the rest of the world. China is willing to deepen cooperation in the digital economy, e-commerce, photovoltaic technology and other new energy-related areas, Xi said.

Sharif was one of the first leaders to meet Xi since he secured a third term as leader of the ruling Communist Party in October .Reuters

APP adds: President Xi Jinping, in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured China's continued support for Pakistan's sustainable economic and strategic projects including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail track and announced an additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for the country's flood relief efforts.

In a meeting held at the People's Great Hall, the two leaders, reaffirming their mutual commitment to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), agreed that as a project of strategic importance, both sides would make joint efforts to "launch the ML-1 as an early harvest project under the CPEC framework".

Both leaders also acknowledged the need for a mass-transit project in Karachi and agreed to finalize all formalities for the early launch of the Karachi Circular Railway.

They also appreciated the signing of a number of agreements, covering a broad range of bilateral cooperation during the visit.

PM Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Xi on his re-election as General Secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He also thanked him for China's invaluable assistance to Pakistan's relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the wake of the devastation, caused by super floods in Pakistan.

The two leaders reviewed the progress in Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to

the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries that has withstood the test of time. The two nations have stood firmly side by side, in realizing their shared vision of peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unique historic ties with China and the salience of bilateral friendship for regional peace and stability, Prime Minister Shehbaz strongly emphasized that Pakistan-China friendship enjoyed complete consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan and was a model of inter-state relations.

Paying tribute to President Xi's leadership for China's prosperity and his vision for strengthening bilateral relationship, the prime minister said that Pakistan drew inspiration from China's socio-economic development and national resolve to the country's progress and prosperity.

The two leaders discussed cooperation across a range of issues, including defence, trade and investment, agriculture, health, education, green energy, science and technology, and disaster preparedness.

They exchanged views on the rapid transformation in the international environment, which had exacerbated economic challenges for developing countries. They affirmed their shared belief in dialogue and cooperation, based on equality and mutual benefit as critical for global peace and prosperity. They agreed that contemporary challenges like climate change, health pandemics, and growing inequalities needed unqualified cooperation among states, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

There was complete unanimity of views between the two leaders.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping also discussed key issues, pertaining to the region including the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and in Afghanistan.

Both leaders acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote regional security and economic development and agreed that CPEC's extension to Afghanistan would strengthen regional connectivity initiatives.

The prime minister also extended a warm invitation to President Xi for visiting Pakistan at an early date, which the latter accepted graciously.

Joint Statement

1 Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, undertook an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 1-2 November 2022. This was the Prime Minister's first bilateral visit after assuming office.

2. During the visit, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China, met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held talks with H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council, and met with Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The Prime Minister felicitated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), expressed admiration for his leadership, wisdom, vision and people-centered philosophy of development, and commended his contributions to continued growth of Pakistan-China

relations. The Prime Minister welcomed President Xi to visit Pakistan. President Xi expressed that he would visit at his earliest convenience. The two leaders pledged to work together to further deepen the bilateral ties.

3. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveyed felicitations on the successful conclusion of the 20th CPC National Congress. He lauded the central role of the CPC and its leadership in promoting China's development, prosperity and national rejuvenation. He expressed deep admiration for China's achievement in socio-economic development and contribution to reform of world politics and governance philosophy under the leadership of the CPC.

4. Chinese leaders appreciated the long standing commitment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Pakistan-China friendship. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen and deepen Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and enhance practical cooperation in all areas.

5. The two sides held in-depth exchange of views on the bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international political landscape. The two sides agreed on the importance of China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual strategic trust and commonality of views.

6. The leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and profound friendship between China and Pakistan was time-tested and resilient. Pakistan-China friendship is a historic choice of both peoples that serves the interests of the two countries. The Chinese side reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that the Pakistani people always support the closest friendship between the two countries.

7. Both sides reiterated their mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Pakistani side expressed its commitment to the one-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity.

8. The Chinese leadership expressed condolences and sympathies on recent loss of life and property as a result of the unprecedented floods in Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed appreciation for the timely and generous assistance extended by the government and people of China, including the provision of disaster relief supplies, the contributions of Chinese expert teams on post-disaster assessment and health care to assist with damage assessment, experience sharing in post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and post-disaster disease response to step up capacity of medical treatment. China's mobilization of assistance was a vivid reflection of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

9. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif briefed the Chinese leadership on the post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Chinese side expressed its resolve to stand by Pakistan in these

difficult times and to continue offering assistance to Pakistan in the latter's plans for rehabilitation of the affected areas.

10. Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the outcomes of the three sessions of the Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue and agreed to hold its next meeting at the earliest possible in the first half of 2023 in Islamabad.

11. The two sides noted the key role of various bilateral cooperation mechanisms for deepening strategic communication and welcomed the holding of the Spokespersons Dialogue and the Consultations on Arms Control and Disarmament.

12. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed his Government's willingness to commit to high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under BRI, to Pakistan's economic and social development.

13. The leaders took note of the convening of the 11th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on 27 October 2022, which reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and agreed to continue the momentum of CPEC's high-quality development.

14. Recognizing that ML-1 is a project of key significance under the CPEC framework and of importance to Pakistan's socio-economic development, the two sides agreed to build upon the leadership consensus and to advance the process of its earliest implementation. They also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway, which was an urgent requirement for Pakistan's biggest city.

15. Recognizing the significance of the Gwadar port as the leading project of CPEC and an important node in cross regional connectivity, both sides expressed satisfaction on the completion of key projects and agreed to speed up progress on other related projects of the Gwadar port and free zone.

16. In line with the leadership's consensus to accelerate cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT, socio-economic development under CPEC, the two sides agreed to further build on the health, industry, digital and green corridors launched earlier this year and carry out relevant cooperation.

17. The Chinese side appreciates the efforts of the Pakistani government to vigorously develop renewable energy projects including solar projects which aligns with the green, low carbon and environmental development of energy sector, and encourages participation of Chinese companies in this Pakistani endeavor.

18. The two sides agreed to actively promote the implementation of Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan's industrial development.

19. Both sides expressed their strong determination to counter all threats and designs against CPEC and Pakistan-China friendship. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the safety and security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's strong determination and vigorous measures in this regard.

20. Noting completion of a decade of CPEC's remarkable achievements in 2023, the two sides expressed satisfaction at CPEC's contribution to socio-economic development of the

two countries.

21. The two sides noted that the recent meeting of CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (ICC) had highlighted that CPEC was an open and inclusive platform. Both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in the priority areas of CPEC cooperation such as industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology, and oil and gas.

22. The two sides noted the steady increase in bilateral trade volume since the operationalization of the second phase of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement. Both sides resolved to further coordinate to enhance trade liberalization under the second phase of CPFTA and agreed to convene an early meeting of Committee on Trade in Goods.

23. The Chinese side expressed willingness to actively support the Pakistani side in expanding export to China and welcomed quality goods including food and agricultural products from Pakistan to enter the Chinese market. It was further agreed to encourage investments and partnerships in the export-oriented sectors of Pakistan which would contribute to achieving sustainable bilateral trade growth. The two sides agreed to conduct a Joint Study to further enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

24. The two sides agreed to fully leverage overland trade and exchanges by upgrading facilities at Khunjerab border port and strengthening cooperation on epidemic containment and customs clearance in border areas. They also agreed to work together to further strengthen the implementation of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), which is an important pillar of regional connectivity.

25. Acknowledging the massive size of China's e-commerce market and its potential to further bolster bilateral trade, the two sides welcomed the signing of an MOU on e-commerce and jointly supported the establishment of Pakistan's country pavilions on China's e-commerce platforms. The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation on online payment systems, logistics, warehousing and customs facilitation, and enhance collaboration between start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

26. The two sides noted that the first meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and E-commerce and the China-Pakistan Poverty Reduction and Social Development Forum were held this year, and exchanges and docking activities in the pharmaceutical, agricultural and shoe-making industries as well as capacity building courses on poverty reduction were organized. China is willing to continue relevant practical cooperation with Pakistan to contribute to poverty reduction and socioeconomic development in Pakistan.

27. The Pakistani side commended China's remarkable achievement of lifting over 800 million people out of absolute poverty. Noting the displacement of millions of people due to the recent floods in Pakistan, the Chinese side agreed to support the Pakistani government in recovering the economy in disaster-hit areas, including through the Benazir Income Support Program.

28. The two sides agreed to keep in close communication to provide further facilitation for Pakistani students to come to China. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the Chinese

leadership for the return of Pakistani students to Chinese education institutions. 29. The two sides agreed to inject new impetus into people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries, appreciated the role of the cultural cooperation agreement between the two governments and its executive programmes and welcomed the extension of the current executive programme to 2027.

30. The two sides further welcomed the decision to celebrate Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and the organization of a Gandhara Art Exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022-2023.

31. Noting the gradual resumption of flight operation between the two countries, the two sides agreed to further increase the frequency of direct flights including between Islamabad and Beijing in due course.

32. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation, trust and communication between the armed forces of the two countries. Underscoring that stronger strategic defence and security cooperation between China and Pakistan is an important factor of peace and stability in the region, the two sides agreed to maintain high-level mil-to-mil visits and exchanges and deepen cooperation in areas of training, joint exercises and military technology.

33. The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed opposition to the politicization of the issue of counter terrorism. China recognized Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. The two sides agreed to further enhance counter terrorism cooperation to promote international peace and security.

34. The two sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. They emphasized the importance of resolving all outstanding disputes through sincere dialogue. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from history that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

35. On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, prosperous, interconnected and stable Afghanistan is fundamental to regional prosperity and progress. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the three Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and looked forward to the next meeting to be held in Uzbekistan.

36. The two sides underscored the need for the international community to provide continued assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan's overseas financial assets. The two sides agreed to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through CPEC's extension to Afghanistan.

37. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and agreed to jointly promote multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation. They expressed satisfaction with their close cooperation at multilateral fora and are resolved to further deepen strategic communication, coordination and consultation.

38. The Pakistani side expressed support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI) put forward by the Chinese side. The two sides identified development as a key driver in ensuring the prosperity of nations. In this context they agreed to further enhance cooperation within the GDI framework for realization of SDGs. China expressed appreciation to Pakistan for participating in the Group of Friends of GDI as one of the pioneering members, and identified Pakistan as a priority partner under the GDI.

39. The Pakistani side expressed support for the Global Security Initiative (GSI) put forward by the Chinese side as it aligned with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The two sides agreed to promote international cooperation in this regard.

40. The two sides supported consensus-based reform of the UN to respond to the interests and concerns of all Member States.

41. The two sides underlined to further strengthen coordination and collaboration within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and jointly push for deeper SCO cooperation across the political, security, business, connectivity and people-to-people fields, so as to better serve the common interests of regional countries, and make greater contributions to safeguarding regional peace and stability, promoting prosperity and development, and improving global governance.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/03/1-page/946501-news.html>

Investment in solar, water, other projects

Leading Chinese firms accept PM's offer

BEIJING: The leading Chinese companies during the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China have shown their keen interest in making investment in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects.

The prime minister invited the Chinese corporate heads to visit Pakistan and invest in the government's comprehensive solar power project aimed at generating 10,000 megawatt electricity. He also encouraged them to invest in Pakistan's alternative energy resources including the wind turbine power plants.

Shehbaz Sharif stressed early completion of the infrastructure of Gwadar International Airport, to which the Chinese companies assured to complete the project by the beginning of year 2023.

The prime minister in a meeting with Chinese investors and businessmen said the government since assuming power in April had resolved several issues pertaining to them and had paid them the pending dues of Rs 160 billion. An amount of Rs 50 billion has been paid to them yesterday, he added.

He said a revolving fund had been established by the State Bank of Pakistan on the directive of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar with a seed money of Rs 50 billion.

He regretted the obstacles faced by the Chinese companies in the past on the matters concerning the payment of imported coal.

He vowed addressing on priority the issues relating to the land acquisition for construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam and other hurdles in way to completion of Mohmand Dam.

Shehbaz Sharif assured provision of foolproof security to the Chinese personnel working in Pakistan and said that an across-the-board security would be ensured for those deputed on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and other joint initiatives.

He extended condolences over the death of Chinese men and women who lost their lives while at work in Pakistan.

To address water shortage in Pakistan's metropolitan Karachi, the prime minister said the federal government along with the Sindh government was ready to collaborate with the Chinese companies to resolve the issue.

The prime minister expressed confidence that strong business and investment linkages between Pakistan and China would lead to further cementing of bilateral relations.

He thanked the Chinese companies in taking special interest in Pakistan's development projects particularly the Gwadar Port, Main Line-1 railway track and several other projects.

He also expressed gratitude over the generous support extended by China in the wake of massive flash floods in Pakistan.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/03/1-page/946503-news.html>

RMB clearance

SBP signs MoU with Chinese bank

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Peoples Bank of China (PBoC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishing RMB (Chinese currency) clearing arrangements in Pakistan.

According to the SBP, the MoU was signed by SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad and PBoC Governor Yi Gang in the recent China visit of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif. State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed is also part of the Prime Minister delegation.

The SBP said that the establishment of the RMB clearing arrangements in Pakistan will further boost usage of RMB for cross-border transactions among Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and financial institutions.

“This will also promote bilateral trade and investment between the two countries,” the SBP added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/03/1-page/946504-news.html>

Chinese CG exhorts govt to improve export services

KARACHI: The Consul General of China in Karachi, Li Bijian, on Wednesday urged Pakistan to improve the capacity of its export services, enhance capability of freight services, and improve the hard connectivity of transport infrastructure.

Addressing the inaugural session of ‘12th Sustainable Shipping Logistics and Supply Chain Summit and Exhibition-2022’ at a local hotel, the Chinese CG said Pakistan and China

should promote the sharing of two-way logistic information, promote mutual recognition of logistic supply chain standards, systems and rules, so that the upstream and downstream cooperation among enterprises of the two countries could be promoted.

The both friendly countries should actively explore the development opportunities. Activity encourages the development,” he said adding the cooperation of e-commerce is a must.

He said the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif is on a special visit of China, and he will convene meeting with Chinese President. He said the global economic conditions are changing rapidly, and the heads of the two countries will discuss on mutual economic relations.

The Indonesian Consul General in Karachi, Dr June Kuncoro, said that sea transportation, and maritime connectivity is mandatory for further promotion of his country’s economy. Indonesia is developing its port infrastructure, and the country is going to build some 24 sea ports by the end of 2024.

He said Pakistan and Indonesia are enjoying the mutual relations for the last many years. He said a ‘trade export summit’ is being held this month in Jakarta. Also, Pak Oil exhibition is being held next week.

Chairman BMG Zubair Mutiwala also addressed the concluding session as the chief guest. He deplored that every aspect of the country’s economy is deteriorated. Elaborating, he said that PIA started Emirates but today our national carrier stands nowhere. He said logistics is the most important thing for the enhancement of economy, and Karachi is the key of logistics. He said every ship and airplane from across the world used to touch our seaports, and airports, respectively, years back. “We must have our maritime ministry, and our own container line,” Zubair said.

He said the public sector companies such as Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PAPRA) and watch-dogs like National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have hurt the economy badly. The bureaucrats are so hesitant that they cannot execute any work. He also emphasized that business and politics should be segregated.

Ateeq Ur Rahman, Conference Coordinator Logisticonex in his introduction speech said that business & trade are heavily suffering due to growing logistics & shipping cost.

Heavy detentions, demurrage, rentals, and container handling charges at port demonstrate unbearable cost by businesses, he said. He added poor infrastructure is creating congestion at ports. International recession, enormous fuel/ energy cost, massive sea freight, higher interest rate is devastating to the cost of doing business and overall economy.

This shipping, logistic & supply chain conference is designed to discuss and raise issues/ concerns on Pakistan’s outlook, which has darkened significantly specially by dilapidated Logistic Support Services.

Mehmood Tareen, CEO TPN, pointed out the supply chain challenges faced by FMCG like brand, consumer behaviour, industry trends and impact of uncertainties.

The speakers discussed all-weather strategic cooperation and support and agreed to social instability which is being created due to raise in food and energy prices and also to the logistic support services.

Tariq Yousuf President KCCI, Mohsin A Dharsi Air Cargo Agents, Association of Pakistan, Sheikh Shafiq Jhokwala Chairman, PREGMEA, Haris Agar Vice President KCCI and others also attended the event.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/03/7-page/946564-news.html>

Daily Times

Higher than the Mountains and Sweeter than Honey

Zafar Aziz Chaudhry

Our Prime Minister has proceeded on a short trip to China for bilateral talks with the Chinese. Pakistan was the first country to recognize China and established diplomatic relations in 1950. China's border meets Pakistan's boundary in the north and is thus our close neighbour. Prime Minister H S Suharwardy was the first leader from Pakistan to visit Beijing in October 1956, and two months later, Chinese Premier Zhou En Lai visited Pakistan and was given a rousing welcome. Later, the mutual relations between both countries improved. However, closer ties between China and Pakistan began in the wake of the 1962 Sino-Indian clash. Pakistan started receiving military assistance from China in 1966, and both countries established a strategic alliance in 1972. Economic cooperation began in 1979. China has become Pakistan's largest supplier of arms and its third-largest trading partner.

On two occasions, these warm relations were slightly damped: first, when China found traces of Islamist militancy among the Uighurs of Xinjiang province and suspected that it was coming from the militants of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Later, the Pakistani government took adequate security measures to allay the fears of China. During the reign of terror in Pakistan in the previous decade, China registered her protest and concern when Chinese citizens working in Pakistan were made targets of terror attacks, especially on the projects of the CPEC. On Pakistan's sincere regrets on such occasions, no harm was done to their mutual cordiality of relations.

China gave tremendous financial assistance in the form of aid and soft loans to Pakistan in multiple development projects. In 1966, China built the Karakoram Highway linking China's Xinjiang region with Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan. Today, this highway serves as the main route for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan considers China to be a voice of reason and restraint in international affairs.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was established in 2013 under the aegis of China, which is a collection of infrastructure projects that are under construction throughout Pakistan. Originally valued at \$47 billion, the value of CPEC projects is worth \$62 billion as of 2020. CPEC's potential impact on Pakistan has been compared to that of the Marshall Plan undertaken by the United States in post-war Europe. Pakistani officials predict that CPEC

will create over 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030, and add 2 to 2.5 percentage points to the country's annual economic growth.

Modern transportation networks built under CPEC will link seaports in Gwadar and Karachi with northern Pakistan, as well as points further north in western China and Central Asia. A 1,100-kilometre-long motorway will be built between the cities of Karachi and Lahore as part of CPEC. The currently stalled Karachi-Peshawar main railway line will also be upgraded to allow for train travel at up to 160 km per hour. Pakistan's railway network will also be extended to eventually connect to China's Southern Xinjiang Railway in Kashgar.

Over \$33 billion worth of energy infrastructure is to be constructed by private consortia to help alleviate Pakistan's chronic energy shortages, which will amount to over 4,500MW, and have shed an estimated 2-2.5% off Pakistan's annual gross domestic product. Over 10,400 MW of generating capacity is to be brought online under CPEC. A network of pipelines to transport liquefied natural gas and oil will also be laid as part of the project, including a \$2.5 billion pipeline between Gwadar and Nawabshah to eventually transport gas from Iran. Electricity from these projects will primarily be generated from fossil fuels, though hydroelectric and wind-power projects are also included, as is the construction of one of the world's largest solar farms.

According to official statistics, 20 per cent of CPEC is debt-based finance, while 80 per cent of CPEC are investments in Joint Ventures (JV) enterprise between Pakistan and China, with the project contributing to 40,000 jobs for local Pakistanis and 80,000 jobs for Chinese.

As close strategic partners, both Pakistan and China face the prospects of growing instability and turbulence in their neighbourhood. Both countries are against hegemony and seek the resolution of outstanding disputes through peaceful means. In this context, Pakistan-China relations have acquired even greater importance. Pakistan considers China to be a voice of reason and restraint in international affairs. It is the common choice of both countries to develop a cooperative partnership that conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries. This friendship has weathered all storms due to its unique nature and will continue to contribute constructively to regional peace and stability.

The foreign media and press out of their sheer jealousy and enmity with China have severely criticized CPEC. The American press expresses military interests of China in Pakistan as opposed to the idea of an "economic project with peaceful intent" Another American critic has termed CPEC as "Colonizing Pakistan to Enrich China". But the real test of the success of CPEC would mostly rest with Pakistan if the workers on these ongoing projects are provided with necessary facilities and obstructions in their work in are timely removed.

Several noted scholars hold the view that while China is striving to rehabilitate its glory lost during the "century of humiliation", it has no apparent interest in either dominating the world or recreating the world in its image. It only wants its due share and representation in global political and economic architecture. Pakistan shares this perspective of a global order that ensures equal representation of small and big countries.

The world needs cooperation and collaboration between China and the US, whose economies are closely intertwined, and their cooperation is indispensable for solving transnational issues. However, the US-China rivalry is eroding the fruits of globalization.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1021793/higher-than-the-mountains-and-sweeter-than-honey/>

Pakistan Observer

Leading Chinese companies accept PM's offer to invest in Pakistan's solar, infrastructure projects

The leading Chinese companies during the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China have shown their keen interest to invest in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects. The prime minister invited the Chinese corporate heads to visit Pakistan and invest in the government's comprehensive solar power project aimed at generating 10,000 mega watt electricity. He also encouraged them to invest in Pakistan's alternative energy resources including the wind turbine power plants.

Shehbaz Sharif stressed early completion of the infrastructure of Gwadar International Airport, to which the Chinese companies assured to complete the project by the beginning of year 2023. The prime minister in a meeting with Chinese investors and businessmen said the government since assuming power in April had resolved several issues pertaining to them and had paid them the pending dues of Rs 160 billion. An amount of Rs 50 billion has been paid to them yesterday, he added.

He said a revolving fund had been established by the State Bank of Pakistan on the directive of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar with a seed money of Rs 50 billion. He regretted the obstacles faced by the Chinese companies in the past on the matters concerning the payment of imported coal. He vowed addressing on priority the issues relating to the land acquisition for construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam and other hurdles in way to completion of Mohmand Dam.

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To address water shortage in Pakistan's metropolitan Karachi, the prime minister said the federal government along with the Sindh government was ready to collaborate with the Chinese companies to resolve the issue. The prime minister expressed confidence that strong business and investment linkages between Pakistan and China would lead to further cementing of bilateral relations. He thanked the Chinese companies in taking special interest in Pakistan's development projects particularly the Gwadar Port, Main Line-1 railway track and several other projects. He also expressed gratitude over the generous support extended by China in the wake of massive flash floods in Pakistan.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/leading-chinese-companies-accept-pms-offer-to-invest-in-pakistans-solar-infrastructure-projects/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China push for accelerating CPEC, extend it to Afghanistan

Both sides express strong determination to counter all threats and designs against the project and friendship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday injected a new vigour into the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with a push to extend the flagship programme of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan.

The joint statement was issued after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing where he met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Le Keqiang and other senior leaders who spoke about a range of issues covering CPEC, trade and commercial ties, regional and other international issues.

It was the first visit by the prime minister to Beijing since he took charge in April. Pakistan had high hopes from the trip that took over six months to materialise. Given Pakistan's precarious economic situation, the government was hoping to get some financial assistance from China besides accelerating the CPEC.

While the joint statement did not mention that China would consider Pakistan's request for restructuring of \$6.3 billion debt, the two sides agreed to build on the consensus on ML-1, a key strategic project of CPEC, for its earlier implementation.

"Recognising that ML-1 is a project of key significance under the CPEC framework and of importance to Pakistan's socio-economic development, the two sides agreed to build upon the leadership consensus and to advance the process of its earliest implementation. They also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway, which was an urgent requirement for Pakistan's biggest city," the joint statement read.

The ML-1 has long faced delays which have led to a substantial increase in its cost from the original \$6.6 billion to \$10 billion.

The statement noted that the Chinese leaders appreciated the long-standing commitment of PM Shehbaz to China-Pakistan friendship. Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen and deepen Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and enhance practical cooperation in all areas.

The two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations as well as the regional situation and international political landscape. The two sides agreed on the importance of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual strategic trust and commonality of views.

The leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and profound friendship between China and Pakistan were time-tested and resilient. China-Pakistan friendship is a historic choice of both peoples that serves the interests of the two countries. The Chinese side reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its

foreign policy and that the Pakistani people always support the closest friendship between the two countries.

Both sides reiterated their mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Pakistani side expressed its commitment to the one-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity.

The Chinese leadership expressed condolences and sympathies on the recent loss of life and property as a result of the unprecedented floods in Pakistan. PM Shehbaz expressed appreciation for the timely and generous assistance extended by the government and people of China, including the provision of disaster relief supplies, the contributions of Chinese expert teams on post-disaster assessment and health care to assist with damage assessment, experience sharing in post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and post-disaster disease response to step up capacity of medical treatment.

China's mobilisation of assistance was a vivid reflection of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

PM Shehbaz briefed the Chinese leadership on the post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Chinese side expressed its resolve to stand by Pakistan in these difficult times and to continue offering assistance to Pakistan in the latter's plans for the rehabilitation of the affected areas.

Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the outcomes of the three sessions of the Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue and agreed to hold its next meeting at the earliest possible in the first half of 2023 in Islamabad.

The two sides noted the key role of various bilateral cooperation mechanisms for deepening strategic communication and welcomed the holding of the Spokespersons Dialogue and the Consultations on Arms Control and Disarmament.

The prime minister reaffirmed his government's willingness to commit to high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under BRI, to Pakistan's economic and social development.

The leaders took note of the convening of the 11th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on 27 October 2022, which reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and agreed to continue the momentum of CPEC's high-quality development.

Recognising the significance of the Gwadar port as the leading project of CPEC and an important node in cross-regional connectivity, both sides expressed satisfaction with the completion of key projects and agreed to speed up progress on other related projects of the Gwadar port and free zone.

In line with the leadership's consensus to accelerate cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT, and socio-economic development under CPEC, the two sides agreed to further

build on the health, industry, digital and green corridors launched earlier this year and carry out relevant cooperation.

The Chinese side appreciates the efforts of the Pakistani government to vigorously develop renewable energy projects including solar projects which aligns with the green, low carbon and environmental development of energy sector, and encourages participation of Chinese companies in this Pakistani endeavour.

The two sides agreed to actively promote the implementation of Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan's industrial development.

Both sides expressed their strong determination to counter all threats and designs against CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the safety and security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's strong determination and vigorous measures in this regard.

Noting completion of a decade of CPEC's remarkable achievements in 2023, the two sides expressed satisfaction with CPEC's contribution to the socioeconomic development of the two countries.

The two sides noted that the recent meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (ICC) had highlighted that CPEC was an open and inclusive platform. Both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in the priority areas of CPEC cooperation such as industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology, and oil and gas.

The two sides noted the steady increase in bilateral trade volume since the operationalisation of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. Both sides resolved to further coordinate to enhance trade liberalization under the second phase of CPFTA and agreed to convene an early meeting of Committee on Trade in Goods.

The Chinese side expressed willingness to actively support the Pakistani side in expanding export to China and welcomed quality goods including food and agricultural products from Pakistan to enter the Chinese market.

It was further agreed to encourage investments and partnerships in the export-oriented sectors of Pakistan which would contribute to achieving sustainable bilateral trade growth. The two sides agreed to conduct a joint study to further enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The two sides agreed to fully leverage overland trade and exchanges by upgrading facilities at Khunjerab border port and strengthening cooperation on epidemic containment and customs clearance in border areas.

They also agreed to work together to further strengthen the implementation of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), which is an important pillar of regional connectivity.

Acknowledging the massive size of China's e-commerce market and its potential to further bolster bilateral trade, the two sides welcomed the signing of an MOU on e-commerce and

jointly supported the establishment of Pakistan's country pavilions on China's e-commerce platforms. The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation on online payment systems, logistics, warehousing and customs facilitation, and enhance collaboration between start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The two sides noted that the first meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and E-commerce and the China-Pakistan Poverty Reduction and Social Development Forum were held this year, and exchanges and docking activities in the pharmaceutical, agricultural and shoe-making industries as well as capacity building courses on poverty reduction were organized. China is willing to continue relevant practical cooperation with Pakistan to contribute to poverty reduction and socioeconomic development in Pakistan.

The Pakistani side commended China's remarkable achievement of lifting over 800 million people out of absolute poverty. Noting the displacement of millions of people due to the recent floods in Pakistan, the Chinese side agreed to support the Pakistani government in recovering the economy in disaster-hit areas, including through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

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On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, prosperous, interconnected and stable Afghanistan is fundamental to regional prosperity and progress. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the three Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and looked forward to the next meeting to be held in Uzbekistan.

The two sides underscored the need for the international community to provide continued assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan's overseas financial assets. The two sides agreed to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through CPEC's extension to Afghanistan.

The two sides signed and concluded a number of agreements/MoUs, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural product, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, GDI, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384312/pakistan-china-push-for-accelerating-cpec-extend-it-to-afghanistan>

Sinovac Global to invest \$200m in Punjab

Plans to set up a plasma medicine manufacturing unit

LAHORE: Sinovac Global Vice President Gao Qiang, on Wednesday, said that the company has decided to invest \$200 million (about Rs45 billion) in setting up a factory in Punjab.

Leading a Chinese delegation to meet with the Special Economic Zones Chairman, SM Naveed, and Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) former president, Salahuddin Hanif, at the chamber's secretariat, Qiang said Sinovac Global is planning to set up a factory in Punjab that will manufacture plasma medicine products. It will also export medical items worth \$500 million from Pakistan.

"This project will create new employment opportunities and become a new example for Pakistan-China friendship," he added.

The SEZ chairman welcomed the initiative saying that "The Punjab chief minister has assured that Sinovac will be provided with land on a priority basis in the CPEC Industrial Estate in Faisalabad."

"All the required facilities will be provided to the company," he said, adding that "the project will not only benefit Punjab but the whole country and will be carried forward on a fast-track basis to ensure early completion."

“We would also like to thank the company for supplying vaccines to Pakistan during the Covid-19 epidemic,” said Naveed. “Planning a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a big step, and we hope that the project helps save lives of people on a massive scale,” he added. The Secretary General of PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif said, “There is a dire need to take notice of the resources and provide maximum support to the developers in order to succeed and achieve our targeted goal.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384355/sinovac-global-to-invest-200m-in-punjab>

The News

Chinese help

Reports from Beijing speak of a complete consensus between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping over broadening and deepening the strategic Pakistan-China partnership as the two leaders had an exhaustive meeting covering all areas of mutual concern including the multibillion-dollar CPEC and Pakistan’s financial needs in the aftermath of this monsoon’s cataclysmic flooding. The optics of the Pakistani premier's visit have been good starting from the red-carpet welcome accorded to PM Sharif and his delegation to his meeting with President Xi. From the mutual standpoint, putting CPEC back on the rails is rightfully the top item on PM Sharif’s agenda. Although several of its early-harvest projects have come to fruition, transforming Pakistan’s energy and infrastructure landscape, CPEC was in trouble from almost the moment the PTI and Imran Khan rose to power in 2018, with the former PM and his cabinet colleagues publicly maligning the multibillion-dollar initiative with allegations of corruption and misplaced priorities. While none of those allegations came to anything over the four years since, work on the project came to a virtual standstill anyway. The prospective deep-sea port of Gwadar probably suffered the most damage as it was allowed to decay to a point where it became unserviceable for large ships.

All that changes now, with Xi and Sharif joining in their resolve to put the neglected project back on track. President Xi has in particular expressed keen interest in the revival of the Karachi-Peshawar Mainline 1 railway, the Karachi Circular Railway, and Chinese investment and technology transfer in the field of renewable energy. This clearly means President Xi has bought into PM Sharif’s vision of political stability and economic progress in Pakistan going forward. Then there is the issue of foolproof security for Chinese engineers and workers in Pakistan on CPEC projects. PM Sharif must have extended watertight assurances to President Xi in this regard. Another irritant was the stalled repayments on CPEC-related loans, which the PM sought to remove by clearing the outstanding dues just ahead of his visit. These are all significant developments by all accounts.

From the point of view of the rest of the world, however, even more significant will be how China entertains Pakistan’s request for restructuring the nearly \$23 billion bilateral debt. China is known to have a strict rulebook on debt, obviating any restructuring. This plays into the Western bogeyman of the Chinese being ruthless and usurious lenders – no doubt a stratagem to throw a spanner in the wheels of the inexorable Chinese investment juggernaut beating Western interests hollow in Asia and Africa basically because Chinese investments have no ideological strings attached. The Chinese leadership must be acutely aware of this,

especially after how Sri Lanka's financial debacle earlier this year was spun by some to throw shade on big-ticket Chinese investments in that country. Ours is a world on the cusp of breaking out of a unipolar order, and a rivalry between the waning superpower and the challenger is understandable. However, our Western friends nudging Pakistan to seek restructuring of its Chinese debt after they agreed in principle to restructure their own debt should not be seen in the context of that rivalry. Rather, it may be seen in the light of a lender seeking to be treated on par with another.

President Xi will also be sympathetic to Pakistan's cause because the immediate trigger for Islamabad's request has been a natural disaster of biblical proportions, although there is no denying the Pakistani economy was already in a bad shape on account of a variety of reasons. The long and short of it is that while it is still not clear amid the flurry of diplomatic ceremonies if a determination has been made on the matter or is pending, we have every reason to be optimistic that Pakistan's iron brother will make the right call and stand by Pakistan, especially knowing that riding on it could be a similar decision of Pakistan's Western lenders, expected to congregate in Paris before the year is out.

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Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک اور دوستی کی خلاف عزائم ناکام بنائیں گے: پاکستان چین

اسلام آباد، بیجنگ (شہنشاہ، خبر نگار خصوصی) پاکستان اور چین کی قیادت نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اور پاک چین دوستی کے خلاف ہر طرح کے خطرات اور عزائم کو ناکام بنانے اور زراعت، کان کنی، آئی ٹی، سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے شعبوں میں تعاون، صحت، صنعت، ڈیجیٹل و گرین کوریڈور قائم کرنے سمیت دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کیلئے مل کر کام کرنے کے عزم اظہار کیا ہے جبکہ پاکستان نے ملک میں تمام چینی عملہ، منصوبوں اور اداروں کی حفاظت اور تحفظ کے لئے اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔ بدھ کو عوامی جمہوریہ چین اور اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کے مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا کہ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے یکم سے 2 نومبر تک عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا سرکاری دورہ کیا۔ یہ وزارت عظمیٰ کا منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد وزیر اعظم کا چین کا پہلا دورہ تھا۔ دورہ کے دوران وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے سٹیٹ کونسل کے وزیر اعظم لی کی کیانگ کے ساتھ بات چیت کی اور نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کی سٹینڈنگ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین لی ژان شو سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے جنرل سیکرٹری کے طور پر دوبارہ انتخاب پر صدر شی جن پنگ کو مبارکباد دی اور ان کے ویزن، ترقی کے فلسفے اور پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات مسلسل مضبوط بنانے کیلئے ان کی خدمات کو سراہا۔ وزیر اعظم نے پاکستان کے دورہ کیلئے صدر شی کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ صدر شی نے کہا کہ وہ جلد پاکستان کا دورہ کریں گے۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔ چینی رہنماؤں نے پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کیلئے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دیرینہ عزم کو سراہا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سٹریٹجک تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری کو مزید مضبوط بنانے اور تمام شعبوں میں عملی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے پاکستان کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ فریقین نے دوطرفہ تعلقات کے ساتھ ساتھ علاقائی صورتحال اور بین الاقوامی سیاسی منظر نامے پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا اور ابھرتے ہوئے عالمی چیلنجوں کے دوران چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان بھرپور سٹریٹجک تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری کی اہمیت پر اتفاق کیا۔ ملاقاتوں کے دوران روایتی گرجو شی، باہمی سٹریٹجک اعتماد اور خیالات میں ہم آہنگی پائی گئی۔ چین کے رہنماؤں نے اس بات کا اعادہ کیا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات کو ہمیشہ اپنی خارجہ پالیسی میں اولین ترجیح دی جائے گی۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ستون ہیں اور پاکستانی عوام ہمیشہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان قریبی دوستی کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ دونوں فریقین نے ایک دوسرے کے بنیادی مفادات سے

متعلق امور پر اپنی باہمی حمایت کا اعادہ کیا۔ چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کی خود مختاری، علاقائی سالمیت، سلامتی اور اس کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لئے اپنی حمایت کا اعادہ کیا۔ چینی قیادت نے پاکستان میں حالیہ سیلاب کے نتیجے میں ہونے والے جانی و مالی نقصان پر تعزیت اور ہمدردی کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی قیادت کو سیلاب کے بعد کی امداد اور بحالی کی کوششوں کے بارے میں بتایا۔ چینی قیادت نے اس مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑے ہونے اور متاثرہ علاقوں کی بحالی کے بعد کے منصوبوں میں پاکستان کو مدد کی پیشکش جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے وزراء خارجہ کی سطح پر سٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ کے تین سیشنز کے نتائج پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا اور آئندہ اجلاس 2023ء کی پہلی ششماہی میں اسلام آباد میں جلد از جلد منعقد کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو (بی آر آئی) کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کے لئے اپنی حکومت کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ دونوں ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کی رفتار کو جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ ایم ایل ون کو سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت ایک اہم منصوبہ اور پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے اس کی اہمیت کو تسلیم کرتے ہوئے دونوں نے قائدانہ اتفاق رائے پیدا کرنے اور اس پر جلد عملدرآمد کے عمل کو آگے بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ انہوں نے کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کو فعال طور پر آگے بڑھانے، گوادر پورٹ اور فری زون کے دیگر متعلقہ منصوبوں پر پیشرفت تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ شمسی توانائی کے منصوبوں سمیت قابل تجدید توانائی کے منصوبوں کے قیام کیلئے پاکستانی کوششوں میں چینی کمپنیوں کی شرکت کی حوصلہ افزائی کے عزم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے پاکستان کی صنعتی ترقی کیلئے صنعتی تعاون سے متعلق فریم ورک معاہدے پر بھرپور عملدرآمد پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔ مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ سی پیک جو انٹورنگ گروپ برائے بین الاقوامی تعاون و رابطہ کے حالیہ اجلاس نے سی پیک کو ایک وسیع اور جامع پلیٹ فارم قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس میں دلچسپی رکھنے والے تیسرے فریق کو سی پیک تعاون کے ترجیحی شعبوں جیسے صنعت، زراعت، آئی ٹی، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور تیل و گیس میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ فریقین نے پاک چین آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے کے فعال ہونے کے بعد تجارتی لبرلائزیشن کو بڑھانے کیلئے مزید ہم آہنگی کا عزم کیا اور اشیاء کی تجارت سے متعلق کمیٹی کا جلد اجلاس بلائے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چین کی جانب سے برآمدات کو بڑھانے میں پاکستان کی فعال مدد کرنے پر آمادگی ظاہر کی اور پاکستان سے معیاری اشیاء جن میں خوراک اور زرعی مصنوعات شامل ہیں کا چینی مارکیٹ میں خیر مقدم کیا۔ پاکستان کے برآمدی شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری اور شراکت داری کی حوصلہ افزائی پر بھی اتفاق کیا گیا۔ فریقین نے خنجراب سرحدی پورٹ پر سہولیات کو اپ گریڈ کر کے اور کسٹم کلیئرنس پر تعاون کو مضبوط بنا کر زمینی تجارت اور تبادلے کو مکمل طور پر فائدہ پہنچانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ فریقین نے ای کامرس پر ایک مفہمیتی یادداشت پر دستخط کا خیر مقدم کیا اور چین کے ای کامرس پلیٹ فارم پر پاکستان کے پوبیلین کے قیام کی حمایت کی۔ دونوں فریقوں نے آن لائن ادائیگی کے نظام، لاجسٹکس، ویب ہاؤسنگ اور کسٹمز کی سہولت پر تعاون کو مزید مضبوط بنانے اور مانیکرو، چھوٹے اور درمیانے درجے کے اداروں کے درمیان تعاون کو بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا کہ چین پاکستان میں غربت میں کمی اور سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی میں کردار ادا کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کے ساتھ متعلقہ عملی تعاون جاری رکھنے پر تیار ہے۔ چین نے بینظیر انکم سپورٹ پروگرام سمیت آفت زدہ علاقوں میں معیشت کی بحالی میں پاکستانی حکومت کی مدد پر اتفاق کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے پاکستانی طلباء کو چین آنے کیلئے مزید سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کیلئے قریبی رابطے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی تعلیمی اداروں میں پاکستانی طلباء کی واپسی پر چینی قیادت کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ دونوں حکومتوں کے درمیان ثقافتی تعاون کے معاہدے اور اس کے انتظامی پروگراموں کے کردار کو سراہا اور موجودہ ایگزیکٹو پروگرام کی 2027ء تک توسیع کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے 2023ء پاک چین سیاحتی تبادلے کے سال کے طور پر منانے اور بیجنگ کے پیلس میوزیم میں گندھارا آرٹ کی نمائش کے انعقاد کے فیصلے کا بھی خیر مقدم کیا۔ مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فلائیٹ آپریشن کی بتدریج بحالی کے حوالے سے دونوں فریقوں نے اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ کے درمیان براہ راست پروازوں کی تعداد میں مزید اضافے پر اتفاق کیا۔ دونوں اطراف نے دونوں ممالک کی مسلح افواج کے درمیان قریبی تعاون، اعتماد اور رابطے پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ چین پاکستان کے درمیان مضبوط سٹریٹجک دفاعی اور سیوریٹی تعاون کو خطے میں امن و استحکام کا ایک اہم عنصر قرار دیتے ہوئے دونوں فریقوں نے اعلیٰ سطحی دوروں اور تبادلوں کو برقرار رکھنے اور تربیتی مشقوں اور فوجی ٹیکنالوجی کے مشترکہ شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید گہرا کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے دہشت گردی کی تمام اقسام اور شکلوں کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے انسداد دہشت گردی کے معاملے کو سیاست کی نذر کرنے کی مخالفت کی۔ چین نے دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کے کردار اور قربانیوں کا اعتراف کرتے

ہوئے بین الاقوامی امن و سلامتی کو فروغ دینے کیلئے دونوں فریقوں کے درمیان انسداد ہتھ گردی کے تعاون کو مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ دونوں فریقین نے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ ایک پر امن اور خوشحال جنوبی ایشیا تمام فریقین کے مشترکہ مفاد میں ہے۔ انہوں نے تمام تفسیر طلب تنازعات کو مخلصانہ بات چیت کے ذریعے حل کرنے کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔ پاکستان نے چین کو جموں و کشمیر کی صورت حال سے آگاہ کیا۔ چین نے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ مسئلہ کشمیر تاریخ کا ادھورا تنازعہ ہے جسے اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر، سلامتی کونسل کی متعلقہ قراردادوں اور دوطرفہ معاہدوں کی بنیاد پر امن طریقے سے حل کیا جانا چاہئے۔ افغانستان کے حوالے سے دونوں فریقوں نے اتفاق کیا کہ ایک پر امن خوشحال اور مربوط و مستحکم افغانستان علاقائی خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے بنیادی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک نے بین الاقوامی برادری کی جانب سے افغانستان کی مسلسل مدد کی ضرورت پر زور دیا جس میں افغانستان کے بیرون ملک مالیاتی اثاثوں کو غیر منجمد کرنا بھی شامل ہے۔ دونوں فریقوں نے افغان عوام کیلئے انسانی اور اقتصادی امداد جاری رکھنے اور سی بی کے افغانستان تک توسیع سمیت افغانستان میں ترقیاتی تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ دونوں فریقوں نے کثیر الجہتی فورمز پر اپنے قریبی تعاون پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا اور سٹرٹجک رابطے اور مشاورت کو مزید گہرا کرنے کا عزم کیا۔ پاکستان نے چین کی جانب سے پیش کردہ گلوبل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ اینٹی ڈی آئی کی حمایت کا اظہار کیا اور کہا جی ڈی آئی فریم ورک میں رہ کر تعاون کو مزید بڑھایا جائے گا۔ چین نے جی ڈی آئی کے گروپ آف فرینڈز میں ایک اہم رکن کے طور پر پاکستان کی شرکت کی تعریف کی اور جی ڈی آئی کے تحت پاکستان کو ترجیحی شراکت دار قرار دیا۔ پاکستان میں چین کی طرف سے پیش کردہ گلوبل سکیورٹی اینڈ اینٹی ڈی آئی کی حمایت کی جو اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر کے مقاصد اور اصولوں سے ہم آہنگ ہے۔ دونوں فریقین نے رکن ممالک کے مفادات اور خدشات کا جواب دینے کیلئے اقوام متحدہ میں اتفاق رائے پر مبنی اصلاحات کی حمایت کی۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ دونوں فریقوں نے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے فریم ورک میں ہم آہنگی اور تعاون کو مزید مضبوط بنانے پر زور دیا اور سیاسی، سکیورٹی، کاروبار رابطے اور عوامی شعبوں میں ایس سی او کے گہرے تعاون پر زور دیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا کہ دونوں فریقین نے قابل اطلاق بین الاقوامی ذمہ داریوں اور قومی حالات کے مطابق سب کیلئے انسانی حقوق کو آگے بڑھانے ان کے تحفظ کیلئے اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ فریقین نے موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے منفی اثرات کو کم کرنے اور اس کے سدباب کیلئے ٹھوس کاوشوں کا بیڑہ اٹھایا۔ پیرس معاہدے کے اہداف اصولوں اور دفعات کیلئے اپنی وابستگی کا اعادہ کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے ترقی یافتہ ممالک پر زور دیا کہ وہ اس حوالے سے اپنے وعدوں کو پورا کریں۔ فریقین نے ماحولیاتی نظام کی بحالی اور آبی وسائل کے انتظام جیسے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چین کی قیادت اور عوام کا ان کی اور ان کے وفد کی گرجوشی اور فراہمی سے مہمان نوازی پر شکریہ ادا کیا، نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے ای کامرس، ڈیجیٹل معیشت، زرعی مصنوعات کی برآمد، مالیاتی تعاون، ثقافتی املاک کے تحفظ، انفراسٹرکچر، سیلاب سے نجات، آفات کے بعد تعمیر نو کے شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون کا احاطہ کرتے ہوئے متعدد معاہدوں اور مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے جن میں جی ڈی آئی، جانوروں کی بیماریوں پر قابو پانے، ذریعہ معاش، ثقافتی تعاون، خلائی جغرافیائی سائنس کے ساتھ ساتھ قانون کے نفاذ اور سکیورٹی کے شعبے شامل ہیں۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے بیجنگ کے عظیم عوامی ہال میں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی جس میں ایم ایل ون کو ابتدائی ہارویسٹ منصوبے کے طور پر شروع کرنے کے لئے مشترکہ کوششوں پر اتفاق کیا گیا جبکہ چینی صدر نے پاکستان کے لئے 50 کروڑ یو آن کی اضافی امداد کا اعلان کیا۔ ملاقات میں بھارت کے غیر قانونی زیر تسلط جموں و کشمیر کی صورت حال اور سی بی کے افغانستان تک توسیع پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے بدھ کو جاری بیان کے مطابق دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاک چین دوطرفہ تعلقات میں پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیا اور باہمی دلچسپی کے علاقائی اور عالمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا اور کہا گیا دونوں ممالک امن، استحکام، ترقی اور خوشحالی کے اپنے مشترکہ وژن کو عملی جامہ پہنانے میں مضبوطی سے شانہ بشانہ کھڑے ہیں۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے دفاع، تجارت و سرمایہ کاری، زراعت، صحت، تعلیم، گرین انرجی، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور آفات سے نمٹنے کے لیے تیاری سمیت متعدد امور پر تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے اس بات سے اتفاق کیا کہ سٹرٹجک اہمیت کے منصوبے کے طور پر دونوں فریق سی بی کے فریم ورک کے تحت ایم ایل ون کو ابتدائی ہارویسٹ منصوبے کے طور پر شروع کرنے کے لیے مشترکہ کوششیں کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کراچی میں ماس ٹرانزٹ منصوبے کی ضرورت کو بھی اجاگر کیا اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کے جلد آغاز کے لیے تمام رسمی کارروائیوں کو حتمی شکل دینے پر اتفاق کیا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے یقین دلایا کہ چین پائیدار اقتصادی ترقی اور جیو اکنامک مرکز کے طور پر اپنی صلاحیتوں کو بروئے کار لانے کے لیے پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔

دوسری طرف وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف کی دعوت پر ممتاز چینی کمپنیوں نے پاکستان میں مشترکہ منصوبوں بالخصوص شمسی توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کراچی میں پینے کے پانی کی فراہمی سمیت دیگر بڑے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کا یقین دلایا ہے۔ بدھ کو وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے چین کی صف اول کی کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیر اعظم نے چینی کمپنیوں کو 10 ہزار میگا واٹ شمسی توانائی کے منصوبے پر مل کر کام کرنے کی پیشکش کی۔ متعلقہ چینی کمپنی نے اگلے سال کی ابتدا میں گواہی دے کر ان کے تعمیر کی تکمیل کی یقینی دہانی کر دی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے یقین دلایا کہ حکومت چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے تحفظ کے لئے بہترین اقدامات کرے گی اور سی پیک اور سی پیک کے علاوہ دیگر منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں کی حفاظت کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا اور سی پیک اور سی پیک کے علاوہ تمام منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں کی سکیورٹی کا ایک معیار مقرر کیا جائیگا۔ وزیر اعظم نے مہند ڈیم سے متعلق پیش آنے والے بعض مسائل حل کرنے کی بھی یقین دہانی کرائی۔

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سابق دور حکومت میں عملابندی سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے پاک چین قیادت پھر سے کمر بستہ

تومی افق

عزت جعفری

ملک کے اندر سیاست اور سفارت کے محاذ کافی گرم ہیں، اور ان دونوں محاذوں سے بہت اہم خبریں سامنے آرہی ہیں جو ملک اور دنیا دونوں کے لئے اہمیت کی حامل ہیں، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا چین کے اہم ارکان کے ہمراہ چین کے دورے پر موجود ہیں، جہاں ان کی چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور چینی ہم منصب کے ساتھ اہم ملاقاتیں ہوئی ہیں، جبکہ پی ٹی آئی کا لانگ مارچ سست روی کے ساتھ اسلام آباد کی جانب بڑھ رہا ہے، اس کو سلو ڈاؤن کیا گیا ہے جس کا مقصد بظاہر یہی معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ پس منظر میں ہونے والی سرگرمیوں کے نتائج کسی خاص واقعے کے رونما ہونے کا انتظار کر کے مارچ کو نیا رخ دیا جاسکے۔

پہلے وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کا ذکر ہو جائے جو ملک اور خاص طور پر سی پیک کے حوالے سے بے حد اہمیت کا حامل ہے، یہ امر کسی سے یہ ڈھکا چھپا نہیں کہ پی ٹی آئی کی سابق حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک عملاً بند ہو گیا تھا، اگرچہ کسی بھی جانب سے اس کا اعلان نہیں کیا گیا تھا، موجودہ حکومت نے اس کو دوبارہ ٹریک پر لانے کے لئے کافی ہوم ورک کیا جس میں وزارت خارجہ اور پلاننگ نے اہم رول ادا کیا تھا۔ وزیر اعظم نے جب چین کی سر زمین پر قدم رکھا تو ان کے پاس ان تمام منصوبوں کی فہرست موجود تھی جن پر چین کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی اور دوطرفہ تعاون سمیت دیگر اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے، سی پیک میں تعاون بڑھانے اور اسٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ مزید مضبوط کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے پاکستان میں آنے والے سپر فلڈ سے ہونے والی تباہی کے تناظر میں پاکستان کی امداد، بحالی اور تعمیر نو کی کوششوں میں چین کی مدد پر چینی صدر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے دفاع، تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری، زراعت، صحت، تعلیم، متبادل توانائی، سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی اور آفات سے نمٹنے کے لیے تیاری سمیت متعدد امور پر تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال اور اس بات پر اتفاق کیا کہ سی پیک کے باعث اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی سے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوطرفہ تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہوں گے، چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے یقین دلایا کہ پائیدار اقتصادی ترقی اور جیو اکنامک حب کے طور پر صلاحیتوں کو بروئے کار لانے کے لیے پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی ہم منصب لی کچیانگ سے ملاقات میں دوطرفہ امور اور باہمی تعاون بڑھانے کے حوالے سے تفصیلی بات چیت کی۔ ملاقات میں سی پیک منصوبوں کی جلد از جلد تکمیل اور سی پیک کو وسعت دینے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کو گریٹ ہال آف پیپلز میں گارڈ آف آنر پیش کیا گیا۔ ملاقات کے بعد چین اور پاکستان کے مابین معاہدوں اور معاہدے پر دستخط بھی کئے گئے، ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سی پیک پر قائم جے سی کا اجلاس ہوا، جے سی کے اجلاس میں ریلوے کے منصوبے ایم ایل ون منصوبے پر بات ہوگی، اس کی

منظوری پہلے ہی سی ڈی ڈبلیو پی نے دے رکھی ہے، کراچی سے پشاور تک ریلوے کو جدید بنانے کے منصوبے ایم ایل ون کی فنڈنگ کو حتمی شکل دی گئی، اسی طرح کے سی آر کا منصوبہ بھی طے پا گیا ہے، چین سے ہائی اسپڈ ٹرین کی ٹیکنالوجی درآمد کرے گا، جلد یہ ہائی اسپڈ ٹرین پاکستان پہنچ جائیں گی۔ چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کے لیے برآمد کی گئیں ہائی اسپڈ ٹرین کی 46 بوگیاں 3 نومبر تک روانہ کر دی جائیں گی۔ جبکہ مزید 184 بوگیوں کے پرزے اسمبلنگ کے لیے پاکستان کو دیئے جائیں گے۔ چینی میڈیا کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ پہلا موقع ہے جب چین یہ ٹیکنالوجی برآمد کر رہا ہے۔ دریں اثنا حکومت سے حکومت کی سطح پر روس سے تین لاکھ ٹن گندم درآمد کرنے کی منظوری دے دی گئی، گندم کی سپلائی کی پیشکش روس کے سرکاری ادارے نے 372 ڈالر فی میٹرک ٹن کے حساب سے کرنے کی پیشکش کی تھی، اسکی فراہمی 15 نومبر سے 15 جنوری کے درمیان کی جائے گی، بیروس میں ڈونر کانفرنس ہونے والی ہے، پاکستان کے سیلاب زدہ علاقوں کی بحالی بارے رپورٹ میں تجویز کیا گیا ہے کہ جامع ریکوری فریم ورک ترتیب دیا جائے اور ملکی مالی وسائل کو بڑھا کر شراکت اور شفافیت کا اصول اپنانے کی ضرورت ہے اس کے علاوہ زراعت میں مقامی نوعیت کی معاشی سرگرمیوں کا آغاز ضروری ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا کہ تعمیر نو پر 16 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ خرچ ہوں گے۔ پی ٹی آئی کا لانگ مارچ اسلام آباد کی جانب آرہا ہے، اس کی وجہ سے جڑواں شہروں میں اگرچہ ابھی تک زندگی معمول پر ہے تاہم اس مارچ کی حدت کو محسوس کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ فریقین ایک دوسری کے خلاف پے درپے پریس کانفرنسیں منعقد کر کے دل کی بھڑاس نکال رہے ہیں۔ تاہم ایسا محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ انتخابات جلد کرانے کے معاملے سے کہیں زیادہ فوکس کہیں اور ہے، حکومت اور خاص طور پر پی ٹی آئی، لانگ مارچ کو سست روکنے کے پس منظر میں بھی ایبٹو زلگ رہے ہیں۔ کبھی لانگ مارچ کو انقلاب کہا جاتا اور کبھی اس مارچ کے کسی اور رنگ اختیار کرنے کی باتیں کی جاتی ہیں۔ بظاہر اس بے چینی کی وجہ سے کوئی اور ہے، ہو سکتا ہے کہ دو چار روز میں ایک اہم تعیناتی کے فیصلے کے سامنے آنے کے بعد منظر نامہ بالکل واضح اور صاف ہو جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-03/page-9/detail-0>

چینی وفد کی پاک، چائینہ جو انٹل چیئیر آف کامرس آمد

(PCJCCI) لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) سینوویک گلوبل کے نائب صدر گاؤ کیانگ کی قیادت میں چینی وفد نے پاکستان چائنا جو انٹل چیئیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری سیکرٹریٹ میں ایس ایم نوید، چیئرمین سیشنل اکنامک زونز / سابق صدر پی سی جے سی آئی اور صلاح الدین حنیف سے ملاقات کی۔ ایس ایم نوید، چیئرمین ایس ای زیڈز / سابق صدر پی سی جے سی آئی نے بتایا کہ وزیر داخلہ پنجاب نے کہا کہ سینووک کمپنی کو سی پی ای سی انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ فیصل آباد میں ترجیحی بنیادوں پر زمین فراہم کی جائے گی۔ پنجاب میں کمپنی کو تمام مطلوبہ سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ گاؤ کیانگ، نائب صدر سینووک گلوبل نے کہا کہ ہم پنجاب میں پلازما ادویات کی مصنوعات بنانے کے لیے ایک فیٹری لگا کر پنجاب میں 200 ملین ڈالر (تقریباً 145 ارب روپے) کی سرمایہ کاری کرنے جا رہے ہیں جس پر تقریباً 45 ارب روپے لاگت آئے گی۔ یہ 500 ملین ڈالر کی اشیاء بھی برآمد کرے گا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ یہ منصوبہ روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرے گا۔

اور پاک چین دوستی کی نئی مثال بنے گا۔ پی سی جے سی آئی کے سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ وسائل کا نوٹس لینے اور ڈوبل پیرز کو زیادہ سے زیادہ تعاون فراہم کرنے کی اشد ضرورت ہے تاکہ ہم اپنے ہدف کو حاصل کر سکیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے اس تجربے کو دیکھ سکتا ہے جس نے مغرب سے ثالثی کے قوانین تیار کیے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ مجھے بہت فخر ہے کہ ایس ای زیڈ مسٹریٹس ایم نوید کی قیادت میں اس طرح پھل پھول رہے ہیں اور یقینی طور پر کاروباری برادری کے لیے مواقع کے نئے راستے کھول رہے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-03/page-12/detail-0>

November 04, 2022

Daily Times

Report calls for China's solutions to climate change for countries like Pakistan

China's solutions to climate change are more feasible for countries such as Pakistan. China's status as a developing nation allows it to relate to the realities of other developing countries and formulate a more suitable and effective plan for tackling climate change.

This as stated in a report on climate change published by KASB Securities on a climate change seminar held in Karachi ahead of the upcoming COP27, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday. The report says, given the disproportionately high cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from developed countries in history, "the developing countries should not face undue pressure from developed nations to take drastic steps in reducing GHG emissions".

As of yesterday, the devastating floods in Pakistan has caused 1,739 deaths, 12,867 injured, and 33 million displaced, offering a most prominent example of the massive humanitarian costs the Global South is paying for the high carbon emissions of the North. "The people of Pakistan are the victims of a grim calculus of climate injustice. Pakistan is responsible for less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is paying a supersized price for manmade climate change", noted UN Secretary-general Guterres on the General Assembly.

From a historical perspective, the cumulative GHG emissions originating from the developed world have significantly outpaced developing countries. As per IEA, from 1971 to 2020, G7 accounted for 34.5% of the world's total GHG emissions in the energy sector. The US alone takes up 20% of the world's total, nearly 56x higher than Pakistan. Total cumulative emissions from US nearly 56x those from Pakistan. Source: IEA Worse still, the economic rebound after Covid-19 led to the highest-ever level of emissions from power plants and coal consumption, pushing the CO2 emission level to an all-time high.

Growth rate of energy and process CO2 emissions 2020-21 (Mt CO2). Source: UN Since the developed nations have taken the advantage of "taking first steps on the development ladder", the report appeals that these countries should take greater responsibility in tackling climate change. "With 2022 already set to become one of 10 warmest years on record, there is a dire need of increased technical and financial support to combat climate change", the report stressed. According to the UN Adaption Gap Report, the estimated climate adaption cost was found to be 5-10 times higher than the present public adaption finance flows.

The world expects the US and EU to deliver on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment to developing countries and take the lead in emissions reduction to ensure the right to development of developing countries. In addition, fair and reasonable reduction in emission standards should be put in place. The US President Biden has set a 50-52% reduction target in carbon emissions by 2030 from levels witnessed in 2005. But as per Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR), even a 50% reduction suggests the US's per capita emissions in 2030 would be nearly 2.2x the current world average.

US per capital GHG emissions from energy outpaced Pakistan by 17x. Source: IEA “Climate Justice”, therefore, is what Pakistan is making case for at COP27 to be held in Egypt from 6 to 18 this month, expecting “no sidelining of these pressing matters”. “If Pakistan emits less than 1% that causes the warming that triggers such shocks, why is assistance cast in a ‘disaster aid’ or ‘begging bowl’ basket? It should not. Right now, there is no real basket of accessible funds for climate resilient recovery, let alone disaster assistance.

Since both are triggered by climate impacts, the economic buffer for countries already in debt stress should be clearly appropriated and disbursed as climate funds that are easy to access”, Pakistani climate minister Sherry Rehman once said in an interview. Pakistan has been pouring efforts to tackle the tremendous challenge together with the international community.

According to a recent report, a Green Corridor will be launched jointly with China to focus on agricultural environment, food security, and green development, which is part of the two brother countries’ collaboration towards a green future. In the power sector, the largest carbon emitting source in Pakistan, ambitious steps have been taken. The Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) has unveiled policy for 10,000 MW solar PV energy initiative, which, according to CEO AEDB, would require \$6bn investment. “Chinese companies and banks are best suited to finance these projects as they have already been working in Pakistan for various Power Projects”, he mentioned in an interview. By 2030, Pakistan aims for an overwhelming share of renewables in its installed capacity

On the other side, China is encouraging the participation of Chinese companies in Pakistan’s endeavor for green, low carbon and environment-friendly development, as has been confirmed in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan released yesterday during PM Shehbaz Sharif’s state visit to China. The Joint Statement further says, “Appreciating Pakistan’s initiative to combat human-induced climate change and China’s initiative to promote green cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, the two sides agreed to step up cooperation in such areas as ecosystem restoration and water resource management”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1022475/report-calls-for-chinas-solutions-to-climate-change-for-countries-like-pakistan/>

Pak-China cooperation in finance sector to be enhanced after PM’s visit

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China would help the finance sector of Pakistan to boost cooperation with China and improve the balance of trade, said Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan in China.

“China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) serves as an important platform for internationalising the RMB, boosting its use both as a trade and financing currency. Modernising the trading routes along B&R should not only increase RMB cross-border trade with these countries, but also further promote the currency in the offshore market, and will increase liquidity in those countries thereby enabling further RMB business”, he added.

He further said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, commonly known as CPEC, being one of BRI’s main elements, offers a textbook example of how China and BRI partner countries can advance cooperation over the use of RMB. “With existing and potential trade

volumes between China and Pakistan on the rise, the internationalisation of RMB is one of the keys to cost-efficient economic growth for both countries and more cooperation in the banking sector is expected”, Shariq mentioned. He said that the increased bilateral trade between Pakistan and China and the volume of investments under CPEC have opened up possibilities for replacing US dollars with RMB in bilateral trade. “China and Pakistan signed a bilateral free trade agreement in 2007 and bilateral trade grew rapidly over the following decade.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1022471/pak-china-cooperation-in-finance-sector-to-be-enhanced-after-pms-visit/>

Dawn News

China's message to US: Ties with Pakistan ‘none of your business’

Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: The Chinese feel that the United States should not urge China and Pakistan to renegotiate Beijing’s debt and should not ‘bad mouth’ the Pakistan-China relationship, according to the director of the China programme at the Stimson Centre.

Speaking at a two-day seminar on US-Pakistan relations, Chinese foreign policy expert Yun Sun said Pakistan’s relationship with the US was a factor in China’s overall strategy for South Asia, but “China has plenty of confidence that its relationship with Pakistan is going to continue regardless of the modality of US-Pakistan relations.”

She, however, said that China was also adjusting or recalibrating its policy and expectations towards Pakistan, especially in terms of the CPEC.

“And from that recalibration there’s almost a welcoming attitude in China that Pakistan should re-balance its external strategy. And there’s a welcoming attitude that Pakistan is reaching out to the United States again,” Ms Yun said.

“This readjustment of Pakistan’s expectations and external alignment strategy has much approval in China.”

The Chinese, she said, did not believe that the recalibration of US-Pakistan relations would come at the expense of China’s interests in the region “because India’s still there and because CPEC will remain one of the most significant campaigns regardless of how people feel about it.”

About China’s reaction to US-Pakistan interactions, she said, “[it] has more to do with what the US has said, rather than what Pakistan has said.

“This is none of your business,” said Ms Yun when asked about China’s reaction to the US suggestion that Pakistan should renegotiate its debt with Beijing.

She said she had seen multiple analyses from China, claiming that the US intends to sabotage Pakistan-China relations and urging Washington ‘not to bad-mouth Pakistan-China’ ties.

“Dan, is it none of our business?” Moderator Shamila Chaudhary asked another panelist, Daniel Markey of the US Institute of Peace (USIP).

“At some level, of course, it is our business... We look at its debt burden... have concerns about the growth of its economy. We see Pakistan going to the IMF and other lenders. So, of course, it’s right that the US asks questions about the other forms of debts that Pakistan holds, including from China,” he said. “Gap in transparency is also a cause of concern for us.”

Pakistan’s envoy in Washington, Masood Khan, however, explained how the end of the war in Afghanistan had created an opportunity for Pakistan and the United States to start afresh.

“Pakistan-US relations have been de-hyphenated from India and Afghanistan,” said Ambassador Khan in his keynote address at the two-day conference, organised by the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR), University of Lahore, the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and Engro Corporation here this week.

“The US policy in the past was based on regional equilibrium,” the ambassador said, adding that the US relationship with India stood on its own. “We are engaged right now to recalibrate, reenergize and rejuvenate a broad-based relationship in the new technological age,” he said.

Others were not as confident. Former Chief of Naval Staff Tahir Afzal suggested correcting past mistakes to build a better relationship. “The relationship needs another event. When there is an event, the relations will be good. When the event is over, we will move from being the cornerstone of US policy to being the most sanctioned country,” he said.

Ms Chaudhary, a non-resident Senior Fellow at Atlantic Council, noted that Pakistan was not even mentioned in the new US national security strategy, released last month, although “there’s a lot of conversation” about the region, as well as Afghanistan and India.

“The strategy is talking around Pakistan, but if you look at the themes of strategy ...there’s a lot of fruitful conversation that we can have about how US and Pakistan can collaborate with each other.”

Mr Markey noted that some equate strategic stability in Pakistan with the safety of its nuclear assets. Noting that this was “a very narrow context,” he said, Pakistan was also strategically important to the US because “it’s an enormous country”.

The nuclear issue, however, was “central to the US interests” as it would like to “ensure that these types of weapons are never used”.

The nuclear issue was also “central to Pakistan’s sense of its own security. It is at the core of Pakistan’s security in the region. So, that continues to be a strategic concern,” he said.

Mr Markey noted that the US has a strategic partnership with India, while Pakistan has a strategic partnership with China and this arrangement too has become strategically important as US-China and Pakistan-India relations are strained. The US and Pakistan, he said, “need a firm and established equilibrium... to move forward”.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this article erroneously identified Stimson Centre China programme director Yun Sun as a Chinese official. The error is regretted.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718723>

‘SRA militant’ held to foil attack on Chinese doctor: CTD

KARACHI: A suspect linked with a banned terrorist, Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) and planning a Saddar-like attack on a Chinese doctor in Hyderabad for which funding was provided by the outfit’s Germany-based leader was arrested in the city on Thursday, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed.

Acting on ‘credible’ information, the CTD with the help of a federal intelligence agency carried out an action near Kamran Chowrangi in Gulistan-i-Jauhar and apprehended a suspect, identified as Mohammed Afzal Loond alias Aafi, and seized from him a 30-bore pistol along with five rounds and one motorbike.

“The held suspect is associated with the Sindhudesh Liberation Army,” claimed a CTD spokesperson. During interrogation, the suspect confessed that he had been in touch with SRA’s head Zulfiqar Khaskheli, who lives in Germany, he said. The SRA leader was providing financial assistance to them and he had purchased a motorbike and arms with this funding, the official said.

“Zulfiqar Khaskheli has given him (the held suspect) the target of killing a Chinese doctor through an attack on a dental clinic in Hyderabad,” claimed the CTD press statement.

“He had completed reconnaissance for the target before he was arrested.” He was also an accomplice of suspected militants who had carried out a gun attack on the Hu Dental Clinic in the Saddar area of Karachi recently in which one dual national person was killed while a doctor of Chinese-origin and his wife were wounded.

“By arresting the SRA militant, the CTD has foiled a Saddar-like targeted attack on a Chinese doctor in Hyderabad,” said the CTD official, adding that a case had been registered against him and an investigation was started. More disclosures were expected in the interrogation, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1718796>

Dunya News

China shows keen interest in development projects of Pakistan: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Minister for Finance Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday said that China is showing keen interest in development projects of Pakistan including the ML-One Railway track from Karachi to Peshawar, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR).

He said, the Chinese government and companies had given a positive response to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who officially visited the neighboring country for reviving business ties on a fast track.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) last regime had tried to disturb the relations with friendly countries, he observed.

The previous government had also damaged the economic and export sectors, he stated. The growth rate and inflation had been moving on the negative side during Imran’s regime, he said.

Dar said the government would not reach 'Paris Club' for rescheduling the loan amount.

In reply to a question about the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said the PTI's weak policies could not fulfill the requirement of the IMF.

He said the coalition government had achieved progress regarding soft agreements with IMF. "We will make all-out efforts to provide maximum relief to the common man", he added.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/674105-China-shows-keen-interest-in-development-projects-of-Pakistan-Ishaq-Dar>

Pakistan Observer

Signing ceremony of Pak-China agri machinery training program held

An online signing ceremony of agricultural machinery training program was held simultaneously at Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC) and MNS University of Agriculture Multan through Internet cloud technology.

Initiated by the Pakistani Luban Workshop, the program aims to promote China-Pakistan vocational education cooperation and serve international agricultural capacity cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The training course pinpoints the huge demand for corn cultivation and harvesting in Punjab province. With the theme of "Application and Maintenance Technology of Self-propelled Corn Harvester", 8 lectures and 2 seminars will be held within around one month.

Those online courses focus on topics such as Tianjin's advantageous agriculture going global, development trend of agricultural machinery, application of UAV technology in agriculture and introduction of Luban Workshop project.

The organizers invited experts and senior engineers from several teaching and research institutes and enterprises in Tianjin to give lectures. Through the "cloud classroom", Chinese personnel provided targeted training to teachers and students of MNS University of Agriculture Multan, senior engineers of the Punjab Agricultural Mechanization Institute and advanced agricultural machinery users in Pakistan.

Prof. Sun Deling, former Vice President of Tianjin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Prof. Zhang Baoqian, agricultural machinery expert at Tianjin Agricultural Development Service Center, delivered keynote speeches on "Tianjin's Agricultural Advantages and Scientific Research Achievements" and "Technology and Equipment for Full-scale Mechanization of Maize Production" respectively.

The organizers also invited staff from Tianjin Tailai Import and Export Co., Ltd to share their experience of agricultural machinery going abroad, and give a keynote speech on "Serving CPEC, Cultivating Agricultural Skills Talents", introducing the practical experience of school-enterprise cooperation in improving agricultural capacity.

According to TMVTC, training equipment used for this online teaching is maize harvester produced by Yongmeng Machinery Co., Ltd.

The company will donate relevant equipment to Pakistan, and those equipment will arrive at MNS Agricultural University in December for offline practice.

Luban Workshop, launched and run by Tianjin, represents a win-win model for international vocational education cooperation, sharing China's educational achievements and resources with countries in need.

In April 2017, TMVTC and MNS University of Agriculture signed an MoU of cooperation to establish a Luban Workshop in Pakistan.

Since its operation in Pakistan in 2018, TMVTC has been continuously promoting the construction of projects in Pakistan. Focusing on academic education and vocational training respectively, the college has established two Luban workshops in Lahore and Multan in collaboration with its Pakistani partners.

Those workshops will explore the development of whole-process mechanization training for one or two kinds of crops, provide high-quality vocational skills training for Pakistani youths under the mode of international industry-education cooperation, and facilitate cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani agriculture-related enterprises.

<https://pakobserver.net/signing-ceremony-of-pak-china-agri-machinery-training-program-held/>

China's strategic support

AS was widely expected, the maiden visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China proved to be a remarkable success as the Chinese side responded favourably to Pakistan's request for substantial assistance in achieving fiscal stability, fast-paced implementation of strategically important projects, expansion of CPEC framework and trade in local currencies to release pressure on the falling foreign exchange reserves.

President Xi Jinping, who always demonstrated his commitment to each and every cause of Pakistan, once again reaffirmed the determination of his Government to help the country in every respect for the mutual good of the people of the two countries.

The outcome of the visit is a clear indication that the relevant ministries and divisions, especially the Foreign Office, Finance and Economic Affairs and Planning & Development, put in a lot of efforts in the preparatory work and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was able to put across the point of view of the country in a convincing manner.

Pakistan was facing economic crunch due to a variety of reasons and factors and in this backdrop the announcement of the Chinese President to continue supporting Pakistan in stabilizing its financial position has widely been hailed by people of Pakistan.

He also announced an additional assistance package of Rs 15.2 billion for the country's flood relief efforts, which could serve as an example for other members of the international community to come to the rescue of Pakistan at this critical time.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Pakistan got what it wanted to achieve from the China visit as the two countries agreed to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) particularly acceleration

of work on infrastructure for Gwadar Sea Port, which assumes special importance for investment promotion and economic development of Pakistan.

The decision to extend CPEC to Afghanistan is a step in the right direction, which is not only yet another manifestation of China's commitment to the progress and welfare of Afghan people but also in line with the overall policy of the Chinese leader to promote and strengthen regional connectivity for shared prosperity.

We have been emphasizing in these columns, time and again, that the ML-I project is strategically important for Pakistan and needs to be implemented on a fast track basis and in this backdrop the decision of the two countries to include it in the early harvest projects under the framework of CPEC is a highly welcome development.

They also acknowledged the need for a mass-transit project in Karachi, and agreed to finalize all formalities for the early launch of the Karachi Circular Railway.

It is all the more satisfying that all out efforts are being made to modernize Pakistan Railways and in this connection, according to the Chinese media, China will export technology for a 160 km/h high-speed railway train to Pakistan.

The first batch of 46 train carriages has been loaded and being shipped while parts for another 184 carriages will be delivered to Pakistan to assemble.

The very fact that this is the first time China has exported the technology to any other country is reflective of the special nature of the friendship between the two countries.

In another significant development, the central banks of Pakistan and China signed a memorandum of cooperation on Yuan clearing in Pakistan, which could pave the way for an alternative payment option for Pakistan, boosting Yuan usage for cross-border transactions among Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and financial institutions.

The two sides also signed and concluded a number of agreements covering bilateral cooperation in the areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural products, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, GDI, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

During their broad-based talks, the two leaders also discussed cooperation across a range of issues, including defence, trade and investment, agriculture, health, education, green energy, science and technology and disaster preparedness.

It is a reality that Chinese believe in practical work and, therefore, one hopes the Pakistani side would come up to the expectation of the other side to give practical shape to agreements signed and understanding reached during the visit of the Prime Minister.

There would be visible change in the socio-economic landscape of the country if all the MoUs and agreements are implemented in letter and in spirit.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-strategic-support/>

The Nation

Pak-China cooperation to multiply after PM's visit

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China are set to multiply cooperation after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China where the Chinese investors vowed to inject money in Pakistan.

Last year, trade between China and Pakistan reached \$27.82 billion, a year-on-year increase of 59.1 percent. Chinese exports to Pakistan totalled \$24.23 billion, a year-on-year increase of 57.8 percent, while imports from Pakistan were \$3.59 billion, a year-on-year increase of 68.9 percent, showed data from the General Administration of Customs.

China will work with Pakistan to advance the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and make the global economic governance system more fair, equitable and inclusive that benefits all, Chinese President Xi Jinping said.

The GDI and the GSI, proposed by Xi Jinping in 2021 and 2022 respectively, seek to overcome the tunnel vision that contributes to the rise of de-globalisation, populism and xenophobia, which risk impeding global governance of development and security.

The GDI highlights re-energising and speeding up the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a global community of development, while the GSI gives clear answers to questions such as what security concept the world needs and how countries can achieve common security, which opens an important new way for global security governance. This week, China and Pakistan vowed to make joint efforts in elevating the level of all-round strategic cooperation and inject new impetus into their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that Pakistan has always been a high priority in China's neighbourhood diplomacy when meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was among the first foreign leaders invited to Beijing after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). This is also the Prime Minister's first visit to China since assuming office in April.

Shehbaz said his visit is a "testament to the profound, iron-clad friendship" between Pakistan and China, adding that deepening Pakistan's all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and the national consensus of Pakistan. China has been Pakistan's largest trade and investment partner, the largest exporter and the second largest importer for six consecutive fiscal years since 2015.

During PM Shehbaz's visit, the two sides also signed and e-commerce, number of agreements, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of export of agricultural products, financial digital economy, protection of cultural property and infrastructure, among cooperation, others. Pakistan and China have decided to expedite working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects to benefit from the second phase of the CPEC plan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-04/page-3/detail-8>

Pakistan offers attractive incentives to investors under CPEC

ISLAMABAD -Pakistan offers attractive incentives to investors in different sectors of the economy under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said an official. A Board of Investment (BoI) official told WealthPK that local and foreign investors can reap benefits from various sectors such as textiles, tourism, logistics, housing and construction, food processing, information technology, etc. “As part of Pakistan’s efforts to attract foreign investment, a variety of grants and incentives are being offered to investors. A number of incentives are available to companies, including tax concessions, double taxation agreements, low-interest loans, etc.” the official said. Moinul Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, in a recent meeting briefed Chinese firms about Pakistan’s lucrative investment climate, and encouraged them to take advantage of the attractive incentives offered under the CPEC framework, and choose Pakistan as their investment and business destination. “Chinese investors and businessmen receive special attention at the highest levels and are warmly welcomed in Pakistan for business and trade to promote economic cooperation between our two countries,” he stated at the China-Pakistan Trade and Industrial Cooperation Forum held at the Pakistan Embassy. In recent times, there has been a greater focus on cooperation in trade, investments, industry, and agriculture between the two countries. The ambassador stated that Pakistan is China’s largest trading partner and most significant source of foreign direct investment (FDI). After the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was launched in early 2020, a greater number of products have been able to access each other’s markets. He further said that the liberalised trade between the two countries is contributing to record numbers of bilateral trade. Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Zhang Baozhong addressed the audience on Gwadar Port, special economic zones (SEZs), Gwadar Airport, and other projects being undertaken in the region. He said that the port offers numerous benefits to foreign and local traders. There are no demurrage charges, and there is speedy customs clearance and free storage of containers for three months. According to Zhang, Chinese traders and companies are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the SEZs and to invest in them. As part of the event, Naeem Iqbal Cheema, the Head of Chancery, provided an overview of the facilities offered to Chinese companies and investors under the CPEC flagship project. “There are certain advantages of investing in the projects under CPEC compared to other projects,” he said. “The projects under this framework get easy financing and other facilities and receive a lot of leadership support,” he said. Ghulam Qadar, Commercial Counsellor, presented an overview of the incentives and facilities available to Chinese investors under CPEC.

Falak Sher Zaman, Chief Representative of United Bank Limited (UBL) in China, stated that the bank provides convenience for Chinese companies to promote trade and investment between the two countries. The forum was jointly organised by the Embassy of Pakistan, UBL, Beijing Innovation Alliance (BJIA), and the Economic and Commercial Counsellors Alliance in China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-04/page-8/detail-2>

Pakistan needs China's solutions to tackle climate change

ISLAMABAD-As the climate change impacts are very devastating in Pakistan especially after the recent torrential rains and heavy floods, the country desperately needs solutions to effectively handle this crisis which is affecting not only the environment but also socio-economic life of population at a major level.

“China’s solutions to climate change are more feasible for countries such as Pakistan. China’s status as a developing nation allows it to relate to the realities of other developing countries and formulate a more suitable and effective plan for tackling climate change,” says a report published by KASB Securities at a climate change seminar held in Karachi ahead of the upcoming COP27, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday.

The report says, given the disproportionately high cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from developed countries in history, “the developing countries should not face undue pressure from developed nations to take drastic steps in reducing GHG emissions”.

“The people of Pakistan are the victims of a grim calculus of climate injustice. Pakistan is responsible for less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is paying a supersized price for manmade climate change”, noted UN Secretary-General Guterres at the General Assembly session. From a historical perspective, the cumulative GHG emissions originating from the developed world have significantly outpaced developing countries. As per IEA, from 1971 to 2020, G7 accounted for 34.5 percent of the world’s total GHG emissions in the energy sector.

“With 2022 already set to become one of 10 warmest years on record, there is a dire need of increased technical and financial support to combat climate change”, the report stressed.

In addition, fair and reasonable reduction in emission standards should be put in place. Pakistan has been pouring efforts to tackle the tremendous challenge together with the international community. According to a recent report, a Green Corridor will be launched jointly with China to focus on agricultural environment, food security, and green development, which is part of the two brother countries’ collaboration towards a green future. On the other side, China is encouraging the participation of Chinese companies in Pakistan’s endeavour for green, low carbon and environment-friendly development.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-04/page-10/detail-9>

The News

China visit to help boost trade cooperation with Pakistan

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The just concluded visit of the prime minister to China would greatly help in boosting finance sectors cooperation of the two countries with special emphasis on a dominating role of Chinese currency, RMB.

The RMB’s internationalisation would bring about new phenomenon of cooperation in economic sector. Sources associated with the Pakistan-China cooperative projects, who

accompanied the prime minister during the China visit, told The News on Thursday that whirlwind visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif turned up to be highly productive and successful.

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had completed their spadework and for the reason the visit yielded commendable outcome. The RMB would factor in, in a big way. Sources said that these steps also show that measures for the internationalisation of RMB, adopted by China, are gaining more support and trust in the international community, encouraging the use of Chinese currency in trade activities.

“The visit to China would help the finance sector of Pakistan to boost cooperation of two countries and improve the balance of trade while China’s Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) serves as an important platform for internationalising the RMB, boosting its use both as a trade and financing currency. The restructuring of the trading routes along B&R should not only increase RMB cross-border trade with these countries, but also further promote the currency in the offshore market, and will increase liquidity in those countries thereby enabling further RMB business,” the sources pointed out.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), being a flagship project of the BRI, offers a textbook example of how China and BRI partner countries could advance cooperation over the use of RMB. The sources reminded that with existing and potential trade volumes between Pakistan and China on the rise, the internationalisation of RMB is one of the keys to cost-efficient economic growth for both countries and more cooperation in the banking sector is expected.

The increased bilateral trade between Pakistan and China and the volume of investments under CPEC have opened up possibilities for replacing US dollars with RMB in bilateral trade. The sources recalled that Pakistan and China inked a bilateral free trade agreement in 2007 and bilateral trade grew rapidly over the following decade. As trade links grew, central banks agreed on currency swaps, and the first currency swap agreement was signed in 2011.

In 2018, both countries agreed to extend the currency swap agreement for a further period of three years and double its size from RMB 10 billion to 20 billion and from Rs165 billion to Rs351 billion. Sources said it was expected to promote the opening and development of the securities markets, strengthen the cooperation between stock exchanges of the two countries, to support the enterprises and financial institutions in carrying out direct financing for projects along the CPEC in each other’s capital markets.

It has also been pointed out that Pakistan would complete many projects next year, especially in Gwadar like Gwadar Airport, Gwadar exhibition centre and promote the construction of Gwadar Port Free Zone and explore RMB offshore financial business, and strengthen financial cooperation between their Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and explore formation of an RMB backflow mechanism.

Sources are confident that the steps in question also show that measures for the internationalisation of RMB adopted by China are gaining more support and trust in the international community, encouraging the use of Chinese currency in trade activities. Some

influential and financially strong capitals are frightened with the rise of RMB and its foreseeable influence in the world economy, the sources added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=144500>

Nawaiwaqt News

تعلقات نئی بلندیوں پر پہنچانے کیلئے پر عزم: بلاول، چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات

بیجنگ (شہنہوا) چین کے ریاستی کونسلر اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹی نے وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری سے ملاقات کی ہے۔ وانگ نے کہا کہ شہباز شریف وہ پہلے غیر ملکی سربراہ ہیں جو کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائینہ کی 20 ویں قومی کانگریس کے کامیاب انعقاد کے بعد چین کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ دورہ خصوصی دوستی اور چین کی مجموعی سفارت کاری میں پاکستان کے اہم مقام کی مکمل عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ عالمی امن کے لیے چین کی ترقی ایک بڑھتی ہوئی قوت اور عالمی استحکام کے لیے ایک مضبوط عنصر ہے۔ ترقی کے اس عمل میں چین۔ پاکستان تعلقات کو نئی تحریک ملے گی جو ایک نئے دور میں داخل ہوں گے۔ چین پاکستان کو قدرتی آفات کے بعد تعمیر نو کے کاموں میں مدد فراہم کرتا رہے گا اور یہ کہ اقتصادی راہداری کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو فروغ دینے کیلئے کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہیں۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو میں حصہ لیتے ہوئے بلاول زرداری نے کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائینہ کی 20 ویں قومی کانگریس کی کامیابی پر چین کو مبارکباد دی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس کانگریس میں چین کی ترقی کا جو خاکہ تیار کیا گیا ہے وہ عالمی امن اور ترقی کے فروغ کے لئے مستحکم اور مثبت توانائی کو فروغ دے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا پر عزم ہیں تعلقات میں مسلسل نئی تحریک پیدا کر کے دوطرفہ تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچایا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-04/page-1/detail-20>

سی پیک کے خلاف عزائم کو ناکام بنانے کا عزم

وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا سرکاری دورہ مکمل کر کے گزشتہ روز وطن واپس پہنچ گئے۔ وزارت عظمیٰ کا منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد وزیر اعظم کا چین کا پہلا دورہ تھا۔ بدھ کے روز مشترکہ اعلامیہ میں پاکستان اور چین کی قیادت نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اور پاک چین دوستی کے خلاف ہر طرح کے خطرات اور عزائم کو ناکام بنانے اور زراعت، کان کنی، آئی ٹی، سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے شعبوں میں تعاون، صحت، صنعت، ڈیجیٹل و گرین کوریڈور قائم کرنے سمیت دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کے لیے مل کر کام کرنے کے عزم اظہار کیا اور پاکستان میں تمام چینی عملہ، منصوبوں اور اداروں کے تحفظ کے لیے اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ پاک چین دوستی کی مٹھاس، گہرائی اور بلندی پہلے ہی پاکستان دشمن عناصر کو کھٹک رہی ہے جس میں دراڑیں ڈالنے کے لیے ہر ممکن سازشیں آج بھی کسی نہ کسی صورت جاری ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین شروع ہونے والے گیم چینجر سی پیک منصوبے کے بعد ان سازشوں میں مزید اضافہ ہوا۔ بالخصوص امریکا اور بھارت گٹھ جوڑا اس منصوبے کو ہر ممکن نقصان پہنچانے اور اس میں رخنہ ڈالنے کے درپے رہتا ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ صرف پاکستان اور چین کے مفاد کا منصوبہ نہیں بلکہ پورے خطے میں ترقی کی ضمانت بن چکا ہے۔ پی ٹی آئی دور حکومت میں اس منصوبے کو یکسر نظر انداز کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی جس سے چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کے معاملات میں سرد مہری کا مظاہرہ کیا جانے لگا اور دشمن کی سازشوں کو تقویت ملی۔ سابقہ دور میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے جو غلط فہمیاں پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ چین سے ان کا ازالہ ہوا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں، پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعاون کے نئے معاہدے معیشت کے لیے خوش آئند ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-04/page-14/detail-8>

November 05, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese leadership communicated

ALI HUSSAIN

Security of Chinese, projects ‘highest priority’

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office said Friday that the government gives the highest level of priority to safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects, and the assurance has been communicated to the Chinese leadership at the highest level.

Speaking at his weekly media briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said that the safety and security of Chinese personnel, programmes and projects have been a matter that has been accorded the highest level of priority by the government of Pakistan.

“We continue to have discussions with our Chinese friends on this. At the highest levels the assurances have been communicated to the Chinese leadership regarding Pakistan’s commitment to ensure the safety and security and to take all necessary measures in that regard,” he added.

During his meetings with the Chinese leadership in the recent visit, he added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed the government’s commitment to high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan’s economic and social development.

Various projects under CPEC including ML-1, Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), projects of the Gwadar port and free zone, cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT and socioeconomic development were also discussed, he added.

He said that CPEC has been there on the ground for quite a while and it has contributed to rejuvenating Pakistan’s economic development. He said that the first phase of CPEC was focusing on energy shortfall and infrastructure projects while the second phase was focusing on agriculture, industrialization and socioeconomic development, and there is a renewed focus now again on some of the major infrastructure projects. “CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. It is a project that is aiming at development and socioeconomic progress, not only in Pakistan, but the entire region and beyond,” he said, adding that this is a project for the long term and there are many activities that have been concluded. There are others that are in the pipeline, and there will be projects in the future with mutual agreement and understanding, he added.

On Kashmir, the spokesperson said that China’s position on Jammu and Kashmir has been consistent and always very clearly articulated including in the recent joint statement, and also on support for Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“I don’t see any reason to assume that there is any change in position, either from Pakistan or China, with regard to our respective core issues....So, I can reassure you that there is no shortcoming of any kind in the joint statement,” he stated in response to a question.

On Pakistan's position on "One China" policy, he said that these are Pakistan's long-stated and long-held principled positions in support of China's core issues. "Pakistan has expressed its support for China all along and we will continue to do that. I don't think it should impact any of our bilateral relations with other countries," he said in response to a question as to whether this policy may impact Pakistan's ties with the US.

To another query about a recent statement by a Russian senator who accused Pakistan of providing support to Ukraine regarding nuclear technology, the spokesperson said that Pakistan has sought clarification from Russia with regard to the statement.

"We were actually surprised by such a baseless and unfounded statement. It has no rationale whatsoever and it is also inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-Russia relations. We have sought clarification from the Russian side and we are pursuing it here in Islamabad and in Moscow," he added.

About the cooperation by Kenyan side in the investigation into the murder of a senior journalist Arshad Sharif, he said that in principle that is the understanding between Pakistan and Kenya that "we have had and we will continue to have full cooperation and coordination from the Kenyan authorities on this matter".

About the problems being faced by students and families of overseas Pakistanis in getting visas appointments in the embassies of Italy and Germany, he said that the Foreign Office continues to raise the matter with the relevant diplomatic missions.

"This is the job and responsibility of diplomatic missions. This is what we do, when we are abroad, to facilitate the applicants for various visa categories and we expect the same from the diplomatic corps stationed in Pakistan. I think our job is to facilitate these things," he added.

The spokesperson also announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would be participating in the COP-27 related Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh on 7-8 November, adding that further details about that visit would be shared in due course.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/05/1-page/946665-news.html>

China agrees to provide latest met equipment: Saad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafiq said on Friday that China agreed to enhance the capability of Pakistan with the latest meteorological equipment for effectively forecast environmental changes and natural calamities.

Addressing a news conference, he said a number of agreements were signed between the two governments during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

The minister said China had not only expressed readiness to complete the ML-I railway project but also provided technical assistance for upgrading Pakistan's meteorological warning systems to prevent and tackle natural disasters by timely alerts.

About the political situation in the country, the minister strongly condemned the incident of firing on PTI's long march in Wazirabad. He called for a joint investigation team (JIT) comprising competent officers from federal and provincial governments to probe into the

incident.

He further said that the JIT should be formulated with consensus to investigate the firing incident on PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

The JIT should investigate within a set timeframe and share all the facts with the nation.

While rejecting the possible formation of one-sided JIT, Saad Rafique said the JIT should have the authority to investigate from anyone including Imran Khan and no interference should be made during the investigation process. He said the witness and worker of the PTI who apprehended the accused should be provided security.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/05/1-page/946666-news.html>

PM's China visit: main takeaways

Farhat Ali

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif concluded his two-day November 1-2 visit to China. With effectively on one day at his disposal, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met those who matter — Xi Jinping, President of China, Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council and Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

The two leaderships discussed cooperation across a range of issues, including defence, trade and investment, agriculture, health, education, green energy, science and technology and disaster preparedness.

Prime Minister Sharif and President Xi also discussed key issues, pertaining to the region, including the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Afghanistan.

During the visit Pakistan is reported to have secured China's continued support to the country's sustainable economic and strategic projects, including expansion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail track, early launch of Karachi Circular Railway and additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for the country's flood relief efforts. Moreover, President Xi accepted prime minister's invitation to visit Islamabad soon.

The Prime Minister availed the forum to extend an invitation to Chinese corporate heads to invest in government's mega solar and renewable energy projects.

Much of the above said is more of the same and at best affirmation of the goodwill between the two countries and commitment towards the ambitious \$ 65 billion CPEC, which is a critical part or flag ship of China's global Belt and Road Initiative.

On the diplomatic front the visit was a necessity in view of the grave economic, political and global challenges Pakistan is faced with. Pakistan now needs China as never before in its history.

The foremost challenge is Pakistan's extremely fragile fiscal situation and its beleaguered economy, which demanded something more tangible out of the China visit.

Although China has said that it will support Pakistan in stabilising its financial situation, there is no explicit and tangible explanation for this remark made by President Xi.

Pakistan is struggling with a balance of payment (BoP) crisis which aggravated due to devastating floods this summer, burdening it with an estimated \$30 billion losses.

Pakistan was expected to seek debt relief from China, particularly the rollover of bilateral debt of around \$23 billion. This is the most critical concession sought from China and was on Pakistan's wish list of discussions. In the joint declaration and in any of the media talk there is no explicit mention of the outcome of the debt rescheduling. One knows that China is strict on loan conditions and does not encourage renegotiations

Further, to spur economic growth in the country, Pakistan was to prevail upon China to shift its low-end industry to Special Economic Zones being set up by China in Pakistan as earlier scheduled. China has shifted many of its low-end industry to cost-effective states in Asia. A response to this request, if any, is also not known.

The balance of trade between China and Pakistan continues to be heavily skewed in favour of China. Much has been talked about to strike some balance but Pakistan, so far, has not been able to break down barriers at home and in China's markets.

There has been some success for the establishment of RMB clearing mechanism in Pakistan. As per the statement issued this week by People's Bank of China (PBoC), China's central bank and the State Bank of Pakistan have signed a memorandum of cooperation for the establishment of an RMB clearing arrangement in Pakistan in a bid to facilitate the use of RMB for cross-border transactions by enterprises and financial institutions in both countries. In global markets, all countries need strong partners in economy, diplomatic leverage and political stability for sustainability. China is no exception.

That China and Pakistan are not in a state of equality is a fact. Pakistan, in fact, is in a perpetual state of crisis, seeking concessions. Much of this is on account of self-inflicted follies and positioning of self-interest above national interest in economy, politics and global diplomacy. Pakistan has to set its house in order without any further loss of time.

(The writer is former President of Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/05/4-page/946688-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan and China enjoy unbreachable friendship

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif describing Pakistan and China as "iron brothers" and enjoying "unbreachable" friendship has stated that his meetings with Chinese leadership remained most productive and useful. "We are iron brothers because this friendship is unbreachable. Nobody can damage this friendship. Nobody can find any space in this friendship no matter what. We will remain friends. We have been friends and we are there forever," Shehbaz Sharif told China Global Television (CGTN) during his recent two-day official visit to China. Besides China-Pakistan relations as well as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the prime minister during the interview also talked about the regional and international situation.

To a question, PM Shehbaz Sharif said he was returning back to Pakistan "hugely strengthened and encouraged" by massive support from the Chinese leadership to work

jointly for the good of two peoples, promote CPEC and B2B (Business to Business) investment in Pakistan and also jointly deal with the issues which relate to international considerations. The prime minister said it was a matter of great privilege and honor for him to visit China on the invitation of Chinese leadership and being the first foreign leader after the 20th National Congress of Chinese Communist Party (CPC). “It is a great manifestation of our iron brotherhood. It speaks volumes of our friendship, mutual trust and mutual understanding. We deeply appreciate this gesture of the Chinese leadership,” he added.

The prime minister said during his visit he had back-to-back meetings most importantly the meetings with President Xi and Premier Li, which were “most friendly, productive, frank and useful”. He said that China and Pakistan agreed to enhance their consultative process to discuss the geopolitical situation, and to discuss how to bring progress and prosperity not only in Pakistan but in the region.

To another question, the prime minister said that China had always been a very prosperous and rich country, adding, “but the foreign entities who came here, made it a colony and looted and plundered its resources.” He added that China, who had been bestowed upon by God Almighty with ample resources and energy, had not shown, in anybody’s remotest imagination, any germs of expansionism.

“To the contrary, China’s philosophy or President Xi’s philosophy is about globalization, is about interaction, is about prosperity and progress,” the Prime Minister maintained. He said that the policy of those who believed in containment [of China] were sadly mistaken, adding, however, “they will never be able to contain China.” The prime minister said that China is a power and the world cannot operate without China. “China believes in peaceful means. So Chinese military’s progress is not for aggression, it is for its defence and rightly so,” he added.

“Keeping in view the past history, China cannot afford to remain weak in this area, therefore China is within its right to be militarily strong. Yet be very cautious and careful as not to give even the slightest of impression that this power is for aggression,” he remarked. Pakistan will work with China to promote a shared destiny of achievements and progress, and foster peace and harmony in the region and the world at large, said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Shehbaz Sharif, who is on an official visit, is among the first foreign leaders to visit China after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Shehbaz Sharif travelled to China for the first time in 1981 and has since witnessed the tremendous transformation of the country through his many visits.

“You could hardly see a car on the road, (only) buses and bicycles in 1981,” he remarked in an interview with Xinhua. “And over the years the entire country has transformed and become the second largest economy in the world. This is a miracle of its kind.” “I think it is because of dedication, visionary leadership of the Communist Party of China. Its leaders, its vision and sacrifice,” he said. The 20th CPC National Congress conveyed a very powerful message across the world that China stands by continuity and stability and peaceful co-existence, the prime minister said. Highlighting China’s success in eradicating absolute poverty, providing better job opportunities, and improving education and healthcare, Shehbaz Sharif said Xi Jinping’s re-election as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee is

important not only to the Chinese people, but also friendly countries and even globally.” Today under President Xi’s leadership, China is a country without which the world cannot move on. This is a great sense of achievements,” he said, explaining that Pakistan is trying to learn from China.

Shehbaz Sharif said he has no doubt that China will further grow and progress by leaps and bounds, and the Pakistan-China friendly relations will further deepen and strengthen. Pakistan and China have enjoyed an “unprecedented and unique” friendship, or Iron Brotherhood, over the seven decades since the establishment of diplomatic ties. The two countries have promoted relations on the basis of mutual trust, respect and cooperation, he said.

Shehbaz Sharif commended the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game changer in transforming Pakistan’s power, energy, infrastructure and public transport sector. Sharif himself was given the task to implement multiple CPEC energy projects and the Lahore Orange Line, the country’s first metro train service.

“I must tell you with a sense of satisfaction that these CPEC energy projects were completed and made operational faster than Chinese regard. This is what we call ‘Pakistan speed,’” said the prime minister, referring to the “Shenzhen speed” in China. “That’s what this brotherhood, cooperation and friendship is about,” Sharif said, hoping the CPEC will go to the next phase to promote agriculture, modern technology and IT industry. Shehbaz Sharif said he supports the China-proposed Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative as a remarkable vision to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between nations and societies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1022768/pakistan-and-china-enjoy-unbreachable-friendship/>

Outcome Of China Visit

Malik Muhammad Ashraf

Brazilian lyricist, an eminent literary figure and winner of several international awards, Paulo Coelho de Souza, described friendship as, “Friendship is not about whom you know the longest. It is about who came and never left.”

What he said is quintessential of the friendship between Pakistan and China, which is far beyond and above the realm of normal diplomatic relations between any two states. The epithet of “iron brothers” proudly claimed by the two countries reflects the impregnable nature of relations between the two countries which have withstood the vicissitudes of times.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif’s two-day visit to China is reflective of the warmth, strength and depth of relations between the two iron brothers in terms of its productive outcomes. President Xi assured China’s continued support for sustainable economic and strategic projects, including the ML-1 rail track. He also announced an additional assistance package of Rs 15.2 billion for flood relief operations in Pakistan.

Both leaders also acknowledged the need for a mass-transit project in Karachi and agreed to finalize all formalities for the early launch of the Karachi Circular Railway. In his interaction with Chinese companies working on building infrastructure at Gawadar international airport,

Prime Minister was given the assurance of its completion by early 2023. The Prime Minister, in his meeting with the leading Chinese companies, was able to convince them to invest in the Pakistan government's solar power project, aimed at generating 10,000 MW of electricity, besides encouraging them to invest in alternative energy resources, including wind turbine power plants.

CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, has undoubtedly added eternity to the infallible relations between the two states.

Both countries signed and concluded several agreements/MoUs, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural products, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, GDI, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

The other hallmark of the parleys between the two sides was unanimity of views on regional and global issues including UN reforms, the need for peace in Afghanistan and continued international support to the Afghan regime to deal with a humanitarian crisis. Pakistan expressed its commitment to the one-China policy and support on issues of Taiwan, the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. China reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security and in promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity. It also endorsed Pakistan's stance on Kashmir saying that the issue needed to be resolved through dialogue in accordance with the relevant UN resolution and bilateral agreements between the two countries. Pakistan is greatly indebted to China for her continued unflinching support on Kashmir. It was with the Chinese support that the issue of Kashmir came up for discussion in the meeting of the UNSC after fifty years in the backdrop of the unilateral action by the Modi government to end the special status of IOK.

China has played a significant role in the economic progress of Pakistan. The construction of the KKH Highway, the Heavy Mechanical Complex at Taxila, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) and Chashma Nuclear Plants are the monuments of the ever-spiking relationship. In the backdrop of the US-India deal for the transfer of civilian nuclear technology which Pakistan regarded as a discriminatory act, China exhibited the strength of the friendship between the two countries by agreeing to help Pakistan in building Chashma IV and V. It has also been extending support to Pakistan regarding its stance for criteria based admittance of new members to the prestigious Nuclear Suppliers Group. It also helped in saving Pakistan from being pushed to the blacklist by FATF. It is worth recalling that China had also extended \$2 billion in financial support to tide over the financial crisis confronting the country.

Pakistan and China also have very strong defence ties. In early March 2017, the Chinese-built Low to Medium Altitude Air Defence System was inducted into the air defence system of the Pakistan Army that would considerably enhance its response capability to current and emerging threats as the Chinese Mobile Air Defence system is capable of tracking and destroying a variety of aerial targets at longer ranges flying at low and medium altitudes. The co-production of the JF-17 Thunder aircraft at PAC is yet another milestone in defence relations between the two countries.

China fully understands the challenges being faced by Pakistan, its geo-political relevance, and its contributions towards regional peace and stability and has repeatedly assured full-spectrum support for Pakistan in grappling with those challenges. It has always appreciated Pakistan's efforts to deal with the phenomenon of terrorism; urging the world to acknowledge those achievements.

CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, has undoubtedly added eternity to the infallible relations between the two states and their people. By becoming part of the CPEC, Pakistan is poised not only to make up for the lost opportunities but also to become an economic powerhouse within the next two decades. Apart from radically changing the dynamics of regional connectivity and trade, it is going to act as a catalyst in the process of Pakistan's transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy.

CPEC is a mix of infrastructure projects, energy-producing units and industrial zones along the corridor routes. The development of infrastructure under the CPEC will lay a firm foundation for the industrialization of Pakistan. The CPEC has been acknowledged as a perfect recipe for lifting the economic profile of the countries which are part of the initiative worldwide. Even the UN has recognized its economic potential and the collateral outcome of promoting peace through economic interdependence. CPEC is a win-win initiative for China, Pakistan and the entire region.

China has also shown remarkable flexibility by expanding the scope of CPEC to the social sectors earlier, particularly alleviation of poverty and made commitments to rectify the trade imbalance between the two countries by taking steps to enhance Pakistani exports to China, proving her credentials as a time-tested friend of Pakistan.

Pakistan's economic and security interests are inextricably linked to the region it belongs to. Therefore its focus on recalibrating relations with the countries of the region and taking its relations with China to a higher trajectory is the right thing to do without getting involved in dynamics of the global politics.

The writer is a former diplomat and freelance columnist.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1022800/outcome-of-china-visit/>

Second phase of CPEC focuses on capacity building, tech cooperation: experts

As President Xi Jinping met with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to further consolidate the bilateral ironclad friendship, the two countries will set in motion a flurry of projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including the construction of auxiliary infrastructure for Gwadar Port and a high-speed rail project connecting Pakistan's largest city of Karachi to Peshawar.

Business representatives and industry observers said the economic cooperation highlights yielded by the visit underscore that the construction of CPEC has been upgraded from phase one, which focuses on addressing fundamental issues involving power shortages and infrastructure connectivity, to phase two which aims to facilitate capacity cooperation,

stimulate indigenous economic drives and speed up the South Asian country's push to modernize.

The Pakistani side has also vowed to step up security measures, further providing a guarantee to the safety of Chinese personnel and China-invested projects – a pledge entrusted by Chinese business representatives which will pave way for the efficient implementation of flagship projects in CPEC's second phase.

The fruitful results achieved by the visit also speak volumes of the all-weather friendship and mutually beneficial economic ties between China and Pakistan, which could not be swayed by the empty promises made by the US that neither invested extensively in Pakistan nor reduced barriers for Pakistan exports, analysts noted.

Flagship cooperation: According to a joint statement issued after the bilateral meeting, the two sides agreed to build upon the leadership consensus and to advance the process of the ML-1 project's earliest implementation. The two sides also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway, which was an urgent requirement for Pakistan's biggest city.

“The ML-1 linking Karachi with Peshawar is a railway corridor connecting Pakistan's southern region with the north. With a length of about 1,730 kilometers, it will attract close to \$10 billion in investment. Chinese enterprises have done a lot of preliminary studies and work on the project, laying a solid foundation for its efficient implementation,” Xiao Hua, the chairman of state-owned China State Construction's Pakistani company, told the Global Times.

Xiao noted the project, along with the Karachi Circular Railway, is of key “strategic and landmark” importance to Pakistan in improving its basic infrastructure, and all Chinese enterprises involved are expecting as early implementation as possible.

According to a statement on the website of China's Ministry of Commerce, the designed passenger train speed of ML-1 is 160 kilometers an hour, with freight trains capped at 120 kilometers an hour.

Zhou Rong, a senior researcher from the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times that the two rail lines represent a significant push in Pakistan cities' modernization agenda. “In Pakistan, the highest railway speed is around 140 kilometers an hour, and only several rail lines operate above 100 kilometers per hour,” Zhou said while noting that in addition to upgrading train lines, Pakistan has significant demand for auxiliary purchases such as train coaches and signal lights.

The joint statement also noted that both sides expressed satisfaction with the completion of key projects of Gwadar port and agreed to speed up progress on other related projects of the Gwadar port and free zone.

Zhou said that as a next step, efforts will be scaled up in such sectors as building an accompanying logistic center, a modern fishing center, a ship repair center, and constructing more terminals for docking cruise ships and oil tankers, to build the port into a strategic transportation hub between the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

To date, the first phase of the Gwadar free zone- with an investment of over 3 billion yuan(\$410.7 million) – has been completed, and construction of the second phase has been initiated in July 2021, with an area of about 36 times of the first phase.

Upgrading to the second phase: Wang Jie, the executive vice president of the Chinese Enterprise Association in Pakistan, told the Global Times that Sharif’s visit will lead to bilateral cooperation heading toward “diversification, modernization, and sustainable development.” “In the second phase, the two sides could deepen cooperation in industries, modernization, informational technology, e-commerce, and new energy such as photovoltaic,” Wang stressed.

According to the joint statement, in line with the leadership’s consensus to accelerate cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT, and socio-economic development under the CPEC, the two sides agreed to further build on the health, industry, digital and green corridors launched earlier this year and carry out relevant cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to actively promote the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan’s industrial development.

“Moving to the second phase, industrial cooperation and technological cooperation under BRI will gain momentum. And Chinese enterprises are set to play an outsized role in stimulating the ‘blood-making’ ability of the Pakistani economy. We will utilize our advantageous resources and explore more innovative cooperation models to contribute to local social economic development,” Xiao said.

The CPEC has played a key leading role in the development of clean energy such as wind power and solar energy in Pakistan, according to a statement PowerChina, a state-owned energy construction company, sent to the Global Times. And the success of several wind power projects invested in by Chinese firms has made global investors see the broad prospects for wind power development in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1023060/second-phase-of-cpec-focuses-on-capacity-building-tech-cooperation-experts/>

Pakistan’s rice exports to China crosses historical figure

Pakistan’s rice export to China in the first three quarters of this year surpassed US\$421.94 million with a volume of 1,111,352.57 tons (more than one million tonnes), for the first time in history, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting China’s General Administration of Customs.

The Customs’ Data showed that during the first nine months of 2022, bilateral trade increased significantly and China imported more than one million tons of different types of rice increasing 45 % while last year in the same period it was more than 674,646.876 tons by volume, worth \$290 million an increase of \$131.91 million from 2021.

According to GACC, Pakistan’s broken rice (commodity code: 10064020) export to China has crossed US\$ 159.72million, increasing by 80% as compared to last year’s US\$ 87.75 million in the same period, with the exported volume growing 38% from 401,867.79 tons last year in the same period tons to 491,678.15 tons.

The GACC data showed that in the first nine months of 2022, China imported more than 4,971,644.621 tons of three different types of rice worth US\$ 2.05 billion, increasing 19% by volume from last year's 3452523.288 tons in the same period worth \$1.55 billion from the globe.

The main sources of rice imports are Myanmar, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The ex-Commercial Counselor Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Badar uz Zaman told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan has set a target of one million tons of rice export to China this year which is achieved much earlier, and that if it were not for the flood in Pakistan, rice export to China would have doubled the existing amount.

Zaheer Ahmad, a rice exporter to China told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan has high-quality varieties of rice, ample young labour, large fertile land, and good environmental conditions for agriculture but due to a lack of technologies previously the low average yield and degraded seeds were the main reason of less export to China and other countries.

“Natural disasters are the key problems. Recently we are facing flood which destroyed more than 45% of crops and drought is probably the biggest abiotic stress Pakistani farmers face every year while much country's planting area is affected by salinisation which can be solved through the latest technologies and techniques used in the field of rice production”, he stated.

He further said that years ago, only Basmati rice was an important export earner in Pakistan but broken rice export to China helped Pakistan increase its export in this field, adding that Pakistanis are thankful to China which provided the latest technology in this field like colour sorting machines and modern seeds which help out more yield per arc and also duty-free access in the Chinese market. Zaheer hopes that China will also remove the quota system for Pakistani exporters and will increase the number of exporters from Pakistan, especially small enterprises.

It is to be noted that in 2021 Pakistan exported about 973,000 tons of rice worth US\$437 million to China and the total number of Pakistani companies in the approved General Administration of Customs P.R of China list is 53.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1022987/pakistans-rice-exports-to-china-crosses-historical-figure/>

Dawn News

Another \$13bn incoming from China, S. Arabia

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said to have secured about \$13 billion in additional financial support from two traditional friends — about \$9bn from China and over \$4bn from Saudi Arabia — on top of assurances for about \$20bn investments.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar told journalists that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Beijing, the Chinese leadership promised to roll over \$4bn in sovereign loans, refinance \$3.3bn commercial bank loans and increase currency swap by about \$1.45bn — from 30bn yuan to 40bn yuan. The total worked out at \$8.75bn.

“They promised the security of financial support,” Mr Dar said and quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as telling Mr Sharif to “don’t worry, we will not let you down”.

Mr Dar said the Pakistani delegation had four major engagements, including meeting with the Chinese president and the prime minister, and the chairman of the National People’s Congress, the country’s legislature.

These would be rolled over whenever they reach maturity, the minister said, adding that about \$200 million worth of commercial loans had already flowed in a few days back.

Responding to a question, Mr Dar said the Chinese side had also agreed to fast-track the processing for a \$9.8bn high-speed rail project (Main Line-1) from Karachi to Peshawar and both sides would immediately trigger their respective teams.

Another official said the two sides were hoping to arrange bidding for the project by December and negotiations for financing terms and conditions could follow once a bidder is selected.

Mr Dar said the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and Hyderabad-Karachi motorway projects were also taken up and the KCR would soon be in the implementation phase. The minister said he had also suggested a part of outstanding dues of Chinese power producers to be converted into overall debt stock and had already cleared about Rs160bn in recent months.

Responding to a question, he said Saudi Arabia had also “given a positive response” to Pakistan’s request for increasing its financing by another \$3bn to \$6bn and doubling its deferred oil facility of \$1.2bn.

The two heads worked out at \$4.2bn and the finance minister said there was no delay except a month or so of processing time.

Mr Dar said Saudi Arabia had also agreed to revive the \$10-12bn petrochemical refining project at Gwadar, for which he had been assigned by the prime minister to coordinate with respective ministries for finalisation.

On top of that, the minister said Pakistan was engaging Saudi Arabia in privatisation transactions like in LNG power projects and shares in other entities to ensure non-debt creating foreign inflows.

Moreover, the minister said another \$1.4bn worth of inflows were almost mature, including \$500m from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and two World Bank loans of \$900m under the national harmonisation of general sales tax.

He said he had a positive meeting with the Sindh chief minister to harmonise GST and the financing envelope could be settled amicably. He noted that harmonising GST was important for World Bank inflows to arrive in the country.

On the exchange rate, the minister insisted that the rupee’s real effective exchange rate (REER) was around Rs194 per dollar, even lower than Rs200. He expected the stakeholders to also keep in mind the national interest instead of “just outrageous profitmaking”.

Pakistan had been engaging with China and Saudi Arabia for financial support, including rolling over maturing loans as part of arrangements for about \$35bn putouts against debt and

liabilities during the current fiscal year. The minister parried a question relating to the extension in debt repayments of Chinese independent power producers (IPPs).

As part of the 7th and 8th quarterly reviews of the International Monetary Fund, Pakistan and the IMF had estimated total external financing needs at about \$33-34bn, but this did not include the requirements of flood damages.

The minister said the leadership of Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had welcomed Pakistan's announcement of not seeking Paris Club debt rescheduling, ensuring international bond payments on maturity and completing the ongoing IMF programme.

Last month, Mr Dar made it clear that Pakistan would rather seek to reschedule bilateral debt that now stands at around \$27bn to secure greater breathing space in foreign loan repayments amid tight external account conditions.

"Rescheduling bilateral debt is fine," he said at the time while ruling out the rescheduling of international debt from wealthy western nations under the Paris Club, multilateral and international sovereign bonds.

Talking to journalists on Monday, the minister said there was no point in Paris club rescheduling because the overall debt to these creditors was no more than 11pc of total foreign debt and debt relief over the year would be less than \$1.2bn.

Paris Club creditor countries generally comprise Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the United States, and together they owe about \$10.7bn to Pakistan.

"When we are going to arrange \$32-34bn for external payments, another \$1.2bn is no big issue," he said. These repayments involved about \$22bn foreign debt servicing and about \$10-12bn current account deficit.

Foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan rose to \$8.91bn during the week ended on Oct 28. The country's total reserves now stand at \$14.68bn, including \$5.77bn held by commercial banks.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719075>

Chinese concerns

WE can say that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has returned home empty-handed from his first official visit to Beijing that was aimed at renewing Islamabad's push for the revival of Chinese investments under the multibillion-dollar CPEC initiative and seeking the rollover of the large bilateral debt to avert potential sovereign default. Or, we may argue that he has come back with a commitment from China's top leadership to "inject new impetus into the all-weather cooperative partnership" to help Pakistan's sustainable economic and strategic projects, a pledge of an additional RMB500m for flood relief, and a memorandum of cooperation on yuan clearing in Pakistan that could provide an alternative payment option for cross-border transactions among Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and financial institutions,

and possibly help us buy discounted Russian oil. Pakistan's ambassador to Beijing suggested in a tweet that the "joint statement was strong and loaded" and that we should read "between the lines" as "important understandings are always arrived at beyond the [eyes] of media". One interpretation of this may be that even though China will not leave us in the lurch due to its strategic and long-term perspective of the relationship with Islamabad, owing to a changing global and regional political and security environment, there could be hiccups. The two sticking points — security of Chinese nationals working here and the unpaid bills of its power producers — continue to hold back progress on economic cooperation between the two countries. On top of that, China's appetite for more investment in Pakistan is also being tested by the ongoing political turmoil in the country and economic instability.

There is no doubt that the prime minister is taking a personal interest in improving the safety of Chinese citizens and resolving the payment issues of the power producers. But Beijing's concerns remain. Although the two countries have forged closer economic ties in recent years, there's a strong perception in China that Islamabad hasn't done enough to address these concerns. If Pakistan wants China to elevate the level of strategic cooperation and foster deeper economic ties, it must focus on addressing the sticking points bogging down bilateral economic cooperation beyond the CPEC initiative. The agreements covering bilateral cooperation in different areas of economy signed in front of or away from the eyes of the media during the premier's visit are unlikely to materialise unless the Chinese firms feel comfortable about doing business in and with Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719086>

China ships first batch of 46 rail coaches to Pakistan

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: China has dispatched 46 out of 230 new high-speed passenger coaches to Pakistan Railways by sea which will take approximately three weeks to reach Karachi port.

After being handed over to the railway authorities, these coaches will reach Lahore by the Karachi-Lahore main line-1 by end of this month, Dawn has learnt.

"Yes, 46 new coaches have been dispatched by China on Friday. Hopefully, we will have them in Karachi within the next three weeks," PR's Additional General Manager (Mech-anical) Shahid Aziz told Dawn on Friday.

Under a \$140 million contract, a leading Chinese company has manufactured 230 state-of-the-art passenger coaches, of which 46 are to be provided as completely built units (CBU) and the remaining 184 will be manufactured in Pakistan by the PR engineers and technical staff under the supervision of the Chinese experts.

Under another similar nature contract, a Chinese firm is also manufacturing 800 freight wagons and 20 brake wagons. Some wagons are underway to be manufactured in China at the moment while most of them would be manufactured in Pakistan under the technology-transfer method.

For coaches and wagons planned to be manufactured in Pakistan at the PR Carriage Factory, Islamabad, the Chinese firm will be responsible to provide spare parts and raw materials under the contract.

An 18-member team of PR officials visited China in the second week of August for design inspections and training related to the transfer of technology.

However, they couldn't inspect the prototypes of the wagons since they were not manufactured.

"The first batch of the high-speed wagons will be delivered next month by the Chinese company," the AGM said, adding that the new coaches and wagons would help PR improve its rolling stock infrastructure.

It merits mentioning that the railway is working to upgrade the dilapidated track (ML-1) as the Khanpur-Kotri section is not fit for high-speed train operation.

The poor condition of the railway tracks, faulty signalling system, officials' negligence, over speeding, poor maintenance, financial crises and shortage of staff, etc have caused several fatal accidents during the last couple of years.

The year 2019 was the worst for the railways in terms of fatal/non-fatal accidents.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719057>

Govt committed to providing best security to Chinese: FO

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Friday that the security of Chinese personnel is an ongoing topic of discussion with China and the government is committed to providing best possible security to their workers in Pakistan.

"Regarding the safety and security of Chinese personnel, programmes and projects, this has been a matter that has been accorded the highest level of priority by the government of Pakistan and we continue to have discussions with our Chinese friends on this," FO spokesman Asim Iftikhar said at the weekly media briefing.

Chinese concern about security of its workers in Pakistan has remained a major obstacle to bilateral cooperation.

Though attacks on Chinese had been on the rise for some time, the suicide bombing of the van carrying Chinese teachers in Karachi that left four dead, a couple of weeks after the Shehbaz Sharif government took office, alarmed Beijing.

The attack was a major setback for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects that slowed down as the Chinese authorities ramped up pressure on Pakistan to improve security.

Islamabad accepted the Chinese offer of cooperation in investigation and a group of experts visited Pakistan for assisting in the probe.

A gang of terrorists belonging to Balochistan Liberation Army, a terrorist outfit that was believed to be involved in the Karachi University attack, was smashed as a result of that investigation.

This eased some of the Chinese concerns, but they aren't still fully satisfied.

President Xi Jinping, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent two-day visit to China, expressed "great concern" over the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and hoped that Islamabad will ensure "a reliable and safe environment" for the Chinese working there.

The Foreign Office spokesman said: "At the highest levels the assurances have been communicated to the Chinese leadership regarding Pakistan's commitment to ensure the safety and security and to take all necessary measures in that regard."

Replying to a question, Mr Iftikhar said: "I don't see any reason to assume that there is any change in position, either from Pakistan or China, with regard to our respective core issues.

"I think China's position on Jammu and Kashmir has been consistent and always very clearly articulated including in this joint statement, and also on support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. So I can reassure you that there is no shortcoming of any kind in the joint statement."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719049/govt-committed-to-providing-best-security-to-chinese-fo>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pak iron-clad friendship's new strategic path

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

MOST recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China and met with leaders and high officials of China.

A joint statement was also issued covering all aspects of new "Strategic Path" of China-Pak iron-clad friendship ranging from early initiation of CPEC Phase-II, close liaison in "Human Right" issue, active participation in global development governance, transition towards "Green Energy", "Climate Change", modernization of rails and last but not the least, further strengthening of global development initiative cooperation.

In this connection, China and Pakistan agreed to make joint integrated efforts for the further strengthening of the level of all-round strategic cooperation and inject new impetus into their all-weather "strategic cooperative partnership".

Prime Minister Sharif termed his maiden visit as "testament of the profound, iron-clad friendship" between Pakistan and China and deepening Pakistan's all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and the national consensus of Pakistan.

The two sides should make full use of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, he said.

Prime minister noted that CPEC has had a profound impact on Pakistan's economic and social development and showed Pakistan's readiness to work with China to continue promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The CPEC has become a landmark of China-Pakistan cooperation. It has effectively increased the pace of socio-economic development, generated new jobs and produced multiplier socioeconomic effects in Pakistan.

The recent 11th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC has transformed the "Sacred Tale" of China-Pak friendship into a new strategic path of modernization, green revolution, climate change mitigation, water conservation, high speed rail system, greater regional connectivity and last but not the least, information technology.

In this regard, multiple common understandings and mutually befitting propositions, programs and projects were approved and signed about CPEC's future development.

The two countries also agreed to expand cooperation in digital economy, e-commerce, photovoltaic and other new-energy technologies as well as advance cooperation concerning agriculture, science, technology and people's livelihood which is good omen for accelerating the national economy of Pakistan and industry alike.

China has been Pakistan's largest trade and investment partner, the largest exporter and the second largest importer for six consecutive fiscal years since 2015.

Moreover, China has also become the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan which shows its holistic spirits towards struggling humanity.

According to official data of the General Administration of Customs, (December 2021), bilateral trade between China and Pakistan surpassed \$27.82 billion, a year-on-year increase of 59.1%.

Chinese exports to Pakistan totalled \$24.23 billion, a year-on-year increase of 57.8%, while imports from Pakistan were \$3.59 billion, a year-on-year increase of 68.9%.

The Chinese President pledged to jointly work with Pakistan to advance the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and make the global economic governance system fairer, equitable and inclusive.

It is pertinent to mention that the GDI and the GSI, proposed by Xi Jinping in 2021 and 2022 respectively, seek to overcome the tunnel vision that contributes to the rise of de-globalization, populism and xenophobia which risk impeding global governance of development and security.

In addition to it, the GDI showcases re-energizing and speeding up the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a global community of development, while the GSI vividly reflects need of the new suitable security concept and common security system the world needs for opening of an important new way for global security governance.

On his part, Prime Minister Sharif expressed full support for the initiatives, adding that his country will strengthen communication with China in international and regional affairs to contribute positively to world peace and development.

By dubbing Pakistan-China friendship unbreakable, he also reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the one-China policy and its firm support for China's position on issues concerning China's core interests including Taiwan, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

In a joint statement, both countries agreed to extend their cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT and socio-economic development under CPEC.

The two sides also signed and concluded a number of agreements, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural products, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property and infrastructure, among others.

For further banking & financial integration, the central banks of China and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of cooperation on Yuan Clearing Arrangement (YCA) in Pakistan which will help Pakistan to access mainland CNY market rate quotations.

Hopefully, the establishment of the YCA in Pakistan will further boost usage of the Chinese currency for cross-border transactions among Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and financial institutions.

It would also further increase bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. Moreover, it is indeed a strategic development which will gradually lessen Pakistan's dependence on US dollars for bilateral transactions and ease the pressure on the country's external account.

It is a positive development which would further improve bilateral relations in terms of trade, investment, banking & finance, joint venture, e-commerce and, above all, give a systematic coverage to all business activities between the two countries.

It would also allow Chinese investors to invest more freely in Pakistan's markets. On the other hand, Pakistan would be able to raise debt from Chinese markets which would provide the policy makers an alternative and sustainable financial solution to rescue the country from the crisis.

The Yuan clearing arrangement is nothing new to Pakistan as the country has had a currency swap agreement with China since 2011.

Furthermore, China will export technology for a 160 km/h high-speed railway train to Pakistan.

To conclude, China and Pakistan should move forward more effectively with the development of the CPEC Phase-II in which timely acceleration of the construction of infrastructure for the Gwadar Sea Port has great socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic significance.

It would further brighten the chances of CPEC's greater regional connectivity with middle economic corridor Afghanistan and all the states of Central Asia Region in the days to come.

All the states of Central Asia have already shown their keen interest in this regard. Moreover, it would further stabilize lines of communication and develop an alternative path via sea to the macro-economy of China for easy and smooth shipping of goods to the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and beyond in the days to come.

More concrete efforts should be made to bring “Green Revolution” in the agriculture sector by using the modern Chinese methods and technologies transforming “Deserts” into hubs of greenery and “Sands” into “Shining Propositions” of socio-economic development.

—The writer is Executive Director, Centre for South Asia & International Studies, Islamabad, regional expert China, BRI & CPEC & senior analyst, world affairs, Pakistan Observer.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-iron-clad-friendships-new-strategic-path-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

PM visit to Beijing

Prof Shazia Cheema, Prague

AFTER a pause of almost four years, at last China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is back on track and the joint statement released after the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing includes almost everything one can expect from two time-tested friends.

Whatever the former government of PTI had done with Pakistan’s foreign affairs, particularly with CPEC is now a dreadful dream of the past.

I had already been writing what irresponsible leadership of former Prime Minister Imran Khan did with Pakistan’s relations with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, China and even with the United States so there is no need to go into detail but I can recapitulate all events as “the most reckless foreign relations Pakistan ever had” what PTI did in its 42 month’s frightful tenure is a textbook example of bad diplomacy.

During his visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held talks with the Premier of the State Council, Li Keqiang, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress Li Zhanshu, and President Xi Jinping.

The two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations, the regional situation and the international political landscape.

In the last two years, the West is targeting the “One-China Policy” and also questioning the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet issues, and Pakistan’s firm and constant support to Chinese viewpoints over all above-mentioned issues had been appreciated by Chinese media during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that covered all important issues that would help trembling economy of Pakistan to stand on its feet including ML-1 that is a project of key significance under the CPEC framework and of importance to Pakistan’s socio-economic development, the Karachi Circular Railway, which is an urgent requirement for Pakistan’s biggest city, Gwadar port free zone, cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT, socio-economic development under CPEC and the implementation of Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan’s industrial development.

There is no doubt Pakistan and China are called the most time-tested and the best friends on earth but I believe China now needs Pakistan more than ever before because the West with its full force is trying to encircle China's trade routes and harming Chinese's commercial interests and the Pentagon's backed projects like Five Eye, QUAD, AKUAS, Indo-Pacific Framework, Indo-Pacific Armies Management seminars and Pacific Island Nations Summit in Washington are directly targeting Chinese strategic and commercial interests all over the world.

We all know that Biden's administration is on the fast track of major new foreign policy design to combat and contain China.

The Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed calls this US attempt to containment of China a chapter of an outdated playbook, namely, the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

In his article titled "US China policy is heading towards disaster" writes that since anti-Communism still sells, this playbook, too, begins with the demonization of the Communist Party of China, as its nostalgic throwback to the Communist Party of Soviet Union (CPSU) but US policymakers fail to understand that China is not the Soviet Union.

I support Mushahid's viewpoint that China is not the (former) Soviet Union that might have everything but not a sustainable trade and commercial model of survival.

President Putin once rightly said that the USSR had many friends but no buyers of its products.

China might not have everything that USSR had but it has buyers of its products on every street and corner of the world.

Right now, China does not want Pakistan only as a safe passage to Indo-Pacific but also as a rock-solid partner that will stand with China in all forthcoming challenges from the US-led western world.

—The writer is a Prague-based author, columnist and foreign affairs expert who writes for national and international media.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-visit-to-beijing-by-prof-shazia-cheema-prague/>

CIIE plays vital role in boosting Pakistan's economy: Moin

China International Import Expo (CIIE) plays an essential role in boosting Pakistan's export to China and enhancing Pakistan's economy, said Pakistan's ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

"Due to pandemic prevention and control measures, physical participation is not possible but we will set up an online national pavilion to exhibit our products", Moin ul Haque told China Economic Net (CEN).

He further said that last year, Pakistan's export to China touched a record level of US\$ 3.6 billion despite COVID-19.

“The expo is very important for us because China is our largest trading partner and we are taking new measures to expand our export to China, so in this respect, CIIE becomes very important for us”, he stated.

It is also worth mentioning that more than 300 exhibitors have launched an online display this year including Pakistani exhibitors.

Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan in China told CEN that China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides an excellent platform for Pakistani exporters to enter the second-largest economy in the world.

“It will not only help improve the economic and business environment in Pakistan but also help the country improve its balance of trade with China.

Since China is opening up to the outside world and the main theme of the expo is shared prosperity and development, therefore, it offers a great opportunity for the business community to enhance their markets in China”, he stated.

He further said that the financial sector of both countries has to play an important role to provide more and faster channels for trade settlement to facilitate the business communities from both countries, adding that settlement channels like CIPS should be enhanced for quick and efficient trade settlement.

According to sources, six local-based Pakistani companies are participating this year in which gemstones, marble, and carpets are the main Pakistani products that would be exhibited in the expo.

It is to be noted that this year the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) is scheduled in Shanghai from November 5 to 10.

This is one of the largest exhibitions in China that provides a platform for local and international enterprises to display their products and enhance trade with China and globally.

<https://pakobserver.net/ciie-plays-vital-role-in-boosting-pakistans-economy-moin/>

Report calls for China’s solutions to climate change for countries like Pakistan

China’s solutions to climate change are more feasible for countries such as Pakistan. China’s status as a developing nation allows it to relate to the realities of other developing countries and formulate a more suitable and effective plan for tackling climate change.

This as stated in a report on climate change published by KASB Securities on a climate change seminar held in Karachi ahead of the upcoming COP27, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday. The report says, given the disproportionately high cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from developed countries in history, “the developing countries should not face undue pressure from developed nations to take drastic steps in reducing GHG emissions”.

As of yesterday, the devastating floods in Pakistan has caused 1,739 deaths, 12,867 injured, and 33 million displaced, offering a most prominent example of the massive humanitarian

costs the Global South is paying for the high carbon emissions of the North. “The people of Pakistan are the victims of a grim calculus of climate injustice.

Pakistan is responsible for less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is paying a supersized price for manmade climate change”, noted UN Secretary-general Guterres on the General Assembly. From a historical perspective, the cumulative GHG emissions originating from the developed world have significantly outpaced developing countries.

As per IEA, from 1971 to 2020, G7 accounted for 34.5% of the world’s total GHG emissions in the energy sector. The US alone takes up 20% of the world’s total, nearly 56x higher than Pakistan. Total cumulative emissions from US nearly 56x those from Pakistan. IEA

Worse still, the economic rebound after Covid-19 led to the highest-ever level of emissions from power plants and coal consumption, pushing the CO2 emission level to an all-time high. Growth rate of energy and process CO2 emissions 2020-21 (Mt CO2). Source: UN Since the developed nations have taken the advantage of “taking first steps on the development ladder”, the report appeals that these countries should take greater responsibility in tackling climate change. “With 2022 already set to become one of 10 warmest years on record, there is a dire need of increased technical and financial support to combat climate change”, the report stressed. According to the UN Adaption Gap Report, the estimated climate adaption cost was found to be 5-10 times higher than the present public adaption finance flows. The world expects the US and EU to deliver on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment to developing countries and take the lead in emissions reduction to ensure the right to development of developing countries.

In addition, fair and reasonable reduction in emission standards should be put in place. The US President Biden has set a 50-52% reduction target in carbon emissions by 2030 from levels witnessed in 2005. But as per Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR), even a 50% reduction suggests the US’s per capita emissions in 2030 would be nearly 2.2x the current world average.

<https://pakobserver.net/report-calls-for-chinas-solutions-to-climate-change-for-countries-like-pakistan/>

Chinese Deputy Consul General visits Alhamra

Chinese Deputy Consul General to Lahore Cao Ke visited Alhamra Arts Center, The Mall, here on Friday.

Executive Director Alhamra Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi extended a warm welcome to the Chinese deputy consul general and discussed ways to promote cultural ties during a meeting.

Chinese Deputy Consul General Cao Ke said he was delighted to come to Alhamra; seeing this building created a beautiful feeling. He added that it would not be wrong to call Alhamra Arts Council as a center of cultural identity of Pakistan.

“We hope that the best programmes will be organized here with the cooperation of each other which will give Pakistani people an opportunity to know the Chinese culture closely,” he said.

Executive Director Alhamra Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi said Alhamra was committed to provide an opportunity to Chinese artists to express their art and craft.

He said the friendship between Pakistan and China was matchless and expressed the hope to organize such programmes which would strengthen this friendship and mutual love. He expressed the resolve to take the cultural ties to new heights during his tenure.

Chinese Deputy Consul General Cao Ke visited different areas of Alhamra and showed keen interest.

Executive Director Alhamra Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi and Chinese Deputy Consul General CAO KE exchanged the souvenirs, and the Chinese delegation thanked Alhamra for its hospitality.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-deputy-consul-general-visits-alhamra/>

The Express Tribune

Govt eyes \$13b package after PM's China visit

Finance Minister Dar says KSA gives positive response to his request for a \$4.2b in fresh loan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has got assurances of a \$13 billion financial package from China and Saudi Arabia, including \$5.7 billion in fresh loans, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday in a statement that would help stabilise the reserves and the rupee.

The \$13 billion package is equal to 38% of the estimated gross external financing requirements of Pakistan for fiscal year 2022-23.

Its materialisation can eliminate the threat of default, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has not come up with a big financial package despite imposing numerous harsh conditions.

Pakistan sought \$7.3 billion debt rollover and a fresh loan of \$1.5 billion from China, which the Chinese premier had assured to take care of, Dar told a group of journalists a day after his return from Beijing.

The cumulative loan that Pakistan has sought from China amounts to \$8.8 billion.

Dar disclosed that he also requested his Saudi counterpart for a \$4.2 billion in fresh loan. "The Saudi finance minister also gave "a positive nod", he added.

The cumulative value of the Chinese and Saudi financial assistance would cover 38% of Pakistan's estimated gross external financing requirements. The injection is expected to recoup the lost value of the rupee.

Dar said that the real inflation-adjusted value of the rupee was below Rs200 to a dollar, hoping to see a stronger value of the local currency without any injection.

To a question, the finance minister said that the IMF had not yet finalised the dates for the staff-level talks. However, he expected that the visit would take place this month.

The minister returned from Beijing from Shehbaz's first visit to China as the prime minister. Shehbaz met with the Chinese President Xi Jinping and the premier Li Keqiang.

Dar termed the visit highly successful, which helped revive the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that during the meetings with the Chinese premier, he was requested to give a \$1.5 billion new loan through the currency-swap arrangement.

“I requested China to increase the limit of the trade facility from 30 billion Yuan to 40 billion Yuan”, the minister said. The existing 30 billion worth facility is equal to \$4.5 billion, which after the increase would jump to \$6 billion.

In fiscal year 2021, Pakistan paid over Rs26 billion in interest cost to China for using a \$4.5 billion Chinese trade finance facility to repay maturing debt, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

Pakistan largely utilised the Chinese trade finance facility to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels. The \$4.5 billion facility is part of the SBP’s current \$8.9 billion in gross official foreign exchange reserves.

China has also extended \$4 billion worth of SAFE deposits, which are also part of the \$8.9 billion reserves. By excluding these loans, the central bank’s foreign exchange reserves remain just \$400 million.

The trade facility, originally meant to promote bilateral trade in respective local currencies, has been used for paying the foreign debt.

The benefit of this arrangement was that the additional \$1.5 billion Chinese loan would not reflect on the books of the federal government and it would not be treated as part of Pakistan’s external public debt.

Dar stated that Pakistan also requested China to roll over its \$7.3 billion debt that was maturing in the next eight months, as part of its overall plan to arrange \$34 billion in the current fiscal year.

“The \$3.3 billion Chinese commercial loans and \$4 billion worth SAFE deposits loans were maturing from now till June next year and we have sought rollover,” said Dar.

The government sought the rollover of the \$4 billion SAFE deposit for more than one year.

Sources told *The Express Tribune* that President Xi stated during the meeting with Shehbaz that China would honour all commitments that it gave to the IMF on behalf of Pakistan.

At the start of the IMF programme, China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had assured the IMF to maintain their financial exposure in Pakistan. Dar also said that the Bank of China refinanced this week the \$200 million loan matured in the past.

When asked about clearing outstanding Chinese dues on account of payments to the Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for the cost of the electricity purchase, Dar said that he has proposed that the previous obligations should be treated as debt stock and that Pakistan would clear all the future liabilities.

Dar said that during his visit to Saudi Arabia last week, he requested doubling the existing \$3 billion Saudi cash deposit to \$6 billion –implying a \$3 billion fresh loan.

The minister said that he also sought the doubling of the oil financing facility to \$2.4 billion. Cumulatively, the Saudi financial assistance will amount to \$4.2 billion.

Saudi Arabia has in the past provided \$4.2 billion worth of financial packages to Pakistan. This included \$3 billion in cash assistance and \$1.2 billion worth of annual oil and gas supply on deferred payments. The kingdom has already announced to extend the \$3 billion repayment period by one year.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384769/govt-eyes-13b-package-after-pms-china-visit>

China's chipping in

China and Pakistan have taken a leap forward in economic cooperation

China and Pakistan have taken a leap forward in economic cooperation. Beijing's resolve to support Islamabad in stabilising its financial situation has come at a time when Pakistan is on the verge of bankruptcy. The understanding was reached during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's debut visit to the People's Republic of China, wherein broad-based cooperation in the economy and investment was on the agenda. A rejuvenated Chinese President, Xi Jinping, in the backdrop of his unprecedented re-election for another five-year term as secretary general of the Communist Party reportedly deliberated over the evolving regional and global developments, and committed to buoy the strategic equation — especially one that encompasses security concerns. This is a shot in the arm as far as diplomacy is concerned, and dispels worries that Pakistan is isolated in the comity of nations.

The stress, nonetheless, was on timely completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and ensuring that the fruits of the flagship initiative flows down to the entire region. The Chinese authorities had exhibited utmost resilience in coping with security somersaults in the wake of attacks on their interests in Pakistan at the hands of disgruntled elements, and this aspect has endorsed the all-weather friendship between the two neighbouring countries. What is needed at the moment is strategic reorientation of CPEC, and to ensure that the second phase of the gigantic initiative, consisting of industrialisation and logistics, take roots without any ado. In this regard, the Railway Mainline-1 upgrading also came under discussion between Shehbaz and Xi, which will act as a catalyst in synergising timely movement of goods across Pakistan. Fast-tracking agreed projects such as a 160 km/hour high-speed railway train and investment for the government's 10,000 megawatts solar and other renewable energy projects were underscored. The two sides also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway, an urgent requirement for the biggest and the most populous city of Pakistan.

Struggling to avoid a financial default, Pakistan is in need of capital from Chinese banking avenues in the form of investment. The RMB clearing arrangement is a step in the right direction, and it will not only pool in commercial banks to Pakistani projects, but also help China cement its fiat as an international trading currency. This makes a case for Beijing rising as the next superpower, dethroning the United States, and Pakistan courting its dilapidated economy too to new strengths. Pakistan, meanwhile, was also forthcoming on core Chinese interest in the realm of global diplomacy, expressing its clear commitment to the one-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2384642/chinas-chipping-in>

The Nation

China can be a huge market for Pakistan's meat export

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan has a huge potential to export meat to China and grab its share in one of the world's largest food markets, said an official.

"We can benefit a lot if China allows meat import from Pakistan," Kousar Ali Zaidi, Director General at the Ministry of Commerce, told WealthPK.

Zaidi said the government of Pakistan was in the process of negotiations with concerned Chinese authorities to allow the export of meat. Currently, he said, the foot and mouth disease (FMD) of animals in Pakistan is a large obstacle in export of meat to China. "The largest potential market for Pakistani meat export is China. Pakistan is working with China to resolve sanitary, phytosanitary measures (SPS) and tariff issues," he added.

Zaidi said if China allows import of meat from Pakistan, a large number of investors in Pakistan would opt for livestock sector to grab this opportunity.

"Pakistan has significantly improved its agricultural and livestock products over the period of time by using modern techniques," the official said.

He added that Pakistan's fruits, vegetables and meat are up to the international export standards. Data shows that Pakistan's exports to China are improving gradually. China remained the third largest export destination for Pakistan during the first quarter (July-September) of fiscal year 2022-23. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Pakistan's exports to China were \$501 million during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Zaidi said the livestock population that currently existed in Pakistan was for dual purpose, dairy and meat, whereas competing livestock exporting economies have developed different breeds for dairy and meat purposes. "The yield from the two breeds is incomparable," Zaidi added.

He was of the view that in order to engage in the international meat trade, the product must have consistent quality. "This can be ensured by breed development combined with elimination of foot and mouth disease," he added.

Zaidi was of the view that food sector, especially the export of meat, would play a key role in enhancing Pakistan's exports to China in future. He said China imports meat, fruits and vegetables in large quantity to meet its local demand. He informed that Malaysia, Jordan, Egypt and a few other countries allowed the import of meat from Pakistan, which increased confidence in the quality of the products.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), told WealthPK that improvement in bilateral trade between Pakistan and China was a positive development. However, he said that potential of trade was much more than the current numbers.

“China can be a huge market for Pakistan’s food products,” Suleri said, adding that Pakistan needed to remove the supply-side constraints to produce the goods in large quantity and of best quality to grab the market share. He added that Pakistan should seek international assistance to overcome FMD in animals so that export of meat and dairy products could be enhanced.

“Pakistan will get new markets for its meat and dairy products once the FMD is eliminated,” he added. “Pakistan can export food items, including meat, to China in large quantity by utilising modern techniques and improving processing facilities,” Dr Suleri said.

He suggested that Pakistan should obtain technical assistance from Chinese companies and experts in agriculture and livestock sectors to produce products that can meet export standards.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-05/page-9/detail-0>

The News

2nd meet in less than two months: Shehbaz, Xi talks to boost strategic ties

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and visiting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the second in less than two months, provided strategic guidance for the development of two brotherly countries’ ties in the next stage, fully reflecting the high level of Pakistan-China cooperative strategic partnership.

It has been stated by Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, on the conclusion of the visit in his media briefing, shared by Chinese mission sources here on Friday. Zhao, who served in Pakistan for about four years before returning to Beijing, reminded that China attached great importance to PM Shehbaz Sharif’s two-day official visit to Beijing. He said PM Shehbaz was invited for an official visit to China. This was his first visit to China since he took his office. He recalled that it is also the first foreign head of government to visit China after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

During the visit, President Xi Jinping held a meeting with PM Shehbaz and hosted the welcome banquet for him. Chinese premier, Li Keqiang, held a welcoming ceremony and talks with PM Shehbaz Sharif, while chairman, National People’s Congress (NPC) Li Zhanshu, also held a meeting with the guest.

President Xi shared achievements of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, pointing out that his country would continue to adhere to the basic national policy of opening up to the outside world and continue to provide new opportunities for all countries in the world, including Pakistan, with China’s new development.

He said that on behalf of the Pakistani government and people, PM Shehbaz Sharif once again warmly congratulated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He believed that President Xi’s vision would not only continue to lead China to create more brilliant achievements, but also lead the world to a brighter future.

Zhao Lijian said leaders of the two countries had an in-depth exchange of views on Pakistan-China relations and the international and regional situation. The two sides agreed that Pakistan and China are good friends, good partners and good brothers, and the friendship between China and Pakistan has been tested and unbreakable.

In the face of endless global challenges, the cooperative strategic partnership between Pakistan and China is of great significance, he said. The two sides reaffirmed their firm mutual support on issues involving each other's core interests, and will work together to deal with the chaos and accelerate the construction of a closer Pakistan-China community with a shared future in the new era, the spokesman said.

He said the two sides agreed to deepen strategic relations, share development opportunities, promote construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor more efficiently, and create a "Belt and Road" demonstration project. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to fully protect the security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, he said.

The spokesperson said that the two sides agreed to maintain a high level of cooperation in international multilateral mechanisms, maintain regional peace, stability and international fairness and justice, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries. Pakistan responded positively to the global development initiative and global security initiative, put forward by China.

The two sides would try first in implementing the initiative and actively contribute to the promotion of global governance, he said. During this visit, the two sides issued a joint statement and signed 21 cooperation documents, covering many areas such as e-commerce, digital economy, post-disaster reconstruction, product export to China, social and people's livelihood, global development initiatives and law enforcement security, he concluded.

The diplomatic observers are of the view that the Chinese spokesperson's assertion has brushed aside malicious campaign, launched by anti-Pakistan lobby, against achievements of the trip.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=144777>

Pakistan, China to continue backing each other on core issues: FO

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) said on Friday Pakistan and China had agreed to continue supporting each other on their core issues, and there was a complete consensus to accelerate high quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

A spokesman for the FO was commenting on the recently-concluded official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China at his weekly briefing to the press. He did not agree when asked if Pakistan-US bilateral relations would be hurt, after Pakistan expressed its commitment to One China policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

“I don’t think so. These are Pakistan’s long-stated and long-held principled positions in support of China’s core issues. Pakistan has expressed its support for China all along and we will continue to do that. I don’t think it should impact any of our bilateral relations with other countries,” said the spokesman.

When asked about Chinese apprehensions regarding the safety of its workers in Pakistan, the spokesman said the matter had been accorded the highest priority by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistan continued to have discussions with its Chinese friends on it.

“At the highest levels, assurances have been communicated to the Chinese leadership regarding Pakistan’s commitment to ensure safety and security and to take all necessary measures in that regard,” he said.

Pakistan, he added, was already benefiting from CPEC. “CPEC has been there on the ground for quite a while and it has contributed to rejuvenating Pakistan’s economic development.

“You’re aware of the first phase of CPEC that was focusing on energy shortfall and infrastructure projects. You’re aware of the second phase that was focusing on agriculture, industrialisation and socio-economic development, and there is a renewed focus now again on some of the major infrastructure projects. “CPEC is the flagship project of BRI. It is a project that is aiming at development and socio-economic progress, not only in Pakistan, but the entire region and beyond,” he added.

He pointed out that it was a long-term project. So there were many activities that had been concluded; there were others that were in the pipeline, and there would be projects in future which would be launched with mutual agreement and understanding.

Commenting on recent remarks by a Russian senator that Pakistan was helping Ukraine on nuclear technology, the spokesman said, “We have already issued a statement, and you may refer to it; it was a very clear statement.

“We were actually surprised by such a baseless and unfounded statement. It has no rationale whatsoever and it is also inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-Russia relations. We have sought clarification from the Russian side and we are pursuing it here in Islamabad and in Moscow,” he added.

When asked about the latest development on investigations into the Arshad Sharif murder, the spokesman said as far as cooperation was concerned, in principle there was an understanding between Pakistan and Kenya, and Pakistan will continue to have full cooperation and coordination from the Kenyan authorities on this matter.

“As for any details, I think it’s not appropriate for me to divulge on that, the two-member team has, at the moment, completed its work. I think as per the terms of reference of the team, they are going to report to the Ministry of Interior, which is going to be the relevant governmental department to share any details,” added the spokesman.

To another query if there were any shortcomings in the Pak-China joint statement, the spokesman said he did not see any reason to assume that there was any change in position, either from Pakistan or China, with regard to their respective core issues.

“I think China’s position on Jammu and Kashmir has been consistent and always very clearly articulated including in this joint statement, and also on support for Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. So I can reassure you that there is no shortcoming of any kind in the joint statement,” he said.

When the spokesman was asked to comment on trouble in acquiring Italian and German visas, the spokesman replied, “We continue to raise this issue with the relevant diplomatic missions. I think this is the job and responsibility of diplomatic missions. This is what we do when we are abroad to facilitate the applicants for various visa categories and we expect the same from the diplomatic corps stationed in Pakistan. I think our job is to facilitate these things,” he added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=144776>

‘New technology, skills crucial to benefit from CPEC’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad : Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani, the Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has said that the master plan of Gwadar smart port city envisions the development of industrial base, thus the city will be the hub of trade and economic activities and a great attraction for tourists, investors, and labour.

Qambrani was speaking at a special session on ‘Gwadar and the road to sustainable development,’ organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

Qambrani said that this year the DGA will inaugurate work on ambitious Central Business District in Gwadar to be spread over 12.3 square kilometers to encourage fast track development through public-private partnerships. The District to be developed in 10 years will cost around Rs84-90 billion and Rs400 billion of profit is estimated to be generated. On water supply management initiatives, he informed that two freshwater dams were connected to meet the high water demands. Though water is ample, management issues have marred the distribution system, which will be replaced.

Dr Hassan Daud Butt, senior adviser, SDPI, said that keeping in view the demand for new jobs in the country, it is crucial to embrace technology faster than our current pace to improve productivity and avail future economic opportunities. He said that Sino-Pak cooperation in connection with CPEC and COVID-19 has transformed our technological pace. He said China is building an enabling environment for business and economic opportunities in our country, therefore, we must prepare ourselves to capture the same.

Dr Sajid Amin, deputy executive director, SDPI, said that development sector and civil society organisations can play a pivotal role as knowledge partners in the advocacy of the immense socio-economic potential of Gwadar.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=144672>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے بغیر دنیا نہیں چل سکتی، ہماری دوستی کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا سکتا: شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے پاکستان اور چین کو آئرن برادر قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ہماری دوستی ناقابل تسخیر ہے، ان کی چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں انتہائی نتیجہ خیز اور مفید رہی ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے چین کے اپنے حالیہ دوروزہ سرکاری دورے کے دوران چائے گلوبل ٹیلی ویژن (سی جی ٹی این) کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس دوستی کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا سکتا، چاہے کچھ بھی ہو، ہم دوست رہے ہیں، ہم دوست ہیں اور ہم دوست رہیں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ اپنے دورے کے دوران انہوں نے مسلسل ملاقاتیں کیں، سب سے اہم بات یہ ہے کہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ کے ساتھ ملاقاتیں سب سے زیادہ دوستانہ، نتیجہ خیز، واضح اور مفید رہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چین کو اللہ تعالیٰ نے بے پناہ وسائل اور توانائی سے نوازا ہے، کبھی تو وسیع پسندی کے عزائم کا اظہار نہیں کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جن کی پالیسی چین کا راستہ روکنے کے لیے پالیسی افسوسناک طور پر غلط ہے، وہ چین کو کبھی بھی قابو میں نہیں رکھ سکیں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ چین ایک طاقت ہے اور دنیا چین کے بغیر نہیں چل سکتی، چین پر امن ذرائع پر یقین رکھتا ہے، چین اس علاقے میں کمزور رہنے کا متحمل نہیں ہو سکتا، اس لئے چین فوجی طور پر مضبوط ہونے کا حق رکھتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے چیئر مین این ڈی ایم اے لیفٹیننٹ جنرل انعام حیدر ملک اور اقوام متحدہ کے ریڈیوٹ کو آرڈینیٹر / ہیومنٹیریٹ کو آرڈینیٹر جو لیٹن ہار نیٹس نے جمعہ کو یہاں ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم نے جو لیٹن ہار نیٹس کو موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی وجہ سے ملک میں آئے تاریخ کے بدترین سیلاب اور اس کے سیلاب زدہ علاقوں میں لوگوں کی زندگیوں پر پڑنے والے مستقل اثرات سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے جو لیٹن ہار نیٹس کو بتایا کہ پاکستان جو پہلے سے ہی معاشی مشکلات سے نبرد آزما ہے، سیلاب کی وجہ سے 40 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ کے نقصانات کا سامنا کر رہا ہے۔ جو لیٹن ہار نیٹس نے پاکستانی سیلاب متاثرین سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے ان کی بحالی میں اقوام متحدہ کی طرف سے مکمل حمایت کا اعادہ کیا اور حکومت کے متاثرین کیلئے بروقت ریلیف، امداد اور بحالی کے اقدامات کو مثالی قرار دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-05/page-1/detail-2>

چین کیلئے پاکستانی برآمدات بڑھانے پر اتفاق عالمی برادری کشمیر پر ذمہ داری پوری کرے

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران چین نے شمسی توانائی کی صلاحیت کو فروغ دینے کے لیے پاکستان کے اقدام کی حمایت کی اور وہ اپنی کمپنیوں کو پاکستان میں شمسی توانائی کے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کی ترغیب دے گا۔ ہفتہ وار پریس بریفنگ کے دوران انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں نے ایم ایل ون منصوبے اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کے منصوبے کو جلد مکمل کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ سیلاب زدگان کی امداد کے لیے اضافی 500 ملین یو آن کی امداد کا اعلان کیا، چین پاکستان کو 500 ٹن یوریا بھی دے گا، اس دورے کے دوران دوطرفہ تجارت پر، پاکستان کی برآمدات، خاص طور پر خوراک اور زرعی مصنوعات کو بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ دونوں فریقوں نے باہمی تجارت کو بڑھانے کے لیے تجربات اور مہارت کے تبادلے کے لیے مشترکہ مطالعہ کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ سعودی عرب اور پاکستان کی سپریم کو آرڈینیٹیشن کونسل کے سیاسی اور سیکورٹی کے بارے میں قائم مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہو ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے گزشتہ ہفتے ممبئی میں اقوام متحدہ کی انسداد دہشت گردی کمیٹی (سی ٹی سی) کے اجلاس میں پاکستان کے خلاف بھارت کے بے بنیاد پروپیگنڈے کو دو ٹوک طور پر مسترد کیا۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ ہم نے بھارت کے غیر قانونی زیر مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر یوم سیاہ کے موقع پر ایک عوامی تقریب میں بھارتی وزیر دفاع کے انتہائی غیر ذمہ دارانہ، اشتعال انگیز اور بے جا بیانات کی بھی شدید مذمت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے مقبوضہ کشمیر کی صورت حال پر گہری تشویش ظاہر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ صرف اکتوبر کے مہینے میں بھارتی قابض افواج نے اپنی ریاستی دہشت گردی کی مسلسل کارروائیوں میں 14 کشمیریوں کو فرضی مقابلوں اور غیر قانونی حراست میں شہید کیا، بھارتی پولیس، نیم فوجی اہلکاروں اور بدنام زمانہ میٹشل انویسٹی گیشن ایجنسی نے بھی ایک ماہ کے دوران مقبوضہ علاقے کے مختلف علاقوں میں محاصرے اور تلاشی کی کارروائیوں اور گھروں پر

چھاپوں کے دوران 47 افراد کو گرفتار کیا جبکہ ایک رہائشی مکان کو تباہ کیا گیا۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے مسلسل بین الاقوامی برادری سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ مقبوضہ کشمیر کے حوالے سے اپنی ذمہ داری ادا کرے۔ وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف اور 8 نومبر کو مصر کے شہر شرم الشیخ میں کوپ 27 سے متعلق سربراہ اجلاس میں شرکت کریں گے۔

دفتر خارجہ

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-05/page-3/detail-26>

چینی کمپنی کاراوی اربن ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کیساتھ مل کرویسٹ انرجی منصوبے لگانے کا فیصلہ

لاہور (نامہ نگار + این این آئی) بین الاقوامی چینی کمپنی نور نیو نے راوی اربن ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے ساتھ مل کرویسٹ انرجی منصوبہ لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ ویسٹ انرجی منصوبے پر 250 ملین ڈالر لاگت آئے گی۔ ابتدائی طور پر معاملات طے پا گئے ہیں۔ کوڑا کرکٹ سے انرجی پیدا کرنے والے اس منصوبے سے 50 میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا ہوگی۔ نور نیو کمپنی اور روڈ اینڈ معاهدے کی منظوری کے بعد جلد منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز ہو جائے گا۔ چینی کمپنی نے انرجی منصوبہ کے علاوہ ماحولیات اور دیگر منصوبوں میں بھی دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ جبکہ بیجنگ سے آئی این پی کے مطابق چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے کہا کہ چائین انٹرنیشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو (سی آئی ای) پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات کو بڑھانے اور پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ دینے میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ معین الحق نے چائینا کنٹامک نیٹ (سی ای این) کو بتایا کہ وبائی امراض سے بچاؤ اور کنٹرول کے اقدامات کی وجہ سے شرکت ممکن نہیں ہے لیکن ہم اپنی مصنوعات کی نمائش کیلئے ایک آن لائن قومی پوئلین قائم کریں گے۔ گزشتہ سال پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات کو 19 ڈی کے باوجود 3.6 بلین امریکی ڈالر کی ریکارڈ سطح کو چھو گئیں۔ ایکسپو ہمارے لیے بہت اہم ہے کیونکہ چین ہمارا سب سے بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر ہے اور ہم چین کو اپنی برآمدات کو بڑھانے کیلئے نئے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں۔ یہ بات بھی قابل ذکر ہے کہ اس سال 300 سے زائد نمائش کنندگان نے ایک آن لائن ڈسپلے شروع کیا ہے جس میں پاکستانی نمائش کنندگان بھی شامل ہیں۔ چین میں انٹرنیشنل بینک آف پاکستان کے چیف نمائندے شیخ محمد شارق نے سی ای این کو بتایا کہ چائین انٹرنیشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو (سی آئی ای) پاکستانی برآمد کنندگان کو دنیا کی دوسری بڑی معیشت میں داخل ہونے کیلئے ایک بہترین فارم فراہم کرتی ہے۔ اس سے نہ صرف پاکستان میں اقتصادی اور کاروباری ماحول کو بہتر بنانے میں مدد ملے گی بلکہ ملک کو چین کے ساتھ تجارتی توازن کو بہتر بنانے میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-05/page-12/detail-5>

November 06, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan-China's Joint Statement on Kashmir

Dr Syed Nazir Gilani

Para 34 in a joint statement issued in Beijing at the end of Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif's visit covers Jammu and Kashmir. It states, "The two sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. They emphasized the importance of resolving all outstanding disputes through sincere dialogue. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from history that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements."

Reference to Kashmir as usual has brought a swift reaction from India. New Delhi has called it “unwarranted”. Indian spokesperson has criticised “plans to build more projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), with possible extensions to Afghanistan, under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).”

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has claimed Azad Kashmir and GB as sovereign territories of India and maintained that the infrastructure projects are an attempt to “change the status quo” in POK. He said “CPEC includes projects on the sovereign territory of India under forcible and illegal external occupation... Any attempts to involve third parties in such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated as such by us.”

Dialogue is the civilised instrument of resolving a dispute.

New Delhi has covertly referred to its action of 5 August 2019 and said that “The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has locus standi to comment on the same.” Does this Indian stand have merit? The answer is no. Indian claim in Jammu and Kashmir is a consequence of the title of the People of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination. It has its jurisprudence. The Indian response has to reconcile the wishes of the people and there is a UN template to ascertain these wishes. It has to reconcile the Pakistani’s interest in the dispute as well.

The government of India, before making a reference to UN Security Council in January 1948, has accepted on 27 October 1947 that “the question of the State’s accession should be settled by a reference to the people.” At the 230th meeting of the UN Security Council held on 20 January 1948, presided over by Belgium, the Government of India conceded and said, “We hope to be able to convince the Security Council that once we have dealt with the Kashmir question, there will probably not be anything of substance which will divide India and Pakistan to the extent of endangering international peace and security.”

India has accepted that “The people of Kashmir are not mere chattels to be disposed of according to a rigid formula; their future must be decided in their own interests and in accordance with their own desires.”

Jammu and Kashmir or any part of it could not be called a union territory of India. The State Autonomy Committee Report published in July 2000 in Srinagar and adopted by both houses of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, has flagged that, “the accession of J&K State was limited only to the areas of Defence, External Affairs and Communication” and there was no “instrument of merger” with the Indian union. This limited accession has been surrendered by India at the UN Security Council on 15 January 1948, for an UN-supervised vote on it. It is also incorrect to say that “No other country has locus standi to comment on the same.” China, Pakistan and all the member nations of the United Nations have a locus standi on Kashmir. China highlighted the question of interest of member states on 24 January 1957. China has made it clear that “This dispute has another peculiar feature. From the very beginning, the Council began with an agreement between the two parties. In fact, before the two parties directly concerned ever appeared before the Council, the two parties agreed that the plebiscite

should be the answer. What did the Council do? The Council tried to build a solution on this prior agreement that the two parties had before they came to this Council. So the idea of a plebiscite was not imposed by the Council on the two parties.”

The United States of America, on 15 February 1957, robustly declared itself on the question of Kashmir. It said, “The Security Council will always welcome any agreement which the parties themselves can reach on any basis which will settle the dispute, provided of course that, that basis is consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Security Council had a ‘positive duty’ and ‘unless the parties are able to agree upon some other solution, the solution which was recommended by the Security Council should prevail.” A third example that countries have a locus standi to comment on Kashmir comes from the statement made by Argentina at the UN Security Council on 4 February 1948. Argentina has said, “This matter having been referred to the Security Council, the Council is perfectly free to decide as it thinks fit, on the sole condition that it acts within the framework of the Charter.”

A fourth example that countries have a locus standi on Kashmir comes from the Netherlands. It said, “The lack of agreement, therefore, does not concern the right of self-determination. It concerns the ways and means and procedures to establish the conditions for a fair expression of the will of the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir who want to make their choice free from any kind of fear or intimidation.”

The China-Pakistan joint statement does not exclude India as a party to the Kashmir dispute. Nor do the people of Kashmir deny the Indian interest. India and Pakistan have their interests and constituencies. The two respective interests are a consequence of a reference to the people. We support the joint statement calling for the resolution “based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.” Dialogue is the civilised instrument of resolving a dispute. Kashmir case has its jurisprudence and a UN template. Indian response to the joint statement has no merit and is at war with the jurisprudence of the Kashmir case.

The writer is President Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1023237/pakistan-chinas-joint-statement-on-kashmir/>

Pakistan’s seafood exports to China increase by 34% in nine months

Pakistan’s seafood export to China topped \$ 141.57 million, an increase of 34% in the month of January-September year-on-year, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday quoting the China’s General Administration of Customs.

According to the Customs’ data Administration of Customs, the trade of flours & meals of fish, used in animal feeding commodity code (23012010) from Pakistan to China crossed \$ 49.48 million. In terms of volume in January-September more than 43549.19 tons were imported from Pakistan while last year in the same period it was 28486.12 tons. Data showed that in 2021, the total fish meals used in animal feeding, imported from Pakistan was 40654.92 tons, worth \$ 40.53 million.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly. Pakistan's export to China stood at \$ 2.57 billion in the first nine months (January- September) of FY22, up 2 percent from \$ 2.51 billion in the same period of the previous year, which has grown for three consecutive years.

According to the data, Pakistan's export of frozen fish (commodity code 03038990) to China crossed \$ 37 million, while the frozen cuttlefish (commodity code 03074310) crossed \$ 16 million whereas frozen flat fish and scabbard fish topped \$ 6 million, and \$3 million respectively.

Khurram Naseeb, from A-One Fishmeal, based in Karachi told Gwadar Pro that "the rise in the international price of alternate protein sources like soya bean, rapeseed meal, etc. contributed to an increase in demand for Pakistani fishmeal in China. As fishmeal is also used in the aqua feed, Chinese aquatic farmers this year favored a further demand for fishmeal," he stated.

He further said that the Chinese currency (RMB) was strong at the start of the year making imports favorable for the Chinese. He added that Pakistan's fishery processing industry needs to advance a lot to enhance its export, although due to the 2nd Free Trade Agreement more than 313 items are now enjoying duty-free access to China including fisheries. Dr. Omer Mukhtar Tarar, Principal Scientific Officer, Food Technology & Nutrition Section, PCSIR Labs Complex, Karachi told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan is blessed with plenty of aquatic resources.

Fish meal is a product of the fishery industry and is highly valuable for local consumption as well as for export purposes. To fulfill the buyer's requirements, the quality of fish meals should meet global standards.

"Moreover, maintaining the cold chain during the transportation of fish to a processing unit, TVBN reduction strategies in fish meal, and adoption of a strong quality assurance mechanism at processing units are the few steps which are being carried out presently," he mentioned. He further said that seafood including fish meal industry as well as public organizations are striving to achieve all advanced international standard and facilities, adding that efforts are underway to maintain the supply chain in fishing boats for meal-grade fish.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1023362/pakistans-seafood-exports-to-china-increase-by-34-in-nine-months/>

Dawn News

Optimising CPEC

Muhammad Amir Rana

PAKISTAN is finally getting back on the right diplomatic track. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful visits to Riyadh and Beijing have created an air of optimism regarding economic revival in the country. Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa's attempts to normalise the country's relationship with the West using channels in London and Washington are also helping to reduce the external pressure which had been looming over the country for the last

several months. That Pakistan is no longer on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 'grey list' is also a good omen.

During the prime minister's visit to Beijing, China had assured full support for Pakistan's efforts to stabilise its economy and financial situation. The Pakistani prime minister was the first foreign leader to travel to China since President Xi Jinping won his third term as supreme leader. That has political and strategic significance as well, which is also needed to boost Pakistan's economic confidence. Earlier, during the prime minister's visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia reportedly pledged an investment package worth \$10 billion for Pakistan. Islamabad is hopeful that the kingdom will resuscitate the mega oil refinery project, which was shelved due to some political complications that had arisen between the two states during the rule of the PTI government.

Gen Bajwa has been successful, for the most part, in repairing the country's trust deficit with the West, mainly the US, which is essential for generating regional geopolitical balance for Pakistan. These are positive developments which the coalition government and the establishment could use to gain domestic support, as the ongoing political crisis has put them both in a defensive position.

Pakistan had lost its balance in its foreign relations over the last few years. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and the cipher controversy propagated by former prime minister Imran Khan were the two key events that aggravated that imbalance and caused bitterness in Pakistan's relationship with the US and the West.

The challenge facing internal security restricts the Chinese from coming to Pakistan.

Two other factors caused diplomatic stress for Pakistan. First, Pakistan's decision to join the short-lived alternative Muslim leadership initiative led by Turkey, Iran, and Malaysia annoyed its friends in the Gulf. Secondly, the Chinese did not like the attempts by the outgoing PTI government to renegotiate the costs of CPEC projects and establish the CPEC Authority. Mr Khan presumed that most of the CPEC projects were scarcely negotiated or done so in a skewed manner. The establishment also believed he could convince China to renegotiate CPEC projects as Malaysia had done the same. However, our power elites ignored the fact that sovereign guarantees were involved in the projects. This reorientation discourse slowed down the CPEC projects.

Mr Khan was not solely responsible for making errors of judgment. It was a collective mistake on the part of the power elites who were overconfident that they could maneuver a relationship with their allies in the East and West, despite the country's weak economy and the crippling impact of the Covid-19 impact on the global economy. The establishment wanted complete control, and Mr Khan joined the venture to remove the tag of PML-N from the CPEC projects.

The power elites soon realised their miscalculations in foreign relations, but Mr Khan had already taken a different path. On one side, he attempted to become a leader of the ummah, and on the other, his priorities remained narrowly focused on securing political over national interests. The country is in recovery mode now. It seems that the military leadership, after having worked to repair the country's ties with Western nations, has now taken up the task of

encouraging the government to reach out to Pakistan's friends in the East. This is somehow bringing balance back into the country's geopolitical and geo-economic policies.

Pakistan's economy needs structural reforms, but global changes create a more challenging environment for developing nations. Pakistan already appears to be trying to navigate its options for mitigating future challenges, including barter trade with Afghanistan and buying energy from Russia in Chinese yuan. However, it still needs to adopt a more diverse and pragmatic approach, focusing on India and other South and Central Asian nations.

Though exiting the FATF list has brought some relief, the challenge facing internal security is still complex and restricts foreign investors, including the Chinese, from coming to Pakistan. Various militant groups, Islamists and separatists, are still active in the country and are diversifying their targets. Very recently, Sindh's Counter-Terrorism Department arrested a suspected terrorist who allegedly intended to kill a Chinese doctor in Hyderabad and was associated with the perpetrators of a similar attack on Chinese dentists in Karachi in September. Such incidents, even if on a low scale, create a big impact and shatter the confidence of foreign investors.

Afghanistan and security will remain the two major denominators of Pakistan's engagement with the international community. The US and China have different priorities in Afghanistan, although neither want the country to harbour terrorist networks. For China, Afghanistan is a neighbour and a potential partner in its Belt and Road Initiative. Despite its complicated relationship with the Taliban regime, Pakistan is still capable of adopting a role which fits in with the goals of China and the US. Pakistan's only condition would be that India should not have an extensive role in Afghanistan. China would agree, and the US can learn a lesson from its past engagement in Afghanistan.

Pakistan must review its approach towards Afghanistan to keep its central position intact. Such an approach should be inclusive, politically and economically, and regional connectivity should be the core objective of Pakistan's policies towards Afghanistan. More formal trade with Afghanistan will need regulatory measures related to finance, customs and border security. Enhanced economic ties with Afghanistan can increase Pakistan's leverage to force the Afghan Taliban to take terrorism-related complaints seriously.

Maintaining a fine balance in foreign policy requires delicacy at the engagement level and a flexible approach that is compatible with global norms.

The writer is a security analyst.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719296>

The Nation

CIIE to boost Pakistan's exports in Chinese market: Pak consul general

BEIJING -The fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE), being held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to Nov 10, provides Pakistani companies with a highly effective platform to display their products and to attract more customers, which will increase Pakistan's exports to China.

The expo also provides an opportunity for Pakistani companies to get themselves aware of the latest trends in production, manufacturing, as well as in consumer preferences, highlighted Hussain Haider, Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai. Pakistan has been participating in all sessions of CIIE. In the first expo, Pakistan was the guest country of honor. Physical or online national pavilions were set up every year. 6 local-based Pakistani companies are participating in the expo this year in which gemstones, textiles, and handicrafts are the main Pakistani products that would be exhibited.

“We will see more Pakistani companies come for exhibition as the pandemic gets nicely controlled. Besides CIIE, various exhibitions and other platforms in Shanghai also provide excellent opportunities for Pakistani companies to display their products to a huge audience,” the consul general told China Economic Net (CEN). China is the second largest destination for Pakistan’s exports. In the first nine months of 2022, Pakistan’s exports to China were nearly 20% higher than in the whole of 2018. Even against the backdrop of a flood-hit economy, Pakistan’s exports to China crossed \$2.57 billion in the first nine months of this year, up 2% year on year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC).

The consul general explained that despite the pandemic restrictions, trade volume has been on an upward trajectory in the past 3 years, which is a very positive sign. It also shows that the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) is proving a catalyst for increasing bilateral trade, particularly Pakistan’s exports to China. He is optimistic about Pakistan’s potential and believes that the growth momentum will be regained.

The Yangtze River Delta region with Shanghai as its base is a significant trading partner for Pakistan. Various Shanghai-based companies like SAIC Motor and Challenge Textile have invested in Pakistan.

The CG revealed that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Shanghai was USD 1.6 billion last year, which represented a substantial increase over the previous years.

Shanghai is one of the most populous cities in the world, with per capita income higher than any other cities in China. The CG maintained that the emphasis placed by the Chinese government and the Shanghai Municipal Government on increasing consumption and expanding domestic demand has also created opportunities for Pakistani companies to increase their exports to China, especially to Shanghai.

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone was the first and one of the largest FTZs set up in China, which has played a vital role in the economic and trade development of not only Shanghai but also China.

“Pakistan is setting up special economic zones in different parts of the country under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Shanghai FTZ can be a very good example for Pakistani developers and companies. Both sides have huge potential to collaborate in promoting Pakistan to pursue high-quality development,” the consul general concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-06/page-8/detail-5>

Express News

چین سی پیک کیلئے پاکستانی سیکورٹی اداروں کی استعداد بڑھانے پر آمادہ

پاکستان اور چین نے سی پیک پر کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں کی آؤٹ ڈور نقل و حرکت کے دوران سیکورٹی بہتر بنانے کیلئے بلٹ پروف گاڑیاں استعمال: اسلام آباد کرنے، قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں اور تفتیش کاروں کی صلاحیتوں کو بہتر بنانے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔

پاکستان اور چین کی جوائنٹ کوآپریشن کمیٹی (جے سی سی) کے 11 ویں اجلاس میں اس معاملے پر باہمی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا جس کے مطابق چین کے تعاون سے لگائے جانے والے منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں کی تمام آؤٹ ڈور سرگرمیوں کیلئے بلٹ پروف گاڑیاں استعمال کی جائیں گی۔

خلاف توقع اجلاس کے منٹس پر وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ بیجنگ کے دوران دستخط نہیں کیے گئے تھے۔ ماضی میں ایسے اجلاسوں کے منٹس پر فوری دستخط کر دیئے جاتے تھے۔

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال کا کہنا تھا کہ ان پر وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران دستخط کر دیئے جائیں گے، 24 گھنٹے کے مختصر دورہ کے دوران ان منٹس کے علاوہ مفاہمت کی بعض یادداشتوں پر بھی دستخط نہ ہو سکے تھے۔

احسن اقبال نے بتایا کہ وزیر اعظم کے 24 گھنٹے کے اس دورہ کے دوران 17 اجلاس ہوئے جن کی وجہ سے بعض اہم معاہدوں کیلئے وقت نہیں بچا۔ انھوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ پاکستانی وفد جلد چین جا کر ان معاہدوں پر دستخط کر دے گا۔

سی پیک ڈرافٹ کے منٹس سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کے سیکورٹی اداروں کی استعداد کار بڑھانے کیلئے آلات فراہم کرنے پر آمادگی ظاہر کی ہے۔ چینی شہریوں کے ساتھ پیش آنے والے مجرمانہ واقعات کی تفتیش کیلئے نیشنل فرانزک سائنس ایجنسی کی استعداد کار کو بھی جدید خطوط پر استوار کیا جائے گا۔

پاکستانی حکومت نے چین سے فرانزک سائنس ایجنسی کی استعداد کار بڑھانے کی درخواست کی تھی۔ چینی حکومت نے پرائیویٹ سیکورٹی گارڈز اور ایل ای ای کی تربیت کیلئے تربیتی مرکز قائم کرنے کا بھی عزم ظاہر کیا ہے، ماضی میں چینی شہریوں پر ہونے والے دہشتگردانہ حملوں کی وجہ سے سی پیک کے منصوبوں کی تکمیل کو سخت دھچکا لگتا رہا، جس پر چین کا پاکستان سے اپنے شہریوں کے تحفظ کا مطالبہ سامنے آتا رہا۔

اجلاس میں پاکستان نے یہ تجویز بھی پیش کی تھی کہ دہشت گردی کے بڑھتے ہوئے واقعات کے پیش نظر نان کوریڈور پراجیکٹس کے لیے بھی سیکورٹی کو مربوط کرنے کے لیے ایک علیحدہ جوائنٹ ورکنگ گروپ قائم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2397040/6/>

November 07, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan exhibits its products at CIIE for fifth consecutive year in a big way

Pakistan exhibited its products at China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2022 for fifth consecutive year in a big way, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday.

This year the CIIE in Shanghai is scheduled to take place till November 10. This is one of the largest exhibitions in China that provides a platform for local and international enterprises to display their products and enhance trade with China and globally.

The report says, Jewelry, salt lamps, blankets, marble Five years ago, when these distinctive Pakistani-style products debuted at the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), they struck Chinese buyers as unfamiliarly new, rare and exotic but evoked some concerns about the quality during purchase.

However, five years later at the fifth CIIE, Pakistani products have already garnered a large following of repeat customers and hardcore buyers. “Of the consumers who buy our products, the percentage of re-purchase within a year is as high as 60%, and another 30% of customers make a third or more purchase within a year,” said Li Long proudly, a four-time Pakistani jewellery exhibitor at CIIE. On the booth stands out a girly pink gemstone with the largest size. “This pink morganite originates from Pakistan. This is the first of its kind exhibited at CIIE and it is part of the Mughal series. 150-carat pink morganite is very rare even in Pakistan.” In this year’s CIIE, Li Long brings emeralds, morganites, tourmalines and chrysoprase, which originate from the northern mountains of Pakistan. He said expectantly, “This year, our booth is specially decorated for brand image display, and we hope to meet more quality buyers.” Large exhibitions such as CIIE are the major means of product promotion as Pakistani exhibitors make their foray into the Chinese market.

However, such exhibitions only last a few days each year, and there are no suitable sales channels for most of the year. Their greatest wish is to open a store of their own in China where they could sell all year round and establish a firm foothold in the country.

At the first CIIE in 2019, Li Long told CEN journalist that Pakistan was his IP. Now he set up a shop on East Nanjing Road in Shanghai. Focusing on high-end jewelry strategy, he has fulfilled his dream and to some extent reversed the stereotype that Pakistani products are cheaper.

“To create high-quality products, our offline stores are open 365 days a year, and sales are considerable.” Li Long said.

Coincidentally, Pakistani exhibitor Habib and his brothers, who became famous for selling salt lamps in the 4th CIIE, have opened 3 stores in different areas of Shanghai and sold products through online and offline platforms simultaneously, showing the “spillover effect” of CIIE.

Data from the General Administration of Customs China shows that in the first nine months of this year, China’s import of pink salt (other salt HS:25010019) from Pakistan reached \$4.356 million, more than double that of the whole year of 2018, which was \$1.948 million. It can be seen that Chinese consumers are increasingly fond of powdered salt.

Over the past five years, China has opened its door even wider to the outside world. Under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, 313 new Pakistani products will enjoy zero tariffs when exported to China. Pakistani Onions, buffalo embryos and tiger’s tail plants have been approved for export to China. Exports of Pakistani cherries to China are not far off.

Over the past five years, Pakistan's exports to China have reached a record high of \$3.6 billion in 2021. "The value of Pakistan's exports to China will double in the next few years." In an interview with China Economic Net, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin Haque expressed great expectations for China-Pakistan trade.

Just a few days ago, the Pakistani Prime Minister just concluded his visit to China. In the joint statement signed by China and Pakistan, the two sides stressed that China is ready to support Pakistan in expanding exports to China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and welcomes more high-quality Pakistani goods such as food and agricultural products to enter the Chinese market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1023876/pakistan-exhibits-its-products-at-ciie-for-fifth-consecutive-year-in-a-big-way/>

Pakistan Observer

RMB clearing arrangements to benefit Pakistan

China's central bank has signed an agreement with the State Bank of Pakistan to establish RMB clearing arrangements in Pakistan. According to a statement on the People's Bank of China website on November 2, these arrangements will assist enterprises and financial institutions in both countries in conducting cross-border transactions using the RMB.

A report published by China Economic Net (CEN) referred to the Bank's statement and stated, these arrangements will also facilitate bilateral trade and investment, according to the bank. At present, the emerging markets demonstrated a low elasticity of demand for US dollars. The currencies of developing countries will inevitably depreciate as a result of a possible negative spillover effect caused by a surge in USD interest rates and a monetary tightening cycle.

Indicated by a report titled '2022 RMB internationalization report', conducted by bank of China, about 78.8% of the surveyed global industrial and commercial firms are thinking about adopting RMB or growing its share in cross-border transactions. According to SWFIT data, in 2021, RMB made up 2.7% of all currency payments made by nations, recording an increase of 1% over the previous five years.

Since the global COVID-19 pandemic, the RMB declined less than other major currencies other than the US dollar. The Japanese yen has decreased 48% from its peak since the pandemic, while the euro has decreased by 22%, following a 27% decrease in the UK pound, and the Korean won has decreased by 33%. The Yuan declined by 16%. As Europe and the United States' inflation and energy crises have eroded market confidence, and China's economy is the same size as the EU's, the RMB may become a future safe haven for investors.

Since 2006, annual trade between Pakistan and China has averaged 17.61 billion US dollars (Source CEIC). According to the joint statement released after the Pakistani prime minister's visit to China, the two are expected to enhance trade liberalization under the second phase of CPFTA and fully leverage overland trade and exchanges. Direct settlement and clearing in RMB between China and Pakistan can balance the possible trade fluctuations caused by

changes in U.S.dollars. Moreover, RMB clearing can be a fast track for China and Pakistan to deepen industrial cooperation in financing and purchasing.

The trade volume of Belt and Road countries has reached 11.6 trillion yuan in 2021. If RMB clearing and settlement is encouraged, trade efficiency in countries along the Belt and Road will improve, as will more extensive financial cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/rmb-clearing-arrangements-to-benefit-pakistan/>

Railways to receive 46 coaches from China on Dec 15

Pakistan Railways would receive the first batch of 46 new coaches from China on December 15 which would not only upgrade the current rolling stock but also provide modern traveling facilities to the passengers.

“Out of the total 230 coaches, 46 will be provided as completely built units and the remaining 184 to be manufactured in the county by the department’s engineers and technical staff under the supervision of the Chinese experts,” an official said.

He said the coaches would have the capacity to run at the train’s speed of 160 kilometres per hour and the teams of Pakistan Railways were in China for the inspection of the prototypes of the coaches as well as the modern high-capacity wagons.

The official said the experts of China were also proving training to the technical staff of Pakistan Railways on the manufacturing of such rolling stock.

He said Pakistan Railway was planning to upgrade the dilapidated track as the Khanpur-Kotri section was not fit for high-speed train operation while most of the Main Line-I parts were fit for the 120km per hour train operation.

“After the completion of the ML-I project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the entire ML-1 track would have the capacity to bear the rolling stock operations at the speed of 160km per hour,” he added.

He said that under another similar nature contract, a Chinese company would manufacture 800 freight wagons and 20 brake wagons. The manufacturing of 184 coaches in Pakistan would be under the ‘Transfer of Technology’ project.

For the coaches planned to be manufactured in Pakistan – Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory, Islamabad – the Chinese firm would provide spare parts and raw materials, he added.

Pakistan Railways has outsourced the commercial management of 14 trains to private parties under public private partnership through fair and transparent bidding process.

The basic purpose to outsource the trains is to provide better facilities to the passengers and generate more revenue for the department, an official in the Ministry of Railways said.

Pakistan Railways has privatized the trains included Mehr Express, Fareed Express, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Mehran Express, Sir Syed Express, Badar Express, Ghauri Express, Mianwali Express, Mohenjo Daro, Thal Express, Tezgam Express, Subak Kharam, Rawal Express and Ravi Express. The official said that the trains had been awarded through transparent

procedure of tendering under Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules through advertisement in the leading newspapers.

He said that only those trains were awarded whose bids had been received over and above the Pakistan Railways earning.

The official said the trains had been awarded with the objective to increase earning and reduce losses of Pakistan Railways, improve cleanness and provide better food facilities to passengers—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/railways-to-receive-46-coaches-from-china-on-dec-15/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China ties: challenges & avenues

China is open to increasing imports, but Pakistan's productive capacity is limited

ISLAMABAD: The joint statement released by China and Pakistan marking the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing is a comprehensive overview of economic and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In a 47-point communique, both sides have brought up all issues of mutual interest worthy of in-depth analysis. In this limited space, I will address four points, particularly on the socioeconomic front. According to the numbers available publicly, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has already brought \$46 billion worth of capital to Pakistan including concessionary loans, commercial debt and investment with state guarantees.

Everyone is now talking about CPEC-II, in which we should focus on private sector engagement between the two countries.

The second phase is built on the presumption that Chinese industries could be relocated to Pakistan and joint ventures can be created. The plan was to build Special Economic Zones to attract Chinese manufacturers to work together with Pakistani firms. Limited progress has been made on this front.

Some of the priority sectors which have been highlighted earlier include textile, footwear, pharmaceutical and IT. In each of these sectors, incentives need to be realigned with performance. For example, we have already lost significant foreign direct investment (FDI) in the pharmaceutical industry because of excessive price controls.

On the other hand, the recent surge in production and exports of the footwear sector of Pakistan is a good omen.

By allowing duty-free imports of Chinese raw material (thanks to the free trade agreement – FTA), Pakistani footwear manufacturers have upgraded their production. They are already exporting to North America and Europe and have made a target to achieve \$1 billion in export earnings by 2026.

Secondly, China and Pakistan have already a fully functional FTA (Phase-I) in place since 2007, which was revised in 2020 (Phase-II).

In FY22, total trade volume between the two countries reached \$20 billion, out of which Pakistan's exports to China were less than \$3 billion, and its imports from China were \$17.2 billion. In the last 10 years, Chinese exports to Pakistan have exceeded \$150 billion.

While trade deficit on its own is not necessarily harmful, and it indicates the respective levels of competitiveness, this has been raised many a time by Pakistan's private sector.

China is open to increasing imports, but Pakistan's productive capacity and value addition are limited.

Top three exports of Pakistan to China in FY21 were cotton (\$823.9 million), copper (\$787.9 million) and cereals (\$381.2 million). This is a clear indication that we are exporting commodities, while the Chinese industry is doing value addition and making considerable profits by exporting to the world markets including us.

Thirdly, a major highlight of the PM's visit is Pakistan's pitch to attract Chinese investment in ML-I project, a 1,733-kilometre railway line, to upgrade the entire infrastructure.

Learning from the Chinese investment in Lahore's Orange Metro, which cost \$1.6 billion through a Chinese loan, one needs to be cautious. Any such projects should be commercially viable even in the long run.

In the Metro project, the price per passenger is significantly less than the operational cost.

One hopes that the Planning Commission has considered the long-term economic feasibility while seeking \$10 billion of fresh Chinese loan for the ML-I project, the cost of which has already risen significantly from an initial estimate of \$6.8 billion.

More transparency is needed to understand terms and conditions of this project.

Fourth, there is a wider challenge of poverty alleviation and how CPEC can help create jobs for Pakistanis.

The joint statement lauded the Chinese miracle of lifting 800 million out of poverty. In the same paragraph, it mentions how Pakistan seeks Chinese help through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

It is truly an ironic comparison. No country has lifted people out of poverty through dole-outs. China did it through hard work, increasing labour productivity, improving competitiveness and meeting the world's demand.

While cash grants offer some degree of social protection, the best social protection mechanism is the creation of gainful jobs.

With more than 30% of graduate unemployment in Pakistan, we are clearly failing to create jobs, which is not the responsibility of the government alone. We need a radical make-over of our investment in education.

This short overview of China-Pakistan economic relations, covering industrialisation, trade, investment and education, suggests that Pakistan needs to overhaul its productive capacity and skills development to gain advantage from the infrastructure and FTA that dominate China-Pakistan economic ties.

Otherwise, Pakistan's government, private sector and public at large will remain net losers.

A tentative hypothesis is that while Chinese investment through CPEC is potentially helpful for Pakistan's industrialisation, our bilateral trade pattern might be contributing to de-industrialisation.

The writer is founder of PRIME, an independent economic policy think tank based in Islamabad

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2385020/pak-china-ties-challenges-avenues>

China and KSA come to our rescue

China was not happy with Pakistan on certain issues

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last week undertook a maiden visit to China. It took him over six months to obtain an invitation from the Chinese leadership after he replaced Imran Khan as Prime Minister in April. It was unusual that a newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan had to wait too long for a bilateral trip to China. There were rumours that China was not happy with the change of government in Pakistan and hence was not ready to receive the new Prime Minister. Another version was that since the Chinese President followed strict Covid-19 protocols, it took so long for Beijing to arrange the visit.

These conjectures aside, China was not happy with Pakistan on certain issues. First, it was disappointed with Pakistan over its failure to honour commitments it made with regard to CPEC projects. Despite promises, Pakistan could not pay billions of rupees to Chinese power companies. The second stumbling block was the security of Chinese nationals. Attacks on the Chinese nationals working on CPEC and other projects were the causes for concern for President Xi Jinping. China made it abundantly clear that without progress on these two issues, things would not move forward. Therefore, prior to PM Shehbaz's visit Pakistan had taken certain steps to ally China's concerns.

For Pakistan the visit had two clear objectives. One, to revive CPEC; and two, to seek the much-needed financial assistance from China. Only a few months ago Pakistan barely avoided a default but the economic situation still looks precarious. This financial year Pakistan has to arrange \$34 billion to meet its external requirements. The revival of the IMF programme and provision of \$1.5 billion by the Asian Development Bank have provided some relief but Pakistan needs much more than that. In this situation China is one of the countries that can help Pakistan. PM Shehbaz went to Beijing with a request to roll over a \$7.3 billion loan Pakistan has to repay to China in the next 8 months. It includes \$4 billion safe deposits and \$3.3 billion commercial loans. The Prime Minister did manage to get an assurance from President Xi for rollover of \$7.3 billion much to the relief of the beleaguered PDM government. The other major takeaway of the visit was that China agreed to expedite work on the multibillion dollar Main Line railway or ML-1 project. Seen as the flagship project of CPEC, ML-1 has faced long delays raising its cost from original \$6.8 billion to almost \$10 billion dollars. Once completed, the project would completely overhaul the British era railways in Pakistan. China has agreed to call for bidding of Chinese companies

later this year and if everything goes per plan the ground breaking of the project would be done in March next year by President Xi.

Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is expected to travel to Islamabad later this month. Pakistan is hoping that Saudi Arabia would roll out another financial bailout package. Riyadh has already rolled over \$3 billion Pakistan was to repay later this year. Islamabad is now eyeing another \$4.2 billion financial package — \$3 billion safe deposits and \$1.2 billion for oil on deferred payment. China-Saudi combined financial package would certainly ensure Pakistan does not default. It's not just the financial bailout package; Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are set to revive the \$10 billion oil refinery project in Gwadar during MBS's visit. The project failed to take off due to a variety of reasons when it was first agreed upon during the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince to Pakistan in February 2019. This all happens at a time when political instability looms large in the country. If the current situation is not handled maturely Pakistan may squander these opportunities considered crucial for revival of the fragile economy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2385025/china-and-ksa-come-to-our-rescue>

The Nation

‘Prime Minister’s visit to China to expedite work on CPEC projects’

ISLAMABAD-Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif's recent important visit to China is poised to expedite construction of deep-sea port Gwadar and other massive infrastructure projects on fast track under the CPEC which will ultimately help strengthen Pakistan's bleak economy.

Speaking at a seminar on “Pak-China Relations” held here Sunday under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a think tank on economy, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said during PM Shehbaz Sharif visit, China and Pakistan have agreed to press ahead with a slew of massive infrastructure projects under the CPEC including speeding up of the construction of the deep-sea port of Gwadar. He said China is third largest export destination for Pakistani exports.

He said President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's firm commitment to advance the building of CPEC and China will seek to further deepen the synergy between its development strategies and those of Pakistan and support Pakistan in its efforts to stabilise its financial condition.

He said both China and Pakistan also made it clear that the CPEC is an open and inclusive platform where interested third parties can benefit from investment opportunities in priority areas such as industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology and oil and gas. He said by consolidating practical bilateral cooperation and strengthening collaboration on multilateral platforms, China and Pakistan will be better able to withstand the current headwinds. He said no country had ever helped Pakistan or other developing countries with such wholeheartedly sincerity as China. He said most recently China has provided emergency assistance to Pakistan after severe floods in the country and will continue to provide full support for Pakistan's plan for rehabilitation of affected areas.

He said China has always had a special niche in its neighbourhood diplomacy for its relations with Pakistan. Over the years, the two neighbours have forged a resilient time-tested friendship by standing together through thick and thin and mutually supporting each other. Meher Kashif Younis said Shehbaz Shaif visit shows that China and Pakistan widely perceived as “Iron brothers” will continue to step up their efforts to strengthen and deepen their all-weather strategic cooperation partnership.

He said Pakistan has also stood firmly beside China in the face of the West’s provocation on the Taiwan question as well as the issues concerning the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. While China on its part has always backed Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and security and promoted its socio-economic development and prosperity, he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-07/page-9/detail-0>

The News

The Chinese dream

Dr Talat Shabbir

The twice-a-decade national congress of the Communist Party of China successfully concluded in Beijing in October. The national congress that comprises nearly 2,300 elected and specially invited delegates from across China critically reviews the past performance of the party and carries out intense deliberations to chart future course.

At the conclusion of the 20th National Congress, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China said that “the congress calls on the whole party, the entire military, and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to stay closely rallied around the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, to keep in mind that empty talk will do nothing for our country and only solid work will make it flourish, to maintain firm confidence, unite as one, forge ahead with resolve, and to strive in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects and advance national rejuvenation”.

The congress also called for a stronger and prosperous China with absolute faith in the leadership that has the wellbeing of the people of China at heart; this may be realized by building strength, upholding fundamental principles and striving in unity to build a dream socialist country.

China’s Communist Party has elected President XI Jinping as its secretary general for a third term, an honour that has broken the past norms. When Xi Jinping assumed leadership in 2012, he began to work tirelessly for the aspirations of the most populous nation on earth. His prime emphasis was upholding the Chinese constitution, rule of law, anti-corruption measures and poverty-alleviation initiatives.

At home, he made a remarkable difference in poverty alleviation, the economy, space programmes, infrastructure development, climate change and the Covid-19 challenge. China happens to be the only country that can claim the eradication of absolute poverty in a short span of four decades. In the past ten years alone, China allocated \$230 billion to achieve the

goal of alleviating poverty while its GDP rose to \$17.73 trillion that counted for 100 per cent increase since 2012.

China's gross national income rose from \$5,910 in 2012 to \$11,890 in 2021. It also saw an enormous growth in the manufacturing industry. China now contributes to nearly 30 per cent of the global manufacturing output and has become the largest trading network across the world. Its Belt and Road Initiative, for instance, has 149 countries onboard that counts for 60 per cent of the world's population and 35 per cent of the global economy. China's space programme is not only competing with that of the US and Russia but will also be far ahead of them and entirely dominate space in the near future.

Exasperated over corrupt practices, President XI Jinping regarded corruption as a threat in a society and the major impediment for development of a country. He vowed to end corrupt practices and initiated an anti-corruption drive that brought to trial nearly 1.5 million officials and individuals in various offences. China also witnessed a revolutionary infrastructure development in the past ten years that led to massive expansion in rail and road networks, besides building 82 new airports to enhance connectivity.

President XI Jinping has worked over time to mitigate the daunting challenge that environmental degradation and climate change pose to China. The country has also aggressively battled Covid-19 and confined it to 0.05 per cent of the global count, which is a huge success for a country that makes up 18.47 per cent of the world's population.

Although China's success story stems from visionary leadership, political stability, popular trust in central authority and continuity of policies, President Xi Jinping is likely to find it hard in his third term to tackle upcoming challenges at home and abroad. Maintaining stability, addressing environmental degradation, zero tolerance to pandemic control, and economic and social development are major challenges at home.

Growing competition with the US, the explosive Taiwan issue, the deteriorating situation in the South China Sea, Russia's war in Ukraine and stability in the periphery are some of the challenges that Xi Jinping is likely to confront in the future. In the face of huge challenges, President Xi Jinping has emerged as a leader who has the propensity to pursue the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation that the Chinese believe is close to his heart.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=145135>

Reforming Communist Party of China for new era

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

China is transforming from a quiet listener to eloquently vocal, passive to proactive, follower to leader, world factory to world laboratory and peripheral state to centerpiece of global system. Though the transformation was going on at good pace, General Secretary Xi Jinping has accelerated it. As General Secretary, he unswervingly advocated and led the transformation. General Secretary Xi and Communist Party of China (CPC) at 20th National

Congress concluded that the first phase of transformation, Go Global, has been completed. Now it's time to embark on the journey of national rejuvenation.

CPC is cognizant of the fact that the dynamics of new journey would be more complex fraught with challenges as well as opportunities, stressing the need for a new set of capabilities to look beyond the horizons. The CPC will have to deliver common prosperity to retain and strengthen support of people.

Before reforming the CPC, Xi studied the downfall of Russian communist party and concluded that the reforms should not weaken the CPC, rather they should strengthen the CPC, the pre-requisite of which is strengthening people's trust and unwavering support to the leadership. Therefore, he drew a roadmap of reforms and started implementing it gradually.

First, he introduced an indiscriminate, comprehensive anti-corruption campaign, considering it a prerequisite to dispense justice, ensure prosperity of people at all levels, and realise the "China Dream". He eliminated the big fish (central party leaders, top state officials) — as well as the flies (lower party and state officials). President Xi also focused on corruption in military and local party members. He brought many army officers to justice, even he did not spare top leadership of the military. Simultaneously, he approved policies to strengthen party discipline to eliminate institutionalised corruption. President Xi has introduced measures to eradicate four work styles—formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance, which are toxic for democratic centralism, as opted by China.

The new resolution approved by CPC at 20th National Congress promised the people to step up the anti-corruption campaign. CPC also urged the members to follow the self-reform agenda. CPC will also ensure that officials do not have the audacity, opportunity, or desire to become corrupt.

Second, President Xi initiated work to strengthen ideological discourse. He termed ideology the bedrock of the CPC. He is ardent believer of comprehensive understanding and strong commitment to communist ideology and socialism with Chinese characteristics. He deemed it a required step to keep CPC intact and functional. He learned from USSR fall that among other reasons, the weak adherence to ideology contributed to the fall of USSR. Thus, CPC should learn from this and erect institutes and create mechanisms to mainstream discourse on ideology. It is essential to create self-confidence among members and youth. Education ministry of China is also taking serious steps to equip young generation with ideology. Now schools are teaching President Xi's ideology to infuse the spirit of socialism with Chinese characteristics among kids and youth.

Third, the CPC realised that its members of CPC must have new set of capacities and capabilities to comprehend the China dream and play a meaning role to realise it. For example, China wants to become hub of innovation and a leading player to set new global standards in the fields of technology. To achieve that goal, China would need minds, who can comprehend these fields. Hence, CPC started to encourage professionals to join the party. Now, according to Party statistics, percentage of professional members increased from 38.6% in 2011 to 53.3% in 2021.

Fourth, in recent years, returning Chinese expatriates were also encouraged to join party and play an effective role as they have international exposure and understand the delicacies of global system. CPC also inducted many foreign returnee in the all powerful Central Committee (CC) of CPC and number increased with every national congress over the last two decades (6.2% 16th CC, 10.5% 17th CC, 14.6% 18th CC, 20.5% 19th CC).

A brief look at the biographies of those inducted in the party indicate that the preferred areas of expertise were science, technology, economy, education, ideology, philosophy, culture, and understanding of changing global dynamics.

In conclusion, the CPC is preparing itself to assume the new role in new era. The reforms have promoted culture of values, merit, efficiency, and professionalism, and have gone on to strengthening people's trust in the CPC.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=145420>

Express News

چین درآمدات بڑھانے کو تیار لیکن پاکستان کی پیداواری صلاحیت محدود

چین پاکستان سے درآمدات بڑھانے کے لیے تیار ہے لیکن ہماری پیداواری گنجائش اور ویلیو ایڈیشن کی صلاحیت محدود ہے۔ اسلام آباد

ارب ڈالر کی سالانہ دو طرفہ تجارت میں پاکستان کو 17 ارب ڈالر کا خسارہ ہوا۔ گزشتہ 10 برس کے دوران چین سے درآمدات کا مجموعی حجم 150 ارب ڈالر سے تجاوز 20 کر گیا۔

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے حالیہ دورہ چین کے اختتامی مشترکہ اعلامیے کے تناظر میں کیے گئے ایک تجزیے کے مطابق اعداد و شمار بتاتے ہیں کہ سی پیک کے ذریعے پاکستان میں 46 ارب ڈالر کی بیرونی سرمایہ کاری ہو چکی ہے، جو رعایتی قرضوں، کمرشل قرضہ جات اور ریاستی ضمانتوں کے ساتھ سرمایہ کاری کی شکل میں کی گئی۔ اب سبھی سی پیک۔ ٹو کی بات کر رہے ہیں، جس میں ہمیں نجی شعبے کی فعالیت پر توجہ مرکوز کرنی چاہیے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2397403/6/>

November 08, 2022

Daily Times

China's Growth under Xi's rule

Elyas Kakar

“Let China sleep, for when she awakens, she will shake the world.” This Napoleon Bonaparte comment has been made true by the Chinese Communist Party. Since gaining control of the country through a revolution seven decades ago, the party has turned China from one of the world's most impoverished nations to the second-largest economy and a powerhouse.

China's breathtaking economic success continues to astound the rest of the globe. The third revolution is to take place in a nation of more than a billion people since the People's Republic was established in 1949. China is increasingly confronting the American-dominated global order more fiercely under President Xi Jinping's leadership. Chinese influence has

been significantly projected onto the global scene under President Xi. China is now taking more prominent participation internationally, departing significantly from its prior strategy of keeping a low profile.

A bold set of changes introduced by President Xi would expand rather than reduce the party's influence in political, social, and economic life. He has fought tenaciously against the party's pervasive corruption. President Xi's desire to bring China to the forefront of the international power struggle marks a significant break from past Chinese presidents, who firmly followed Deng Xiaoping's maxim to "conceal our strengths and bide our time, never try to seize the lead." China has prevented being involved in international wars during the past 20 years by putting all of its energy into the growth that has made it an economic giant. A powerful anti-globalization tsunami that is overtaking the Western world has prompted China to aspire for global dominance at a time when there is a rising trend toward more protectionist governments.

The regional geopolitical fault lines have been made visible by the expanding Pakistan-China strategic partnership.

China's hosting of the Belt and Road Forum reaffirmed its claim to be in charge of the new economic and geopolitical order. It was the biggest demonstration yet of China emancipating itself from the confines of its previous foreign policy framework, which had prevented it from trying a global role, and it welcomed officials of more than 40 other nations and international financial institutions. China's multibillion-dollar One Belt, One Road (OBOR) infrastructure investment initiative, which connects the ancient Silk Road with Europe, is a reflection of China's expanding geopolitical aspirations. OBOR is a project of President Xi Jinping, who is perhaps the most influential Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. It spans 68 nations and is responsible for up to 40% of the global GDP. It is not unexpected that a broad range of nations, from those in Asian countries to those in Europe and even South America, are supporting the OBOR idea despite major reservations about the initiative's costs and advantages. There is little doubt that fewer European nations attended the meeting in Beijing as a result of their concerns over China's reluctance to welcome Western businesses.

President Xi has consistently made an effort to allay worries about China's hegemony by encouraging other nations to participate in the initiative. China invests around \$150 billion annually in the 68 nations that have so far ratified the plan. Approximately \$1 trillion has already been spent in OBOR, according to Chinese official statistics, and many further trillions are expected to be poured over the following ten years. Therefore, it is clear that OBOR is about more than just building infrastructure; one of its main goals is to transform Eurasia into a hub for trade and commerce, ending the dominance of the American-led transatlantic system. Beijing aims to do this to find a more lucrative use for the country's sizable foreign currency reserves, which are now primarily held in low-interest US treasury bonds.

In the grand picture of OBOR, China also views the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a "potential determinant." The partnership between Pakistan and China has taken on a new aspect as a result of this multibillion-dollar investment package. The relationship has shifted from more than five decades of solely strategic and security collaboration to a

vibrant economic and commercial alliance. This expanding bilateral collaboration occurs at a time when China's growing geopolitical aspiration also highlights its worries about the security and fragile economy of Pakistan. Pakistan has the ability to act as a connector for the two routes—the geographical Eurasian Silk Road Economic Belt and the Southeast Asian Sea Route, its geostrategic location.

China and Pakistan have long had better relations. The phrase “Our friendship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than seas, and sweeter than honey” can be used to gauge how strong the relations between China and Pakistan are. Chinese people in China refer to the Pakistanis as “Iron brothers.”

China and Pakistan have a long-standing, beneficial connection. The two nations' long-standing relationships have been mutually beneficial. The characteristic of bilateral relations continues to be a close similarity of viewpoints and shared interests. Pakistan has backed China on the majority of matters since the 1962 Sino-Indian War, particularly those pertaining to the sovereignty of Beijing, such as Taiwan, Xinjiang, and Tibet, as well as other touchy subjects like civil rights. With significant Chinese investment in Pakistan's infrastructure development, particularly the development of the deep water port at Gwadar, cooperation between China and Pakistan has reached new economic heights. A current free trade agreement exists between the two nations. Pakistan has acted as China's primary link to Muslim nations. Through its facilitation of Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972, Pakistan also made a significant contribution to closing the communication gap between China and the West. Pakistan has been a significant commercial partner for China. A free trade agreement has been reached, and economic commerce between Pakistan and China has lately increased. The two countries' trade is still dominated by technology and military exchanges, and Beijing has promised to enhance its spending on Pakistan's infrastructure and economy. Furthermore, China has long given Pakistan significant military, technical, and economic support, as well as the transfer of highly sensitive nuclear technology and apparatus.

Additionally, the regional geopolitical fault lines have been made visible by the expanding Pakistan-China strategic partnership. India, as was expected, abstained from the Beijing meeting, expressing major concerns with the project, notably in relation to a China-funded project in Gilgit-Baltistan that is connected to the Kashmir issue. The fact that a trans-regional project of this kind required greater participation was another justification offered by the Indian government.

No matter how the worldwide environment has changed in the seven decades since diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan were established, the two nations have consistently stood side by side in good times and bad. By collaborating to address threats and difficulties like COVID-19, China and Pakistan have strengthened their strategic partnership and mutual confidence. The two nations are the most dependable, ironclad brothers for one another, as history has amply demonstrated.

The writer is a communications and policy expert. He tweets at @ElyasKakar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1024129/chinas-growth-under-xis-rule/>

Dunya News

China keeping a close eye on Pakistan's political situation: Zhao Lijian

BEIJING (Dunya News) - Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday that China is keeping a close eye on Pakistan's political situation.

"China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. We have been supporting each other for common development and in joint efforts to overcome difficulties," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question about the debt assistance provided by China and other financial assistance.

"China has done its utmost to help Pakistan stabilize its financial situation. We have been doing so, and we will continue to do so," he said.

As per media reports, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent official visit to Beijing, the Chinese leadership promised to roll out \$4 billion in sovereign loans, refinance \$3.3 billion commercial bank loans and increase currency swept by about \$1.45 billion.

To a question about Pakistan's current political situation, he said that China had noted the relevant reports.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/World/674387--China-keeping-a-close-eye-on-Pakistan%E2%80%99s-political-situation:-Zhao-Lijian>

The Nation

CPEC: Pakistan, China agree on enhancing coop for export promotion

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China have agreed on enhancing cooperation for export promotion under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for meeting Pakistan's ambitious export target of upto \$250 billion in two phases.

The federal government has set an ambitious target for Medium-Term Export Roadmap (MTER) to speedily enhance Pakistani exports to the world to \$100 billion in the first phase and to \$250 billion in second phase, official documents available with The Nation revealed. Interestingly Pakistan had achieved an export target of \$31.8b during last 75 years, and now wants to enhance it to \$100b within next five years, and to \$250b in the second phase of MTER. The enhancing of cooperation for export promotion under CPEC has been agreed between China and Pakistan.

The Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives has drafted an MoU aiming to enhance Pakistani exports in Phase-1 to \$100 billion within a period of five years. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen the mutual cooperation under CPEC through a dynamic arrangement focusing on the promotion of Pakistani exports. Under the MoU, both the countries to work and collaborate to develop a holistic Medium-Term Export Roadmap (MTER) to speedily enhance Pakistani exports to the world to \$100 billion in the first phase and to \$250 billion in second phase. It has been agreed to set up a Sub-Working Group under the existing CPEC Long Term Plan Joint Working Group (JWG)

framework consisting of leading public and private sector experts to conceptualize and materialize the MTER. The JWG will evaluate the existing trade, industrial, and investment policies and work on tradable sectors which can contribute to the MTER targets.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-08/page-8/detail-3>

China to continue to help Pakistan stabilise financial situation

BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday that China had done its utmost to help Pakistan stabilise its financial situation and would continue to do so in the future. "China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. We have been supporting each other for common development and in joint efforts to overcome difficulties," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question about the debt assistance provided by China and other financial assistance.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-08/page-12/detail-5>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کی چائنا انٹرنیشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو میں بھرپور شرکت

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان چین میں منعقد ہونے والی چائنا انٹرنیشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو میں بھرپور شرکت کر رہا ہے۔ اس نمائش میں زیورات، سالٹ لیپ، کمبل، سنگ مرمر جیسی دیگر پاکستانی مصنوعات کے سٹالز لگائے گئے ہیں۔ منتظمین کے مطابق پاکستانی منتظمین نے ایکسپو میں آنے والوں کو اپنی جانب راغب کیا ہے۔ ایکسپو میں پاکستانی زیورات کی نمائش کنندہ لی لاگ نے کہا جو صارفین ہماری مصنوعات خریدتے ہیں ان میں سے ایک سال کے اندر دوبارہ خریداری کیلئے آنے والے صارفین کی تعداد 60 فیصد تک ہے اور مزید 30 فیصد صارفین ایک سال کے اندر تیسری یا اس سے زیادہ بار خریداری کرتے ہیں۔ نمائش میں سب سے بڑے ساز کا ایک خوبصورت گلابی قیمتی پتھر بھی پیش کیا گیا ہے۔ اس گلابی مورگنائٹ کی ابتداء پاکستان سے ہوئی۔ یہ سی آئی آئی ای میں اپنی نوعیت کی پہلی نمائش ہے اور یہ مغل سیریز کا حصہ ہے۔ 150 کیرٹ والا گلابی مورگنائٹ پاکستان میں بھی بہت نایاب ہے۔ اس سال کی سی آئی آئی ای میں زمر، مورگنائٹس، ٹورمالائنز سمیت دیگر پتھر بھی نمائش کے لئے پیش کئے گئے ہیں جو پاکستان کے شمالی پہاڑوں سے نکلتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-08/page-10/detail-7>

November 09, 2022

Daily Times

The Unique China-Pakistan Relationship

Nong Rong

A few days ago, the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was successfully concluded, and so was Prime Minister Shehbaz's maiden official visit to China. For China and China-Pakistan relations, these two major events came one after another, the significance is self-evident and far-reaching.

20th CPC National Congress took place at a critical time as the country embarks on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal. It has charted the course and established the guide to action for the

cause of the Party and the country. General Secretary Xi Jinping was re-elected by a unanimous vote at the first plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. That will provide the most fundamental political guarantee for China to embark on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

Facing a highly uncertain world, which our times and history are changing in ways like never before, China is responding to the uncertainties with its own certainty, hedging the instability of the international situation with the stability of its domestic and foreign policies, and providing a strong and lasting impetus for the recovery of the world economies with high-quality development and high-level opening up, making unremitting efforts for the peaceful development of the region and the world with a responsible attitude. As President Xi told PM Shehbaz, China will continue its fundamental policy of opening-up and provide new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development.

PM Shehbaz being the first head of government visiting China after the 20th CPC National Congress, successfully concluded his first visit to China after taking office. China received the Prime Minister with premium courtesy. President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress held talks respectively with him. Both sides issued joint statement and signed or concluded a number of agreements/MoUs, in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural product, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, Global Development Initiative, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

President Xi met with PM Shehbaz twice in less than two months, and personally invited him to visit China immediately after the 20th National Congress, which fully demonstrates the uniqueness of China-Pakistan relations and Pakistan's important position in China's overall diplomacy. This uniqueness lies in the high level of strategic coordination and political mutual trust. "Ironclad friendship" is a special term to describe the relationship between the two countries. Pakistan sees its relations with China as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. China, as President Xi told PM Shehbaz, views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective, and puts it as priority in China's neighborhood diplomacy.

The uniqueness of China-Pakistan relations lies in mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. This year, Pakistan gave firm support to China in response to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan region and attempts to stir up Xinjiang-related issues at the Human Rights Council. Likewise, China supports Pakistan in safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity. Our close coordination has gone beyond the bilateral level to the multilateral and international arena, jointly promoting the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and work together to make the global governance more just and equitable.

The uniqueness of China-Pakistan relations lies in the strong support of practical cooperation underpinned by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The CPEC has played a leading role in Belt and Road Initiative. 47 projects have been started or completed, with a total investment of more than \$25 billion and 150,000 jobs created. The 11th JCC was held on October 27, laying a strong foundation for the visit. During which the leaders of the two

countries reached important consensus on the ML-1 project for its early implementation. China also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway and encourage Chinese enterprises to participate in solar and other renewable energy projects. In the next phase of CPEC, we will step up cooperation in industry, agriculture, science and technology to better serve Pakistan's industrialization and enhance its export competitiveness. New concepts like health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor and green corridor will become important part of the high-quality development of CPEC. Moreover, Pakistan's exports to China is expected to exceed \$4 billion this year. Among them, agriculture serves as an emerging growth area. Pakistan's agricultural trade surplus with China reached US \$640 million last year, an increase of 13 times year-on-year, and keeps good momentum of growth this year. During this visit, facilitation arrangements for cherry exports to China were made. China welcomes Pakistan to explore China's mega-market and welcomes more high-quality Pakistani food and agricultural products for entry. Pakistan's efforts to strengthen security guarantees for Chinese investors, and efforts to solve the issues facing the CPEC IPPs contribute to encourage Chinese investors to start businesses in Pakistan and unleash the broader potential for business cooperation.

The uniqueness of China-Pakistan relations lies in the sincerity and concrete actions to help each other through weal and woe. Chinese people will not forget that after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China, Pakistan donated all tents in reserve. Facing unprecedented floods in Pakistan this year, China in no time provided Pakistan full range of assistance, with the total amount of funds and materials reached 660 million yuan. During PM's visit, China announced an extra 500 million yuan emergency aid for post-disaster reconstruction, making the total aid to 1.16 billion yuan (36 billion rupees), ranking first among other countries. China also sent expert teams on post-disaster assessment and health care to Pakistan to assist in disaster relief and reconstruction.

The uniqueness of China-Pakistan relations lies in the intensity and depth of exchanges in various fields. We enjoy close cooperation, trust and communication between the armed forces of the two countries, and will continue to advance military and security cooperation. In the field of culture, two countries extended the agreement on cultural cooperation and its implementation plan to 2027. The year 2023 will usher in the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchange, and the Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture and long history of interaction with China. With the easing of the pandemic, the issue of Pakistani students returning to China has been effectively resolved. The gradual resumption of direct flights operation with more frequency, people-to-people exchanges between the two countries will surely become more active.

Standing at a new historical stage, as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, I have more confidence and higher expectations for the future of our bilateral relations. We will work closely with Pakistani side to fully implement the outcomes of PM Shehbaz's visit to China, illustrating the opportunities and significance of the 20th CPC National Congress for China, Pakistan and the world, speed up to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and inject new impetus into our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

The writer is Ambassador of People's Republic of China in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1024656/the-unique-china-pakistan-relationship/>

Pakistani companies exhibit handicraft, sports goods, garments at CIIE

Most of the participating companies are satisfied with their participation and the response received for their products during the China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held in Shanghai on November 5-10. Six Pakistani companies based in China related to handicrafts, jewelry, sports goods, and garments and textile sectors are participating in the Expo. Consul General in Shanghai Hussain Haider visited the booth of Pakistani companies at the expo and interacted with each of them. Pakistani companies exhibited jewelry, salt lamps, blankets, and marble and they got warm responses from customers and buyers. Pakistan participated in the opening ceremony of the expo which is the largest and the most important import-themed expo in China and in the world. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech via video during the opening ceremony. Secretary Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan represented Pakistan in the opening ceremony. Comprised of national and business exhibitions and various supporting activities and forums, the expo is viewed as a window for countries to showcase their local high-quality products, characteristics, and cultures. Owing to the prevailing pandemic situation, the country exhibition is being held online again this year, where Pakistan has also set up National Pavilion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1024703/pakistani-companies-exhibit-handicraft-sports-goods-garments-at-ciie/>

Pakistani hair loss prevention products hold great potential in China

“In the future, hair loss prevention and hair growth is the top priority, scalp care is also one of the future trends. If Pakistani hair loss prevention products can enter the Chinese market, they will have great potential.” Liu Yingqi, general manager of JD Worldwide, said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) at a sub-forum during the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE).

He cited data from a 2019 survey by the National Health Commission of China, with an average of one in six people losing their hair. Among them is a large number of the post-90s generation. According to Liu, Chinese consumers are increasingly concerned about hair loss, and “keeping hair healthy like face” is becoming a new trend in China. As Chinese consumers gradually upgrade their concept of hair washing and care, treating scalp and hair separately will be the trend. In the future, hair loss prevention products are as promising as niche beauty brands.

According to the General Administration of Customs of China, import and export volume of cross-border e-commerce in China has increased nearly tenfold in the past five years. Han Rui, vice president of JD Group, said that in the past three years, JD's total purchase of imported goods reached RMB 500 billion, exceeding the RMB 400 billion target set at the second CIIE, which is supported by the strong purchasing power of Chinese consumers for imported goods. “Taking JD's pre-sale on Singles Day shopping carnival at 8 pm October 31, sales of JD Worldwide and 800 overseas brands increased by more than 100% year-on-year.

It is enough to prove that Chinese consumers love imported goods, and cross-border goods have a very broad market prospect and unlimited potential in China,” Han said. Acknowledging the massive size of China’s e-commerce market and its potential to further bolster bilateral trade, what will Pakistan do to open the door of the Chinese market through cross-border e-commerce? In early November, during Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China, China and Pakistan signed the Memorandum of Understanding on E-commerce Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China and the Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which will promote trade in quality products and strengthen cooperation in logistics, electronic payment and other areas. The picture shows product sales ranking on JD Pakistani National Pavilion platform. Pakistan has set up a national pavilion on the JD platform. At the beginning, only some cookies were sold. Now the website has covered more than 70 categories, such as Basmati rice, cookies, black tea and condiments. Among them, the best seller was Basmati rice, followed by cookies and tea. Among the more than 500 reviews with a positive rating of 96%, consumers generally commented that Basmati rice has a strong rice flavor and is suitable for making fried rice.

“Pakistani mango jam and plum jam, which are relatively rare in the Chinese market, will hit the shelves soon,” according to Liu, the pavilion also participated in the Double 11 shopping spree. “At present, the variety of Pakistani products is limited. Welcome to introduce more special products and resources to us.” Han appealed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1024699/pakistani-hair-loss-prevention-products-hold-great-potential-in-china/>

Pakistan Observer

Need stressed for enhanced cooperation with Chinese film industry

Director General Radio Pakistan and Chairman the Central Board of Film Censors Muhammad Tahir Hassan has commended the Chinese media especially FM-98 Dosti Channel for giving excellent coverage to the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing.

During a visit to the studio of FM-98 Dosti Channel in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the Channel has proved itself true to its nomenclature.

The DG Radio Pakistan said under the dynamic leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the bilateral relationship between the two countries has seen rapid progress, and Dosti Channel is an excellent manifestation of it. Muhammad Tahir Hassan emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation with the Chinese film industry. He noted that the Chinese film and drama industry is considered as one of the best in the world. The Director General said Radio Pakistan has recently produced a song regarding Pakistan-China bilateral relations.

<https://pakobserver.net/need-stressed-for-enhanced-cooperation-with-chinese-film-industry/>

CPEC back on track

Navid Aman

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The USD 60 billion CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of President Xi Jin Ping. Pakistan can serve as the manufacturing base for China and an extension of its industrial and supply chain network.

The 21st century has demanded a new paradigm to deal with the emerging challenges as well as opportunities and to wean the region away from conflict and conflagration.

The two countries could fast-track bilateral cooperation to boost corporate farming, efficient water usage, development of hybrid seeds and high-yield crops and establish cold storage chains.

For magnificent results in growth of varied crops China has shifted its agriculture from conventional means to technology based.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that China would inject new impetus into the strategic cooperative partnership. President Xi Jinping has also promised Pakistan support in stabilizing its financial situation.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, aimed at putting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), back on track, seems to have achieved its objective.

During Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China the two countries signed agreements covering a broad range of areas. They have agreed to enhance cooperation on CPEC, including its expansion to Afghanistan.

They have decided to launch a \$10 billion high-speed rail project linking Karachi to Peshawar. It is a project of strategic importance under CPEC.

China has also agreed to export technology for a 160 km/hour high-speed railway train to Pakistan. This is the first time that China will be exporting this technology to any country.

Xi Jin Ping's statements are encouraging as Pakistan has requested China to roll over its \$6.3 billion in debts that are set to mature in the coming months. It will be a significant relief to Pakistan, which is in a serious economic crisis.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif was honored to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

At a time when the world is grappling with multiple challenges, Pakistan and China stand together as friends and partners.

The premier's discussion with the Chinese leadership was focused on the revitalization of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) among many other things.

The second phase of CPEC promises to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that will uplift the quality of our people's life. Crumbling economy of Pakistan needs a lot to learn from the Chinese economic miracle.

New financial agreements between China and Pakistan are signaling a shift in political alignments in the region with implications for South Asian neighbors, the United States and for the economic future of Pakistan itself.

China and Pakistan solidify the growing economic ties between the two nations following a meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing.

Comprehensively, the two countries pledged bilateral cooperation in areas of economy, technology, industry, investment, infrastructure, space, vaccine, digitalization, standardization, disaster management, culture, sports and vocational education.

Between Pakistan and China, the economic ties were strengthened in 2013 with the establishment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a collection of Chinese-funded infrastructure projects designed to upgrade Pakistan's infrastructure and improve its economy.

The CPEC is a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The economic relationship is not limited to trade and CPEC, as China is one of Pakistan's largest lenders, holding more than 28% of Pakistan's debt.

The Pakistani economy has since partially rebounded. Pakistan has been facing currency devaluation and high inflation.

Pakistan will have to provide a reliable and safe environment for Chinese institutions and personnel working on cooperation projects. Security cooperation between the two countries carries a serious question mark.

Balochistan is impoverished and restive, and the province's development under CPEC not only has the potential to neutralize the appeal of Baloch militant groups but also to materialize CPEC's expansion into Afghanistan and beyond.

Neither Pakistan nor China wants security issues to disrupt CPEC's pace, particularly projects being carried out in Balochistan as CPEC's real potential lies in that southern province.

There has been a visible decline in attacks on Chinese interests in Pakistan. It is expected that Pakistan and China's counter-terrorism cooperation will further deepen in the coming weeks and months, particularly to secure investment and personnel associated with CPEC.

Progress on CPEC projects slowed down during the three and half years. There have been many problems during the Imran Khan-led PTI government for which we need to apologize to our Chinese brothers.

After assuming power on April 11, 2022, the PML-N government has started solving problems.

Around \$200 million owed to Chinese companies have been paid and a revolving fund has been created from 50 billion rupees by the State Bank.

We need to put CPEC back on track. Tremendous efforts are being made to address Chinese concerns relating to delays in project implementation, repayment of loans and security issues in Pakistan.

As the financial crunch has deepened in Pakistan, the sense of urgency to address China's concerns would intensify in Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China will cement bilateral ties between both the countries.

Pakistan needs to sort out administrative and financial matters to meet Chinese expectations and work pace. The development of Gwadar Port, a flagship project of CPEC, should be accelerated.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-back-on-track-by-navid-aman/>

The Nation

Pine nuts export to China hits nearly \$48m in 9 months

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani pine nuts exports to China from January-September this year crossed the figure of \$47.691 million, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting official data of China's General Administration of Customs. Pine nuts from Pakistan have taken up more than 42% of China's imports, ranking second among major pine nut exporters to China. Data from GACC showed that in the first nine months of 2022, China imported 4,290.642 tons of pine nuts from Pakistan worth nearly \$48 million while in the same period, China imported 15,253.90 tons of pine nuts from around the world valuing about \$112.98 million. Abdullah Afridi, a pine nut exporter from Pakistan, expressed his views to China Economic Net that Pakistani pine nuts are very popular in China and sell well among Chinese and international consumers at large exhibitions. "China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides us with a platform where we get access to buyers easily. Due to the 2nd phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistani pine nuts have zero tariffs to China, which helps us sell at a good price here and compete with Afghanistan, Russia, and other countries," Afridi added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-09/page-3/detail-1>

Argentinian investors invited to exploit CPEC incentives

ISLAMABAD-Federal Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar has asked the Argentinian business community to take advantage of the incentives offered by the Pakistan government in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The minister who is currently visiting Argentina visited Chamber of Commerce-Asia Pacific in Buenos Aires, Argentina, said a message received here on Tuesday.

The minister invited the chamber to send a business delegation to Pakistan to explore business opportunities in Pakistan and to meet with the relevant stakeholders. He urged the chamber and Argentine businessmen to avail the excellent opportunities of trade and investment which Pakistan offers. The minister was warmly welcomed at the Chamber by Dr Luciano Ojea Quintana, the Vice President of the chamber. Martin Lococo, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Laura Miani, the Institutional Relations Officer in the chamber also attended the meeting. The vice president expressed his deep appreciation for the visit and

gave a brief overview of the chamber and its contribution for promotion of trade and economic relations between Argentine and the nations of Asia and Pacific. He explained the objectives as to foster commercial exchange and relationships between local businesses and the countries of Asia-Pacific – a region that has become the major market for Argentine products - and to bridge the cultural divide, particularly in connection with language, customs and commercial practices. He particularly emphasised the strong and cordial relations between the Trade Mission of Pakistan and the chamber and appreciated the efforts of the mission in promoting business to business contacts between Pakistan and Argentina.

The vice president informed the minister that there is an exclusive chapter in the chamber dealing economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

The minister expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and stated that the current level of the bilateral trade between the two nations is not commensurate with the potential the two countries have.

He informed the chamber that Pakistan has put in place an investor friendly regime with number of lucrative investment related incentives both fiscal and infrastructure with duty and tax exemption on import of plant and machinery in various sectors.

Regarding cooperation in agriculture sector and grain preservation, the minister appreciated the proposal of procuring silo bags and grain preservation technology from Argentina given its expertise in the area.

The minister also invited the chamber to participate in Pakistan's premier textile and fashion industry exhibition TEXPO-2022 scheduled from 26-28 May, 2023 in Karachi, Pakistan.

The two sides also expressed their deep desire to further strengthen economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-09/page-9/detail-4>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک، چین تعلقات تاریخی ہیں، وقت کی کسوٹی پر کھڑے رہے: مقررین

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف اسٹریٹیجک اسٹڈیز (آئی ایس آئی) میں چائنا پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر نے نیشنل سیکورٹی ڈویژن (این ایس ڈی) اور اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ (آئی پی آر آئی) کے تعاون سے گرینڈ نیشنل ڈائلاگ کی سیریز کے تحت "پاکستان چین تعلقات" کے عنوان سے ایک گول کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا۔

تقریب میں سینیٹر مشاہد حسین سید نے خطاب کیا جبکہ اس موقع پر مقررین میں پاکستان کے سابق سفیر مسعود خالد تھے۔ ڈائریکٹر جنرل آئی ایس آئی، سفیر اعزاز احمد چوہدری نے استقبالیہ کلمات پیش کیے اور چائنا پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر طلعت شبیر نے تعارفی کلمات ادا کیے اور سیشن کو موڈریٹ کیا۔ صدر آئی پی آر آئی، ڈاکٹر رضا محمد بھی گفتگو میں شامل ہوئے۔ سفیر اعزاز نے اپنے تعارفی کلمات میں حاضرین کو گرینڈ نیشنل ڈائلاگ اور اس کے مقاصد کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ تاریخی تعلقات ہیں جو وقت کی کسوٹی پر کھڑے رہے۔ ڈائریکٹر سی پی ایس سی، ڈاکٹر طلعت شبیر کا خیال تھا کہ باہمی اعتماد، احترام اور خیر سگالی دونوں پڑوسی ممالک کے درمیان دو طرفہ تعلقات کی خصوصیت ہے۔ سینیٹر مشاہد حسین نے پاک چین تعلقات کا جدید تجزیہ پیش کیا۔ یہ اپنے

قومی مفادات کے تحفظ اور چین کے ساتھ اپنی دوستی کو برقرار رکھنے پر مبنی حقیقت پسندانہ اور عملی ہے۔ انہوں نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے دوسرے مرحلے کی بجالی کے بارے میں بھی بات کی، جس سے طویل مدت میں پاکستان کی اقتصادی حیثیت میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ سفیر خالد مسعود نے ان اہم نکات پر روشنی ڈالی جو تعلقات کو آگے بڑھاتے ہیں۔ ریمارکس کے بعد ایک انٹرایکٹو سوال و جواب کا سیشن ہوا۔ آخر میں چیئر مین آئی ایس ایس آئی، خالد محمود نے معزز مہمانوں کو آئی ایس ایس آئی کا مینٹو پیش کیا۔

مشاہد حسین

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-09/page-8/detail-23>

November 10, 2022

Daily Times

Sino-Pak cooperation in emergency management highlighted

Natural disasters are a common challenge for mankind, and disaster prevention and reduction is also a common topic for all countries in the world, especially in countries along the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’,” said Prof. Cui Peng, Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Science Committee Member of IRDR of ISC/UNDRR, Co-Director General of China-Pakistan Joint Research Center of Earth Sciences, Co-Founder of International Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (IADRR).

Mentioning the floods in Pakistan, he said “We’re happy to share our experience with Pakistan in many fields,” and added that such fields includes a systematic understanding of debris-flow formation mechanism, risk assessment, monitoring, and early warning; the development of integrated disaster mitigation techniques; systematic understanding of the mechanisms for earthquake-induced geological hazards such as seismic landslide and dammed lake, and risk assessment methods based on dynamic process and scale-up effect.

As per Prof. Cui, many countries are prone to natural disasters, and some of them are catastrophic. On average, the loss due to natural disasters in BRI countries is more than twice the world average and the casualties are even more, especially in South Asia, where the casualties in some cases have reached ten times. “Therefore, joining hands in the prevention and control of natural disasters is of great significance,” Prof. Cui told China Economic Net.

Prof. Cui has long been engaged in mountain hazard research with a focus on debris flow and landslides, as well as water and soil conservation. As a scientist who has also been devoted to applying disaster risk reduction knowledge and techniques in catastrophic events at home and abroad, as well as in mountainous areas, infrastructures and scenic areas, Cui has successfully applied mitigation techniques to the mega debris-flow events in Venezuela and Zhouqu, China, earthquakes in Nepal and Wenchuan, China, large dammed lake and geo-hazards along the Karakoram Highway in Pakistan.

When he attended the Parallel Session on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management under the Fifth Hongqiao International Economic Forum for the Fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) earlier this week, he said that coping with the risk of

catastrophic disasters often requires the joint response of many countries, and all parties must strengthen international cooperation for disasters such as the floods in Pakistan.

“We must further explore cross-border disaster information sharing and disaster prevention mechanisms,” noted Cui, adding that the top priority is to help Pakistan and other countries in need improve their natural disaster monitoring capacity, and then to establish a data sharing mechanism.

“We are willing to share China’s disaster reduction technology with Pakistan and promote them according to local conditions,” he further said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025155/sino-pak-cooperation-in-emergency-management-highlighted/>

Pakistan providing strict security for Chinese projects: Zhao Lijian

The Pakistani government and army have been providing strict security protection to the Chinese projects, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday.

“We have worked in Pakistan for a long time. Based on my understanding, the Pakistani government and military there have been providing strict security protection for the Chinese projects,” he said during his regular briefing.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan had close communication and coordination over security matters. Zhao Lijian said that he was not aware of the media reports regarding use of bullet-proof vehicles for all outdoor movement of the Chinese nationals working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. Meanwhile, Education Attache, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Afifa Shajia Awais said around 20,000 Pakistani graduates from the Chinese universities are now engaged in diverse fields in Pakistan.

About 20,000 Pakistani graduates from China are now engaged in diverse fields in Pakistan, including engineering, social sciences, agriculture and healthcare, she told Xinhua. She said that China had become the top education destination for Pakistani students.

The latest data released by the Ministry of Education of China showed that around 21,000 Pakistani students are studying in Chinese universities. According to official sources, over 6,000 Pakistan students who were stranded in the motherland following the Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control measures were also returning to China to resume offline classes in the respective universities.

In August this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang discussed the issue of Pakistani students who were desirous of returning to China to resume studies. The Chinese premier had assured that China accorded high priority to this matter. As a result, the two sides agreed for phased return of the Pakistani students subject to the Covid-19 situation in China. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had also offered discounts for the students travelling to China to facilitate them to resume their education in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025222/pakistan-providing-strict-security-for-chinese-projects-zhao-lijian/>

China donates 100,000 Hepatitis-A vaccine doses

People's Republic of China on Wednesday donated 100,000 vaccine doses of Hepatitis-A to Pakistan. Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on behalf of the Government of Pakistan received vaccines from Gao Qiang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sinovac. Speaking on the occasion, Qadir Patel acknowledged the government and the people of China and said it is heartening to see that Pak-China friendship achieves another milestone. Pakistan and China are enjoying strong, genuine and enduring relationships, he added. The minister said Pakistan is facing with the aftermaths of the worst floods in the history of country, where to date, large communities in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan are living in flood relief camps. These relief camps residents both children and adults are highly vulnerable to disease transmission. He said emergence of an outbreak of Hepatitis-A virus is very high, adding that the provision of assistance to the flood affected populations of Pakistan is government's top priority. "In this difficult time, we are really grateful for the donation of 100,000 doses of Hepatitis-A vaccine by Sinovac for children and adults." He said that this act reinforces the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China for health and prosperity of the two nations. Gao Qiang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sinovac, said that today marks another event in continuation of the seventy years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship based on mutual trust, respect and goodwill between Pakistan and China. He added that the Government of China considers the children and adult populations living in the flood affected communities as their own people and the assistance provided in form of 100,000 doses of Hepatitis -A vaccine is a positive gesture of care and affection. "On behalf of the government and the people of China, I am pleased to share that we are proud to be part of this initiative." He added, "This is just a little step and a new beginning as our long term vision is beyond that focusing on a strategic health partnership where in-land production facilities of life saving vaccines will be fostered in near future in Pakistan."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025197/china-donates-100000-hepatitis-a-vaccine-doses/>

Pakistani pine nuts exports to China hit \$48mn in Jan-Sept 2022

Pakistani pine nuts exports to China from January-September this year crossed the figure of \$47.691 million, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Pine nuts from Pakistan have taken up more than 42% of China's imports, ranking second among major pine nut exporters to China. Data from GACC showed that in the first nine months of 2022, China imported 4,290.642 tons of pine nuts from Pakistan worth nearly \$48 million while in the same period, China imported 15,253.90 tons of pine nuts around the world valuing about \$112.98 million.

Abdullah Afridi, a pine nut exporter from Pakistan, expressed his views to China Economic Net that Pakistani pine nuts are very popular in China and sell well among Chinese and international consumers at large exhibitions.

"China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides us with a platform where we get access to buyers easily. Due to the 2nd phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistani

pine nuts have zero tariffs to China, which helps us sell at a good price here and compete with Afghanistan, Russia, and other countries”, Afridi added.

He further said that this year prices will be increased and pine nuts may face a shortage due to the floods and a fire that engulfed thousands of pine nut trees in Balochistan’s Sherani district last May.

“China has huge buying power. In winter, they use sunflower seeds at large, but Pakistani pine nuts are now classified as high-end snacks in the Chinese market, therefore demand for pine nuts is huge here. If the Pakistan-Afghanistan border opens, it will not only increase the trade of pine nuts but also boost export to China”, he remarked.

Data shows that among China’s import of pine nuts in the first nine months this year, 10,135.1 tons worth \$57.55 million are from Russia, 568.1 tons worth \$4.32 are from Kazakhstan, and 260.1 tons worth \$3.41 from Afghanistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025089/pakistani-pine-nuts-exports-to-china-hit-48mn-in-jan-sept-2022/>

Pakistani handmade carpets attract Chinese customers at China Int’l Expo

Exotic Pakistani handmade carpets attracted Chinese customers at China International Import Expo, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Wednesday.

“This is one of the best opportunities we have every year!” said Imran Rah, CEO of ASIYA International Trading (Shanghai) Co., Ltd adding, “CIIE is a 6-day event, but it helps us get together with a lot of customers for 365 days a year. With branding motions here, customers who love our products continue buying from us.” Scheduled from November 5 to 10, the 5th China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides a platform for companies from around the world to display their products, promote their brands, and find more business partners in the world’s second-largest economy.

Showcasing the exotic handicrafts, such as hand-made carpets, shawls and scarves, Imran told the reporter that “Our main goal for the expo is not just the six days. We promoted throughout the year, and we can continue to do business with the customers we met here.” “We had a great experience in participating at CIIE because it’s helped a lot in growing our business and also interacting with other business partners,” said Javed Mohal, Assistant to the CEO of founder of WINZA Jewelry and CEO of Atlantis Co., Ltd., a Pakistani jewelry brand, adding that they would like to spread the Pakistani culture of art, handmade crafts, and share its essence and elegance with the world.

Ismail, sales manager of ASIYA, said “You can get in touch with a lot of very high-quality customers that you don’t normally meet. When the expo ends, we discuss the details of cooperation with our clients and the final turnover may be equivalent to the turnover of several of our stores in a year.” “This pattern [on the carpet] has been passed down for hundreds of years in Pakistan. It is the most classic pattern, with classical beauty,” Ismail was presenting a carpet to coming visitors. And a carpet worth 1,000 (Rs. 30,000+) was sold in a few words.

Courtesy of the booming Sino-Pak trade and investment cooperation coupled with important platforms such as CIIE, Pakistan's overall export to China has registered steady growth in recent years. As per Ismail, in recent years, the performance of handicrafts in the Chinese market has maintained a steady growth, because now the consumption power of the Chinese people has become stronger, and people are more and more fond of handicrafts, especially the foreign ones that featured culture and style from another nation. It is a niche market in China, he added, saying that they introduced and preserved the local Pakistani style and culture in their products which attracted more and more Chinese customers. "China is a huge market. Thanks to platforms like CIIE, we are trying our best to do promotion in this market and promote our brand here," Imran Rah said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025066/pakistani-handmade-carpets-attract-chinese-customers-at-china-intl-expo/>

Pakistan Observer

Global power Pak, China share a lasting future vision

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

BOTH Pak, China are constantly engaged in a strategic duo — sharing a lasting future vision of their all times strategic relationship — ranging from the CPEC's soft power influence—to the hard power scope of security and defence matrix.

In this context, their bilateral relations are "serving as the pillar of regional peace and stability, and setting a new benchmark for the "Belt and Road" international cooperation".

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's recent visit to China (1-2 November), following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has ushered in a new era of revitalisation of the Pak-China alliance, based on a long lasting confluence of interests. Pakistan and China share a decades old legacy of friendly relations based on 71 years.

Governments in both the countries remained changing, but their fidelity to bilateral support and cooperation remained unswerving. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was on a 2-day official visit to China.

President Xi told Sharif that the development of Gwadar Port, a flagship project of CPEC, should be accelerated and "conveyed his hope that Pakistan will provide a reliable and safe environment for Chinese institutions and personnel working on cooperation projects.

The current dialogue between Beijing and Islamabad covers the issues relating to loan assistance to Pakistan, the growing geopolitical concerns, CPEC, energy and Gwadar Port.

Reportedly, the Chinese leadership has promised to facilitate the Pakistan economy by rolling over \$4 billion in sovereign loans; refinancing \$3.3 billion commercial bank loans; and increasing currency swap by about \$1.45 billion.

Needless to say, under the charismatic leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has emerged as an unbeatable global power.

It is why, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is becoming a new hallmark of trans-regional connectivity among 140 countries of the globe.

The CPEC is a major limb of the BRI — the first major investment initiative of its kind ever undertaken by a foreign country like Pakistan.

It not only reaffirms China's friendship, but also its confidence in the economic potential of Pakistan.

CPEC is a vehicle for Pakistan's progress and promoting people-to-people connectivity and cultural interaction.

CPEC has been orchestrated on the premise of debt sustainability, environmental concerns and transparency.

Moreover, the BRI could help eradicate radicalism and extremism, a mega global challenge.

The evolving CPEC's soft power influence in different parts of Pakistan, can be evidenced by the fact that the CPEC is uplifting the women empowerment in Pakistan.

All the more, it is leading to the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized in some of the least developed regions of Pakistan.

And most importantly, CPEC could be used as a great weapon to deepen the pivot of national integration in different provinces of Pakistan through easier and accessible motorways, highways and road links, by now, CPEC moves to second phase of high-level development, with a focus on capacity, tech cooperation.

And, above all, through its CPEC trajectory of regional integration, China intends to link South Asia to Central Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa via land and sea.

CPEC is prone to steer a large economic activity in Pakistan and at the same time, its spill over effects will have a positive impact on Central Asian Republics (CARs).

Pakistan's membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) provides a boost to the CPEC developmental strategy as well as the energy projects such as Central Asia-South Asia (CASA-1000) and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan Pakistan India gas Pipeline (TAPI).

Geopolitically, both Pakistan and China share a lasting vision based on mutual interests. On its part, China is ardently committed to investing in developing a strategic partnership with Pakistan, as against the odds, it has witnessed in its relationship with the US.

China always takes a principled stance on the issue of Pakistan's membership of the Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG).

And yet, China recognises Kashmir to be a dispute between India and Pakistan and calls for a peaceful solution in line with the UNSC resolutions, UN Charter and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan.

It opposed unilateral action by India of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Noteworthy, both countries are against hegemony and seek resolution of outstanding disputes through peaceful means.

In this context, Pakistan-China relations have acquired even greater importance. Pakistan considers China to be a voice of reason and restraint in international affairs. All the while, the growing security interests dominate our policy priority towards China.

Last month, Pakistan Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa held talks with Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe.

In March, China and Pakistan agreed to step up their defence and counter-terrorism cooperation amidst “challenging times”.

As close strategic partners, both Pakistan and China face the challenges of growing instability and turbulence in Afghanistan.

The passive western response to our arms demand notwithstanding, China has profoundly assisted us in making an unimpeachable and insurmountable defence system.

Notably, China, between 2017 and 2021, has been ranked as Pakistan’s largest supplier of major arms, including fighter aircraft, warships, submarines and missiles.

According to the recently issued joint statement, the Chinese side reiterates that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy.

The Pakistani side underscores that Pakistan-China relationship is “the cornerstone of its foreign policy” and that the Pakistani people always support the close friendship between the two countries.

In the same vein, Islamabad expresses its commitment to the one-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

In response, the Chinese side reaffirms its support for “Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity”. Both Pakistan and China voice for a peaceful pacification of the Ukraine conflict.

Both sides — Islamabad and Beijing — reiterate their mutual support on issues concerning each other’s core interests — vindicated by the current Chinese stance on Pakistan: Speaking at a two-day seminar on US-Pakistan relations organized by US’ Simpson centre, Chinese foreign policy expert Yun Sun said Pakistan’s relationship with the US was a factor in China’s overall strategy for South Asia, but “China has plenty of confidence that its relationship with Pakistan is going to continue regardless of the modality of US-Pakistan relations.

The western geopolitical shift — from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific, which profoundly impacts strategic culture of the South Asian region — equally draws the attention of both China and Pakistan.

—The writer, an independent ‘IR’ researcher-cum-international law analyst based in Pakistan, is member of European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on IR, Critical Peace & Conflict Studies, also a member of Washington Foreign Law Society and European Society of International Law. He deals with the strategic and nuclear issues.

<https://pakobserver.net/global-power-pak-china-share-a-lasting-future-vision-by-syed-qamar-afzal-rizvi/>

The Express Tribune

The unique China-Pakistan relationship

The uniqueness lies in the sincerity and concrete actions to help each other through weal and woe

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China successfully concluded a few days ago, and so did Shehbaz Sharif's maiden visit to China as Prime Minister. The significance of these two major events is self-evident and far-reaching.

The CPC National Congress came at a time when China embarks on a new journey towards a modern socialist country and advances toward the Second Centenary Goal. It has charted the course and established the guide to action for the cause of the Party and the country. General Secretary Xi Jinping was re-elected by a unanimous vote at the first plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. That will provide the most fundamental political guarantee for China to embark on a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

Facing a highly uncertain world, China is responding to the uncertainties with its own certainty, hedging the instability of the international situation with the stability of its domestic and foreign policies; providing a strong and lasting impetus for the recovery of the world economies with high-quality development and high-level opening up; and making unremitting efforts for a peaceful development of the region and the world with a responsible attitude. As President Xi Jinping told PM Shehbaz, China will continue its fundamental policy of opening up and provide new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development.

PM Shehbaz, being the first head of government visiting China after the 20th CPC National Congress, successfully concluded his first visit to China after taking office. China received the PM with premium courtesy. President Xi, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress held talks with him. Both sides issued joint statement and signed or concluded a number of agreements/MoUs, in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural product, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, Global Development Initiative, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

President Xi met PM Shehbaz twice in less than two months, and personally invited him to visit China immediately after the 20th National Congress, which fully demonstrates the uniqueness of the bilateral relations and Pakistan's important position in China's overall diplomacy. This uniqueness lies in the high level of strategic coordination and political mutual trust. 'Ironclad friendship' is a special term to describe the relationship between the two countries. Pakistan sees its relations with China as a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

China, as President Xi told PM Shehbaz, views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective, and puts it as priority in China's neighborhood diplomacy.

The uniqueness of the China-Pakistan relations lies in mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. This year, Pakistan gave firm support to China in response to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and attempts to stir up Xinjiang-related issues at the Human Rights Council. Likewise, China supports Pakistan in safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity. Our close coordination has gone beyond the bilateral level to the multilateral and international arena, jointly promoting implementation of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and work together to make the global governance more just and equitable.

The uniqueness of the China-Pakistan relations lies in the strong support of practical cooperation underpinned by CPEC which features 47 projects that have been started or completed with a total investment of more than \$25 billion; 150,000 jobs have also been created. The 11th JCC was held on October 27, laying a strong foundation for the visit during which the leaders of the two countries reached important consensus on the ML-1 project for its early implementation. China also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway and encourage Chinese enterprises to participate in solar and other renewable energy projects. In the next phase of CPEC, China will step up cooperation in industry, agriculture, science and technology to better serve Pakistan's industrialisation and enhance its export competitiveness. New concepts like health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor and green corridor will become important part of the high-quality development of CPEC. Moreover, Pakistan's exports to China are expected to exceed \$4 billion this year. Among them, agriculture serves as an emerging growth area. Pakistan's agricultural trade surplus with China reached \$640 million last year, a 13-time increase year-on-year. Facilitation arrangements for cherry exports to China were also made during the visit. China welcomes Pakistan to explore its mega-market and looks forward to more high-quality Pakistani food and agricultural products for entry. Pakistan's efforts to strengthen security guarantees for Chinese investors, and efforts to solve issues facing the CPEC IPPs contribute to encouraging Chinese investors to start businesses in Pakistan and unleash the broader potential for business cooperation.

The uniqueness of the China-Pakistan relations lies in the sincerity and concrete actions to help each other through weal and woe. Chinese people will not forget that after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China, Pakistan donated all tents in reserve. Facing unprecedented floods in Pakistan this year, China in no time provided Pakistan full range of assistance, with the total amount of funds and materials reaching 660 million yuan. During the PM's visit, China announced an extra 500 million yuan emergency aid for post-disaster reconstruction, making the total aid to 1.16 billion yuan (Rs36 billion), ranking first among other countries. China also sent expert teams on post-disaster assessment and health care to Pakistan to assist in disaster relief and reconstruction.

The uniqueness of the China-Pakistan relations lies in the intensity and depth of exchanges in various fields. We enjoy close cooperation, trust and communication between the armed forces of the two countries, and will continue to advance military and security cooperation. In

the field of culture, two countries extended the agreement on cultural cooperation and its implementation plan to 2027. Year 2023 will usher in the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchange; and the Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture and long history of interaction with China. With the easing of the pandemic, the issue of Pakistani students returning to China has been effectively resolved. The gradual resumption of direct flights operation with more frequency, people-to-people exchanges between the two countries will surely become more active.

Standing at a new historical stage, as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, I have more confidence and higher expectations for the future of our bilateral relations. We will work closely with Pakistan to fully implement the outcomes of PM Shehbaz's visit to China, illustrating the opportunities and significance of the 20th CPC National Congress for China, Pakistan and the world; speed up to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era; and inject new impetus into our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2385513/the-unique-china-pakistan-relationship>

The Nation

Rs50b PERF account to be opened to resolve liquidity issue of Chinese IPPs

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-To resolve the liquidity issue being faced by Chinese independent power producers (IPPs) working under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the federal cabinet has approved opening of Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) account with the initial deposit of around Rs 50 billion.

The federal cabinet through circulation has approved the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet's decision pertaining to transferring Rs50b worth of budgetary allocations for electricity subsidies to an escrow account for onward automatic partial payments to IPPs including the Chinese IPPs working under CPEC, official source told The Nation. In its meeting last week, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had turned down a proposal of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for operating of Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) account by National Bank of Pakistan and instead decided that the account will be operated by State Bank of Pakistan, said the source.

The ECC has approved Power Division summary regarding "Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF)" with modification saying that PERF shall be operating with State Bank of Pakistan, Islamabad instead of National Bank of Pakistan, Islamabad, the source said. The decision will pacify Chinese insurance company, Sinasure, and will facilitate the insurance company guarantees for upcoming energy projects in Pakistan. Sinasure was demanding early resolution of Revolving Account Agreement pending between Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) and CPEC IPPs since 2017.

The Government of Pakistan and the Government of People's Republic of China signed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Energy Project Cooperation Agreement for development of power projects under CPEC arrangement on 8th Nov 2014. Pursuant to the

agreement, CPPA and Chinese IPPs agreed on the terms of Revolving Account Agreement (RAA) for CPEC projects. In this regard, Power Division initiated summary on 13 July 2018, however, due to various technical and financial constraints, RAA could not be implemented, said the source.

The CPEC Authority and IPPs had been raising the issue of delay in Revolving Account at various fora and similar requests from CPEC IPPs were also communicated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the source said. The Ministry of Finance has advised a new arrangement and proposed to open an assignment account under the title of Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) till such time matters pertaining to RAA are resolved. The Finance Division further advised that account may be operated by CPPA and allocation may be re appropriated from the existing budget allocations for monthly limit of Rs4b from the account.

Power Division submitted summary based on the Finance Division proposals for consideration of ECC to resolve the liquidity issue of various IPPs including CPEC IPPs. As per the decision of the ECC, the account for Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) would be opened at the State Bank of Pakistan and operated by the CPPA-G. It has also been approved to transfer Rs50b from the finance ministry's subsidy account to PERF and fixed a monthly withdrawal limit of Rs4b on the account.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-10/page-8/detail-0>

Pakistan needs Chinese assistance to save livestock from diseases

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan needs to adopt vaccination to protect domestic animals from different diseases and explore the potential of the livestock sector to boost the national economy, WealthPK reported.

The outbreaks of different ailments, especially foot and mouth disease, affect the livestock sector of Pakistan every year. Vaccination is an effective means of building immune barriers. In order to protect the livestock sector from diseases, the relevant authorities need to develop a vaccine that will better protect domestic animals from the virus circulated in that area. Pakistan can seek assistance from China to protect its livestock from diseases.

Syed Jawed Hussain Kazmi, Chairman of the Livestock Exporter Association Pakistan, told WealthPK that the potential of the livestock sector couldn't be ignored in boosting the national economy. "Livestock provides income and employment to many people associated with this sector. It can also boost our economy by adding up to our foreign exchange reserves, but the diseases among domestic animals are affecting the economy as well as the livestock products," he said. Jawed Hussain said that livestock had a substantial role in the agriculture sector and more than 50% population was involved in agro-based activities.

"The total share of the agriculture sector in the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Pakistan is about 22.7%. At least 37.4% of the labour force in the country is attached to the agriculture sector. More than eight million rural families depend on livestock to earn their livelihood," he said. Having a share of 61.89% in the agriculture sector and 14.04% in the GDP, the livestock sector recorded a growth of 3.26% in the financial year 2021-22 as compared to 2.38% during the same period of the last year.

“Pakistan has renewed its focus on the livestock sector for faster economic growth, poverty alleviation and food security,” said Jawed Hussain. He said that the livestock sector was already facing constraints like high feed and energy prices, a lack of credit and training facilities for farmers, poor advisory and a shortage of breeding and veterinary services as well as exploitation by the middleman when it was hit hard by the lumpy skin disease (LSD). The disease perished a large number of domestic and affected many small farmers in Sindh, Punjab and other parts of the country.

“The LSD has destroyed the livestock sector in Punjab, which contributes 70% to the national livestock. The small farmers were hit hard by the outbreak of the disease. The disease spared no cattle farm,” he said. He said that major ailments like LSD, foot and mouth disease (FMD), brucellosis and peste des petits ruminants were affecting Pakistan’s livestock industry. He added that Pakistanis exporters could not compete with their rivals because disease-free zones were not certified. “We require a suitable technique or immunisation to treat LSD. Pakistan must utilise Chinese technologies. To increase our meat export, FMD-free certification will be required. Pakistan can seek assistance from China, which has established successful animal disease-free zones and has vast experience in the field,” Jawed Hussain told WealthPK.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-10/page-9/detail-0>

The News

Court okays NAB decision to freeze accounts of two Chinese firms over fraudulent scheme

Yousuf Katpar

karachi: An accountability court has endorsed the National Accountability Bureau’s (NAB) decision to freeze bank accounts of two Chinese companies allegedly involved in fraudulent investment schemes.

An inquiry carried out by the corruption watchdog on the complaint of the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) had found the firms to be allegedly involved in cheating the public at large through Ponzi, pyramid, multi-level marketing (MLM) and other online schemes.

On March 17, the NAB Karachi director general had issued directives for freezing nine bank accounts used to receive the proceeds from the commission of the offences.

Subsequently, the bureau filed an application with the court under Section 12(c) of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999, requesting it to ratify the decision regarding the attachment of accounts.

As the matter came up for hearing before Accountability Judge-IV Mukesh Kumar, he noted that no objections to NAB’s request were filed. Therefore, he allowed the application, confirming the order.

Three accounts are under the title of Gold Transmit Network Technology (Pvt) Ltd and Green Apple Super Market (Pvt) Ltd, while six are owned by Chinese nationals, said to be the owners of the firms.

Earlier, investigating officer Ghulam Abbas had submitted a report informing the judge that the notices issued to the accused persons by the court on May 17 were forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' DG (China) so they can be served on them at their addresses in the neighbouring country to file objections.

However, he said, he had not yet received a compliance report from the ministry. He added that the notices had already been served to the account holders' addresses in Pakistan. The IO, therefore, requested the court to confirm the order passed by the NAB Karachi DG.

According to NAB, the SECP had filed a complaint that two firms — Gold Transmit Network Technology (Pvt) Ltd and Green Apple Super Market (Pvt) Ltd — are allegedly involved in illegal activities of raising unauthorised deposits from the public by launching fraudulent schemes, including referral marketing, MLM, and pyramid and Ponzi schemes.

The corruption watchdog said that the two Chinese companies had deprived people of their hard-earned money by offering lucrative incentives and hefty amounts.

In the application, the bureau had said that the modus operandi of the accused persons or firms was that they would ask the public to register with their companies, following which they were required to deposit the amount either in the bank accounts of the companies or in cash at their offices.

Once the amount was received from the customers, the companies would provide them a specific ID number that could be used to login and manage an individual profile on the company's websites, it added.

The application said that virtual points were given to the customers against each rupee deposited, and these points would increase or decrease as per the changes in the investments.

The websites were the prime forum where customers could manage their investments. Monthly profits were given to customers that would also reflect on their profile on the companies' online portal.

“The websites were already closed before the inquiry was authorised. The companies mainly operated through marketing strategies like luring through agents (mostly current customers were given extra benefits or points to bring in new customers), or through social media, publicity stunts, websites, etc.,” it claimed. NAB said that over Rs1.1 billion was transferred to these accounts.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=146292>

Pakistan-China relations pivotal

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad : Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed has said that Pakistan's relations with China are pivotal not only in terms of its foreign policy but relations with the world also.

He stated this while delivering his keynote address at a roundtable discussion on ‘Pakistan-China Relations,’ organised here by Institute of Strategic Studies in collaboration with National Security Division and Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

Senator Mushahid said that the bilateral relations stand on a firm ground of mutual trust and mutual gains, which are time-tested. He informed the audience about the tectonic shifts and changes that are taking place among the great powers in the global arena. He was very loud and clear in stating that China never undermined Pakistan’s core national issues and Pakistan reciprocated the same by supporting China on its important issues.

He also maintained that Pakistan’s foreign policy is not ideological but is realistic and pragmatic based on safeguarding its national interests and sustaining its friendship with China. He also talked about revival of second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will boost Pakistan’s economic status in the longer term.

Former ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid giving an overview of Pakistan-China relations mentioned China’s assistance to Pakistan, which comes with no strings attached. CPEC, in his view, is a propellant for the two countries to take the relations forward.

Earlier, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, director-general, ISSI, in his introductory remarks said that Pakistan and China share historic ties with each other that stood the test of time.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=146238>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی بجلی گھروں کو ادا یگی کیلئے 50 ارب فراہمی کی منظوری

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) بجلی کے نئے منصوبوں میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے راہ ہموار ہو گئی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چینی بجلی گھروں کو ادا یگی کیلئے 50 ارب روپے فراہم کرنے کی منظوری، وفاقی کابینہ نے سرکولیشن کے ذریعے دی۔ وفاقی حکومت نے سی پیک آئی پی پیاز سے متعلق اہم معاملہ حل کر دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-10/page-1/detail-19>

November 11, 2022

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China agree to spur CPEC momentum: govt

Naveed Butt

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan and China have agreed to revive the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project which was left pending by the previous government.

A six-member delegation of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) led by its President Lin Songtian on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal and discussed the CPEC project after the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

On the occasion, the minister said that Pakistan had long-standing historic ties with China and the incumbent government has restarted CPEC under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who recently visited China.

CPAFFC is a Chinese national people organization that engages in people-to-people diplomacy and the aim of this association is to enhance people's friendship and international cooperation on development.

Speaking to the delegation, the minister informed the delegation that the CPEC has been revived since the new government came into power under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in April this year. He also informed the delegation about the recent decisions taken by the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

The minister also highlighted the significance of ML-1 Pakistan Railway project and the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project which were discussed during the recent visit of the prime minister to China. He said that both sides have agreed to start these projects without any further delay.

Similarly, the minister also highlighted the importance of solar and renewable projects in which both countries have agreed to start projects. He said that there is huge potential in the agriculture sector. He said that the government also started work on the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. He informed the delegation that the incumbent government has also restarted the establishment of SEZs as there was no progress in the last four years.

The minister assured full cooperation to the Chinese by facilitating in Pakistan so the CPEC projects could be further expedited. The delegation was further informed that Gwadar International Airport will be functional next year.

Lin Songtian said that the Chinese market has huge potential, providing profitability, stability and efficiency of business and assured the minister to cooperate in all the sectors. He said that China would send a group of experts to Pakistan so they could exchange their experience to execute several projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/11/12-page/947224-news.html>

Daily Times

China to help Pakistan through infrastructure development

President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Lin Songtian, said China would help Pakistan through infrastructure development, industrialization, and capacity building of youth.

He made these remarks while addressing a press conference at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Thursday.

President of CPAFFC Lin Songtian, highlighting the China- Pakistan exemplary friendship, said that it is the responsibility of China to pull out Pakistan from poverty by enhancing trade and modernizing its infrastructure and technological development.

He added that technical skills are fundamental to achieving these goals besides education. In this regard, China is working with Pakistan to improve youth skills through vocational training institutes and the collaboration of both countries.

He further stated that the CPAFFC would enhance people-to-people exchanges to understand each other and strengthen the bonds between the two nations.

The media's role is vital to create awareness and urged the media should play its role to show the development and progress of both countries.

“Media cooperation is helpful to promote people to people exchanges and we will invite Pakistani media to visit China and look for themselves the true story of how China defeated poverty. Youth exchange is also key. Capacity building is fundamental to development like human resources development. Vocational training schools are important in this regard,” he said.

He said China and Pakistan have 18 friendship cities and I would like to work to promote this bond so the two cities can work together to further develop together. He said China is working with Pakistan to help develop its under-developed areas and Gwadar's development into a rich coastal hub for Answering a query, he said Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a major platform for building a global community of shared futures and is an initiative for the common development of humanity. He added that Pakistan's energy crises were reduced in the first phase of CPEC, and communication infrastructure improved. Both countries are working together to translate this traditional friendship into a more visible and tangible benefit to our People.

Talking about the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), he said that on the successful conclusion of the Congress, the first head of Government come to China was from Pakistan.

In reply to a question on his visit, he said in Pakistan, “when I came here, I was very well welcomed. The Chinese people are very touched by Pakistani brothers/sisters. Although we have a lot of international and domestic changes, our countries, governments, and people always stand together.

He said that keeping in view the iron-bond of friendship between China and Pakistan, he chose Pakistan as the first country for his overseas visit. He said that the CPAFFC had collected supplies worth 126 million RMB for flood hit people of Pakistan and these supplies would soon be shipped to Pakistan.

“Pakistan is my second home. We always remember that Pakistan always stood for China and also helped Chinese people in natural calamities and fighting COVID-19. I also came to help implement the consensus reached between President Xi and Premier Shehbaz Sharif on promoting people to people exchanges to shape a community with a shared future for mankind,” he said.

The President CPAFFC also emphasized, ” We will never forget Pakistan's help to China after the devastating earthquake in winter in 2008

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025527/china-to-help-pakistan-through-infrastructure-development/>

China to help uplift Pakistan's economic progress

President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Lin Songtian, said China would help Pakistan through infrastructure development, industrialization, and capacity building of youth.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025695/china-to-help-uplift-pakistans-economic-progress/>

Chinese company to explore lithium resources in Pakistan

In a move to better investigate and research lithium reserves in Pakistan, a strategic agreement was signed between the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences and Tianqi Lithium Co. at an international conference on lithium battery industry held in Sichuan China, as per a statement by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences. The strategic agreement says that both parties will collaborate on the research and application of lithium resources in Pakistan. Efforts will also go to personnel training and

academic exchanges to develop joint research on lithium resources in the country, CEN reported. Lithium reserves have emerged as an important source in the electronic vehicle (EV) industry around the world including Pakistan since the resources are the main raw material of EV battery, which takes up a sizeable portion of EV production cost. According to Volza's lithium imports data in Pakistan, Pakistan imports most of its lithium products including lithium primary cells and batteries from countries such as China, the United States and Germany. Last year, Pakistan devised the Automotive Industry Development and Export Plan (AIDEP 2021-26) with an aim to boost the local EV industry, bring related manufacturing locally and also reduce the use of fossil fuel. Headquartered in China's southwestern province of Sichuan, Tianqi Lithium is a global leader in developing and manufacturing lithium products, notably developing lithiumion battery technologies for application in the electric vehicle and energy storage industries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025694/chinese-company-to-explore-lithium-resources-in-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Two get death over Chinese bus attack in Kohistan

Muhammad Sadaqat

HARIPUR: The Anti-Terrorism Court Hazara here on Thursday awarded death sentence to two men after convicting them for planning the July 14, 2021, suicide attack on the bus of Chinese engineers in Kohistan. Four co-accused were acquitted, however.

ATC Hazara judge Sajjad Ahmad Jan announced judgment in the case in the Haripur prison in the presence of the accused, jail officials said.

Mohammad Hussain and Mohammad Ayaz of Matta tehsil in Swat district were convicted for planning the bus bombing, which killed 13 people, including nine Chinese workers, and injured over 23 passengers.

The Chinese and Pakistani nationals worked on the Dasu hydropower project in Upper Kohistan district.

After the completion of interrogation by police, the ATC had ordered the shifting of the accused to the Haripur Central Jail where they're tried by the judge via a video link.

The prosecution team comprised regional director (prosecution) Saqib Sultan Jadoon, Irshad Ahmad Afridi and Mohammad Arif Masood, while lawyer Fazlullah Khan defended the accused in the court.

Mr Fazlullah said he hadn't received the copy of the judgment, so he didn't know about fine imposed on the convicts and the sentences awarded to the five absconders.

The prosecution's records showed that a car carrying 100-120kg explosives hit the bus, while the bomber's body parts suggested that he was not a Pakistani national.

The then foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, had said that the bombing was carried out by Pakistani Taliban militants backed by the Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies and that Afghan soil was used for its planning and execution.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720205>

Pakistan Observer

Ahsan assures Chinese companies of govt's full support to expedite CPEC projects

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday assured full cooperation of the government to the Chinese companies to further expedite projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A-six-member delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) led by its President Lin Songtian called on Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and discussed CPEC projects after the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

On the occasion, the minister said that Pakistan had long-standing historic ties with China and the incumbent government has restarted CPEC under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who recently visited China.

CPAFFC is a Chinese national people organization that engages in people to people diplomacy and the aim of this association is to enhance people's friendship, and international cooperation on development.

Speaking to the delegation, the Minister informed the delegation that CPEC has been revived since the new government came into power under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in April this year.

The minister informed the delegation that the recent Joint Coordination Committee meeting and visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China was a clear indication that both countries have agreed to revive the CPEC project which remained pending by the previous government of PTI.

The minister further added that during the recent visit, the Chinese President appreciated Pakistan's efforts to restore CPEC projects and assured to continue cooperation.

The minister also highlighted the significance of ML-1 and KCR projects which were discussed during the recent visit of the PM to China and both the sides have agreed to start these projects without any further delay.

Similarly, the minister also highlighted the importance of solar and renewable projects in which both the countries have agreed to start projects.

During the meeting, the Minister informed the delegation about the significance of the Agriculture sector as Pakistan has huge potential in the sector and it can export meat and vegetable to China.

The minister also highlighted Pakistan's exponential growth and sought cooperation from China as it has expertise in the export sector. The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) also came under discussion.

The minister informed the delegation that the incumbent government has also restarted the establishment of SEZs as there was no progress in the last four years.

The delegation was further informed that Gwadar International Airport will be functional next year and there is great potential for tourism as well which the Chinese should get an advantage.

Lin Songtian said that the Chinese market has huge potential, providing profitability, stability and efficiency of business and assured the Minister to cooperate in all the sectors.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/ahsan-assures-chinese-companies-of-govts-full-support-to-expedite-cpec-projects/>

China to help Pakistan achieve sustainable growth, eradicate poverty

China and Pakistan share a common vision of regional and global peace, progress and prosperity and the two countries have a history of cordial relations based on the people-to-people and the government-to-government friendship.

These views were expressed by President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Mr Lin Songtian who is currently visiting Pakistan as part of promoting friendship among the cities (municipal governments) of the two countries and to explore new avenues of friendship at people-to-people level.

While addressing the news conference at the Embassy of China, Mr Lin Songtian spoke at length on a number of issues concerning the two nations from trade and energy cooperation and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to re-election of President Xi for a historic third-term as General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), poverty eradication and advancement in science & technology.

He assured China would help Pakistan achieve goals of urbanization and modernization through infrastructure development, industrialization, and capacity building of youth.

Accompanied by Mr Ji Yongjun and Ms Bao Zhong, President of CPAFFC said he chose Pakistan as the first country to visit after assuming the charge of the association and wherever he went, he was met by people who called him their brother. Pakistanis are such loving and warm-hearted people and have always stood by China in the time of need. "As we say a friend in need is a friend indeed, Pakistan is China's true friend and has always supported China," he said.

President of CPAFFC Lin Songtian, said it was the responsibility of China to pull Pakistan out of poverty by enhancing trade and modernizing its infrastructure and technological development.

He added that technical skills were fundamental to achieving these goals besides education. In this regard, China is working with Pakistan to improve youth's skills through vocational training institutes and the collaboration of both countries.

I am in Pakistan for ‘win-win’ cooperation, he said, adding that huge potential existed between the two countries to explore the informal avenues (people-to-people) besides touching on the formal sides.

Mr Songtian also spoke on the flagship project of One Belt One Road initiative of President Xi and said the first phase of the project was completed and the work on the second phase (development of Gwadar port and special economic zones) was progressing on top gear. Imagine the dividends of progress and development once the second phase is completed, he said. CPEC is a unique project in the sense it not only brings in huge investment and trade opportunities it also provides China and Pakistani connectivity with Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. “We are in a way investing in the future of Pakistan,” he said.

About his meetings in Pakistan, Mr Songtian said he held very intensive and productive sessions with the Pakistani authorities and discussed future courses of action and cooperation.

Terming Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent visit to China highly significant, Mr Songtian said the visit took place at an historic juncture and PM Shehbaz is the first head of the government to visit China after the national congress of the CPC and re-election of President Xi for the third term. It was decided during the meeting that China would help Pakistan in solar energy, rail connectivity (ML-I) and industrialization. He also highlighted the media’s role and termed it vital to create awareness and urged the media to play its role and present a true picture of China.

About China’s support to Pakistan in recent floods, he assured China would not leave its all-weather friend in testing times, be it Covid-19 or the recent floods. More than 80 organizations gave a generous donation of 126 million Yuans for the flood-affected people, he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-help-pakistan-achieve-sustainable-growth-eradicate-poverty/>

The Nation

Pakistan finds latest agri techs at CIIE

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan can get huge benefits of agriculture by acquiring latest technologies displayed at the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE), Gwadar Pro reported it on Thursday. According to the report, new subsection for crop seeds’ pavilion was set up at the expo where one can find a lot of latest technologies that can be introduced to Pakistan. In the dazzling pavilion of food and agriculture, the display of vertical farming is quite eye-catching as this technology can be a solution to handling climate change. Different from traditional farming, vertical farming grows vegetables indoors, where multiple planting layers are stacked vertically. Artificial light sources like LED are used to provide light, and water is provided by water spray or automatic drip irrigation system, so it can achieve high yield without the influence of environmental factors. Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi has already said that Pakistan has been adversely affected by the impacts of climate change, so “climate-smart” farming techniques are strongly encouraged by Pakistan. Advanced agricultural technologies are essential for increasing the agricultural productivity of the

country. Hope the new technologies in CIIE can give Pakistan more inspiration to solve the current agricultural problems.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Nov-2022/pakistan-finds-latest-agri-techs-at-ciie>

Pakistan using CIIE platform to expand trade with China, world

BEIJING -Pakistan is using the platform of China International Import Expo (CIIE) to expand trade with China and the world.

“Using this platform of China International Import Expo, we are working together to expand trade with China and also the world,” noted Moin ul Haque, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China.

Held from November 5 to 10, the 5th China International Import Expo (CIIE) provided a platform to companies from around the world to display their products, promote their brands, and find more business partners in the world’s second-largest economy. It witnessed an active engagement of Pakistani officials, experts, merchants and so on.

Pakistani media representative attended the first CIIE back in 2018. As he sees it, the initiative of the import expo launched by China was a new phase of economic opening up. The unique idea of CIIE also successfully gathered international business delegates and global companies to exhibit their products for an efficient and smooth launch in the 2nd largest economy in the world.

“The significant attendance of international business community and international organization generated a message for the global community, that is, yes China is open and is welcoming all to export their products in world’s largest market of consumers,” he told CEN.

Pakistani traders in sectors of agriculture, leather, biscuit products, confectionery items, seafood, woven fabric, minerals, cutlery and dates, sports goods, dry fruits, garments, furniture, jewellery, and precious stones have been making a good presence in the Chinese market by using the CIIE platform.

“We also welcome Chinese firms to invest in Pakistan,” said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, adding “There is so much to be done, and we are looking forward to it.” Since 2018, CIIE has been providing consistent advantages to the Pakistani business community to attract and develop trade relationships with the Chinese market. Courtesy of the booming Sino-Pak trade and investment cooperation coupled with important platforms such as CIIE, Pakistan’s overall export to China has registered steady growth in recent years.

The increasing presence of Pakistani products in the Chinese market “will definitely help the south Asian country narrow trade deficit with China and explore the Chinese market to their advantage,” the representative said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-11/page-8/detail-3>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک منصوبوں کی بحالی کیلئے حکومت پر عزم ہے: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال سے چائنیز پیپلز الیوسٹی ایشن فار فرینڈ شپ اور فارن کنٹریز (سی پی اے ایف ایف سی) کے صدر لیلین سوئنگ تیان کی قیادت میں چھ رکنی وفد نے ملاقات کی اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے چین کے ساتھ دیرینہ تاریخی تعلقات ہیں اور موجودہ حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں کو بحال کر دیا، حال ہی میں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا چین کا کامیاب دورہ اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت سی پیک منصوبوں کی بحالی کے لیے پر عزم ہے۔ وفد سے ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت سی پیک منصوبوں کی بحالی کے لئے پر عزم ہے اور تمام منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے لیے کوششیں تیز کر دی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بد قسمتی سے پی ٹی آئی کے گزشتہ دور حکومت میں ان منصوبوں پر کام بند کر دیا گیا تھا، اب سی پیک منصوبے دوبارہ شروع ہو چکے ہیں اور حالیہ جے سی سی کا اجلاس اور وزیر اعظم کا حالیہ دورہ چین اس بات کا واضح ثبوت ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت سی پیک منصوبوں کو مزید تاخیر کے بغیر مکمل کرنے کے لیے پر عزم ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے مزید کہا کہ حالیہ دورے کے دوران چینی صدر نے سی پیک منصوبوں کی بحالی کے لیے پاکستان کی کوششوں کو سراہا اور تعاون جاری رکھنے کی یقین دہانی بھی کرائی، ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر نے ایم ایل ون اور کے سی آر پروجیکٹ کی اہمیت پر بھی روشنی ڈالی جن پر حال ہی میں وزیر اعظم کے چین کے دورہ کے دوران تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا تھا اور دونوں فریقوں نے ان منصوبوں کو شروع کرنے پر اتفاق بھی کیا تھا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے وفد کو مزید منصوبے جس میں سولر، زرعی شعبے آئی ٹی اور دیگر کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ زراعت کے شعبے میں پاکستان کے پاس بہت زیادہ مواقع موجود ہیں اور چین اس سے استفادہ حاصل کر سکتا ہے۔ مزید برآں وفاقی وزیر نے پاکستان کی تیز رفتار نمو کو بڑھانے پر بھی روشنی ڈالی اور چین سے اس حوالے سے کے قیام پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا اور وفد کو (SEZs) مدد بھی مانگی گئی کیونکہ چین برآمدی شعبے میں انتہائی مہارت رکھتا ہے۔ ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر نے اسپیشل اکنامک زونز بتایا کہ موجودہ حکومت خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے قیام کیلئے تیزی سے کام شروع کر چکی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے وفد کو مزید آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ اگلے سال فعال ہو جائے گا اور یہاں سیاحت کے بھی بہت بہتری کے امکانات ہیں۔ لین سوئنگ تیان نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ چائنیز مارکیٹ میں بہت زیادہ صلاحیت موجود ہے جو منافع، استحکام اور کاروبار کے مواقع فراہم کرتی ہے اور وفاقی وزیر کو تمام شعبوں میں بھرپور تعاون کی یقین دہانی بھی کرائی۔ وفاقی وزیر کو یہ بھی بتایا کہ وہ جلد چینی ماہرین کا ایک گروپ پاکستان بھیجیں گے تاکہ وہ متعدد منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد کے لیے دنوں ممالک کے مشترکہ تجربات کا تبادلہ کر سکیں گے۔ وفد کے کے کامیاب اجرائی پر مبارکباد بھی دی اور مزید تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ PDNA سربراہ نے وفاقی وزیر کو حالیہ سیلاب میں ریسکیو آپریشن اور

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-11/page-8/detail-40>

November 12, 2022

Dawn News

Customs officials' infighting leaves Pak-China trade in limbo

Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: The wrangling between high-ranking customs officials has been hampering operations at the Sost dry port — the country's main land trade post with China — effectively halting goods transportation from China to Pakistan through the Khunjerab Pass.

Gilgit-Baltistan Collector Customs Nisar Ahmed Khan has accused the Federal Board of Revenue's Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation in Islamabad of 'needlessly' blocking consignments from China 'without any jurisdiction' in the region.

As the discord intensified, Mr Khan allegedly allowed the release of four consignments, which had been blocked by the intelligence directorate.

The GB Customs Collectorate had earlier cleared consignments that were eventually blocked in October of this year, after intelligence directorate officials suspected that high taxable items were part of these consignments.

GB collector accuses customs intelligence of working ‘without jurisdiction’

According to rules, the blocked consignments can only be cleared after the completion of an investigation by the intelligence directorate.

However, when Mr Khan visited the dry port on Nov 1, he ordered the assistant collector to release the consignments through manual inspection, in an apparent violation of rules as electronic clearance of the same is necessary.

The same day, the assistant collector wrote to a senior manager of the Sost dry port to release the blocked consignments.

The letter, seen by Dawn, stated: “It has been decided by competent authority that ... GD [goods declaration] number 278, 351, 357, 358, blocked by intelligence and investigation Islamabad, may be released and goods may be delivered to owners.”

Meanwhile, officials of the intelligence directorate told Dawn on condition of anonymity — as they are not authorised to speak to the media — that the blocked consignments cannot be released without the directorate’s permission.

When asked to comment, FBR Spokesperson Afaque Ahmed Qureshi said that apparently, there was no row between the collector customs and customs intelligence at Sost.

However, when contacted, Mr Khan claimed the directorate has no jurisdiction in GB, adding that some traders have even challenged the intelligence directorate’s jurisdiction in the GB Chief Court.

When asked how the four consignments were cleared without the intelligence directorate’s permission, he said the consignments were released manually with the permission of the chief collector, as the date of their clearance had long passed.

Whenever Customs officials clear goods for release, the intelligence directorate blocks them, Mr Khan claimed, saying that this was affecting trade activities between China and Pakistan through the Khunjerab Pass for nearly a month now.

He said that 13 consignments blocked by the intelligence directorate were still stranded at the dry port.

After remaining closed for more than two and a half years, the Khunjerab Pass was reopened for trade only to facilitate the transportation of the containers loaded with goods from China to Pakistan. It was closed in November 2019 to contain the transmission of coronavirus between the two countries.

Under a protocol agreement signed between the two countries, trade and travel activities through the Khunjerab Pass continue from April to November every year. However, this year transportation of goods from China will continue till Nov 30.

Traders fear that the suspension of clearance can cause purchased goods stranded in China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720459>

The Nation

PM Shehbaz’s visit denotes uniqueness of Sino-Pak relations: Chinese Envoy

Islamabad - Chinese ambassador Nong Rong on Friday, terming China-Pakistan relation as ‘unique’ said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was the first head of government to visit China after the 20th CPC National Congress. The Chinese envoy said :“a few days ago, the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was successfully concluded, and so was Prime Minister Shehbaz’s maiden official visit to China.” For China and bilateral relations, these two major events were in a sequence, and the significance was self-evident and far-reaching, he said in an article, published in local newspaper. He said the 20th CPC National Congress took place at a critical time as China embarked on a new journey to build into a modern socialist country in all respects and advance toward the second Centenary Goal. It has charted the course and established the guide to action for the cause of the Party and the country, he added. The ambassador said Communist Party’ General secretary Xi Jinping was re-elected by a unanimous vote at the first plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. “That will provide the most fundamental political guarantee for China to embark on a new journey towards a modern socialist country in all respects,” he added. “Facing a highly uncertain world, in which our times and history are changing in ways like never before, China is responding to these uncertainties with its own certainty, hedging the instability of the international situation with the stability of its domestic and foreign policies, and providing a strong and lasting impetus for the recovery of the world economies with high-quality development and high-level opening up, making unremitting efforts for the peaceful development of the region and the world with a responsible attitude, he added. as President Xi told Pm Shehbaz, China will continue its fundamental policy of opening up and providing new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development. “Pm Shehbaz was the first head of government to visit China after the 20th CPC National Congress, and China received the Pakistani prime minister with premium courtesy. President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu of the standing Committee of the National People’s Congress held talks with him. both sides issued a joint statement and signed or concluded a number of agreements/ MOUs in the areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural product, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, Global development Initiative, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-12/page-2/detail-1>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستانی چیریوں نے چین کی مارکیٹ تک رسائی حاصل کر لی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹرز) چین کے کسٹمز کی جنرل ایڈمنسٹریشن اور پاکستان کی فوڈ سکیورٹی اینڈ ریسرچ کی وزارت کے درمیان فائنل سینیٹری کی ضروریات کے پروٹوکول پر دستخط کے تبادلے کے تحت پاکستان میں پیدا ہونے والی تازہ چیریوں نے چین کی مارکیٹ تک رسائی حاصل کر لی۔ پاکستان کی منصوبہ بندی کی ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات کی وزارت کی جاری کردہ رپورٹ کے مطابق، پاکستان میں چیری بنیادی طور پر بلوچستان اور گلگت بلتستان کے علاقوں سے آتی ہے اور اس کی پیداوار تقریباً 6,000 ٹن ہے جو دنیا کی اوسط کا تقریباً 2/3 ہے۔ وزارت کا تخمینہ ہے کہ 10 فیصد چیری اس وقت درآمد کے لیے دستیاب ہیں جن کی مالیت تقریباً 1.77 ملین ڈالر ہے جس میں مزید درآمد کے لیے وسیع جگہ موجود ہے۔

چینی مارکیٹ میں درآمدی چیری کی بہت زیادہ مانگ ہے۔ چین سالانہ 200,000 ٹن سے زیادہ چیری درآمد کرتا ہے جس سے یہ دنیا میں چیری کا سب سے بڑا صارف بنتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی سفارت خانے کے ایگزیکٹو کمشنر ڈاکٹر گووین لیانگ کے مطابق چین اور پاکستان چیری کے پودے لگانے کے علاقے کو بڑھانے، پونٹ کی پیداوار اور پھلوں کے معیار کو بہتر بنانے اور کوئلڈ ٹریڈنگ کی سہولیات کی تعمیر میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کے لیے چینی ٹیکنالوجی متعارف کرانے کے لیے تعاون کر سکتے ہیں جو نہ صرف چینی مارکیٹ کی مانگ کو پورا کرے گی بلکہ پاکستان میں زر مبادلہ کی کمائی بھی لائیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-12/page-12/detail-7>

November 13, 2022

Daily Times

CPC's 20th NPC outcome will take China to new heights

A seminar on "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 20TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CPC AND THE RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT XI JINPING" was organized by China Study Center, University of Peshawar, and Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa jointly at the Conference Hall of the China Study Center, University of Peshawar. Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director China Study Center, University of Peshawar welcomed all the distinguished speakers, Guests, Academicians, Scholars, and Students to the Seminar. Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar in his keynote speech shed light on the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Re-Election process of President Xi Jinping. He further said that Chinese modernization is based on pursuing high-quality development, development of people's democracy, and economic prosperity, promoting harmony between humanity and nature, building a human community with a shared future, and creating a new form of human advancement. He also congratulates Ms. Hira Ali Lecturer, Department of Arts and Design, University of Peshawar for Securing Silver award for Pakistan in the Orient Star Design Award, China.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in his key note speech highlighted the Pakistan-China relations from a historical perspective. He said that China's Political system is unique in the world, which yields prosperity in all fields of life in China. Recently concluded 20th NPC shows the strengthen of this Political system to the world and regarded best. The great visionary leader President Xi Jinping reelection for third term shows the confidence of Chinese Peoples on

Xi's Policies and appreciations to achievement in last one decade. Mr. Gilani said that China-Pakistan relations are based on mutual trust and strong base of these relationship is built on more through people-to-people contact. He mentioned that the National Congress CPC has re-elected President Xi Jinping for one more term (5 years). He said that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is growing fast and the economy of China is growing at a rapid pace.

Ms. Hira Ali Lecturer at Department of Arts and Design, University of Peshawar in her presentation talked about the Orient Star Design Award competition to the audience in which she participated. In the ASEAN division of the Orient star design contest she represented University of Peshawar. She secured Silver Award for Pakistan. The top 3 winners in each category were selected for the National competition. And her painting won another Bronze award in a National level competition in China. The theme of her work was Chinese Heritage. It is a pen and colored pencil drawing inspired by the style of work of Mughal miniature paintings and depicting the architectural beauty of a traditional Chinese Pagoda.

Ms. Afsheen Zaman Lecturer at Department of Arts and Design, University of Peshawar said that China is a growing economy and Pakistan should take full advantage of China's capability through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Madam Farida Rashid Chairperson Department of Arts and Design, University of Peshawar in her speech suggested organizing / conducting an Art competition on any theme that reflects China. This will help us in understanding more about China and its culture particularly.

At the end of the seminar Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director China Study Center, University of Peshawar presented Souvenir to Ms. Hira Ali for her outstanding performance in the Orient Star Design Award competition, China. And also distributed Chinese Language Certificates among the students who successfully completed their Preparatory Chinese Language Course (HSK I) at China Study Center, University of Peshawar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1026404/cpcs-20th-npc-outcome-will-take-china-to-new-heights/>

Pakistan seeks maximum cooperation with China on agricultural technology

Pakistani and Chinese researchers are jointly testing hybrid wheat varieties with higher resistance to drought, diseases, and climate uncertainties and higher production per unit area. Our government looks forward to maximum cooperation and coordination with China", Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

He told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview that due to the floods, about \$4 billion was lost from wheat damages, with Sindh and Baluchistan being the hardest hit areas.

The government has already imported around 1 million tons of wheat for local consumption, and more will be imported. "Then hopefully in March next year, we will welcome wheat harvest", Chairman PARC said.

“But about 20% of wheat production will be reduced in the coming season because the low land is still waterlogged and not suitable for sowing”, he added. As extreme weather conditions are happening ever more frequently, Chairman PARC anticipates closer cooperation with China for agricultural technologies.

“To combat climate change, climate-smart technologies are required. We need new, climate-resilient varieties; we need machinery for planting from seed to grain; we need storage system to protect ourselves from disruptive disasters.

During PM’s visit to China, agriculture is also one of the priorities of cooperation” he said. It is learned that PARC is working with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, especially in breeding technologies. Yunnan, a province in southern China, has a climate similar to Pakistan. Through years of exchanges, the two sides have discovered that doubled haploid breeding and hybrid breeding of wheat apply to Pakistan. Personnel exchanges and training is ongoing sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and breeding resources are being shared with over 200 lines of wheat being selected.

“We look to learning the technologies from the Chinese side”, PARC Chairman said. “We can form joint working groups and declare centers of excellence so that technologies can be transferred and our scientists can indigenize them to build capacity and rehabilitate our farmers.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1026535/pakistan-seeks-maximum-cooperation-with-china-on-agricultural-technology/>

Chinese firm to explore lithium resources in Pakistan

In a move to better investigate and research lithium reserves in Pakistan, a strategic agreement was signed between the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences and Tianqi Lithium Co. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the arrangement agreed at international conference on lithium battery industry held in Sichuan China. As per a statement by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, the strategic agreement says that both parties will collaborate on the research and application of lithium resources in Pakistan. Efforts will also go to personnel training and academic exchanges to develop joint research on lithium resources in the country. Lithium reserves have emerged as an important source in the electronic vehicle (EV) industry around the world including Pakistan since the resources are the main raw material of EV battery, which takes up a sizeable portion of EV production cost. According to Volza’s lithium imports data in Pakistan, Pakistan imports most of its lithium products including lithium primary cells and batteries from countries such as China, the United States and Germany. Last year, Pakistan devised the Automotive Industry Development and Export Plan (AIDEP 2021-26) with an aim to boost the local EV industry, bring related manufacturing locally and also reduce the use of fossil fuel. Headquartered in China’s southwestern province of Sichuan, Tianqi Lithium is a global leader in developing and manufacturing lithium products, notably developing lithium-ion battery technologies for application in the electric vehicle and energy storage industries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1026553/chinese-firm-to-explore-lithium-resources-in-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Revitalising CPEC

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

CHINA has been a steadfast friend of Pakistan. No two views about that. Our northern neighbour came up with a multibillion-dollar project, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, at a time when Pakistan was in the throes of terrorism, and no country was willing to invest in it. However, has Pakistan optimally availed the enormous opportunities that CPEC could have yielded? The jury is still out.

Pakistan did manage to generate enough electric power to say goodbye to the brutal 16-hour-long daily load-shedding. Thousands of kilometres of highways were also built, bringing into the mainstream far-flung parts of the country. But alongside these two priority areas under CPEC, Pakistan was expected to build nine Special Economic Zones. That did not happen. So, the Chinese industries started shifting to countries where they could establish and operate seamlessly. Pakistan missed the train. Besides the delay in making SEZs, Covid-19, political and policy instability, and non-ease of doing business were responsible for CPEC's slowdown.

The moot point is whether CPEC can regain the momentum it had generated in the first few years since its launch in 2015. The visit of our prime minister to China this month has certainly provided a timely fillip to CPEC's ongoing projects and potentially new investments. The joint statement after the visit reaffirmed the "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" between the two countries. It was also agreed to "continue the momentum of CPEC's high quality development". It was a clear signal from both countries' leadership that the implementation of CPEC projects must be revitalised.

Can CPEC regain the momentum it had first generated?

Notwithstanding this reassuring message, there is a degree of curiosity as to why there was no clear announcement to start any major projects, such as the proposed multibillion-dollar ML-1 railway line project. The joint statement only "appreciated" the project and called for its earliest implementation. Likewise, the leaders agreed to "speed up progress" on Gwadar port and Khunjerab border port. However, no specific projects were announced. On some level, it is felt that China might be waiting for clarity regarding the next government in Pakistan. However, it can be argued that leaders provide only broader guidance, and work is to be done at the working level. If that is the case, it falls on the Planning Commission and concerned authorities to pursue a results-oriented approach lest the political goodwill generated by the "leadership consensus" dissipates. Another relevant factor is the high concern the Chinese have about safety and security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. Unless we adequately address these concerns, attempts to reinvigorate CPEC could run aground.

One notable outcome of the PM's visit was that CPEC was highlighted as an "open and inclusive" platform, and "welcomed interested third parties" to benefit from investment

opportunities in the priority areas of CPEC. Since CPEC was largely treated as a bilateral project, the statement to make it “inclusive” is a welcome development.

Bilateral trade between China and Pakistan has risen sharply since the signing of the first free trade agreement in 2006. However, the balance of trade is heavily in China’s favour. During the PM’s visit, the Chinese side agreed to encourage investments in the export-oriented sectors of Pakistan to achieve “sustainable bilateral trade growth”. Our traders and investors need to use this offer to integrate some of our products into China’s supply chains.

China has succeeded in lifting 800 million of its nationals out of absolute poverty. Indeed, a remarkable feat. During the PM’s visit, the Chinese expressed willingness to extend “relevant practical” cooperation to contribute to poverty reduction in Pakistan. One wonders what that would actually mean. At present, Pakistan is trying to reduce poverty through subsidies, langar-khanas, shelter homes, and income support programmes. This is clearly not a sustainable way. Pakistan should learn how China has effectively used its local government systems to lift people out of poverty.

One day after the PM’s recent visit to China, the central banks of the two countries signed a memorandum of cooperation on yuan clearing in Pakistan. If this is followed through, there could be implications vis-à-vis the US dollar. However, this would be a major step forward towards an alternative payment system for Pakistan, at least for cross-border transactions with Chinese enterprises and possibly with other countries like Iran and Russia that might accept yuan for clearing payments.

All in all, Pakistan-China relations are on course with a renewed zeal. If we can sustain the momentum, no investment can serve our people better than the invigorated CPEC.

The writer, a former foreign secretary, is director general of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, and author of *Diplomatic Footprints*.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720623>

Pakistan Observer

US-China strategic rivalry, implications for Pakistan

Sultan M Hali

THE unipolar world of yester years has given way to two main protagonists in today’s international political world order: China and the United States.

With great power rivalry between the two actors intensifying, G7 Group is considering countering President Xi Jinping’s mega project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with its own partnership for global infrastructure and investment.

BRI is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 150 countries and international organizations, which calls for China to assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising power and status.

The US, India, Japan and Australia are four major countries that oppose the BRI but most of Europe, Africa and Asia is on board.

Pakistan has a strong stake in the mega project because the flagship initiative of the BRI, the China-Pakistan Economic Project (CPEC), will benefit both China and Pakistan immensely.

Since China and the US are vying for economic supremacy, at times their rivalry takes the form of acrimony.

US President Donald Trump used to indulge in anti-China rhetoric, while the current President Joe Biden, perceives BRI as not just a humanitarian concern, but mainly as an economic and a security concern for all.

In this milieu of fierce great power competition, other countries are striving to juxtapose themselves with ethnocentric views of gaining maximum benefit for themselves without antagonizing either power.

Pakistan, being one of them, is attempting to run with the hare as well as hunt with the hounds since its foreign policy is defined by relations with China and the United States.

To date, Pakistan has not exclusively taken a side with either Beijing or Washington DC, but the question is how long Pakistan will be able to maintain this delicate balance between the two great powers?

Since the intensifying competition between the US and China also poses major risks for regional stability in South Asia and Pakistan is no exception, it has to tread carefully.

The various challenges comprise influence in war-ravaged Afghanistan, increased possibilities of conflict across contested boundaries, an escalating nuclear arms race and a deepening US-China rivalry.

All of these could exacerbate the protracted India-Pakistan conflict by increasing advanced arms and intelligence capabilities coupled with US-India strategic partnership.

India's capacity building and capability enhancement by the US is in all probability, leveraged by the rationale of US juxtaposing India as a bulwark against China but will pose a risk for Pakistan.

Amidst this environment, Pakistan is faced with a myriad of challenges. Joe Biden is hell bent on criticizing Pakistan although with the regime change in Pakistan, it was expected that Washington DC may develop a soft corner for Islamabad.

There has been pressure on Pakistan from both the US and its strategic ally to go slow on CPEC but Pakistan cannot afford to take a position either with its trustworthy and time-tested strategic ally and neighbour China, or a formidable superpower that has considerable influence over the international financial Institutions (IFIs).

Considering, Pakistan is under IMF debt, it causes serious implications for Pakistan internally and externally, at regional and global level.

Islamabad is necessitated to continue striding on a careful path in its relations with all major powers.

Its national interest should be the only criteria for maintaining ties with these two important powers.

India's enhanced military capabilities will pose a risk for Pakistan; therefore, Islamabad has to be cognizant of the developments in this sphere and have to be proactive instead of reactive.

Already armed to the teeth, India carries a major threat to Pakistan. The animosity between New Delhi and Beijing is no secret while India is reportedly insisting on the US to pressurize Pakistan to abandon CPEC.

This creates another challenge to Islamabad because it cannot afford to compromise on the CPEC which is crucial for Pakistan's economy.

The Indian military developments and overtures especially in the Indian Ocean need to be carefully examined while appropriate preparations are made.

The rising Sino-US tension over Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, US deliberate policies and measures to counter China need to be taken cognizance of.

The US has revived the QUAD Group which comprises Australia, India, Japan and the USA and formed the AUKUS, having Australia, the UK and the US as anti-China alliances.

China has the potential to replace the United States as the greatest superpower in the future.

But Beijing perceives it differently, since it desires to rule over the global economy rather than aiming for global hegemony.

Every now and then, China has emphasised over the fundamental responsibility of status equality and role of both Beijing and Washington as global leaders.

Pakistan being one of the major powers in South Asia with nuclear capabilities, plays a significant role in regional peace and stability.

Its strategic geographical location adds impetus to its importance. With respect to US-China strategic rivalry, the alliance formation in the South Asian region is very much patent.

US allies with India for a much bigger partnership, as India is the third-largest economy in the world, edging out Pakistan's long term relations with the US.

Pakistan has to strengthen its relations by diversifying its avenues of friendship, a cooperation at global level and not just with America alone, may it be China or even Russia.

With the current global economic crisis and Pakistan's economic recession aggravated by its political crisis, it's an obligation for Pakistan to pursue its national interests and leave behind efforts that were forsaken in the past.

This is why Pakistan must endeavour to maintain a steady relationship with both great powers to endorse its national interests, brushing off any inclination with any of the two at any given period.

The future of US-China competition in the Indo-Pacific region is uncertain and this region is again vulnerable to giant economies like US-China rivalry in the IP.

China and the United States need to take into consideration the regional countries because they are directly and indirectly impacted by the strategic competition.

—The Author is a Retired Group Captain of PAF, who has written several books on China.

<https://pakobserver.net/us-china-strategic-rivalry-implications-for-pakistan-by-sultan-m-hali/>

The Express Tribune

Sesame seed exports to China surge 50%

Free trade deal, good prices drive increase in shipments

BEIJING: Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China surged to \$59.09 million in the first nine months of current calendar year, showing a growth of 50% year-on-year, according to data of the General Administration of Customs of People's Republic of China (GACC).

Data received by Pakistan from the GACC showed that China imported 39,533.855 tons of sesame seeds, an increase of 22% by volume, worth \$59.09 million while last year in the same period it imported 32,487 tons worth \$39.44 million.

January was the best month for sesame seed exports as Pakistan shipped 26,658.61 tons worth \$39.89 million to China followed by September when exports stood at 5,563.45 tons worth \$8.66 million.

Pakistan Embassy Commercial Counsellor Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net (CEN) that recently sesame seed exports increased due to China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and good prices in the Chinese market.

"We will try to take Chinese investors to Pakistan to help them set up factories having latest technologies so that we are able to produce processed items of this product, which will further enhance Pakistan's exports to China and the rest of the world," he added.

The commercial counsellor said that Pakistan's government was providing many incentives to the Chinese investors, adding that transferring technologies and shifting or setting up factories was the only way that could reduce Pakistan's trade deficit and increase exports.

Agricultural expert Ali Rizwan told CEN that the government of Pakistan introduced new crops, especially in 2016.

The national oilseed enhancement programme was launched in Punjab and then at the federal level, which helped farmers to export their crops. These are fast cash and well-paid crops.

"There are two big advantages of the Chinese market; first the price is good as compared to the domestic market. Second, the market is very big, if you get any order, mostly it is very difficult for one exporter to meet the order," he stated.

Data showed that overall China imported 891,238.599 tons of sesame seeds worth around \$1.35 billion from different parts of the world.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2386116/sesame-seed-exports-to-china-surge-50>

The Nation

Visit to China

Muhammad Zahid Rifat

The two-day official visit of Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to China was quite historic, productive and result-oriented despite its short duration. It reflected the warmth, strength and depth of relations between the two iron brothers.

During his visit the PM went sat through a series of meetings with the President of China, Xi Jinping, Premier of the State Council, Li Keqiang, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People' Congress.

These meetings reaffirmed that our close strategic ties and profound friendship with China is resilient and has been serving the interests of both countries for some time. Both sides also reiterated that their bilateral relations will always be given the highest priority. The PM told the Chinese leaders that our relationship with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and that the people of Pakistan will always be supportive.

The PM congratulated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and admired his leadership, wisdom and people-oriented philosophy of development. He also commended him on his contributions towards Pakistan-China relations and invited him to visit Pakistan.

The PM also apprised the top Chinese leadership on the ways it is dealing with the atrocities and brutalities bring committed by the Indian security forces in India's Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

In regards to Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, prosperous, interconnected and stable Afghanistan was fundamental to the region's prosperity and progress. They also expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the three Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and looked forward to the next meeting that is going to be held in Uzbekistan. They also highlighted the dire for the international community to continue providing assistance and support to Afghanistan through releasing its financial assets.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also quite expectedly figured prominently during the visiting PM's meetings with the Chinese leadership. Both sides reaffirming their commitment to the high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and enhancing the resilience of the CPEC.

According to the information available through official sources of both countries, the Chinese and Pakistani leaders, while recognising that Main Line-1 (ML-1) is a somewhat ambitious project for upgrading and rehabilitating the rail link from Karachi to Peshawar, agreed that it is a project of key significance and vital to Pakistan's socio-economic development. They

agreed advance the process for its implementation and also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR).

While duly recognising the importance and significance of the Gwadar Port in Balochistan, the leaders expressed their satisfaction over the completion of key projects and agreed to further speed up progress on other related projects of the Gwadar Port and Free Zone.

The two sides also had consensus for accelerating cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, Information Technology (IT), socio-economic development under CPEC, and agreed to further build on the health industry. Both sides also expressed their determination to fully counter all threats and designs against CPEC and friendship of the two countries. The PM availed the opportunity to reaffirm his government's commitment to the safety and security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

The Chinese side also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government to develop renewable energy projects including solar projects which align with the green, low carbon and environmental development of the energy sector.

It is also worth mentioning here that top leaders also expressed their satisfaction over the close cooperation, trust and communication between the armed forces of Pakistan and China. They stated that it was an important factor that maintained peace and stability in the region and agreed to maintain high level visits, military exchanges and further deepen ongoing cooperation in areas of training, joint exercises and military technology.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-13/page-6/detail-1>

November 14, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC projects to be executed on fast-track basis: Chinese diplomat

HASSAN ABBAS

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren on Sunday said that Chinese leadership is ready to work jointly with every segment of society so that common man will enjoy the benefits of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He was addressing a seminar on China-Pak relations, organised by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

Zhao said China terms people of Pakistan real stakeholder besides government and Chinese leadership is ready to work jointly with every segment of society.

Regarding the slow pace on CPEC, the counsel general said that it is not appropriate to blame anybody for slowdown on the pace of CPEC. He also said that pace of all projects on CPEC will be executed on fast-track.

He termed Congress impacts positive on the development of China-Pak relations, saying recent Prime Minister Shehbaz successful maiden official visit to China right after the Party Congress as the first head of government speaks volumes about the great importance attached to by the new Chinese leadership on China-Pakistan relations.

“During the PM’s visit, both sides issued a joint statement and signed or concluded several agreements/ MoUs in wide areas. Leaders of the two countries reached an important consensus on the ML-1 project for its early implementation. China also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and encourage Chinese companies to participate in solar and other renewable energy projects,” he added.

China also announced, he said, to Pakistan an extra 500 million Yuan in emergency assistance for post-disaster reconstruction, making the total aid of 1.16 billion Yuan (36 billion rupees), ranking first among the helping countries.

Foreign Affairs expert and chairman IIRMR Muhammad Mehdi said that all countries definitely accept influence from the surrounding conditions and when it comes to China, this situation is always pleasant.

“The recent 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has expressed the preferences of the Chinese people in front of the world. After Communist Revolution under the leadership of its great leader, Chairman Mao, poverty elimination and Chinese journey to become moderate prosperous country were the milestones achieved in the leadership of President Xi Jinping,” he added.

“Pakistan understands the importance of CPEC which should be reflected in foreign and economic policies. Therefore, Pakistan should have a permanent definite policy regarding CPEC, just as Pakistan has a permanent definite policy regarding friendship with China, and whatever political changes may take place in Pakistan in the future, there should be no negative impact on this project,” he said.

Secretary Punjab University Academic Staff Association Dr Amjad Abbas Magsi said that the Communist Party of China (CPC), the ruling party of the world’s second-largest economy, has unveiled its new top leadership.

The party has successfully led the Chinese people in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, completing the First Centenary Goal. Being a primarily agricultural country about 70 years ago, China today boasts the world’s second-largest economy, the most extensive social welfare system, the largest high-speed railway network and cutting-edge technologies.

It was also a decade of severe challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, a trade war with the United States and the downward pressure on the economy all posed hurdles for China’s development and tested the strength of Xi and the Party he leads.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, China, which has managed to coordinate pandemic control and economic development, remains a stabilizer for global supply and industrial chains, and an engine for world economic recovery.

China’s vision of building a human community with a shared future is gaining support from more countries and will play a vital role in promoting world peace and development, said former diplomat Nazir Husain. He said that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was the first head of government to visit Beijing to felicitate Chinese President Xi Jinping, who secured a record third five-year term at the recent Congress of the ruling Communist Party. This is an eloquent recognition of the evergreen relationship between the two countries.

“The two leaders reviewed the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Several areas were identified and agreements were signed to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation in diverse areas and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation,” he added

Dr Qais Aslam, former Chairman Department of Economics, GCU, Lahore, congratulated President Xi for securing third term in 20th CPC congress and underlined the importance of Pakistan-China relations that are robust and historic, especially the agreements made between the two countries under one belt and road vision of president Xi.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/14/3-page/947374-news.html>

Discussion on China’s fintech model held on IBA’s main campus

KARACHI: China Study Centre COMSATS Islam-abad and China Study Centre Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi University Campus, in collaboration with Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organized a discussion on “Understanding Fintech Model of China – Evolving Role of Financial Technologies in e-Commerce Industry of Pakistan”, here at IBA Main Campus, University of Karachi.

The two-panel discussion programme was chaired and opened by Vice Chancellor COMSATS, Dr Tabassum Afzal. Dr Afzal said that understanding alternative payment methods and their implementation in a consumer market like Pakistan are huge challenges, but are crucial for Pakistan to be able to stand with global markets. He also said COMSATS was planning to conduct an international FinTech conference in the year 2023 to discuss the evolution of Pakistan’s budding FinTech industry.

The Dean of IBA’s Business School, Dr Abdullah Sheikh, in his welcome note said it is crucial to understand the Fintech model of China owing to the reception and trust that the Chinese society has put in the Fintech market.

In the first forum, moderated by Dr Tahir Mumtaz, Director of the China Study Centre COMSATS Islamabad titled “Understanding the Digital Transformation & FinTech model of China-Lessons for Pakistan” the panelists were Atyab Tahir, Founder & CEO Trayle, Amin Rahman, Chief Digital Officer Faysal Bank Ltd, Nadeem Haroon - Country Head - Union Pay International, Dr Safia Minhaj – Professor, University of Karachi and Faiq Sattar – Co-Founder & CEO, Asaan Ghar Finance Limited.

The industry leaders discussed how the Chinese Fintech market has evolved and integrated into society, with the focus being on micro-utilities to tap into a wider consumer base. Parallels were also drawn on how conventional financial systems in China and Pakistan are different in terms of operability and consumer driven innovation.

In the second forum titled “Are we ready for Financial Technologies Innovation? Present and Future of E-Commerce Industry in Pakistan”, the panel comprised of Syed Faraz Javed – General Manager Digital Financial Services/epay, National Institutional Facilitation Technologies (Pvt) Ltd (NIFT), Saad Niazi – Chief Operating Officer KEENU, Shariq Mubeen – Head of Alternate Channels, Meezan Bank, Fizza Nadeem Siddiqui – Founder Peervest Global Pakistan, Venture Partner – Republic USA, Head of Investment – First

Founders USA and Qazi Nauman Mujahid – Director Operations, Digitech Infra Associates. The panel was moderated by Dr Nasir, Head of China Study Centre IBA.

The second forum discussed how Pakistan, as a conducive business environment needs reforms and structural realignment. It was also suggested that Fintech in Pakistan needs to be incentivized and regulatory processes need to be streamlined for a better industrial growth.—
PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/14/5-page/947397-news.html>

The CPEC

Anjum Ibrahim

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) began amidst much fanfare in 2015 subsequent to the visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping to Islamabad, a vital component of the One Belt One Road (OBOR)/Belt Road Initiative (BRI) launched by Jinping in 2013 and touted by the then Nawaz Sharif-led government as the only major source of direct foreign investment.

BRI is defined as a strategic infrastructure development policy decision backed by investment in 30 international organizations and 149 countries including Nigeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Egypt, the UAE, Singapore, South Korea, and Israel but with Pakistan the single largest recipient; and within BRI so far CPEC, Boten-Vientiane Railway in Laos and Khorgos land port (connecting Kazakhstan to China by rail) are regarded as flagship projects.

Italy and Greece have also joined the BRI and in this context it is relevant to note that former German chancellor Angela Merkel declared that BRI “must lead to a certain reciprocity, and we are still wrangling over that bit” while in January 2019 French president Macron said: “the ancient Silk Roads were never just Chinese ... New roads cannot go just one way.”

US President Joe Biden in early 2019 proposed a counter BRI strategy titled Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, that was supported by 12 countries including India, and stipulated four principles: respect for sovereignty and independence; peaceful resolution of disputes; free, fair, and reciprocal trade; and adherence to international rules and norms. On 11 February 2022 the White House issued a fact sheet on its Indo-Pacific Strategy that included the following pledge: “we will build collective capacity within and beyond the region, including by deepening our five regional treaty alliances with Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand, strengthening relationships with leading regional partners including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Pacific Islands;” and what was almost certainly targeting China and no doubt alienated Pakistan was the pledge of “supporting India’s continued rise and regional leadership.” Actual investment under this Strategy, if any, has so far not been made public.

US officials have also been publicly critical of the CPEC component reflected in the now retired Ambassador Alice Wells statement on 21 November 2019: “CPEC is the Chinese communist party’s largest OBOR Initiative, reflecting over \$60 billion in regionally pledged commitment for projects in Pakistan. The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing, has repeated the oft-used characterization of CPEC as a game-changer for Pakistan... It’s easy to

understand why Pakistan's previous government leapt at the opportunity to conclude a CPEC MOU. Just like many other countries in the region, Pakistan has huge infrastructure and development needs and for many of my friends in the audience who have spent time in Pakistan, you've experienced first-hand those energy shortages... According to Pakistani government statistics, for each megawatt generated by a completed CPEC thermal energy project, developers spent an estimated 1.5 million. In comparison, the cost per megawatt of building non-CPEC thermal plants is half of that, or 0.75 million...what are the burdens that have fallen on the new government to manage, now with an estimated \$15 billion in debt to the Chinese government and another \$6.7 billion in Chinese commercial debt? Because it's clear, or it needs to be clear, that CPEC is not about aid. This is almost always the form of loans or other forms of financing, often non-concessional, with sovereign guarantees, or guaranteed profits for Chinese state-owned enterprises that are repatriated to China.....On transparency, the lack of transparency can increase CPEC costs and foster corruption resulting in an even heavier debt burden for Pakistan.....We hear the familiar Chinese catch phrase win/win cooperation and mutual benefit. But really, CPEC relies primarily on Chinese workers and supplies even amid rising unemployment in Pakistan. And for these projects, Chinese companies are importing materials and equipment from China rather than giving that business to Pakistani companies which would actually create jobs for locals."

India on the other hand has focused its criticism on CPEC and its unrealistic claim is that it ignores New Delhi's concerns on its sovereignty and territorial integrity as it passes through Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

A counter-narrative to the US-India stance has been circulating on the internet. Professor D Brautigam at the John Hopkins University, debunked the idea of participating countries having bad experience with China adding that "the evidence so far, including the Sri Lankan case, shows that the drumbeat of alarm about Chinese banks' funding of infrastructure across the BRI and beyond is overblown...a large number of people have favourable opinions of China as an economic model and consider China an attractive model for their development." She then proceeded to highlight the fact that Sri Lanka owed more to Japan, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank than to China; and wrote in 2018 that Chinese loans are not currently a major contributor to debt distress in Africa.

Bickram Rana and Jason Ji Xianbai of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University argue that the debt trap diplomacy argument of the West is "more myth than reality" and while accepting some countries are facing issues with repayment to China they highlight China's willingness to help these nations restructure debt through partial debt relief though this has not been evident in Pakistan's case yet.

Center for Global Development, a Washington-based think tank, noted that between 2001 and 2017, China restructured or waived loan repayments for 52 debtor nations, the majority being BRI participants, without seizing state assets, and that the debt trap argument resonates in the US rather than in participating countries due to "the US anxiety about China's rise as a global power." This applies to Pakistan even though post 2019 Pakistan's reliance on Chinese loans for budget support and balance of payment support has risen significantly.

Empirical studies undertaken by various research institutes, Chinese and Western, indicate that BRI impacts positively on the poor; and the charge that the Chinese import their own unskilled labour for BRI/CPEC projects rather than hiring indigenous labour has also been debunked by many governments including Pakistan. It is relevant to note that Western bilateral/multilateral assistance requiring the hiring of consultants and/or skilled labor is almost exclusively sourced from the West.

So why has CPEC impact not been greater on our poor and vulnerable? Three observations are critical. First, the Pakistan government selection of projects was not appropriate. An example is setting up coal fired plants which hindsight shows was not the right way forward either in terms of: (i) locating these plants close to the source of coal to avoid significant health hazards; or (ii) taking account of the fluctuating cost of key fuel inputs that are subject to the vagaries of the international market as well as the rupee-dollar parity – the two factors that are currently impacting massively on the cost of generation for end consumers.

Secondly the agreements signed with the Chinese companies were a facsimile of agreements signed earlier with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) that were to the disadvantage of the consumer as they envisaged capacity payments (irrespective of whether the capacity was purchased or not and payable in dollars). This showed no lessons learned from the contracts signed under the previous power policies 1992 and 1994.

And finally, the general economic mismanagement and poor governance have undermined the gains that could have been visible in spite of poor project selection and contracts signed.

To conclude, there is a need for the executive at the federal and provincial level (unskilled at determining the economic benefits and cost of each project as well as the critical importance of the economic and internal rate of return of each project) to take a back seat to the experts when selecting projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/14/6-page/947400-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani fresh cherries gaining market access in China

Pakistani fresh cherries is gaining market access in China, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday.

During Pakistani Prime Minister Shabaz's visit to China earlier this month, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the Ministry of Food Security and Research of Pakistan signed the Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Fresh Cherries from Pakistan to China by exchanging signed texts, thus marking that fresh cherries produced in Pakistan have won China's market access.

According to a report released by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan, cherries in Pakistan mainly come from Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) regions, with a planting area of about 5,931 acres and a yield of approximately 6,000 tons, which is about 2/3 of the world average.

The ministry estimates that 10% of the cherries are available for export currently, worth about \$1.77 million, with a broad space for further export.

There is a huge demand for imported cherries in the Chinese market. China imports more than 200,000 tons of cherries annually, making it the world's largest consumer of cherries.

The approval of Pakistani cherries to enter the Chinese market is expected to drive the development of Pakistan's domestic cherry industry, Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said in a recent interview with China Economic Net.

He added, "China and Pakistan can cooperate to introduce Chinese technology to expand the planting area of cherries, improve the unit yield and fruit quality, and invest in the construction of cold treatment facilities, which will not only meet the demand of the Chinese market but also bring foreign exchange earnings to Pakistan."

Since 2019, relevant Chinese and Pakistani departments have initiated risk analysis for the export of fresh cherries from Pakistan to China. The two sides have reached an agreement on the list of quarantine pest and cold treatment conditions and finally signed the export protocol. Dr. Gu informed that Pakistan's cherry orchards should focus on environmental-friendly production and biological control of quarantine pests should be enhanced during cultivation.

"All cherries exported to China must be treated cold. Conditions of cold treatment facilities and sanitary conditions during processing, packaging, storage, and shipping of cherries need to be further improved," suggested him. Explaining the transportation Dr. Gu said that fresh cherries are of high value and those produced in Baluchistan can be exported from Pakistan to China by air-cooling.

"As Pakistan Customs further improves its inspection and quarantine facilities at Suster Pass, cherries produced in the GB region can also be exported to China via refrigerated containers at Khunjerab Pass," added him. Under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, cherries from Pakistan that meet the requirements can enjoy zero tariffs when exported to China.

According to the Protocol on Plant Quarantine Requirements of Pakistan Fresh Cherries Exported to China, the exported cherry orchards, packaging plants, refrigerated warehouses, and related processing facilities must be reviewed and filed by the Ministry of Food Security and Research of Pakistan, and the ministry will provide the list of names to GACC for approval and registration. Since November 2021, China and Pakistan have signed four protocols on exports of agricultural products to China including onions, buffalo embryo, Rhodes Grass, and fresh cherries.

At present, the two sides are carrying out risk analysis on the export of dried chilies, potatoes, dairy products, cooked beef, and other agricultural products to China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1026976/pakistani-fresh-cherries-gaining-market-access-in-china/>

Dawn News

Four corridors being added to CPEC, says Chinese diplomat

Amjad Mahmood

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren has said four corridors are being added to the flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as both Islamabad and Beijing have agreed to it during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to the country.

Speaking at a seminar here on Sunday on impacts of the policies adopted at the 20th congress of the Communist Party of China that elected President Xi Jinping as its secretary general for another five-year term, he termed Shehbaz Sharif's maiden visit as premier "unprecedentedly constructive and successful" as both sides agreed to adding four new corridors — digital, industrial, green and health — to the CPEC project.

Replying to questions about the "slowed down" pace of work on the CPEC in the recent past, the diplomat said he would not blame anyone, in China or Pakistan, for it, but could assure [Pakistanis] that from now on things would speed up.

He said the project would benefit both China and Pakistan, but it would be more beneficial for the latter. He urged Pakistanis that being on the driving seat, they should take ownership of the project, while Chinese could only facilitate them in this regard.

Foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mahdi lamented that the first phase of the CPEC could not be completed because of 'ineptness' of the previous [PTI] government. He said all political parties needed to make a commitment with the CPEC in their respective manifestos for the next elections so that the project could not be harmed again.

About the anti-CPEC propaganda, he said the Western world is also being taken on board on the project, while premier Sharif made it clear during a reception hosted by the US ambassador that Islamabad would go with the country that would come forward and help Pakistan at this critical time.

He said China has so far given Rs30 billion in aid — the largest by any country — for the flood victims, while it's also expected to announce the biggest relief for Pakistan at the Paris Club meeting.

Jawed Salim Qureshi, the chairman of an agricultural research organisation, stressed on transfer of technology in the agriculture sector, particularly for major crops like cotton, wheat and maize, to enhance the yield and cut cost of production for the local farmers.

Comparing the data on the wide agricultural production gap between China and Pakistan, he said old seeds of various crops were failing to give desired results and there's need for introducing new ones. He said if there was any obstacle in government-to-government cooperation, then avenues of business-to-business cooperation should be explored to accelerate local farm productivity as the private sector did not require subsidies but facilitation.

Former additional secretary Nazeer Hussain said the CPEC was targeted by the vested interests through thousands of "fake" articles published in the print media and called for an

effective response to such propaganda. He said the civil society must be taken along for sustainable Pak-China relations. Chinese diplomatic and economic help would also be needed for stability in Afghanistan, the route to Central Asia, he added.

Dr Amjad Magsi from the Punjab University said China's vision of building a human community with a shared future is gaining support from more countries and will play a vital role in promoting world peace and development.

Dr Khalid Jalal from a UK-based university regretted that the previous government in Pakistan showed a lack of commitment to the CPEC. Referring to the Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's troubleshooting role in relations between the two countries, he said Islamabad could not yet decide on the post-Bajwa scenario with regard to sustainability of the CPEC.

Dr Qais Aslam, Dr Waheed Ahmed Khan, Tayyab Aijaz Qureshi, Sajjad Mir, Javed Nawaz, Yasir Habib, Dr Hussain Paracha and others also spoke on the occasion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720811>

Gwadar protesters threaten to block CPEC projects

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Hundreds of children took out a protest rally in the port city of Gwadar and joined the Maulana Hidayatur Rehman-led sit-in that entered its 18th day on Sunday, with protesters threatening to block China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) if their demands are not met within a week.

Maulana Rehman, the head of Haq Do Tehreek who came to national attention when massive peaceful protests swept Gwadar, has once again staged a sit-in for the implementation of the agreement reached with the provincial government in December last year after a month-long sit-in.

The children reached Gwadar city from Turbat, Pasni and other areas of Gwadar district and marched through the streets carrying placards and banners inscribed with their demands.

They chanted slogans against the government and the authorities concerned for not implementing the agreement signed by the government to ban illegal trawling in Gwadar and eliminate unnecessary checkpoints, among several other issues.

Hundreds of children join Gwadar sit-in

Addressing the rally, Maulana Rehman, who is also general secretary of Jamaat-i-Islami's Balochistan chapter, strongly criticised the government and said the people of Makran had been protesting for the last two weeks, but no government official came for negotiations, which reflected the non-serious attitude of rulers.

He warned that if citizens' demands were not accepted and the agreement with the Haq Do Tehreek was not honoured until Nov 20, the expressway, Gwadar port and CPEC projects would be closed.

He said the movement he had started could not be abandoned now, and the children who were participating in the rally would lead the protests in future, as they also knew the rulers were not taking steps to resolve the problems of their parents.

“If Pakistan is for sardars, nawabs, generals and judges, then we do not accept such Pakistan,” Maulana said, urging the people to prepare themselves for a long, peaceful struggle.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720792>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani youth ready to contribute to building global digital infrastructure: Envoy

“Pakistan is focusing on innovation, technology, and digitalization. We have one of the youngest populations in the world, which is talented and tech savvy and is ready to contribute to the global effort.”

This was stated by , Pakistani Ambassador to China at the “Belt and Road” Internet International Cooperation Forum, one of the sub forums of the World Internet Conference (WIC) 2022 held in Wuzhen, China, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

With the theme “Towards a Shared Digital Future in a Connected World – Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace,” this year’s WIC Wuzhen summit brought together more than 2,000 representatives from over 120 countries and regions.

They showcased more than 200 projects which aimed at building a community in cyberspace and using digital technologies to promote social fairness.

Pointing out that building a digitally inclusive community is a collective global responsibility, the ambassador emphasized that Pakistan would not be far behind, and would be a willing partner in a shared concept to build a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive digital future for all.

“While constructing a global digital infrastructure, we should enable the developing countries to be an equal partner to increased investments and technical support.”, the envoy said.

‘Cooperation and development’ is one of the key focuses of WIC 2022. Amid climate change, COVID-19 epidemic and economic tremors, ‘global efforts’ is a lesson that should be drawn from the responses to past global crises.

The ambassador called on renouncing the old mindset of zero-sum games, or the winner takes it all mentality, stating that “We could not put cyberspace beyond the concept of mutual support, mutual trust, mutual benefit.” Ran Chengqi, Director General, China Satellite Navigation Office and Spokesperson of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System said that “We seek to actively cooperate with other countries in navigation satellite systems to achieve compatibility and win-win results, jointly improve the performance of systems and share that with the whole world, especially the developing and the Belt and Road countries.”

Participants from the corporate sector believe that the trend of Chinese enterprises and brands going global is unchanged. Judging from the Prime Minister's concluded visit to China, IT cooperation between the 2 nations would be sustained and deep.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-youth-ready-to-contribute-to-building-global-digital-infrastructure-envoy/>

The Nation

Heyday for Pak-China ties after 20th CPC Congress

LAHORE - A first of its kind gathering of league of Pakistani scholars and Chinese diplomats jointly subscribed the outcomes of recently-concluded 20th CPC National Congress and underlined the need to tap new diversity into Pak-China relations as well as CPEC hailing new induction of fresh corridors including health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor, and green corridor in next phase of CPEC. The Pak-China fraternity held the consensus at a seminar titled 20th CPC Congress; Party, Policy, Prospects and impacts on China-Pak Relations organized by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) here at a local hotel on Sunday. Shedding light on the sense of new opportunities, new cooperation and new development while discussing impacts of 20th CPC Congress on Pak-China relations, Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren said that China terms people of Pakistan real stakeholder, besides government and Chinese leadership is ready to work jointly with every segment of society to let CPEC fortunes to trickle down to grass route level. On CPEC dismal activity and future momentum, Mr. Zhao said that it is not appropriate to blame anybody for CPEC slowdown because now CPEC has bounced back with its natural form and pace and all projects will be executed on fast-track to make CPEC a full-on successful story. At the time of conclusion of 20th Congress that has put the new leadership in place and solidified the party self-innovation outlining major policy initiatives both at domestic and foreign fronts, the Chinese Consul General announced that 2023 is to be marked as a year of China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchange. In this regard, he said the Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture and long history of interaction with China. With the gradual resumption of direct flights operation with more frequency, people-to-people exchanges between the two countries will surely become more active, he added. As 20th CPC Congress reaffirmed the commitments of the Party and the country to world peace and common development, with dedication to promoting a human community with a shared future through the Belt and Road Initiative, he said that CPEC is going to be more mature and multi-dimensional after induction of new concepts like health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor, and green corridor in the next phase. He termed the Congress' impacts positive on the development of China-Pak relations, saying recent Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful maiden official visit to China right after the Party Congress as first head of government speaks volumes about the great importance attached to by the new Chinese leadership on China-Pakistan relations. "During the PM's visit, both sides issued a joint statement and signed or concluded several agreements/MoUs in wide areas. Leaders of the two countries reached an important consensus on the ML-1 project for its early implementation. China also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway and

encourage Chinese companies to participate in solar and other renewable energy projects,” he added. He asserted that China also announced to give Pakistan an extra 500 million yuan in emergency assistance for post-disaster reconstruction, making the total aid of 1.16 billion yuan (36 billion rupees), ranking first among the helping countries. IIRMR Chairman Muhammad Mehdi said that all countries definitely accept influence from the surrounding conditions and when it comes to China, this situation is always pleasant. “While the recent 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has expressed the preferences of the Chinese people in front of the world. After Communist Revolution under the leadership of its great leader, Chairman Mao, poverty elimination and Chinese journey to become moderate prosperous country were another milestones achieved in the leadership of President Xi Jinping,” he added. “Pakistan should understand well that the importance of CPEC which also should be reflected in foreign and economic policies. Therefore, Pakistan should have a permanent definite policy regarding CPEC and whatever political changes may take place in the country in future, there should be no negative impact on this project,” he said. IIRMR President Yasir Habib Khan said that restoration of CPEC momentum at full throttle is another watershed moment in the history of Pakistan China relations hoping that with induction of new Joint Working Groups (JWGs), CPEC is going to get positioned to anchor Pakistan economy. He urged for early implantation of use of RMB for trading transection between Pakistan and China that will open a brand new chapter of tenacious and resilient economic trajectory between both countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-14/page-10/detail-7>

The News

Perspectives of CPC 20th National Congress & Pak-China relations

Zhao Shiren,

Chinese Consul General Lahore

The 20th National Congress of the CPC came to a successful end in Beijing on October 22. Widely hailed as a new milestone in China’s development going forward, it is historic in all dimensions. One of the most important achievements of the Congress is re-election of Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary of the CPC. Comrade Xi was re-elected with unanimity into the Central Committee and the General Secretaryship, manifesting the consensus and massive support among the party and the people.

By serving General Secretary for a third term, Comrade Xi Jinping is sure to lead China in building a modern socialist country in all respects, achieving the second centenary goal and ultimately the national rejuvenation.

To help Pakistani audience better understand the 20th CPC National Congress, I’d like to use “3Ps” (personnel, party and policy) to summarise the key outcomes and important contributions of the Congress.

Like election, the party Congress is to choose the new leadership which always attracts most attention. The 1st party plenary session was held the day after the closing of the Congress, providing a clear picture of the central leadership to the outside world. Party’s Politburo

Standing Committee, the highest decision-making body in China, remains consisting of seven persons, with three retaining their membership and four new faces. General Secretary Xi Jinping remains at the party core position. It is also worth mentioning that Mr Li Qiang has been elected the second-ranking Politburo Standing Committee member, indicating a high probability for him to be the new head of government in March 2023 when the National People's Congress session comes.

By a new leadership lineup, the Congress shows solidarity, unity and political certainty coupled with a fresh vigor and vitality. It also ensures at the highest level of the CPC consistency, continuity and sustainability of China's domestic and foreign policy.

The party and the Chinese people have reached common understanding that the great achievements made by China in the new era owe to the strong leadership of the party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, as well as to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Success of a country and of a political party requires a strong leadership core and the guidance of well-conceived theories and strategies. As China forges ahead, the establishment of Comrade Xi Jinping's core position in the party leadership and of the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought is of decisive significance for the whole nation.

The CPC is the leading political force in China and plays a pivotal role in building China into a modern major power. As the largest political party (96 million members) and governing party in the world, it faces daunting challenges in governance, reform and opening up, building of the market economy and the external environmental risks. The CPC is also confronted with major dangers of being lackluster in spirit, insufficient capacity-building, disengagement from the population and corruption.

The CPC knows well the old adage: "it takes a good blacksmith to make good steel". Soberly recognising the aforementioned challenges and risks, and acknowledging the scenario of "too big to fall", the party stays alert and is determined to tackle all the issues to maximise the people's support and consolidate its position as the long-serving ruling party. The 20th Congress once again revised the party Constitution, exercised full and rigorous self-governance, reaffirmed and renewed the central leadership composition, highlighted for the first time the great spirit of party building and incorporated the fighting spirit and the capacity-building into its Constitution. It has further strengthened the centralised and unified leadership of the party Central Committee, enhanced internal cohesion and organisational functions and improved the systems and regulations for party's reform and innovation.

It has adopted strict measures to regulate party members' conduct and enforce the discipline, making relentless efforts to win the tough and protracted battle against corruption. The Congress has laid a solid foundation for the party to set sail for the second centenary goal and the great project of the CPC building.

National security and social stability is prerequisite for building a strong and prosperous China. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has provided predictable, consistent and credible policies to its own people and to the world. One prominent feature of the overall policy outcomes of the 20th Congress is the Chinese modernisation which is crucial for China

to kick off a good start in building a modern socialist country in all respects in the years ahead.

This achievement is a major theoretical breakthrough in terms of guiding policy and principle. Modernisation is the national pursuit of almost all the countries in the world and is widely interpreted as westernisation only. This perception has been corrected by the 20th Congress in which the party points out that the Chinese modernisation is socialist modernisation pursued under the leadership of the CPC. It contains elements that are common to the modernisation processes of all countries, but is more characterised by features that are unique to the Chinese context.

First, Chinese modernisation covers a huge population of over 1.4 billion, a number that is larger than that of the developed countries combined. Second, Chinese modernisation strives for achieving common prosperity for all, which means to meet the people's aspirations for a better life and promote social fairness and justice, bring prosperity to the whole society and prevent polarisation.

Third, Chinese modernisation is of material and cultural-ethical advancement. It pursues to improve not only people's material wellbeing, but also the cultural enrichment. The party strives to develop advanced culture, foster strong ideals and convictions and promote material abundance as well as full development of the people.

Fourth, Chinese modernisation promotes harmony between humanity and nature, thus responding to the climate change and environmental hazards, meaning we have only one planet to live on and we should ensure a sustainable development. Fifth, Chinese modernisation is committed to peaceful development, meaning China will not tread the old path of war, colonisation and plunder taken by some countries. China will stand on the right side of history and be dedicated to world peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit through its own development.

The primary task for Chinese modernisation is to pursue high-quality development: the high-quality economic growth and reform & opening up; the high-quality democratic governance and whole-process people's democracy; the high-quality cultural growth and social justice; the high-quality security establishment and the high-quality capacity and institutional building on governance.

The Congress has made it clear that China will follow Chinese modernisation to achieve the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

China's experience and practice have proven that every country must choose its own path of development based on its own national realities. There is no universal model, nor will China export its development model. The Chinese modernisation provides a new paradigm for international community and the developing countries in particular.

At present, momentous changes of a like not seen in a century are accelerating across the world, with a significant shift taking place in the international balance of power. Pandemic has had far-reaching effects; a backlash against globalisation is rising and unilateralism and protectionism are mounting. The global economic recovery is sluggish, regional conflicts and disturbances are frequent and global issues are becoming more difficult to tackle with.

Suffered by the growing deficits in peace, development, security and governance, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change, coming to a crossroads in history.

The CPC Congress reaffirms the commitments of the party and the country to world peace and common development and is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future through the Belt and Road Initiative. China, adhered to the right course of economic globalisation, is prepared to invest more resources in global development cooperation and will play a more active part in the reform and development of the global governance system.

China will be more actively involved in setting global security rules, work to promote international security cooperation and play a constructive role in ensuring world peace and regional stability. We are committed to promoting a new type of international relations. We cherish friendship and cooperation with other countries, especially strive to enhance friendly ties, mutual trust and converging interests with our neighbouring countries.

Facing such highly uncertain world, the Congress responds to it with certainty, hedging the instability of the international situation with the stability of its foreign policies and providing a strong and lasting impetus for the recovery of the world economies, making unremitting efforts for the peaceful development of the region and the world.

The 20th Congress has put the new leadership in place, solidified the party self-innovation and reform, defined the national development philosophy and strategy, outlined major policy initiatives both domestic and foreign and charting a new course for China's future development.

The Congress has also positive impact on the development of China-Pakistan relations. Prime Minister Shehbaz paid a successful maiden official visit to China right after the party Congress. He is the first head of government invited. This speaks volumes about the great importance attached to by the new Chinese leadership on China-Pakistan relations.

During the PM's visit, both sides issued a joint statement and signed several agreements/MoUs in a wide range of areas. Leaders of the two countries reached an important consensus on the ML-1 project for its early implementation. China also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway and encourage Chinese companies to participate in solar and other renewable energy projects. New concepts like health corridor, industrial corridor, digital corridor and green corridor will become an important part of the high-quality development of the CPEC in the next phase.

China also announced to Pakistan an extra 500 million yuan in emergency assistance for post-disaster reconstruction, making the total aid of 36 billion rupees, ranking first among the helping countries. Next year will usher in the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchange and the Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture.

With the gradual resumption of more frequent direct flights between the two countries, people-to-people exchanges will surely regain new momentum.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward traditional friendship and expand all-round cooperation to benefit the people of the two countries and enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

As Consul General of China in Lahore, I have more confidence in and higher expectations for stronger, closer and more fruitful bilateral relations. We will work closely with Pakistani side to inject new momentum into our partnership and speed up building of China-Pakistan community with a shared future. I want to quote one of President Xi's remarks here: "empty talk will do nothing for the country, solid work only will make it flourish". This indeed applies to the development of China-Pakistan relations.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=147691>

Express News

داسو ڈیم میں چائینیز پر خود کش حملے کے دو مجرموں کو 13 بار سزائے موت

ہزارہ ریجن انسداد دہشت گردی کی عدالت نے داسو میں چائینیز پر خود کش حملے سے متعلق مقدمے کا فیصلہ سناتے ہوئے ملزمان محمد حسین اور محمد آواز کو: ایبٹ آباد 13 بار سزائے موت اور 15/15 لاکھ روپے جرمانے کا حکم سنایا جبکہ دیگر 4 ملزمان کو شک کی بنا پر بری کرنے کا حکم دے دیا۔

اس ضمن میں ڈپٹی انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس ہزارہ ریجن ذیشان اصغر نے ایس ایس پی سی ٹی ڈی نظیر خان کے ہمراہ پولیس کانسٹیبل کی۔ ڈی آئی جی ہزارہ ذیشان اصغر نے بتایا کہ گزشتہ برس داسو میں خود کش حملے میں چائینیز اور پاکستانی شہید ہوئے اور پولیس نے سی ٹی ڈی اور دیگر احساس اوروں کے ہمراہ جدید ٹیکنالوجی کو بروئے کار لا کر فرانزک کے ذریعے حملے میں ملوث خود کش حملہ آور کے خاندان اور ملوث تمام دیگر ملزمان کو گرفتار کیا۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ عدالت نے دو مجرموں محمد حسین کو 13 بار سزائے موت، 15/ لاکھ روپے جرمانہ، 10 سال قید بامشقت (32 بار)، 2 سال قید بامشقت بمعہ 10 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ، 18 سال قید بامشقت (7 بار)، 18 ماہ قید بامشقت اور محمد آواز عرف جانابز کو 13 بار سزائے موت، اور 15 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ، 10 سال قید بامشقت (32 بار)، 2 سال قید بامشقت مع 10 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ، 18 ماہ قید بامشقت کی سزا سنائی۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ مقدمہ میں ٹرائل مکمل کرنے کے بعد 11 نومبر کو انسداد دہشت گردی کی عدالت نے مقدمے کا فیصلہ سنایا جبکہ دیگر 4 ملزمان فضل عادی، عبدالوہاب، انور علی اور شوکت علی کو شک کی بنا پر بری کرنے کا حکم دے دیا۔

علاوہ ازیں انہوں نے بتایا کہ خود کش حملے میں 9 چائینیز، 2 ایف سی اہلکار، 2 لوکل افراد (مجموعی طور پر 13 افراد) جاں بحق ہوئے جبکہ 27 چائینیز اور 5 مقامی افراد زخمی ہوئے تھے۔ جس کا مقدمہ تھانہ سی ٹی ڈی ہزارہ ریجن میں نامعلوم ملزمان کے خلاف درج رجسٹر ہو کر مقدمہ کی تفتیش شروع ہوئی تھی۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ سی ٹی ڈی ہزارہ ریجن نے بری ہونے والے ملزمان کے خلاف ایبٹ آباد کورٹ میں دائر کر دی ہے۔ عدالت نے فیصلے کے بعد مفرور ملزمان کے خلاف دائمی وارنٹ گرفتاری زیر دفعہ 204 کے تحت جاری کر دیے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2400812/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: سست رفتاری کا گلہ نہیں، اب کام تیز، نئے کوریڈورز کا اضافہ ہوگا: چینی قونصل جنرل

لاہور (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کے قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرین نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستانی حکومت کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کی عوام کو حقیقی سٹیک ہولڈر سمجھتا ہے، سی پیک کی سست رفتاری پر کسی کو مورد الزام ٹھہرانا ٹھیک نہیں۔ سی پیک اصل رفتار سے بحال ہو گیا ہے اور سی پیک کے نئے فیئر میں چار نئے کوریڈورز کا اضافہ ہو گیا ہے جن میں ہیلیٹھ، آئی ٹی، انڈسٹریل اور گرین کوریڈورز شامل ہیں، چینی قیادت صرف حکومت نہیں بلکہ پاکستان کے ہر فرد اور سوسائٹی کے ساتھ مل کر چلانا چاہتی ہے۔ سی پیک سے حاصل ہونے والے فوائد کے اصل حقدار عوام ہیں، 2023ء پاک چائنہ تعلقات اور سی پیک کی ترقی اور تعاون کی نئی شکلوں اور قسموں کی جدید مثال قائم کرے گا، نئے سال کو ”پاک چین ٹورزم اور ایکسچینج“ کے طور پر منانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اور اس ضمن میں بیجنگ کے پیلس میوزیم میں گندھارا آرٹ نمائش کا خصوصی اہتمام کیا جائے گا جس میں پاکستان کے متنوع کلچر اور چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تاریخی تعلقات کو مؤثر انداز میں پیش کیا جائے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز اینڈ میڈیا ریسرچ کے زیر اہتمام ”20 ویں سی پی سی کانگریس، پارٹی پالیسی، پراسپیکٹس اور اس کے پاک چین تعلقات پر اثرات“ کے موضوع پر سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ چینی قونصل ژاؤ شیرین نے کہا کہ 20 ویں سی پی سی کانگریس کے پاک چین تعلقات پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوئے ہیں، کانگریس کے اختتام پر پوری دنیا سے سب سے پہلے پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا ہیڈ آف سٹیٹ کے طور پر چین کا دورہ اور صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات اس بات کا واضح ثبوت ہے کہ چین پاکستان کو پوری دنیا میں ایک خاص مقام اور عزت دیتا ہے۔ شہباز شریف نے پنجاب میں انفراسٹرکچر کیلئے کام کیا۔ چینی قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرین نے کہا کہ ہم تسلط والی سپر پاور نہیں ہیں، ہم سماجی تبدیلی کی پاور ہیں۔ ہم اندر اور باہر اپنی پالیسیوں میں تسلسل اور استحکام چاہتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آئین میں تبدیلی لائے ہیں۔ بدعنوانی اور کرپشن کا خاتمہ کر دیا ہے۔ ہم طاقت کے استعمال پر یقین نہیں رکھتے۔ دنیا میں مساوات اور عدل لانا چاہتے ہیں۔ دنیا میں کسی طور پر انتشار نہیں چاہتے۔ ہماری خارجہ پالیسی بقائے باہمی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-14/page-1/detail-27>

نومہ میں چین کو پاکستان سے تل کے بیجوں کی برآمد میں 50 فیصد اضافہ

لاہور (این این آئی) رواں سال کے پہلے نو مہینوں میں پاکستان سے چین کو تل کے بیجوں کی برآمدات بڑھ کر 59.09 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں جو کہ سال بہ سال کی بنیاد پر 50 فیصد اضافہ کو ظاہر کرتی ہے۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق چین نے 39533.855 ٹن سسٹیم کانچ درآمد کیا جس کی مالیت 59.09 ملین ڈالر کے حجم کے لحاظ سے 22 فیصد زیادہ ہے جبکہ گزشتہ سال اسی عرصے میں یہ 39.44 ملین ڈالر کی مالیت سے 32487 ٹن تھی۔ جنوری 39.89 ملین ڈالر مالیت کے 26658.61 ٹن کے ساتھ پاکستان سے چین کو تل کے بیج برآمد کرنے کے لیے بہترین مہینہ تھا اور اس کے بعد ستمبر میں 5563.45 ٹن مالیت کا 8.66 ملین ڈالر کانچ برآمد کیا گیا۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق چین نے دنیا کے مختلف حصوں سے تقریباً 1.35 ملین ڈالر مالیت کے مجموعی طور پر 891238.599 ٹن تل کے بیج درآمد کیے۔ 285.44 ملین ڈالر مالیت کے 190023.113 ٹن کے ساتھ نائیجیریا نے 2022 کے پہلے نو مہینوں میں چین کو سب سے زیادہ سسٹیم کانچ برآمد کیے، اس کے بعد 229.79 ملین ڈالر کے ساتھ سوڈان اور 169.12 ملین ڈالر کے ساتھ ٹوگو کا نمبر ہے، پاکستان اس فہرست میں آٹھویں نمبر پر ہے اور اس سال کے پہلے نو مہینوں میں چین کو ہونے والی کل برآمدات کا تقریباً 4.43 فیصد حصہ ملا ہے۔ یہ بات قابل ذکر ہے کہ پاکستان کی چین کو تل کے بیجوں کی برآمد نے 2021 میں 120.44 ملین ڈالر کا تاریخی اعداد و شمار حاصل کیا۔ مجموعی طور پر، چین نے 2021 میں 92516.55 ٹن درآمد کیے اور پاکستان چین کو تل کے بیجوں کی برآمدات میں اہم ممالک میں سے ایک تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-14/page-12/detail-2>

November 15, 2022

Business Recorder

China to help Punjab control smog, says envoy

LAHORE: Consul General of China Zhao Shiren called on Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office and discussed issues of mutual interest, increasing cooperation in various fields, especially controlling smog on Monday.

During the meeting, it was agreed in principle to promote cooperation regarding the installation of air purification towers to control smog.

The Chief Minister noted that smog has become a global problem and the government wants to use Chinese technology to control it in Punjab, especially in Lahore. Chinese technology will be beneficial for installing air purification towers in Lahore and other cities. Air-purified towers will be installed near border areas and industrial areas, he added. These towers will also be used for early flood warnings and other purposes. The Punjab government has also imposed an environmental emergency to control smog, he added.

The Chinese Consul General announced a scholarship of six million rupees for the students of Punjab this year and presented a three crore rupees cheque for flood relief.

Moreover, the CM ordered to reduce the protocol and security for himself and directed not to stop traffic during his movement. Signal-to-signal traffic flow should be maintained and the stoppage of traffic at the place should not be more than one percent, he said. The CM asserted that stopping the traffic should be avoided keeping in mind the convenience of the people. Stopping the traffic disturbs people and I want to relieve the inconvenience, we have come for the convenience of the people, he maintained.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/15/7-page/947516-news.html>

Daily Times

China Cultural Center launches 100-episode series ‘Foreigners telling Stories’

China cultural center in Pakistan has officially launched online documentary series “Foreigners telling Stories – Overseas Employees look at China”.

The 100-episode documentary series is comprising of the experiences of different foreign nationals working with different Chinese enterprises, organizations and companies. Facing the camera, they tell their real feelings of being in Chinese enterprises and observing China from the perspective of foreigners, expressing their love for China and their friendship with Chinese people.

All of them work in the overseas branches of Chinese enterprises, including managers who lead the development and growth of their companies, technical experts who work in the front line of R&D, and a group of ordinary employees who struggle for a better life. It is Co-produced by Publicity Department of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, Foreign Publicity Office of Shanghai Municipal Committee of the

Communist Party of China, Shanghai Municipal State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, Xinmin Evening News Agency and launched by China Cultural Center in Pakistan which can be seen by the official Facebook page.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan will comprehensively utilize all the humanity resources in the future to showcase Chinese history, culture and tourism, stories and will continue to make relentless efforts for a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1027294/china-cultural-center-launches-100-episode-series-foreigners-telling-stories/>

China launches \$4.5b oil refinery project in Gwadar

In an astounding development, Chinese firm East Sea Group Limited (ESGL) has kicked off a plan to establish a \$4.5 billion oil refinery in Gwadar with an annual oil processing capacity of 8 million tons, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

According to an official document available to Gwadar Pro, the project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase will have an annual refining capacity of 5 million tons. East Sea Group will place at least six crude oil transshipment vessels totaling 2 million tons at Gwadar port in Pakistan every month, starting from and supporting its own oil source business, and will also provide oil transshipment and transshipment services for major Middle East oil-producing countries.

East Sea Group CEO Fang Yulong, who is also Senior Vice President of the Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) created a pleasant ripple while breaking the news of launching the mega project of building “Gwadar Petroleum Storage and Transportation Trading Centre” during the briefing at Think Tank Session at PCICCI secretariat last week. The idea to build an oil refinery was floated in a meeting between China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Zhang Baozhong and Pakistan PM Shahbaz Sharif in June 2022.

Taking the matter as a priority, on the directives of PM Shahbaz a committee was constituted to facilitate the establishment of the refinery. In the first meeting of the committee on June 27, followed by a number of meetings under the chairmanship of the Secretary Petroleum Division, all stakeholders expressed their full support and readiness to facilitate the refinery.

According to sources in the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), the proposal revealed that the refinery will provide a substantial storage capacity to Pakistan, enabling it to maintain reserves for a longer time and save foreign exchange.

The multi-billion dollar project, upon implementation, will provide an impetus to further investment in the petrochemical industry in Gwadar. Moreover, the proposal sought the assistance of relevant government departments to facilitate the formation and subsequent implementation of a broad-based policy framework to materialize the project.

In order to greenlight the mega project by the government of Pakistan, concerned institutions are gearing up to scrutinize the detailed business plan and feasibility study for further

processing. For planning and construction, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) will fulfill the licensing requirements under OGRA Ordinance 2022.

Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nagman Abdul termed the oil refinery project as a “catalyst to open up a new chapter of development”.

With the creation of job opportunities, not only more business avenues will be opened but also Pakistan’s oil bill will shrink, he added. The move of launching a Chinese oil refinery seems to have encouraged other foreign investments that had stalled due to many reasons in the oil refinery sector during the recent past. In January 2019, Saudi Arabia’s Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih announced that the Arab nation was planning to set up a \$10 billion oil refinery in Pakistan’s deep-water port of Gwadar.

However, the plan was rolled back. Later it was indicated with vagueness that instead Gwadar, the oil refinery may be established somewhere else in Pakistan.

A few days back Saudi Arabia springs back into action by signaling renewed engagement in Gwadar. On October 27, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar also held a virtual meeting on the First Joint Economic Sub Committee of the Saudi – Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council with HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Energy Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the UAE has also shown willingness to set up a deep-conversion, state-of-the-art refinery that would have an output of 500,000 barrels per day in Hub (a town in Balochistan with Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO)).

Currently, there are five local players operating in the oil refining sector in Pakistan including, Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO), Attock Refinery Limited (ARL), National Refinery Limited (NRL), Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) and Cnergyico Pk Limited (CPL).

All of the refineries are hydroskimming refineries, except for PARCO which is a mild-conversion refinery. Pakistan’s oil refining capacity is about 450,000 barrels per day (bpd), equivalent to 20 million tons per annum. Local refineries have supplied about 60 percent of the country’s requirements of Diesel, 30 percent of Motor Gasoline, and 100 percent of Jet fuel for defense.

The rest is imported as refined products. Pakistan has been importing significant volumes of petrochemicals, worth more than USD 2 billion annually, as there is no primary petrochemical production facility in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1027417/china-launches-4-5b-oil-refinery-project-in-gwadar/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China committed to cooperate in installation of air purification towers

Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Monday assured Consul General of China Mr Zhao Shire that provincial government would extend every possible cooperation for a new Chinese consulate. Consul General of China Mr Zhao Shiren called on Chief Minister

Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office and discussed issues of mutual interest, increasing cooperation in various fields, especially controlling smog on Monday.

It was agreed in principle to promote cooperation regarding the installation of air purification towers to control smog.

The chief minister noted that smog has become a global problem and the government wants to use Chinese technology to control it in Punjab, especially in Lahore. Chinese technology will be beneficial for installing air purification towers in Lahore and other cities. Air-purified towers will be installed near border areas and industrial areas, he added.

These towers will also be used for early flood warnings and other purposes.

The Punjab government has also imposed an environmental emergency to control smog, he added.

The Chinese consul general announced a scholarship of six million rupees for the students of Punjab this year and presented a three crore rupees cheque for flood relief. Parvez Elahi thanked the Chinese government and the consul general and said that the Punjab government is thankful for the financial support of the flood victims.

The federal government has not given a penny to the Punjab government for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the flood victims; he mentioned and added that the provincial government is resettling the flood victims with its resources.

The provincial government would extend every possible cooperation for a new Chinese consulate, he stated.

The consul general thanked CM Parvez Elahi for the assurance of support regarding the new consulate and said that the Chinese scholarship for Punjab students would be further enhanced from next year. Punjab has a very favorable environment for investment and Chinese companies want to invest in Punjab. All possible measures will continue to increase cooperation in various fields, he added.

The consul general also invited CM Parvez Elahi to visit the consulate and embassy.

The Chief of the Political Section of the Chinese Consul General Mr Yan Yang was also present. Chief Secretary Abdullah Khan Sumbal, Senior Member Board of Revenue Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Former principal secretary GM Sikandar, former president Bank of Punjab Hamesh Khan, secretary environment, Zeeshan Zakaria and others were also present.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-committed-to-cooperate-in-installation-of-air-purification-towers/>

The News

Killing of nine Chinese workers, four others: Two get multiple death penalties in Dasu terror attack

ISLAMABAD/ABBOTTABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Monday handed down death sentence to two accused in Dasu Hydro Power Project (DHPP) terrorist attack case in which 13 people, including nine Chinese workers, were killed.

The court handed down death sentence on 13 counts to each of the two accused identified as Muhammad Hasnain alias Zawan Mama and Muhammad Ayaz alias Janbaz. The court also fined the accused Rs1.5 million each, which the heirs of the deceased would receive.

The court also awarded 10-year imprisonment to each convict for attempt to murder under Section 324 PPC, two-year imprisonment under Section 337 PPC, two-year imprisonment under Section 427 PPC, and a fine of Rs1 million.

Meanwhile, the court declared four other accused, including Shaukat Ali, Anwar Ali, and Fazal Hadi, as the proclaimed offenders. All the four accused are stated to have taken refuge in Afghanistan.

At least 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu Hydropower Project, were killed when a bus carrying them fell into a ravine after an explosion on July 14, 2021. The bus was ferrying the Chinese and Pakistani workers to an under-construction tunnel.

Deputy Inspector General of Counter-Terrorism Department (DIG-CTD) Javed Iqbal had said that more than 100 kilograms of explosive material had been used by terrorists in the explosion. Investigators collected 500GB data (footages) from all CCTV cameras installed on the route.

The then foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, had said that the bombing was carried out by the Pakistani Taliban militants backed by the Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies and that the Afghan soil was used for its planning and execution.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office Monday said proactive investigation, prosecution and the judgment in Dasu terrorist attack case demonstrated the country's abiding commitment to counterterrorism.

"We have noted the judgment passed by the relevant court and details released by the local police. While specific queries may be directed to the relevant authorities, proactive investigation, prosecution and judgment in this case have once again demonstrated Pakistan's abiding commitment to counterterrorism," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in response to a question about the court verdict.

"We again extend our deepest condolences to the victims' families and remain committed to the safety and security of Chinese workers, projects and institutions in Pakistan," she added. "The ironclad Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership will never be undermined by hostile forces," the spokesperson maintained.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Hazara Region Zeeshan Asghar Monday said 13 Chinese and Pakistanis were martyred in the suicide attack. Addressing a press conference at his office in Abbottabad along with SSP CTD Nazir Khan, he said the police along with the CTD and other law enforcement agencies worked tirelessly and reached the family and other people involved in the suicide attack by using modern forensic technique and arrested them.

He said after the incident, a case was registered against the unknown accused by the Police Station CTD Hazara Region and a JIT was formed and investigation started in the light of evidence available on the spot.

Zeeshan disclosed that the video of the Honda car used in the suicide attack was obtained from the CCTV cameras which found a red sticker of Chaman 2 showroom on the front number plate which could not be read by the naked eye.

He said after getting information from all over Pakistan, it was found in Chaman 2 Bargin, Chakdara Malakand, which was further investigated and it was found that the said motor car was received from Chaman 2 showroom by Syed Muhammad, son of Khaista Muhammad whose real name was Muhammad Hussain, son of Abdul Rahim, resident of Spanpora Matta, Swat and the accused in this case were Muhammad Hussain, Muhammad Ayaz and Fazal Hadi.

The DIG stated that initially the accused, Hadi, was traced and arrested while three other arrested accused revealed the planning and implementation of the incident.

During interrogation the other accused were identified as Tariq alias Battan Kharab, Mian Syed Muhammad, Shaukat Ali, Abdul Wahab, Anwar Ali, Mohibullah alias Irfan, Umarzada and Khalid alias Sheikh (suicide bomber).

The DIG said the accused, Mohammad Hussain, kept the motor car with him for seven months and handed it over to the accused Tariq on 07-07-2021 for the incident.

After arresting six accused and completing the investigation with the help of other law enforcement agencies, CTD Hazara Region sent a challan to the Court of Anti-Terrorism Hazara Region on 09-11-2021. He said the Hazara Region Anti-Terrorism Court, after completing the trial in the case, while giving its verdict on 10-11-2022 ordered that accused Muhammad Hussain and Muhammad Ayaz be sentenced to death 13 times with a fine of Rs1.5 million each.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=147959>

Chinese Newspapers

November 01, 2022

Global Times

Pakistani PM embarks on 1st official visit to China since taking office, deepening iron-clad friendship and revitalizing flagship projects

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is embarking on his first official visit to China since taking office in April on Tuesday. He is among the first foreign leaders to visit China after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and hopes to learn from "Chinese economic miracle." Amid growing challenges in the world, the visit will deepen the iron-clad friendship between the two countries, which will also push the flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative to a new high level.

Sharif described the Pakistan-China friendship as a sacred tale of abiding trust and love in an article published in the Global Times on Monday. Such unbreakable all-weather friendship won't be affected by domestic political volatility or external influence such as the US, some Chinese experts said. As the first phase of the CPEC construction mainly focused on the

infrastructure projects, laying a good foundation for future projects such as manufacturing, IT and agriculture, the second phase of the CPEC is expected to bring more benefits for local residents in Pakistan, helping improve their well-being, some experts said.

Also, the talks between Pakistani and Chinese officials are likely to focus on enhanced counterterrorism efforts to improve the protection of Chinese nationals in the country given a few terrorist attacks targeting Chinese.

As the visit begins, some Western media outlets speculate that Pakistan has been navigating through the rivalry of great powers, hinting at the China-US competition. Despite the hype, the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan has not been shaken in the overall foreign policies of the both sides, some experts said.

We warmly welcome the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China. During the visit, the two sides will sign a number of cooperation documents, Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told a routine press conference on Tuesday.

During his visit, Sharif is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping. He will also hold talks with Premier Li Keqiang, and meet with Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin last week. .

The leaders will have in-depth exchanges of views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern, and jointly plan and jointly chart the course for and steer the growth of China-Pakistan relations, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Sharif tweeted on Tuesday that "My discussions with Chinese leadership will focus on revitalization of CPEC among many other things. The 2nd phase of CPEC promises to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that will uplift quality of our people's lives. There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle."

In Sharif's article that was published in the Global Times on Monday, he said the CPEC's next phase of high-quality development will encompass key areas such as industry, energy, agriculture, ICT, rail and road network and developing Gwadar Port as a hub of trade and transshipment, investment and regional connectivity.

Pakistan can also serve as the manufacturing base for China and an extension of its industrial and supply chain network, he said.

Future cooperation

Over the past years, the construction of the CPEC has greatly increased the level of infrastructure in Pakistan and created many jobs for local residents, which is overwhelmingly welcomed by the Pakistani society, Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

"The second phase of the CPEC will focus more on how to improve livelihoods including some smaller but beautiful projects that could help boost the wellbeing of local residents and their sense of happiness such as improvement of electricity and internet network supplies," he said.

Some business representatives from Chinese companies in Pakistan expect that the upcoming development of the CPEC will help tackle ongoing issues such as energy shortage and lack of connectivity, hoping that Pakistan could introduce some Chinese models of management in industrial parks to streamline procedures.

The implementation of the CPEC will move from phase one, which focuses on addressing chronic issues hindering Pakistan's economic development such as power shortage and undeveloped infrastructure connectivity, to phase two that prioritizes industrial capacity cooperation, industry transfer and technology, Xiao Hua, the chairman of state-owned China State Construction's Pakistani company and general manager of the company's Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM) project, told the Global Times on Wednesday. PKM project is one of the largest transportation projects under the CPEC.

"The start of phase two is built upon fruitful results achieved by a number of CPEC projects, and it will stimulate the indigenous impulses of Pakistani economy and its 'self-generating' ability," Xiao explained, while predicting that the two countries will jointly build special economic zones and industrial parks to facilitate cooperation.

Another representative from a Chinese company in Pakistan who preferred not to be named told the Global Times on Tuesday that "It is hoped that Pakistan could introduce the Chinese industrial park management committee model and implement one-stop management in local industrial parks to streamline approval procedures."

Co-chaired by senior officials of Pakistan and China, the meeting of the 11th CPEC-Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held on Thursday expressed satisfaction at the steady pace of CPEC projects.

During the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of the CPEC for economic prosperity and agreed to finalize all procedural formalities prior to launching new projects including ML-I and the Karachi Circular Railway.

Beside those major projects, how to continue some previous projects will also be discussed, especially when some loopholes or shortcomings are found in those projects, Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

"Currently, the CPEC is focused more on the connectivity in Pakistan, not much on the connectivity between China and Pakistan," he said, noting that future CPEC projects will enter a period of stable development.

Photo taken on April 10, 2021 shows a night view of the Lahore converter station of the $\pm 660\text{kV}$ Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province. The transmission ceremony of the project was held simultaneously in Islamabad and China's Beijing through video link on June 25, 2021.

Photo taken on April 10, 2021 shows a night view of the Lahore converter station of the $\pm 660\text{kV}$ Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province. The

transmission ceremony of the project was held simultaneously in Islamabad and China's Beijing through video link on June 25, 2021.

False narratives

Despite of significant progress achieved by the China-Pakistan cooperation, some Western media and observers hold a "sour grape" mentality by hyping that some projects could be debt traps, saying that Beijing could be cautious about lending more money to Pakistan given the slowdown of Chinese economy and Pakistan's inability to pay off its existing debt.

Some media such as Nikkei also reported that Sharif will likely seek \$10 billion in financial assistance from China, through balance of payment support and rolling over Chinese loans, which make up 30 percent of Pakistan's total external debt.

"As far as the media concern especially the Western media it's all false," Ejaz Akram, a Pakistani scholar, also professor of Religion & World Politics in Southwestern University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, told the Global Times on Tuesday. The Chinese debt is a very tiny proportion of Pakistan's total debt, which is mostly owed to Western countries, so this all nonsense of debt trap doesn't hold up, he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1278489.shtml>

South China Morning Post

Will Pakistan's 'all-weather' friend China offer yet more cash for development amid political turbulence?

Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif is beginning two-day trip to Beijing, keen for more money to help nation deal with flood-ravaged economy. But experts say while China has helped Pakistan to develop, there are concerns over who's in charge in Islamabad, and terrorism attacks. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is hoping during his two-day visit to Beijing that long-standing "all-weather friend" China will agree to plough billions more dollars into his country's flood-ravaged economy, after Islamabad's Western lenders refused its entreaties.

But Sharif's hosts will have one eye on a protest march to Islamabad led by his deposed predecessor Imran Khan, which many fear could descend into destabilising violence if Pakistan's government and powerful military-led establishment do not agree to call a snap general election.

"The Chinese government likes Shehbaz Sharif personally and a number of the other figures in this government, and will generally want to do them some favours, but they are not certain in the medium term who will be running things," said Andrew Small from the Asia programme of the German Marshall Fund, a Washington-based think tank.

Political turbulence in Pakistan since 2017 has made China "less certain" about whether some of its long-term economic bets will "pay off if there aren't governments that can sustain their commitments or a really solid political consensus behind these investments," he added.

Since taking office in April, Sharif has prioritised the revival of the estimated US\$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Belt and Initiative programme connecting Xinjiang province to Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar.

Sharif hopes his coalition government's efforts to fast-track the completion of lagging CPEC projects and target militant separatists who have carried out lethal attacks against Chinese nationals have been enough to persuade Beijing to pay huge amounts for mass transit and power generation schemes.

"There have certainly been tactical issues" between Beijing and Islamabad over security and delayed payments to Chinese-owned power projects, said Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan China Institute in Islamabad.

"But strategically the alignment is very robust. Particularly in the wake of the accelerated big power [between nations] competition, we see there are more and more convergences and shared interests with Beijing," he said.

[Will Pakistan's 'all-weather' friend China offer yet more cash for development amid political turbulence? | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/china-diplomacy/article/2019/04/24/will-pakistan-s-all-weather-friend-china-offer-yet-more-cash-for-development-amid-political-turbulence?scmp.com)

Pakistan leader in Beijing for talks on economic ties, CPEC 'revitalisation'

Shehbaz Sharif will meet leaders and investors, with a focus on reviving stalled China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Ahead of the two-day trip, he tweeted that 'there is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle'

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, where he is expected to discuss economic ties and reviving a stalled infrastructure and investment project.

He will meet Chinese investors and leaders including President Xi Jinping on the two-day trip, with a focus on the "revitalisation" of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – a project worth an estimated US\$62 billion under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Sharif is the second foreign leader to visit China since last month's 20th Communist Party congress that saw Xi secure a norm-breaking third term and unveil a new leadership line-up. It is Sharif's first visit to China since he became prime minister in April.

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Pakistan's economy has taken a beating after torrential rains and floods decimated roads and homes across the country, and the government has said US\$16.3 billion is needed for reconstruction.

During the visit Sharif would review bilateral ties, sign agreements and share views on regional and global developments with Chinese leaders, Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

He will also meet Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Li Zhanshu, head of the legislature, according to Beijing. Both are expected to step down in March since they were not included in the Central Committee of 205 top cadres chosen at the party congress.

Before his flight, Sharif wrote on Twitter that Pakistan and China would stand as friends and partners as the world grappled with challenges. "There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle," he said.

In a group interview with Chinese state media outlets ahead of the trip, Sharif praised CPEC for reducing commute times and improving Pakistan's infrastructure and energy sector.

[Pakistan leader in Beijing for talks on economic ties, CPEC 'revitalisation' | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-china/article/2021/10/31/pakistan-leader-in-beijing-for-talks-on-economic-ties-cpec-revitalisation)

Xinhuanet News

Pakistan's Gwadar district to act as hub of trade, investment under CPEC: official

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 31 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's southwestern Gwadar district will be a hub of trade and investment in the future thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Mujeeb Ur Rehman Qambrani said on Monday.

Addressing a special session on "Gwadar and the Road to Sustainable Development" organized by the Islamabad-based think tank Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Qambrani said that the master plan of Gwadar smart port city envisions the development of an industrial base which will not only create a lot of employment opportunities but also promote tourism in the area.

The master plan is inspired by China's city of Shenzhen and the GDA is vigorously executing it for timely delivery, he said, adding that the master plan was finalized after collaboration between Pakistani, Chinese, and other stakeholders.

He said that Gwadar international airport being constructed with cooperation from China will be functional in 2023 and will enhance the development process of the district.

Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the think-tank, said that Pakistan-China cooperation on the CPEC and combating COVID-19 has transformed Pakistan's technological pace.

"China is building an enabling environment for business and economic opportunities in our country. Therefore, we must prepare ourselves to capture the opportunity," he added.

Also speaking at the event, Sajid Amin, deputy executive director at the SDPI, said that the development sector and civil society organizations can play a pivotal role as knowledge partners and in the advocacy of the immense socio-economic potential of Gwadar.

<https://english.news.cn/202110/31/81eaa3c4c8c845f6ad83ae79753da5b7/c.html>

November 02, 2022

China Daily

CSCEC boosts connectivity with building infrastructure in Pakistan

PKM Project (Sukkur-Multan section).

The development history of CSCEC in Pakistan

China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) is the largest construction and investment group in the world. It has been more than 30 years since CSCEC entered Pakistani market in 1984. In Pakistan, CSCEC has successfully completed 5 thermal power plant projects, including Jamshoro, Muzaffargarh, Faisalabad, Lakhala, and Kotri, with a total installed capacity of 2 million kilowatts. In the mid-1990s, the company undertook landmark projects such as the Karachi Sewage Treatment Plant; after 2000, CSCEC achieved further success in the Pakistani market and successfully undertook some landmark projects such as JF-17 aircraft manufacturing factory in Kamra, the Centaurus mixed-use development in Islamabad, Arfa Kareem IT Tower in Lahore, Thai embassy in Pakistan, and the passenger terminal building of Islamabad International Airport. In December 2015, CSCEC signed the contract of PKM project (Sukkur-Multan section), which is the largest transportation infrastructure project under the umbrella of "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor". These key projects and livelihood projects have received attention and support from both the Chinese and Pakistani governments and the public, and the quality of these projects has also been widely recognized by the local government, employer and all sectors of society.

Introduction to key projects

1. PKM project (Sukkur-Multan section)

The PKM project is the abbreviation of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway. CSCEC undertook and implemented the Sukkur-Multan Section thereof in EPC mode. The two-way 6-lane motorway has a total length of 392 kilometers, with a design speed of 120 kilometers per hour and a contract construction period of 36 months. The governments of China and Pakistan have attached great importance to this project, which was listed as an "early harvest project" under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and was promoted under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Joint Cooperation Committee. On November 5th, 2019, the inauguration ceremony of the PKM project was held in the 9th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and then was fully opened to the public. The motorway opened up the north-south traffic artery in central Pakistan and greatly improved the traffic conditions in Pakistan, directly driving the social and economic development of the areas along the route and benefiting the Pakistani people. The project won the 2020 China Construction Engineering Luban Award (overseas), the 2020-2021 National Quality Engineering Gold Award, and the 19th Tien-yow Jeme Civil Engineering Prize.

2. Islamabad International Airport project

The Islamabad International Airport is the most influential public building in Pakistan in recent years. The terminal building consists of the main building and three piers in the east, south and north. The building has 3 floors above the ground in major areas, and 4 floors in partial areas. It shapes as an airplane from top. The construction area is nearly 200,000 square meters. The airport was successfully opened to air traffic on May 3, 2018, and has been under smooth operation till date. The Islamabad International Airport, as the largest and most advanced airport in Pakistan, has the capacity to transport 15 million passengers per year. It has played an extremely important role in improving the civil aviation transportation capacity of the capital of Pakistan, enhancing the international image of Islamabad, and has injected a new powerful force into the economic development of Pakistan. In 2019, the project won the 2018-2019 China Construction Engineering Luban Award (Overseas).

3. JF-17 aircraft manufacturing factory

With a total construction area of 107,000 square meters, the project is an important national defense project in Pakistan and an important cooperation project in the aviation field between China and Pakistan. The project won the 2011 China Construction Engineering Luban Award (Overseas).

4. The Centaurus mixed-use development

The total construction area of the project is 58,000 square meters, with a covering area of 345,000 square meters. It is an extra-large comprehensive building with hotel, commercial and residential service functions and is a landmark building in Islamabad.

5. Lahore Arfa Kareem IT Tower

The project has a total construction area of 48,000 square meters and a height of 110 meters, including a 17-story main building and an 8-story parking lot. It is a landmark building in Lahore, a famous historical and cultural city in Pakistan.

6. Thai embassy in Pakistan

The project has a construction area of 9,700 square meters and a building height of 12 meters. It is an iconic Southeast Asian-style building in the embassy district of Islamabad.

In the more than 30 years of cooperation with Pakistani partners, CSCEC has always been committed to giving full play to its own advantages, improving the infrastructure status of Pakistan, driving the economic development of neighboring areas and improving local people's livelihood. With the continuous deepening of the "China-Pakistan economic corridor" initiative, CSCEC is willing to join hands with Pakistan partners in the future to deepen cooperation and to contribute more to the prosperity and development of Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/02/WS6361cf9ca310fd2b29e7fd58.html>

Global Times

China-Pakistan ironclad ties consolidated; key CPEC projects to advance as ‘BRI, Chinese modernization benefit all’

By Yang Sheng and Fan Anqi

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday held talks with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, and Sharif is one of the world leaders that has visited China right after the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Experts said Sharif's visit showed that the China-Pakistan ironclad friendship will be further deepened and will bring more certainty and stability to the region amid the profound changes that the world is experiencing.

China is ready to work with Pakistan to elevate the level of all-round strategic cooperation, speed up efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and inject new impetus into their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, Xi said.

After presenting the key outcomes of the 20th CPC National Congress, President Xi underscored that China will continue its fundamental policy of opening-up and provide new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development. China will further deepen synergy between its development strategies and those of Pakistan.

Xi pointed out that the world, our times and history are changing in ways like never before. Facing a highly uncertain world, both sides should stand on the right side of history, keep up their strong cooperation in multilateral mechanisms, and work closely on major international and regional issues so as to uphold true multilateralism, international fairness and justice and the shared interests of developing countries, and inject certainty and positivity into the world.

Chinese analysts said the current international situation with great uncertainty and turbulence has brought challenges to all members among the international community, and China, as a major power that is able to contribute more certainty to the world, is further consolidating cooperation with its close partners and neighbors like Pakistan, to make the modernization process of both sides withstand any kind of impact and challenges.

According to a joint statement issued after the bilateral meeting, the two sides held in-depth exchange of views on the bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international political landscape. The two sides agreed on the importance of China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amid the emerging global challenges. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual strategic trust and commonality of views.

In the meeting, Sharif noted that it is a great honor for him to be among the first foreign leaders to visit China after the successful 20th CPC National Congress, which marked a new milestone. The visit is a testament to the profound, ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China.

Sharif said that over the past decade, under the leadership of President Xi, China has created a miracle of great development achievements. China has upheld multilateralism, promoted

global solidarity and cooperation, and made important contributions to safeguarding world peace and development. In doing so, China has lived up to its responsibility as a major country.

Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Wednesday that "Having invited Sharif as one of the first foreign leaders to visit China after the conclusion of the 20th CPC National Congress, not only demonstrates the ever close relationship between the two sides but once again proves that the international community is optimistic about China's development in the future, and is willing to strengthen ties with China."

Sharif said at the meeting that "The world cannot operate without China, and China's development cannot be isolated or contained by any force."

Pakistan fully supports the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative put forth by President Xi, said Sharif. It will strengthen communication and collaboration with China in international and regional affairs to make a positive contribution to world peace and development. "The Pakistan-China friendship is unbreakable. Pakistan will always stand firmly with China," said the Pakistani prime minister.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has helped Pakistan in solving two bottleneck problems plaguing Pakistan's economic development - infrastructure and energy supply shortage, Qian said. Through the first phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation, it has laid a solid foundation and built a platform for Pakistan's economic development in the next step, he noted.

Next, the cooperation will enter the second phase of high-quality development, going into sectors including production capacity cooperation, agriculture, social and livelihood areas among others, analysts said.

"The close and effective strategic coordination between China and Pakistan has set an example of international cooperation and has delivered a clear message to the world, that countries with different social systems, nationalities, civilizations and stages of development can still achieve win-win cooperation," Qian said.

Cooperation on the CPEC

The two sides will fully utilize the Joint Cooperation Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make it an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said at the meeting.

It is important to accelerate the construction of auxiliary infrastructure for Gwadar Port to unleash its role in driving interconnected development in the region. The two sides will work together to create conditions for the early implementation of the upgradation of ML-1 and the Karachi Circular Railway project. Pakistan is welcome to export more quality agri-products to China, Xi remarked.

China will work with Pakistan to expand cooperation in the digital economy, e-commerce, photovoltaic and other new-energy technologies, and take solid steps to advance cooperation

concerning agriculture, science, technology and people's livelihoods, the Chinese president said.

China will continue to do its best to support Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation. China supports its provinces with a strong industry in pairing up with Pakistani partners to advance industrial cooperation, and hopes the Pakistani side will provide a sound business environment, Xi noted.

Noting completion of a decade of CPEC's remarkable achievements in 2023, the two sides expressed satisfaction at CPEC's contribution to socio-economic development of the two countries, according to the joint statement.

The two sides also noted that the recent meeting of CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (ICC) had highlighted that CPEC was an open and inclusive platform. Both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in the priority areas of CPEC cooperation such as industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology, and oil and gas.

Lin Minwang, a professor at the Institute of International Studies of Fudan University, told the Global Times that due to the fact that there is a clear advantage for the development of the CPEC the high-level mutual trust between China and Pakistan, and such kind of trust toward China from Pakistan is a solid consensus shared by all major political parties and forces.

"With Sharif coming to power earlier this year, the China-Pakistan cooperation on the CPEC has focused more on the massive infrastructure projects, and to improve the livelihoods for the locals with more progress on infrastructure construction," Lin said.

President Xi expressed his great concern about the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, and conveyed his hope that Pakistan will provide a reliable and safe environment for Chinese institutions and personnel working on cooperation projects there.

Terrorist attacks against the Chinese nationals and institutes in Pakistan bring a major threat to the development of the CPEC, so both sides are strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism, Lin said, adding that "in general, the impact of terrorist attacks on the CPEC construction is limited and controllable."

Sharif said Pakistan is ready to work with China to continue promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and hopes to have China's strong support in the upgradation of ML-1, the Karachi Circular Railway and other important infrastructure projects. Pakistan will further step up security measures and do all it can to protect the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel.

According to the joint statement, the two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed opposition to the politicization of the issue of counter-terrorism. China recognized Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. The two sides agreed to further enhance counter-terrorism cooperation to promote international peace and security.

China and Pakistan both have strong confidence and determination to realize the ambitious goal of making the CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. So with

the continuous efforts in the coming years, the CPEC will show the world how the BRI and the Chinese modernization can benefit others and solve regional problems via development rather than conflicts and wars, analysts said.

In addition, more countries around the globe will be encouraged to join and strengthen cooperation with China under the framework of the BRI, which will bring the current turbulent world back on the track of peace and development, they noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1278594.shtml>

China stands ready to elevate all-round strategic cooperation with Pakistan, inject new impetus into ties, Xi says in meeting with Pakistani PM

China has always placed Pakistan as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and is willing to enhance the level of all-round strategic cooperation with Pakistan, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Wednesday, during which the two sides reiterated their "ironclad" friendship amid profound world changes.

China views China-Pakistan relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and Pakistan has always been a high priority in China's neighborhood diplomacy. China is ready to work with Pakistan to elevate the level of all-round strategic cooperation, speed up efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and inject new impetus into their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, Xi stressed.

China appreciates Pakistan's support on issues vital to China's core and major concerns. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity, development interests and dignity, and in achieving unity, stability, development and prosperity, Xi said.

After presenting the key outcomes of the 20th CPC National Congress, Xi underscored that China will continue its fundamental policy of opening-up and provide new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development.

The two sides should make full use of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Xi stressed.

They should also accelerate the construction of auxiliary infrastructure for Gwadar Port to unleash its role in driving interconnected development in the region. The two sides will work together to create conditions for the early implementation of the upgradation of ML-1 and the Karachi Circular Railway project, Xi said.

Pakistan is welcome to export more quality agri-products to China. China will work with Pakistan to expand cooperation in digital economy, e-commerce, photovoltaic and other new-energy technologies, and take solid steps to advance cooperation concerning agriculture, science, technology and people's livelihood. China will continue to do its best to support Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation, Xi said.

Xi also expressed his great concern about the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, and conveyed his hope that Pakistan will provide a reliable and safe environment for Chinese institutions and personnel working on cooperation projects there.

Facing a highly uncertain world, both sides should stand on the right side of history, keep up their strong cooperation in multilateral mechanisms, and work closely on major international and regional issues so as to uphold true multilateralism, international fairness and justice and the shared interests of developing countries, and inject certainty and positives into the world, Xi noted.

On his part, Sharif said that it is a great honor for him to be among the first foreign leaders to visit China after the successful 20th CPC National Congress. The visit is a testament to the profound, iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China.

Sharif said that over the past decade, under the leadership of President Xi, China has created a miracle of great development achievements. China has upheld multilateralism, promoted global solidarity and cooperation, and made important contributions to safeguarding world peace and development. In doing so, China has lived up to its responsibility as a major country.

"The world cannot operate without China, and China's development cannot be isolated or contained by any force," Sharif said.

Sharif also reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the one-China policy and its firm support for China's position on issues concerning China's core interests including Taiwan, Xizang and Hong Kong.

CPEC has had a profound impact on Pakistan's economic and social development. Pakistan is ready to work with China to continue promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and hopes to have China's strong support in the upgradation of ML-1, the Karachi Circular Railway and other important infrastructure projects, the Pakistani Prime Minister said.

Pakistan will further step up security measures and do all it can to protect the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel, Sharif said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1278563.shtml>

Shanghai Daily

China, Pakistan sign memorandum on RMB clearing in Pakistan

China's central bank has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the State Bank of Pakistan to establish renminbi (RMB) clearing arrangements in Pakistan.

These arrangements will help enterprises and financial institutions in the two countries conduct cross-border transactions using the RMB, according to a statement on the People's Bank of China website on Wednesday.

They will also further facilitate bilateral trade and investment, the bank said.

<https://www.shine.cn/news/world/2211022218/>

South China Morning Post

Xi Jinping calls for port and railway projects in Pakistan to be ‘accelerated’

Chinese president tells visiting Pakistani leader Shehbaz Sharif that work on Gwadar Port should be pushed forward

Islamabad statement says Sharif signed agreements on a ‘broad range’ of areas, without elaborating

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for joint port and railway projects in Pakistan to be pushed forward in talks with the South Asian country’s leader in Beijing.

He told Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday that the Gwadar Port development – a centerpiece of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC – should be sped up, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported.

CPEC projects, worth an estimated US\$62 billion and mainly involving transport and energy infrastructure, have faced delays because of difficulties raising funds, Covid-19 restrictions and supply chain woes. Recent floods across the country have also battered Pakistan’s economy, and the government has said some US\$16.3 billion was needed for reconstruction efforts.

Part of Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative to grow global trade, CPEC aims to connect China’s western Xinjiang region with Pakistan by road and rail, and with oil and gas pipelines. It would provide access to the Arabian Sea, making it easier for oil and gas exporters in the Middle East to sell to China.

“Construction of supporting infrastructure at Gwadar Port needs to be accelerated, so that the port can unleash its role in helping with regional interconnectivity,” Xi was quoted as saying by Xinhua. “The two sides should work together to create conditions favourable for early launches of the Main Line 1 upgrade and the Karachi Circular Railway.”

Negotiations began last year on loan arrangements for the railway line linking the southern city of Karachi, the most populous city in Pakistan, to Peshawar to its north, but had yet to be finalised ahead of Sharif’s trip. Bureaucracy was also blamed for the delayed restoration of the circular railway, which became partially operational again in 2020 – decades after it was shut down in 1999 because of financial losses and other problems.

The Pakistani government said in a statement that Sharif, on his first visit to China as prime minister, had signed agreements covering a “broad range” of areas, but did not give details.

Beijing has also been concerned about the security of Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects, especially in Pakistan’s poor but resource-rich Balochistan province, home to the Baloch people and Gwadar Port.

Separatist insurgent group the Baloch Liberation Army claims that the projects exploit local minerals and extend China’s influence in the region, and it has claimed responsibility for several deadly attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

[Xi Jinping calls for port and railway projects in Pakistan to be 'accelerated' | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3141111/xi-jinping-calls-for-port-and-railway-projects-in-pakistan-to-be-accelerated)

November 03, 2022

China Daily

Chinese premier holds talks with Pakistani counterpart

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Wednesday.

Li spoke about the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries and said China attaches great importance to relations with Pakistan.

Li said China stands ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward the traditional friendship, expand comprehensive cooperation and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future to benefit the two peoples and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Li once again expressed his condolences to Pakistan regarding the major floods it has experienced this year, and said China is willing to support Pakistan in its post-disaster reconstruction, enhancing its capacity for emergency management and providing assistance within China's capacity.

On practical cooperation, Li said China is willing to strengthen its synergy of development strategies with Pakistan, deepen cooperation in areas including ports, transportation, energy, industry and social livelihoods, and steadily push forward the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He called on Pakistan to make efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

Sharif said that consolidating and developing friendly relations with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Pakistan firmly supports China on issues relating to China's core interests and major concerns, Sharif said, adding that Pakistan is willing to work with China to actively promote the construction of the CPEC, and enhance cooperation in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure and clean energy.

Pakistan will never tolerate acts that undermine the Pakistan-China friendship, Sharif said, adding that Pakistan will take all measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and institutions in the country.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/03/WS6362bdfca310fd2b29e7ff24.html>

China's top legislator meets Pakistani PM

BEIJING - China's top legislator Li Zhanshu on Wednesday met with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing.

Li, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said Sharif's official visit to China shortly after the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) reflects the special friendship between the two countries.

He said China is ready to carry forward the ironclad friendship with Pakistan, strengthen strategic coordination, deepen practical cooperation, and enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Li said that Xi Jinping's re-election as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee reflects the heartfelt support of more than 96 million CPC members and the firm determination of hundreds of millions of Chinese people to follow his lead to create a great cause.

China's NPC is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the Pakistani parliament at all levels, Li added.

Sharif expressed his congratulations on the successful conclusion of 20th CPC National Congress, and his belief that China will make greater achievements in its future development under President Xi Jinping's leadership.

Noting that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and always firmly support each other, Sharif said Pakistan will work with China to push for the in-depth development of bilateral relations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/03/WS6362b9b1a310fd2b29e7ff21.html>

Chinese FM meets with Pakistani FM

BEIJING - Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is accompanying Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan to visit China.

Wang said Sharif is the first foreign head of government to visit China since the successful convening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which fully reflects the special friendship between the two countries and the important position Pakistan holds in China's overall diplomacy.

China's development is a growing force for world peace and a strong factor for global stability. In the process of this development, China-Pakistan relations will gain new impetus and will be elevated to a new stage, Wang noted.

He said that China will continue to provide assistance to Pakistan in its post-disaster reconstruction work, and that China is ready to work with Pakistan to promote the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

For his part, Zardari congratulated China on the success of the 20th CPC National Congress, saying the blueprint for China's development drawn at the congress will inject strong positive energy into the promotion of world peace and development.

Pakistan is committed to continuously injecting new impetus into Pakistan-China relations and pushing bilateral ties to a new height, he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/03/WS6362b78ba310fd2b29e7ff1e.html>

Full text: Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1. H.E. Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, undertook an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 1-2 November 2022. This was the Prime Minister's first bilateral visit after assuming office.
2. During the visit, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China, met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held talks with H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council, and met with H.E. Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The Prime Minister felicitated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), expressed admiration for his leadership, wisdom, vision and people-centered philosophy of development, and commended his contributions to continued growth of Pakistan-China relations. The Prime Minister welcomed President Xi to visit Pakistan. President Xi expressed that he would visit at his earliest convenience. The two leaders pledged to work together to further deepen the bilateral ties.
3. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveyed felicitations on the successful conclusion of the 20th CPC National Congress. He lauded the central role of the CPC and its leadership in promoting China's development, prosperity and national rejuvenation. He expressed deep admiration for China's achievement in socio-economic development and contribution to reform of world politics and governance philosophy under the leadership of the CPC.
4. Chinese leaders appreciated the long standing commitment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China-Pakistan friendship. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen and deepen Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and enhance practical cooperation in all areas.
5. The two sides held in-depth exchange of views on the bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international political landscape. The two sides agreed on the importance of China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual strategic trust and commonality of views.
6. The leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and profound friendship between China and Pakistan were time-tested and resilient. China-Pakistan friendship is a historic choice of both peoples that serves the interests of the two countries. The Chinese side reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that the Pakistani people always support the closest friendship between the two countries.
7. Both sides reiterated their mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Pakistani side expressed its commitment to the one-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese side

reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity.

8. The Chinese leadership expressed condolences and sympathies on recent loss of life and property as a result of the unprecedented floods in Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed appreciation for the timely and generous assistance extended by the government and people of China, including the provision of disaster relief supplies, the contributions of Chinese expert teams on post-disaster assessment and health care to assist with damage assessment, experience sharing in post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and post-disaster disease response to step up capacity of medical treatment. China's mobilization of assistance was a vivid reflection of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

9. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif briefed the Chinese leadership on the post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Chinese side expressed its resolve to stand by Pakistan in these difficult times and to continue offering assistance to Pakistan in the latter's plans for rehabilitation of the affected areas.

10. Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the outcomes of the three sessions of the Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue and agreed to hold its next meeting at the earliest possible in the first half of 2023 in Islamabad.

11. The two sides noted the key role of various bilateral cooperation mechanisms for deepening strategic communication and welcomed the holding of the Spokespersons Dialogue and the Consultations on Arms Control and Disarmament.

12. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed his Government's willingness to commit to high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under BRI, to Pakistan's economic and social development.

13. The leaders took note of the convening of the 11th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on 27 October 2022, which reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and agreed to continue the momentum of CPEC's high-quality development.

14. Recognizing that ML-1 is a project of key significance under the CPEC framework and of importance to Pakistan's socio-economic development, the two sides agreed to build upon the leadership consensus and to advance the process of its earliest implementation. They also agreed to actively advance the Karachi Circular Railway, which was an urgent requirement for Pakistan's biggest city.

15. Recognizing the significance of the Gwadar port as the leading project of CPEC and an important node in cross regional connectivity, both sides expressed satisfaction on the completion of key projects and agreed to speed up progress on other related projects of the Gwadar port and free zone.

16. In line with the leadership's consensus to accelerate cooperation in the areas of agriculture, mining, IT, socio-economic development under CPEC, the two sides agreed to

further build on the health, industry, digital and green corridors launched earlier this year and carry out relevant cooperation.

17. The Chinese side appreciates the efforts of the Pakistani government to vigorously develop renewable energy projects including solar projects which aligns with the green, low carbon and environmental development of energy sector, and encourages participation of Chinese companies in this Pakistani endeavor.

18. The two sides agreed to actively promote the implementation of Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation to support Pakistan's industrial development.

19. Both sides expressed their strong determination to counter all threats and designs against CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the safety and security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's strong determination and vigorous measures in this regard.

20. Noting completion of a decade of CPEC's remarkable achievements in 2023, the two sides expressed satisfaction at CPEC's contribution to socio-economic development of the two countries.

21. The two sides noted that the recent meeting of CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (ICC) had highlighted that CPEC was an open and inclusive platform. Both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in the priority areas of CPEC cooperation such as industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology, and oil and gas.

22. The two sides noted the steady increase in bilateral trade volume since the operationalization of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. Both sides resolved to further coordinate to enhance trade liberalization under the second phase of CPFTA and agreed to convene an early meeting of Committee on Trade in Goods.

23. The Chinese side expressed willingness to actively support the Pakistani side in expanding export to China and welcomed quality goods including food and agricultural products from Pakistan to enter the Chinese market. It was further agreed to encourage investments and partnerships in the export-oriented sectors of Pakistan which would contribute to achieving sustainable bilateral trade growth. The two sides agreed to conduct a Joint Study to further enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

24. The two sides agreed to fully leverage overland trade and exchanges by upgrading facilities at Khunjerab border port and strengthening cooperation on epidemic containment and customs clearance in border areas. They also agreed to work together to further strengthen the implementation of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), which is an important pillar of regional connectivity.

25. Acknowledging the massive size of China's e-commerce market and its potential to further bolster bilateral trade, the two sides welcomed the signing of an MOU on e-commerce and jointly supported the establishment of Pakistan's country pavilions on China's e-commerce platforms. The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation on online

payment systems, logistics, warehousing and customs facilitation, and enhance collaboration between start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

26. The two sides noted that the first meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and E-commerce and the China-Pakistan Poverty Reduction and Social Development Forum were held this year, and exchanges and docking activities in the pharmaceutical, agricultural and shoe-making industries as well as capacity building courses on poverty reduction were organized. China is willing to continue relevant practical cooperation with Pakistan to contribute to poverty reduction and socioeconomic development in Pakistan.

27. The Pakistani side commended China's remarkable achievement of lifting over 800 million people out of absolute poverty. Noting the displacement of millions of people due to the recent floods in Pakistan, the Chinese side agreed to support the Pakistani government in recovering the economy in disaster-hit areas, including through the Benazir Income Support Program.

28. The two sides agreed to keep in close communication to provide further facilitation for Pakistani students to come to China. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the Chinese leadership for the return of Pakistani students to Chinese education institutions.

29. The two sides agreed to inject new impetus into people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries, appreciated the role of the cultural cooperation agreement between the two governments and its executive programmes and welcomed the extension of the current executive programme to 2027.

30. The two sides further welcomed the decision to celebrate China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and the organization of a Gandhara Art Exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022-2023.

31. Noting the gradual resumption of flight operation between the two countries, the two sides agreed to further increase the frequency of direct flights including between Islamabad and Beijing in due course.

32. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation, trust and communication between the armed forces of the two countries. Underscoring that stronger strategic defence and security cooperation between China and Pakistan is an important factor of peace and stability in the region, the two sides agreed to maintain high-level mil-to-mil visits and exchanges and deepen cooperation in areas of training, joint exercises and military technology.

33. The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed opposition to the politicization of the issue of counter terrorism. China recognized Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. The two sides agreed to further enhance counter terrorism cooperation to promote international peace and security.

34. The two sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. They emphasized the importance of resolving all outstanding disputes through sincere dialogue. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in

Jammu & Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from history that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

35. On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, prosperous, interconnected and stable Afghanistan is fundamental to regional prosperity and progress. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the three Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and looked forward to the next meeting to be held in Uzbekistan.

36. The two sides underscored the need for the international community to provide continued assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan's overseas financial assets. The two sides agreed to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through CPEC's extension to Afghanistan.

37. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and agreed to jointly promote multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation. They expressed satisfaction with their close cooperation at multilateral fora and are resolved to further deepen strategic communication, coordination and consultation.

38. The Pakistani side expressed support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI) put forward by the Chinese side. The two sides identified development as a key driver in ensuring the prosperity of nations. In this context they agreed to further enhance cooperation within the GDI framework for realization of SDGs. China expressed appreciation to Pakistan for participating in the Group of Friends of GDI as one of the pioneering members, and identified Pakistan as a priority partner under the GDI.

39. The Pakistani side expressed support for the Global Security Initiative (GSI) put forward by the Chinese side as it aligned with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The two sides agreed to promote international cooperation in this regard.

40. The two sides supported consensus-based reform of the UN to respond to the interests and concerns of all Member States.

41. The two sides underlined to further strengthen coordination and collaboration within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and jointly push for deeper SCO cooperation across the political, security, business, connectivity and people-to-people fields, so as to better serve the common interests of regional countries, and make greater contributions to safeguarding regional peace and stability, promoting prosperity and development, and improving global governance.

42. The two sides reiterated their commitment to advancing and protecting human rights for all in accordance with applicable international obligations and national circumstances. They stressed that bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of human rights should be guided by the principles of the UN Charter including respect for political independence, sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

43. The two sides recognized climate change as an existential threat and undertook to make concrete and concerted efforts to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the UNFCCC as well as to the goals, principles and provisions of its Paris Agreement, in particular the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

44. The two sides recognized that the recent floods in Pakistan were closely linked to the adverse impact of climatic change for which developing countries bear little responsibility but are subject to a disproportionate impact. The two sides called on developed countries to fulfill their commitments, take the lead in emissions reduction to ensure the development rights and space for developing countries, and provide adequate climate financing to developing countries.

45. Appreciating Pakistan's initiative to combat human-induced climate change and China's initiative to promote green cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, the two sides agreed to step up cooperation in such areas as ecosystem restoration and water resource management.

46. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the leadership and people of China for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to him and his delegation and expressed his best wishes for China's continued development and prosperity and its vigorous pursuit of national rejuvenation.

47. The two sides signed and concluded a number of agreements/MoUs, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of e-commerce, digital economy, export of agricultural products, financial cooperation, protection of cultural property, infrastructure, flood relief, post-disaster reconstruction, GDI, animal disease control, livelihood, cultural cooperation, space, geosciences as well as law enforcement and security.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/03/WS6362b5fca310fd2b29e7ff1b.html>

Global Times

China to export 160km/h high-speed train technology for first time to Pakistan

A total of 46 Chinese-manufactured wide gauge railway coaches have been loaded in North China's Tianjin Port and will be shipped to Pakistan on Thursday, marking the first time China will have exported its technology for constructing railway coaches capable of speeds of 160 kilometers per hour, China Media Group reported on Wednesday.

The coaches were all completed in China. Another 184 units will be delivered to Pakistan in parts and will be assembled locally. The combination of exporting "actual products and technology" has been a significant practice to promote scientific and technological cooperation with members of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, which will help further upgrade the technology in Pakistan.

More supportive measures to increase the efficiency of transportation will be further implemented at the port, according to the report.

The first batch of the wide gauge railway coaches was completed by CRRC Tangshan Co on August 26, 2022, and the project was signed on August 20, 2021, chinanews.com reported.

The coaches have a new design to fully meet the operational needs for running in Pakistan, adopting a 1,676-millimeter wide-rail bogie with a lightweight design under the premise of ensuring structural strength of the body, according to the report from chinanews.com. The design can also support large passenger capacity and small axle load, which is economic and energy saving.

A set of China-produced subway trains produced by CRRC Tangshan were shipped to Portugal through Tianjin port, the nation's first export of urban railway trains to the EU, the General Administration of Customs of China announced on October 24.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1278602.shtml>

People's Daily

Chinese premier holds talks with Pakistani counterpart

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Wednesday.

Li spoke about the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries and said China attaches great importance to relations with Pakistan.

Li said China stands ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward the traditional friendship, expand comprehensive cooperation and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future to benefit the two peoples and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Li once again expressed his condolences to Pakistan regarding the major floods it has experienced this year, and said China is willing to support Pakistan in its post-disaster reconstruction, enhancing its capacity for emergency management and providing assistance within China's capacity.

On practical cooperation, Li said China is willing to strengthen its synergy of development strategies with Pakistan, deepen cooperation in areas including ports, transportation, energy, industry and social livelihoods, and steadily push forward the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He called on Pakistan to make efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

Sharif said that consolidating and developing friendly relations with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Pakistan firmly supports China on issues relating to China's core interests and major concerns, Sharif said, adding that Pakistan is willing to work with China to actively promote the construction of the CPEC, and enhance cooperation in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure and clean energy.

Pakistan will never tolerate acts that undermine the Pakistan-China friendship, Sharif said, adding that Pakistan will take all measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and institutions in the country.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1103/c90000-10166572.html>

Interview: Pakistan, China have shared destiny, says Pakistan's PM

BEIJING, Nov. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan will work with China to promote a shared destiny of achievements and progress, and foster peace and harmony in the region and the world at large, Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif told Xinhua in an interview on Wednesday.

Sharif began his first official visit to China on Tuesday, among the first foreign leaders to visit China after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Sharif travelled to China for the first time in 1981 and has since witnessed the tremendous transformation of the country through his many visits.

"You could hardly see a car on the road, (only) buses and bicycles in 1981," he said. "And over the years the entire country has transformed and become the second largest economy in the world. This is a miracle of its kind."

"I think it is because of dedication, visionary leadership of the Communist Party of China. Its leaders, its vision and sacrifice," he said.

The 20th CPC National Congress conveyed a very powerful message across the world that China stands by continuity and stability and peaceful co-existence, the prime minister said.

Highlighting China's success in eradicating absolute poverty, providing better job opportunities, and improving education and healthcare, Sharif said Xi Jinping's re-election as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee is important not only to the Chinese people, but also friendly countries and even globally.

"Today under President Xi's leadership, China is a country without which the world can not move on. This is a great sense of achievements," he said, explaining that Pakistan is trying to learn from China.

Sharif said he has no doubt that China will grow and progress by leaps and bounds, and the Pakistan-China friendly relations will further deepen and strengthen.

Pakistan and China have enjoyed an "unprecedented and unique" friendship, or Iron Brotherhood, over the seven decades since the establishment of diplomatic ties. The two countries have promoted relations on the basis of mutual trust, respect and cooperation, he said.

Sharif commended the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game changer in transforming Pakistan's power, energy, infrastructure and public transport sector. Sharif himself was given the task to implement multiple CPEC energy projects and the Lahore Orange Line, the country's first metro train service.

"I must tell you with a sense of satisfaction that these CPEC energy projects were completed and made operational faster than Chinese regard. This is what we call 'Pakistan speed,'" said the prime minister, referring to the "Shenzhen speed" in China.

"That's what this brotherhood, cooperation and friendship is about," Sharif said, hoping the CPEC will go to the next phase to promote agriculture, modern technology and IT industry.

Sharif said he supports the China-proposed Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative as a remarkable vision to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between nations and societies.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1103/c90000-10166984.html>

China's top legislator meets Pakistani PM

BEIJING, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) -- China's top legislator Li Zhanshu on Wednesday met with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing.

Li, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said Sharif's official visit to China shortly after the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) reflects the special friendship between the two countries. He said China is ready to carry forward the ironclad friendship with Pakistan, strengthen strategic coordination, deepen practical cooperation, and enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 2, 2022. (Xinhua/Yao Dawei)

Li said that Xi Jinping's re-election as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee reflects the heartfelt support of more than 96 million CPC members and the firm determination of hundreds of millions of Chinese people to follow his lead to create a great cause.

China's NPC is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the Pakistani parliament at all levels, Li added.

Sharif expressed his congratulations on the successful conclusion of 20th CPC National Congress, and his belief that China will make greater achievements in its future development under President Xi Jinping's leadership.

Noting that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and always firmly support each other, Sharif said Pakistan will work with China to push for the in-depth development of bilateral relations.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1103/c90000-10166708.html>

November 04, 2022

China Daily

Pakistan eyes new heights in relations

Shared view on multilateralism drives friendship with China, foreign chief says

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with China and hopes to take the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries to new heights, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said.

Zardari was in Beijing as part of the delegation accompanying Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on an official visit that began on Tuesday.

Zardari said that the successful conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China "will build a new impetus for the progress that China will make to go forward and build on the incredible gains that have been made in the past couple of decades".

He said he believes that China will continue to witness economic success despite the difficulties facing the world as a result of the pandemic and other geopolitical issues.

"We also share the vision of your leadership of multilateral cooperation and coexistence on the world stage as a path to peace and prosperity, and we hope to work with your great country in all these areas," he said.

He said Pakistan has enjoyed economic dividends and other practical benefits from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative that is helping to improve the lives of ordinary Pakistanis.

He recalled that before the CPEC came into being, Pakistan had to contend with energy shortages, with the limitations in the country's energy infrastructure requiring practices such as load shedding.

The country has since seen incredible improvements in infrastructure serving both energy and connectivity needs over the past few years as a direct result of the CPEC. Thousands of kilometers of roads and bridges and other infrastructure have been built, and all to the highest standards, he said.

"The Gwadar port, a crown jewel of the CPEC, is now the most advanced port in Pakistan and we're hoping that this will also open up a whole new avenue of economic potential for Pakistan and also as a key hub for regional connectivity and logistics," he said.

He spoke of the successes achieved under the first phase of the CPEC, and said the second phase will be much broader in scope. It will spur industrial relocation, agricultural modernization, science and technology cooperation, job creation and socioeconomic development, Zardari said.

The foreign minister rejected the accusations by some Western countries that the BRI is creating a "debt trap". Zardari said that Pakistan is experiencing the fruits of the CPEC and knows more than any other country how people have responded to the initiative.

"For us, it has been a net positive. We don't see it as any sort of trap," he said. "Unfortunately, I believe that this sort of propaganda is a result of others' insecurities, others' frustration at the success of the BRI and the CPEC.

"But we have to be cognizant and we have to be aware and have to be ready to counter such propaganda with facts," he added. He said that China and Pakistan have always stood by each other and supported efforts to maintain regional stability. The neighbors have worked

together in ways that seek to promote unity, as opposed to divisiveness, and cooperation, as opposed to confrontation.

"I believe our two countries will continue to uphold the values of multilateralism and play our role to foster peace and stability to different regions and among various countries."

Course for development

He said that every nation has the right to chart a course for development that is best suited to its own domestic conditions. Pakistan has been clear that topics related to Taiwan, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet autonomous regions are China's internal affairs and strongly opposes any attempt to interfere with Chinese domestic matters. Pakistan also adheres to the one-China principle, as this concept is about China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which should be respected, the minister said.

He thanked the Chinese government and the people for their immense support and generosity after Pakistan experienced devastating floods in recent months. As extreme weather events become more frequent, Zardari said, the international community must work together to not only address the root causes of the problem but also come up with financial mechanisms for countries like Pakistan to deal with tragedies on such a large scale.

"We look forward to working with China and other countries to ensure that everybody plays their role in combating climate change and that the developed countries live up to their obligations. And we collectively face this challenge to humanity," he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/04/WS63644bc1a310fd2b29e8031f.html>

November 05, 2022

Xinhuanet News

CPEC contributes to rejuvenating Pakistan's economic development: foreign ministry

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 4 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has benefited from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the project has contributed to rejuvenating Pakistan's economic development, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

"CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, is aiming at the development and socio-economic progress not only in Pakistan but the entire region and beyond," Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said during a weekly media briefing in Islamabad.

The first phase of the CPEC focused on energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan, Ahmad said, adding that the second phase of the project focused on agriculture, industrialization and socio-economic development in the South Asian country.

<https://english.news.cn/20221105/f6ec763218694d148216cce87974e20f/c.html>

November 07, 2022

People's Daily

4 key takeaways from Xi's diplomacy after CPC congress

BEIJING, Nov. 6 (Xinhua) -- Shortly after the successful convening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), leaders of four countries visited Beijing within a week.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese president, met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong, Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, respectively, during this past week.

Here are four key takeaways from their meetings.

COMRADES AND BROTHERS

During the meeting with Trong, Xi said that the two countries should carry forward the traditional friendship of "comrades and brothers" nurtured by the older generation of leaders.

China and Vietnam are both socialist countries led by the Communist Party, with the same political system, shared ideals and beliefs, and similar development paths. "Comrades and brothers" speaks to the particularity of China-Vietnam relations, and this traditional friendship is a common and valuable asset for both parties and countries.

After their talks, Xi awarded the Friendship Medal of the People's Republic of China to Trong, while Trong responded by saying that he will work with the Vietnamese people on his post to continue to adhere to the socialist path, constantly consolidate and deepen the Vietnam-China friendly relations as "comrades and brothers," and jointly realize a brighter future.

IRONCLAD FRIENDSHIP

"China and Pakistan are good friends, good partners and good brothers. Amid global changes and instability in recent years, the two countries have supported each other and forged ahead, demonstrating an ironclad friendship," Xi said when meeting with Sharif.

"China expressed deep sympathies to the Pakistani people concerning the devastating floods that have hit the country, and will provide additional emergency relief to help with post-flood reconstruction," Xi said.

Xi put forward a series of pragmatic initiatives to deepen China-Pakistan cooperation, including advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with greater efficiency, and making CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, welcoming Pakistan to export more quality agri-products to China, and supporting Chinese provinces with strong industries in pairing up with Pakistani partners to advance industrial cooperation.

"No country has ever helped Pakistan or other developing countries with such wholehearted sincerity," Sharif said, noting that Pakistan-China friendship is "unbreakable," and that Pakistan will always stand firmly with China.

SINCERITY, REAL RESULTS, AMITY AND GOOD FAITH

While visiting Tanzania in 2013, Xi put forth the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith to guide China's cooperation with African countries. It has now become the basic policy guiding China's solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries.

During their talks, Xi and Hassan announced the elevation of the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Xi mentioned that the Tazara Railway marked a milestone in both China-Tanzania and China-Africa friendship. He said even when China was poor, it had tightened its belt to help its African brothers build this railway.

"Now that China is more developed, it is better placed to act on the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, to help our African friends achieve common development, and build a stronger China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era," Xi said.

"Tanzania views China as its top real friend and will always be a trustworthy partner for China," Hassan echoed Xi's remarks.

STABILITY AND CONSISTENCY

China's policy toward Germany has maintained a high degree of stability and consistency, and it is hoped that Germany will follow a positive China policy for the mutual benefit of both countries, Xi said when meeting with Scholz.

This was the first visit to China by a European leader since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and also the first visit to China by Scholz since he took office as German Chancellor.

"The visit will further enhance the mutual understanding and trust between the two sides and deepen practical cooperation in various fields," Xi said. According to foreign media reports, more than 100 German companies applied to join the visit, of which 12 well-known companies were shortlisted, which speaks volumes about the attractiveness of the Chinese market.

Germany firmly supports trade liberalization, supports economic globalization, and opposes decoupling, Scholz said, also expressing his hope for closer trade and economic cooperation with China.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1107/c90000-10167743.html>

Xinhuanet News

China Focus: China, Pakistan strengthen youth exchange

BEIJING, Nov. 7 (Xinhua) -- As part of a training course, 16 kinds of advanced scientific research equipment were introduced to a group of Chinese and Pakistani students at the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB).

"It is quite rare for us students to be able to see these advanced devices up close. The activity has deepened my knowledge in the materials science field," said Muhammad Zeeshan Naeem, a Pakistani PhD student at USTB.

The activity was part of the "China-Pakistan Youth Forum for People-to-People Exchanges on Science" held in Beijing, jointly hosted by the China Center for International People-to-People Exchange under the Ministry of Education of China and the USTB.

The forum was held to advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through scientific and technological innovation, and the youth exchange.

It attracted more than 100 representatives from 19 Chinese and Pakistani universities and other educational and scientific sectors, who exchanged views on the promotion of youth exchanges and development, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation, and the role of youth in the Belt and Road.

Data released by the Ministry of Education showed that around 21,000 Pakistani students are studying in Chinese universities.

USTB began to recruit Pakistani students in 1977 and has cultivated 226 Pakistani students so far, according to Yang Renshu, president of USTB. The majority of them have devoted themselves to the construction of the CPEC and exchanges on science and technology and culture between the two sides.

"China has become the top education destination for Pakistani students," said Afifa Shajia Awais, education attache of the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

About 20,000 Pakistani graduates from China are now engaged in diverse fields in Pakistan, including engineering, social sciences, agriculture and healthcare, according to Awais.

Muhammad Arif Mughal, a Pakistani teacher of the Institute of Artificial Intelligence at USTB, has been in Beijing for more than 10 years.

"I'm a beneficiary of the Belt and Road, and the construction of CPEC has brought great changes to my hometown," said Mughal.

Du Kewei, director of the China Center for International People-to-People Exchange, said young people play an important role in China-Pakistan people-to-people exchanges and the bilateral relationship.

<https://english.news.cn/20221107/e6707953d66b4e91a2b57eb8834de114/c.html>

November 09, 2022

Xinhuanet News

Pakistan-China ties based on mutual trust, win-win cooperation: Pakistani senator

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) -- The deep-rooted relations between Pakistan and China are based on solid foundations of mutual trust, respect and win-win cooperation, a Pakistani senator said on Tuesday.

"Pakistan's foreign policy towards China is not ideological. It is realistic and pragmatic based on safeguarding its national interests and sustaining its friendship with China," Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee, said at a seminar organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, a local think tank.

The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries has touched new heights, the senator said, adding that China has never undermined Pakistan's core national interests and Pakistan reciprocated the same by supporting China on its important issues.

Syed said China played a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's economy under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by constructing road networks from south to north, adding thousands of megawatts of electricity to the national grid, thus helping the country overcome its severe energy crisis.

The CPEC has now entered its second phase after successfully completing the first phase. The second phase will bring socio-economic development and boost Pakistan's economic status in the longer term, he said.

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, told Xinhua that the ties between the two countries stood the test of time and are exemplary in the world.

Adhering to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and respect for every country's sovereignty and territorial integrity helped forge an exceptionally stronger bond between the two countries, Khalid said.

He noted that China has always extended a helping hand whenever Pakistan needed the most, adding that China's assistance to Pakistan comes with no strings attached.

China assisted Pakistan in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic by providing much-needed medical supplies and vaccines, and now when the country is bearing the brunt of climate change in the form of unprecedented floods recently, China provided relief and rehabilitation aid for flood victims, he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20221109/ddb10f6c4ca041ddab1a13a206c32c1f/c.html>

November 10, 2022

China Daily

Ironclad brothers' bond contributes greatly to regional peace and security

The friendship between China and Pakistan has become much stronger since the establishment of diplomatic relations between them 71 years ago, with the two states supporting each other on every international platform, despite the efforts of non-regional powers to drive a wedge between them.

The friendship between Pakistan and China is underpinned by mutual trust, common interests, equality, and a convergent outlook. Adhering to these principles, the two sides have set an apt example of peaceful coexistence.

The two sides' relations are centuries old, when Chinese merchants traded in goods with their counterparts in the Indian sub-continent, the Middle East, and Europe via the ancient Silk Road.

With multilateralism becoming the global trend, to the chagrin of certain countries, the changing dynamics of international relations have enabled countries to establish or deepen cooperation and defy conventional notions of confrontation. In this regard, China has become a leading player in regional and international social, political and economic discourse and enjoys the full support of Pakistan.

Furthermore, the Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — have helped improve connectivity between the two countries. China is engaging with many countries through the Belt and Road Initiative to promote inclusive economic development. The initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping has proved to be a "game changer", creating development opportunities for other countries, especially developing countries, and facilitating global cooperation.

Pakistan has been supportive of all China-proposed development initiatives, and has immensely benefited from China-Pakistan joint ventures including the CPEC, which is not just an economic, infrastructure project but much more than that; it is a signifier of the strong Sino-Pakistani friendship.

The CPEC has enhanced people-to-people contacts, facilitated technological advancement and agricultural development, boosted cultural cooperation, strengthened academic ties, and promoted tourism. The project has also helped transform many remote regions in Pakistan into economic success stories, improving the quality of life and contributing to national development. Thanks to such projects, Pakistan's GDP is projected to reach \$4.2 trillion by 2050.

Sino-Pakistani joint collaboration, which started with Chinese economic aid to Pakistan, has led to the establishment of strategic partnership, as well as bilateral collaboration in many fields. The two sides have also strengthened defense relations, and even held joint naval exercises in the Arabian Sea.

All these prove the China-Pakistan friendship is "higher than mountains and deeper than oceans". Sino-Pakistani relations have progressed over the years despite the challenges posed by regional and international players.

Moreover, the two countries contribute to regional peace and security. In this context, President Xi's proposals such as the dialogue among civilizations and global cooperation, and building a community with a shared future for mankind have been promoting mutual benefit and prosperity. And Pakistan is working with China to establish an integrated framework of cooperation and regional alignment to find solutions to common problems, in order to help maintain regional and global peace, and bring together countries to overcome common challenges.

The visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China on Nov 1 came at a critical time — at a time of rising global uncertainties and fast-changing global political and economic landscapes. True to their friendship, the two sides signed or concluded several

agreements and memorandums of understanding. Also, the meetings between high-level officials of China and Pakistan enabled the latter to share innovative ideas and discuss the future of the CPEC.

The two sides, thanks to their colossal efforts and cooperation in many areas, have paved the way for deepening cooperation and strengthening diplomatic ties. As a matter of fact, while the two countries' relations are strengthening, their development policies are integrating at a faster pace. And hopefully, with joint efforts, China and Pakistan will create more opportunities for mutual and collective benefit and promote mutually beneficial development under a robust framework.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/10/WS636c3993a3105ca1f2275140.html>

November 12, 2022

People's Daily

Pakistani health minister welcomes China's timely support in flood-rehabilitation efforts

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- China came forward with timely support for Pakistan in fighting recent disasters caused by devastating floods in the South Asian country, Pakistani Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said on Thursday.

Patel made the remarks here during a session with a visiting Chinese medical team consisting of 13 members including experts in the field of clinical medicine and health and pandemic prevention from China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

"I am thankful to the Chinese government as they helped us not just in statement and words, but they are helping us practically which shows that Pakistan-China friendship is unprecedented," he said.

Highlighting the team's work, he said the experts went all the way into the most flood-affected parts of Pakistan, especially the interior areas of the southern Sindh province, and provided great help which won't be forgotten by Pakistani people.

On the occasion, Huang Wenxin, head of the Chinese medical team, said that his team has carried out intensive work exchanges with its Pakistani counterparts, and visited relief camps and medical camps in the flood-affected areas to investigate mosquito-borne disease and the residual chlorine content of drinking water.

Huang said the Chinese medical team also provided free clinical treatment to local patients and urgently needed medicines and medical supplies to local health departments.

"We will submit relevant work reports and are willing to continue to exert our professional expertise to contribute to the reconstruction of the post-disaster health system in Pakistan," he said.

According to the latest data released by the country's National Disaster Management Authority, a total of 1,739 people were killed and 12,867 others injured in the floods, which affected over 33 million people.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1112/c90000-10170448.html>

Shanghai Daily

China-aided hydropower project bolsters Pakistan's energy structure, transforms lives

Life has taken an incredible turn for 24-year-old Qais Qadeer when he, as a scholarship student a few years ago, joined China Three Gorges Corporation, a Chinese company constructing a hydropower plant on Pakistan's river Jehlum.

Now working as an operation engineer at the Karot hydropower project in the country's eastern Punjab province, Qadeer told Xinhua that he is living a successful and fulfilling life that a person like him could never dream of.

The project is one of the China-aided power projects being built in the country under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Since the groundbreaking of the project in April 2015, the Chinese and Pakistani engineers and workers at the project have jointly overcome different challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cherishing his unbelievable journey, he said he gets to learn a lot from Chinese instructors and supervisors, both during his studies in China and at the hydropower station in Pakistan.

"I was a fresh graduate when I joined this project after completing my studies in China, but the environment here was so conducive that I adopted all the techniques in a very quick manner ... I am proud to be part of the project which will immensely benefit the people of Pakistan in economic and social ways besides alleviating energy shortage," he said.

The Karot hydropower project would facilitate Pakistan to achieve renewable energy goals by producing clean and cheap energy, Noorul Arifeen Zuberi, a senior advisor of the China Three Gorges South Asia Investment, said.

The 720-megawatt hydropower project is expected to annually generate some 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity once put into full commercial operations in June this year, reducing 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

Based on the Chinese standards and technologies, the project is of tremendous importance as it will not only help Pakistan improve its energy structure but will also promote the sustainable development of the local economy and society while contributing to the global goal of carbon neutrality, he said.

Zuberi said over 4,000 jobs, directly or indirectly, were provided to local people every year and students were awarded fully-funded scholarships, adding that billions of rupees were paid by the company in taxes to the Pakistani government during the construction phase.

Under its community investment programs, the Chinese company also built a number of public welfare projects including schools, hospitals, bridges and roads, bringing a lot of convenience to local communities.

Talking to Xinhua, Abdul Basit, a school teacher at a government school in Karot, said a lot have changed around him since the initiation of the project in 2016.

"There was only one room for the school and I remember we used to teach students under trees before the Chinese company bought land in the area and built several rooms, a playground, offices and boundary walls for us," he said.

Basit said that not only the school, but the company has also built roads and bridges which solved transportation issues for the locals.

"Children and teachers used to walk more than an hour on a muddy track to get to the school. It was an arduous daily routine for us ... Now it only takes 10 to 15 minutes and I could not be happier for what they (the Chinese) have done for us," he said with a radiant smile.

"Chinese brothers not only illuminated our homes but also our hearts with their selflessness and valuable assistance for Pakistan," Basit added.

<https://www.shine.cn/news/world/2211122780/>

November 14, 2022

South China Morning Post

China-Pakistan trade deficit in focus after prime minister's visit to Beijing

Exporting more agricultural goods to China is on the table, but structural barriers and a lack of technological advancements in rural Pakistan are holding back the industry. New land routes in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor could make it easier for the world's largest importer of agricultural commodities to get more rice and other staple goods. Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy, accounting for 75 per cent of its exports. Photo: EPA-EFE

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's first official visit to China has put renewed emphasis on Pakistan's desire to increase its agricultural exports to China and tackle a ballooning trade deficit with its strategic partner.

As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) enters its second phase, agricultural cooperation between the two partners has been gaining momentum over the past few years, after both countries established a joint working group on agriculture in 2018.

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3199550/china-pakistan-trade-deficit-focus-after-prime-ministers-visit-beijing>

November 15, 2022

China Daily

Pakistani PM's visit to China reflects close relations

Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif made a significant and historic visit to China following the landmark 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Regular exchanges and visits based on strategic trust and common views reflect the strength of the bond and the two nations' "iron brotherhood".

Both sides issued a comprehensive statement at the end of the visit reaffirming their resolve to make headway in the direction of togetherness on national-level cooperation and standing together on regional and international issues.

This historic visit during these challenging global and regional times has had a strong impact on long-standing bilateral ties. It is essential to mention that Prime Minister Sharif and President Xi Jinping met in September on the sidelines of the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which was held in Uzbekistan. The visit two months later shows the strength of cooperation and eagerness to finalize various steps.

Both sides have reiterated their firm resolve on multiple national, regional and international issues. Both sides also consider the significance of each other in their respective foreign policy dimensions. Pakistan considers China a cornerstone of its foreign policy, while China supports Pakistan in its regional and international matters, including support for its national-level development and progress.

During this historic debut visit, the prime minister was accompanied by high-level officials, including the foreign minister and other ministers, to sign cooperation agreements and finalize major political, economic and strategic agreements. Apart from this, China's generous assistance in the recent flood disaster was phenomenal and genuinely reflected the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Over all these years, despite changes in the government and representatives, what has remained constant is Pakistan and China's commitment to strengthen and deepen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. This cooperation has been transformed into practical cooperation in all areas where the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has substantially contributed to strengthening ties. With the economic corridor thriving, Pakistan and China have made high-quality development and progress.

Before the visit, essential recommendations were made regarding progress and cooperation on the economic corridor, especially on the ML1 rail project, the Karachi Circular Railway, the Azad Pattan Hydropower Project, the Kohala Hydropower Project and the Thar Block Coal Project. All of these projects were discussed during the high-level meeting.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important node in cross-regional connectivity and is currently in the second phase of cooperation and development in agriculture and industrial collaboration, apart from the socioeconomic boost it provides through community development projects. Both sides also discussed accelerating cooperation on information technology, health, digital areas and green corridors.

There has been significant progress on the economic corridor, including an agreement to launch the \$10 billion ML1 rail project as well as several agreements that were signed covering bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, financial cooperation, agriculture, the digital economy, e-commerce, protection of cultural property, flood relief, animal disease control, geosciences, law enforcement and security.

It is noteworthy that Pakistan and China have consistently worked to establish lasting peace in the region. In this context, efforts to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan are but one example of cooperation between the two partners.

Furthermore, this significant bilateral visit will strengthen and advance the strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries, with the top leadership talking about all aspects of the bilateral relations amid the changing global and regional landscape. Pakistan's primary goal is to promote bilateral investment in many sectors.

This high-level visit can also be considered a turning point in the illustrious, more than seven-decade relationship, and it increases confidence as the two countries work toward a common goal of peace and prosperity at the national, regional and global levels.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/15/WS6372e859a310491754329b59.html>