



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

November 16-30, 2022

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Supervised by Dr. Fazal ur Rahman

Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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November 16, 2022

Business Recorder

Governor, PCJCCI team discuss Pakistan-China food, cultural analogue

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) conducted a meeting with Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor Punjab at Governor House, Lahore recently. The main agenda of meeting is to discuss Pak-China Food and Cultural Analogue to boost the cultural exchange between both countries. Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI, Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, Daud Ahmed, Executive Committee Member, Syed Ali Raza Rizvi, Chairman Tourism Committee and Col Ashraf, Executive Committee Member attended the meeting and also highlighted various other problems.

Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI shared that we are planning to organize a Pak-China Food & Cultural Analogue to identify/highlight the similarities and uniqueness of Chinese and Pakistani Food at Governor House Punjab under your kind patronage being charismatic personality to bring revolutionary changes in the present inundated system of disparities between public and private sector. The hallmark of this food and cultural program will be to disseminate message of uniformity between public and private sectors with respect to enhanced Chinese stake in this region in the shape of foreign direct investment/joint ventures.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI highlighted that there is no systematic data available regarding influx/operations of Chinese investors and businessmen in Pakistan. PCJCCI proposes to establish a central data bank to keep record of Chinese and their investments in Pakistan. He added that it will definitely serve as a valuable and reliable source of information which can be utilized by all stakeholders in Pakistan.

Daud Ahmed, Executive Committee Member PCJCCI added that there is a lack of coordinated and cohesive efforts to attract FDI from the global market place. The only plausible way is to provide one-stop solution in consonance with developed world. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI informed that we want to conduct Pak-China Food Analogue in the first week of December 2022 for which we need your kind support in all aspects.

The governor Punjab expressed his warm gratitude to the office-bearers of PCJCCI and also appreciated the untiring efforts of PCJCCI for the expansion of bilateral trade relations between the two countries. He also praised the idea of Pak-China Food Analogue and showed keen interest in conducting it at massive scale.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/16/2-page/947558-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan eyes co-op with China in sports goods as Pak soccer balls to hit Qatar

Pakistan eyes cooperation with China in sports goods as Pakistan soccer balls to hit the upcoming 2022 FIFA world cup to be held in Qatar from Nov 20, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

Made-in-Pakistan soccer balls will make a glamorous appearance in the upcoming event. Al Rihla, the official ball of the international event, is made in Sialkot, a city that is home to premium quality sports goods.

The report says, Sialkot produces about 600 million soccer balls per year, accounting for more than half of the world's total production. "Sialkot has been meeting up to 70 % [soccer ball] requirement of the world," Saad Ghani, marketing manager of Talon Company, told Gwadar Pro, adding that "a little of its share has been reduced since more countries have ventured into the industry."

Debuting in the 1982 Spain World Cup, Sialkot-made soccer balls have shone at the apex of the football kingdom for nine times (upcoming one in Qatar included).

The "tango" balls pioneered the use of rubber inlaid over the seams to prevent water from seeping through, becoming the first water-resistant ball in the FIFA world cup.

"No one can make football like it is made in our country even China can't make it. The quality of our football is so good that it is used all over the world," exclaimed Imran Zaidi, a local sports shopkeeper.

Apart from a powerhouse of soccer balls, Sialkot also produces a wide range of other sports goods. As per the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), the city has been the "centre of excellence for the production of sports goods" with nearly 95 percent of the sports industry's total production in the country.

The report added, despite the booming sports goods industry in Sialkot, the industry is far from being a rosy undertaking.

One of the major hurdles is a lack of large-scale mechanisation. "In Sialkot, most sporting goods are made by hand, with long production cycles and high production costs," said Assad Bajwa, general manager of Talon Group.

In the case of cricket balls, "a worker hand stitch one ball in 25 minutes and a machine is stitching 50 balls in 25 minutes," said Rana Tahseen.

In its 2021 Sportswear Report, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) says that Sialkot is plagued by the absence of a materials testing laboratory and state-of-the-art dyeing units and diversified product lines.

To rev up the sports industry, SMEDA suggests bringing the latest technologies into Pakistan, building high-tech manufacturing units for composite-based material goods

production and working closely with countries such as China and Korea, in its 2018 sports goods industry report on Sialkot.

To navigate such headwinds, Pakistan is looking to China for collaboration. “Chinese industrialists can provide us with expertise in those [sports] products which we can produce here under their supervision which we had to import from them,” local sports goods manufacturer Nauman Babar told Gwadar Pro.

According to media reports, a Chinese firm called Challenge has planned to invest US\$ 150mln in setting up a textile industrial park in Lahore, which will house fabric units, dyeing facilities, and garment manufacturing units to enhance sportswear exports from Pakistan to America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and other regions.

The company’s managing director predicted, in a February interview with media, that once the industrial park goes into operation, the company’s sportswear exports from Pakistan will grow to US\$120 mln in the first year and then, to US\$400 mln over the next few years.

In his address at a webinar on Pak-China sports goods cooperation in September 2021, CEO Sun Yongming of a Beijing-based sports goods firm envisioned that Pakistani and Chinese enterprises can set up joint ventures in cricket goods.

“One possible area of cooperation is that Chinese firms provide high tech such as sensors and Pakistani enterprises incorporate such technology in the products during manufacturing,” Sun told Gwadar Pro in an interview after the webinar.

Sun hinted at more possible cricket cooperation between Pakistani enterprises and firms in China’s Zhejiang, as the Chinese province has a relatively long history of playing cricket and more importantly, it will hold the 19th Asian Games in 2023, where the cricket match will come into prominence.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1028029/pakistan-eyes-co-op-with-china-in-sports-goods-as-pak-soccer-balls-to-hit-qatar/>

Chinese technology bolsters Pakistan’s dragon fruit growth

Chinese technology bolsters Pakistan’s dragon fruit growth, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. “Pakistan has the natural advantage of growing dragon fruit. By promoting dragon fruit cultivation to Pakistani farmers, providing Chinese high-quality dragon fruit seedlings and its scientific management and planting technology, it is expected to turn dragon fruit into a new foreign exchange fruit with high commercial potential in Pakistan,” highlighted Shan Ailin, owner of Tiantian Farm in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

Dragon fruit tastes delicious and has high nutritional value. It is a green and eco-friendly fruit with certain curative effects. According to the research and observation of Dr. Asif Javed, an expert who has been promoting the growth of dragon fruit in Pakistan for the last five years, dragon fruit is a tropical fruit that is well suited to Pakistan’s tropical and subtropical climate.

Prior to its local production, the dragon fruit which was available in Pakistan was imported from Vietnam, Thailand and other countries. Half-ripe fruits are cut to extend their shelf life, greatly affecting the flavor and nutritional value.

High transportation costs have made this “super fruit” difficult to reach for Pakistanis. Dr. Asif Javed believes dragon fruit is a cash crop and the increasing operations in Pakistan could make it more profitable. “We supply these plants to farmers and amateur growers throughout Pakistan and also cover the transportation costs,” claimed him.

Dragon fruit cultivation in Pakistan is a long-cycle, high-investment facility agriculture. Commenting on the difficulties of growing dragon fruit in Pakistan, Mr. Shan said that there were no new good varieties in the market, and it was relatively difficult to improve them.

“Lack of sophisticated planting techniques can cause great losses. In addition, some disease prevention drugs and fertilizers for dragon fruit are not available in Pakistan and have to be imported from China. It is also necessary to equip Pakistan management staff to localize the project,” added him.

This year is also the fifth year that Shan has grown the Chinese mainstream varieties of dragon fruit in Pakistan. Since 2018, with the support of dragon fruit professional teams from Hainan, Guangxi and Guangdong provinces where dragon fruit is grown extensively in China, the farm has cultivated new varieties of dragon fruit suitable for Pakistan’s climatic conditions, and summarized the management methods and technical standards suitable for Pakistan’s local conditions.

Currently, there are 1-2 Chinese dragon fruit cultivation technicians who are responsible for the daily management at the farm.

Together with Chinese experts, China’s mature experience in dragon fruit cultivation has come to Pakistan. Wang, a Chinese technician at the farm, explained that in terms of fertilizer and water management, they have fully learned from Chinese management methods, using drip irrigation and spraying, paying attention to soil improvement and giving full play to the beneficial role of microorganisms. Fruit trees are pruned regularly to form a system.

The annual production of Shan’s dragon fruit garden this year is about 100 tons, with a planting area of 25 acres. “100 acres are planned to be added between the second half of 2022 and the end of 2023, with a total production capacity of about 350 tons. At present, we can provide local farmers 500,000 seedlings per month, and after May 2023, we can provide more than 5 million seedlings per month.” Shan said optimistically.

Currently, Shan’s main sales channels include supermarkets, online sales, chain fruit stores and high-end hotels. He is planning to set up distribution warehouses and stores in major cities next year.

“The Pakistani government has been promoting dragon fruit cultivation among local farmers for several years.

We hope to export in 3-5 years with government support,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1028028/chinese-technology-bolsters-pakistans-dragon-fruit-growth/>

Dawn News

Pakistan, China agree to work together for disaster preparedness

Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to jointly increase the capacity of disaster preparedness and response to climate change.

A team of experts from China Meteorological Administration (CMA) has conducted the post-disaster assessment work in Pakistan and decided to further reinforce cooperation with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) for technical exchanges, according to a press release. The 11-member team from the CMA carried out in-depth consultations to assist Pakistan in flood control.

CMA's meteorological disaster risk expert, Gao Ge has said the CMA has been monitoring the occurrence of monsoon floods in Pakistan since June and collaborating with the PMD for flood monitoring and analysis and weather forecast.

ADB to start rehabilitation in three provinces

The team travelled to Sindh, the most affected province due to floods, and collected information about the floods and shared flood control and disaster preparedness experience.

ADB starts rehabilitation in flood-hit areas

Meanwhile, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has initiated the process to rehabilitate roads, irrigation systems and communication infrastructure in flood-hit areas.

The ADB will rehabilitate a section of national highway (N5) between Sukkur and Hyderabad and bridges on national highways across Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The 'Emergency Flood Assistance Project' (EFAP) has been initiated with assistance from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. According to the project details, 400km of highways and district roads will be rehabilitated and reconstructed in Sindh. Moreover, 85km of N-5, the busiest national highway between Sukkur and Hyderabad, and about 30 bridges of various types on national highways in Sindh, Balochistan and KP will also be rehabilitated.

The irrigation and drainage systems damaged by floods and the risk management infrastructure will be rehabilitated and reconstructed in KP and Balochistan, according to the project details.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1721178>

The Nation

Pakistan sees positivity in US-China talks

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is happy that China and the United States have held a historic dialogue – a step towards averting a new cold war.

Pakistan is very close to China and despite ups and downs in relationship - remains an ally of the US. The US has on a number of times, shown displeasure with Islamabad's unique closeness to Beijing.

Pakistan has repeatedly made it clear that it will not be supporting bloc politics at the global level and wanted good ties with all the countries, especially the super powers.

Prior to the USSR disintegration in 1991, the US and the USSR were engaged in a fierce cold war and the world was virtually divided into two blocs – supporting one or the other. Paki-integration in 1991, the US and the USSR were engaged in a fierce cold war and the world was virtually divided into two blocs – supporting one or the other. Pakistan then supported the US.

Yesterday, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden have promised to cooperate on global challenges and agreed on the need to improve strained relations as they sat down for their first in-person meeting as national leaders.

The meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, involved 'candid' discussions on a range of issues, including Taiwan, trade, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, according to separate statements from their offices.

Following the three-hour long talks, Biden told the journalists he believed "there need not be a new Cold War," while their offices said the two leaders stressed the importance of cooperation between Beijing and Washington to tackle global issues.

The meeting follows a spike in tensions between the two countries after top US legislator Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan earlier this year and Biden promised to defend the self-ruled island - which Beijing claims as its own - if China invades it.

"On Taiwan, (Biden) laid out in detail that our one China policy has not changed, the United States opposes any unilateral changes to the status quo by either side, and the world has an interest in the maintenance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," the White House said.

Under the 'One China policy', the US recognises the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Bei-jing over the Republic of China (ROC) in Taipei as the sole and legal government of China. But Washington takes no position on Taiwan's sovereignty, contending that its future should be determined by peaceful means.

This policy is different to the PRC's 'One China principle', under which Beijing insists that Taiwan is an inalienable part of its territory.

Chinese official media cited Xi as saying that the "two sides should work with all countries to bring more hope to world peace, greater confidence in global stability, and stronger impetus to common development."

For his part, Xi stressed that the "Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-US relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations." Resolving this question is an internal Chinese matter and the US must not use Taiwan as a tool to seek advantages in competition with China, he said, according to readout of the meeting by the Chinese foreign ministry.

After the meeting ended, Biden told journalists that Washington does not believe there was an immediate threat of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

“I absolutely believe there need not be a new Cold War,” Biden said. “I’ve met many times with Xi Jinping. And we were candid and clear with one another across the board. And I do not think there’s any imminent attempt on the part of China to invade Taiwan.”

Missile incident in Poland triggers dispute between Ukraine, Western allies

Beyond Taiwan, ties between Beijing and Washington have soured over numerous other points of tension in recent years, including trade issues, human rights, claims to the South China Sea and an ongoing US effort to counter China’s growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

The White House said Biden raised concerns with Xi over China’s “practices in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong, and human rights more broadly”. The US has accused China of carrying out genocide against its Muslim Uighur minority in the western region of Xinjiang — a charge that Beijing vehemently denies.

He also raised concerns about ‘China’s non-market practices’ and said it was a priority for Washington to resolve the cases of American citizens detained by Beijing.

Pakistani diplomats said the talks between China and the US had been positive and a new beginning. “We cannot expect all issues to be resolved in one sitting but the statements from both the sides have been encouraging. We support the dialogue for solution of the issues at all levels,” said a senior diplomat. Another diplomat said, “The talks at the highest level always help resolve issues. The two presidents have shown the intent to resolve the issues and move forward. Pakistan is hopeful of positive results in the long run.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Nov-2022/pakistan-sees-positivity-in-us-china-talks>

Chinese relief efforts for flood victims continue

ISLAMABAD - Miller International China and Million Smiles Foundation (MSF) have joined hand to work for the people affected by the recent devastating floods in Pakistan. This was disclosed by Zeshan Afzal, co-founder of the MSF, in a post, with the caption, ‘A Million Smiles for Humanity with Corporates from China, according to Gwadar Pro. Muzaffar Paracha, CEO Airlink Communications, facilitated the signing between MSF and Miller Int China, Zeshan wrote. Airlink Communications is an official partner of various Chinese mobile phone companies for the distribution of cellular sets and accessories, and it also assembles some Chinese smartphone brands with technical assistance from TCL and Transsion Holdings Co. Miller Int’l also handed over a cheque of Rs2 million to MSF for flood-relief works. MSF Chairperson Umme Muhammad received the cheque on behalf of Miller Int’l China from Maryam, Head of Marketing Airlink and Adnan Aftab, GM Airlink, Zeshan wrote. MSF is beginning the 2nd phase of rehab activities for flood-affected families across Pakistan, especially keeping in view the winter season, he wrote. “we thank our brotherly country China and its corporates for supporting Pakistan in these difficult times,” Zeshan wrote.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-16/page-3/detail-4>

لاقات کے اختتام پر پاکستانی اور چینی قیادت نے ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کے منصوبوں پر فوری طور پر عملدرآمد کرنے پر مکمل رضامندی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سیلاب زدگان کی مدد کے لئے چین کی طرف سے تقریباً 36 ارب روپے سے زائد کی امداد فراہم کی گئی ہے۔ اس موقع پر میں نے اپنی گزارشات پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس میں شک و شبہ کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں کہ ہم آج کی دنیا میں ہمسایوں سے ایک غیر معمولی تعلق رکھتے ہیں۔ ارد گرد کے حالات سے وطن عزیز ضرور اثر قبول کرتا ہے اور جب چین کی بات کی جائے تو یہ اثر ہمیشہ خوشگوار ہوتا ہے۔ چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی حالیہ بیسیوس نمیشنل کانگریس نے جہاں چینی عوام کی ترجیحات کو دنیا کے سامنے بیان کیا ہے وہیں پر سیاسی حوالے سے غیر معمولی فیصلے بھی سامنے آئے ہیں۔

چین نے کمیونسٹ انقلاب کو اپنے عظیم رہنماؤں کے تنگ کی قیادت میں حاصل کیا تھا، اسی وجہ سے اس بات کی ضرورت محسوس کی گئی تھی کہ چیزیں مین ماؤ اپنی زندگی کی آخری سانسوں تک چینی قوم کی قیادت کرتے رہے۔ ہم یہ دیکھ رہے ہیں کہ چین نے 70 کروڑوں سے زائد عوام کو خطرہ سے نکالتے ہوئے غربت کے خلاف فتح حاصل کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔

بی آر آئی کی صورت میں اپنی کامیابیوں کو دنیا کے ساتھ مل کر آگے بڑھانے اور مشترکہ مستقبل کے منصوبے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ چینی تاریخ میں انقلاب کے بعد دوسرا اہم ترین موقع ہے۔

اسی سبب سے یہ چین کیلئے ناگزیر ہو گیا تھا کہ چین میں قیادت کا تسلسل قائم رہے تاکہ پالیسیوں کے تسلسل کے حوالے سے کوئی ابہام جگہ نہ پاسکے۔ جب بی آر آئی کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے تو اس کے پائلٹ پروجیکٹ سی پیک کی افادیت کا ذکر ضروری ہے۔ بہت افسوس کے ساتھ یہ حقیقت سامنے آئی ہے کہ سی پیک جس رفتار سے آگے بڑھنا چاہیے تھا بد قسمتی سے اس رفتار سے آگے نہیں بڑھ سکا۔ 2018 سے درحقیقت اس کو روک دیا گیا۔

اس کا سب سے بڑا ثبوت یہ ہے کہ آج بھی سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ ہی مکمل نہیں ہو سکا اور ہم ابھی اس کے دوسرے مرحلے کے آغاز سے بہت دور ہیں۔ ابھی تو صورت حال یہ ہے کہ ہم ریلویز کی بحالی کے مرکزی پروگرام ایم ایل ون کے پروگرام کو ہی زیر بحث لارہے ہیں جو کہ اب تک بہت آگے بڑھ جانا چاہیے تھا۔ اس کے علاوہ آئناک زونز کا اعلان تو کر دیا گیا مگر ابھی تک ایک بھی آئناک زون فعال نہیں کیا جا سکا ہے۔

بد قسمتی سے اس تمام دیر کی وجہ پاکستان کی جانب سے کوتاہی کی پالیسی تھی۔ پاکستان کو یہ بات اچھی طرح سے سمجھ لینا چاہیے کہ سی پیک کی اہمیت ہماری خارجہ و معاشی پالیسی میں کلیدی ہے۔

اسلئے سی پیک کے حوالے سے پاکستان کی ایک طے شدہ پالیسی ہونی چاہیے جیسا کہ ایٹمی توانائی اور چین سے دوستی کے حوالے سے پاکستان کی ایک طے شدہ پالیسی ہے اور پاکستان میں آئندہ جو چاہے سیاسی تبدیلیاں رونما ہوتی رہیں مگر اس پروجیکٹ پر آئندہ کوئی منفی اثر نہیں پڑنا چاہیے۔

جہاں یہ ریاستی اداروں کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ وہ اس حوالے سے یکسو ہو رہیں پر تمام بڑی سیاسی جماعتوں کو بھی سی پیک کو اپنے منشور کا حصہ بنانا چاہیے تاکہ ہمارا دوست ہمسایہ ملک اس حوالے سے مکمل طور پر بے فکر ہو جائے کہ پاکستان کے سیاسی حالات کیا ہیں یا کیا ہو سکتے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1159639>

کراچی یونیورسٹی: چینی اساتذہ پر خودکش حملہ کیس، 6 مفرور ملزمان کے وارنٹ جاری

کراچی کی انسداد دہشت گردی عدالت نے کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چینی اساتذہ پر خودکش حملہ کیس میں مفرور چھ ملزمان کے وارنٹ گرفتاری جاری کر دیے۔ انسداد دہشت گردی عدالت میں کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چینی اساتذہ پر خودکش حملہ کیس کی سماعت ہوئی، عدالت نے 6 مفرور ملزمان کے وارنٹ گرفتاری جاری کر دیے۔ کیس میں خودکش حملہ آور شامی بلوچ کے شوہر ہسبتان بلوچ سمیت چھ ملزمان مفرور ہیں، دیگر مفرور ملزمان میں بشیر زبیر، رحمان گل، خلیل عرف واجہ، ترجمان کا عدم بی ایل اے میر سفیر شامل ہیں، جبکہ کیس میں ایک ملزم داد بخش گرفتار ہے۔

داد بخش کو چار جولائی 2022 کو مچھلی چوک ہاگس بے سے گرفتار کیا گیا تھا۔

پولیس نے عدالت میں موقف اختیار کیا کہ ملزمہ کاشوہرا اس کی کالعدم تنظیم میں شمولیت اور ذہن سازی میں ملوث ہے، جبکہ ملزم داد بخش ریکی کر کے معلومات خلیل، ڈاکٹر ہیدتان بلوچ اور بشیر زیب کو فراہم کرتا تھا۔

ملزم داد بخش نے اپنے شریک ملزم ناصر کے ساتھ چائنیز نیشنلز کونشانہ بنانے کے انکشافات کیے ہیں، بیشتر مفرور ملزمان افغانستان میں روپوش ہو کر دہشت گردی کی کارروائیاں کر رہے ہیں۔

واضح رہے کہ 26 اپریل کو جامعہ کراچی میں کنفیو سشن انسٹیٹیوٹ کے باہر خود کش حملہ ہوا تھا، جس کے نتیجے میں وین میں سوار تین چینی شہریوں سمیت چار افراد ہلاک ہو گئے تھے، وین چینی زبان سکھانے پر مامور اساتذہ کو لے کر واپس جا رہی تھی کہ موٹر پر گھات لگائے کھڑی خاتون حملہ آور نے خود کو اڑایا تھا۔

دھماکے میں ہلاک ہونے والے غیر ملکی باشندوں میں ڈائریکٹر ہوانگ گوئی پنگ، ڈنگ مو پنگ، چن سائے اور وین ڈرائیور خالد شامل تھے، جبکہ زخمیوں میں وانگ پو کو ننگ اور سیکیورٹی گارڈ حامد شامل تھے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1159975>

Nawaiwaqt News

جی ۲۰ ممالک شرح سود کم کریں، چین: خوراک تو انائی بحران کیلئے اقدامات کئے جائیں

اسلام آباد، بالی، کیف (خصوصی نامہ نگار + اے پی پی + نیٹ نیوز) اقوام متحدہ نے جی 20 ممالک پر زور دیا کہ وہ خوراک، تو انائی سمیت عالمی بحرانوں سے نمٹنے کے لیے اقدامات کی حمایت کریں۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل انٹونیو گوتیریس نے جی 20 سربراہی اجلاس کے موقع پر پریس کانفرنس میں جی 20 ممالک پر زور دیا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی، پائیدار ترقی، دنیا بھر میں خوراک اور تو انائی کے بحرانوں اور ڈیجیٹل ٹرانسفارمیشن سے نمٹنے کے لیے ان کے اقدامات کی حمایت کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جغرافیائی سیاسی تقسیم نئے تنازعات کو جنم دے رہی ہے اور پرانے تنازعات کو حل کرنا اس وقت مشکل بنا رہی ہے جب موجودہ مہنگائی اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلی سے ہر جگہ لوگ متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ جی 20 معیشتوں پر زور دیا گیا کہ وہ پائیدار ترقیاتی اہداف کے حصول کے لیے محرک پیکیج اپنائیں جو گلوبل ساؤتھ کی حکومتوں کو سرمایہ کاری اور لیکویڈیٹی فراہم کرے گا، اور قرضوں میں ریلیف اور تنظیم نو کی پیشکش کرے گا۔ سعودی ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان جی 20 سربراہی اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے اچانک انڈونیشیا پہنچ گئے، ان کے علییل ہونے کی افواہیں دم توڑ گئیں۔ قبل ازیں سعودی ولی عہد کا گورارائے بین الاقوامی ہوائی اڈے پر استقبال کیا گیا۔ ولی عہد نے انڈونیشیا کے صدر جو کو وی دو، ترک صدر طیب اردگان، برطانوی وزیر اعظم رشی سونک، متحدہ عرب امارات کے صدر شیخ محمد بن زید النہیان اور بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کی ڈائریکٹر جنرل کرسٹالینا جارجیوا، چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور فرانس کے صدر ایمانوئیل میکرون سے بھی علیحدہ علیحدہ ملاقاتیں کیں اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ برطانوی وزیر اعظم نے سعودی ولی عہد سے تو انائی کی منڈی کے استحکام پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے جی 20 ممالک پر شرح سود میں کمی پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ دولت مند ممالک شرح سود میں اضافے کے سبب ہونے والے نقصانات کو روکیں۔ انڈونیشیا کے جزیرے بالی میں جی 20 سربراہی اجلاس کے موقع پر چینی صدر نے کہا کہ ہمیں عالمی افراتر پر قابو پانا اور معیشت اور مالیات میں منظم خطرات کو حل کرنا چاہیے۔ یوکرین کے صدر ولودیمیر زیلینسکی نے جی 20 ممالک پر زور دیا ہے کہ یہ وقت روس کی تباہ کن جنگ کو ختم کرنے اور ہزاروں زندگیوں کو محفوظ بنانے کا ہے اور ایسا ممکن ہے۔ امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن اور طیب اردگان نے استنبول میں ہونے والے بم دھماکے اور یوکرین سے اناج برآمد سے متعلق بین الاقوامی کاوشوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ جو بائیڈن نے استنبول میں بم حملے کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم اپنے نیٹو اتحادی کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-16/page-3/detail-11>

November 17, 2022

Daily Times

Companies of China, Pakistan to enhance cooperation in trade, finance

Companies of China and Pakistan will enhance cooperation in trade and finance, it was agreed during a Forum held in Shanghai.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the companies from China and Pakistan agreed on enhancing cooperation in their relevant fields. On the forum, the project of China-Pakistan cross-border e-commerce (Bozhou) live streaming base was undertaken. On the occasion, Hussain Haider, Counsel General of Consulate of Pakistan, Shanghai, and Falak Sher Zaman, Chief Representative of United Bank Limited in China conferred license for China-Pakistan cross-border e-commerce (Bozhou) live streaming base.

A company has been registered for this purpose, according to Mr. Zhao Zhijiang, Director of Shanghai Huiguan Culture Media, an organizer of the forum. “With the support of National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan, the e-commerce base will introduce more Pakistani products to China and vice versa”, he said. Chinese importers, Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, and UBL also reached the intention to enlarge seafood import from Pakistan. If a direct cargo charter flight can be opened between Karachi and Shanghai, it can become a business worth over one billion yuan annually.

Mr. Zhao told CEN that the import has started after the first session of China International Import Expo (CIIE), but more opportunities are yet to be tapped given Pakistan’s advantages in seafood production and China’s vast market. Multiple companies in banking, financial investment, agriculture, automobile, aquatic, and trade sectors were also present to introduce bilateral opportunities.

To further enhance bilateral investment and business exchanges, UBL awarded the China-Pakistan Honorary Advisor Certificates to over a dozen Chinese participants who have long been contributing to China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1028511/companies-of-china-pakistan-to-enhance-cooperation-in-trade-finance/>

November 18, 2022

Daily Times

Donation from CPEC energy enterprises exceeds Rs.115m

Millions of people in Pakistan are still deeply affected by the aftermath of flooding which “is not going anywhere”. In the time of need, the CPEC energy enterprises have stepped forward to assist the local people and provided relief worth Rs.115 million (including food and supplies).

According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute shared details about the CPEC energy enterprises’ support for Pakistan in flood relief. Zoneyg extended support of Rs.12 million, Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Rs.1.06

million. State Grid of China donated about Rs.44 million, and Matiari Lahore Transmission Company Rs.3.72 million. China Power Hub Generation Company provided Rs.1.7 million, China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Rs.9.36 million, and UEP Wind Power Rs.100,000. PowerChina contributed Rs.30.21 million containing seven batches of donations. Shanghai Electric Rs.8.16 million, three batches. China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Rs.4.37 million, five batches.

Some enterprises have transferred the donations to local governments, relief funds, and NGOs in Pakistan, who then dispatched them to the forefront of disaster-hit areas. Some are distributing rations on-ground. For example, Zonergy, China's renewable energy solutions conglomerate, provided portable solar energy equipment and food to areas deprived of electricity and life necessities. Shanghai Electric sent tents, medicine, and drinking water to the families of employees affected by the flood. Matiari Lahore Transmission Company, alert to diseases caused by the flood, delivered 2500 relief packages and medical services to residents near the Matiari Converter Station.

PowerChina HuaDong purchased food for individuals around the sites of their project. In fact, whenever Pakistan faces a major challenge, the Chinese government, enterprises, and people step forward to provide support. This is quite true in the case of flood circumstances. Near the PowerChina Diamer Basha Dam Project, main roads linking villages to town were destroyed by torrential floods, cutting access to relief materials essential to the local residents.

In this difficult time, the Chinese company, after surveying the disaster site, sent rescue teams with excavators and other large mechanical equipment to clear collapsed sections of the roads and backfill the foundation of irrigation canals. After four days of all-out repair, the team cleared the 8-kilometer road and repaired the "paralyzed" irrigation canals, protecting the villagers from a secondary disaster.

"The more difficult it is, the more responsibilities we must take," said an employee of PowerChina Diamer Basha Project. "Our ability might be limited, but we are striving to do something for this country. A brother in need is a friend indeed." Such stories of timely help for locals are innumerable at CPEC projects. In Kaghan Valley, Mansehra District where SK Hydropower Project is located, several parts of the Karakoram highway, a vital communication line in northern Pakistan, were cut off due to rockfall from concessional torrential rains and mud-rock flows, leaving local people stuck in the inner land.

To restore traffic in time and ensure smooth transportation of relief materials, Chinese engineers assisted their Pakistani counterparts to repair Uchar Bridge and Bailey Bridg that link the Karakoram highway and provided mechanical equipment to clean up the road. "We've been working here for nearly 15 years, and Pakistan is a second home for us. We feel deeply sorry for our iron brothers and sisters suffering from the disaster, and would provide what we can to help them pull through," a Chinese manager at the project said. In response to Pakistan's appeal for dealing with the aftermath of the flood, China has sent an 11-member delegation of experts to conduct field surveys on the flood-hit areas and provide knowledge and experience in post-disaster construction. As of October 1, China's continuous relief efforts have exceeded RMB 644.1 million (equivalent to US\$90.2 million).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1028912/donation-from-cpec-energy-enterprises-exceeds-rs-115m/>

November 19, 2022

Business Recorder

ECC allows TCP to import urea from China, Azerbaijan

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has allowed the import of 125,000 metric tons of urea from China on a government-to-government (G2G) basis on deferred payment of 90 days besides an import of 35,000 metric tons on G2G basis from Azerbaijan to meet domestic demand.

The ECC meeting presided over by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, on Friday, was requested by the Ministry of Industries and Production to allow import of 75,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser from Azerbaijan to meet the demand for December 2022. However, the ECC allowed the import of 35,000 metric tons through M/s Socar from Azerbaijan and directed the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to explore feasible options for the import of the remaining quantity of urea fertiliser to meet the strategic reserves of 200,000 metric tons.

The ECC also allowed the TCP to proceed ahead with the import of 125,000 (+/- 5,000 MT MOLSO) on G2G basis from China for meeting the demand of urea fertiliser for the month of January 2023 at US\$ 480/MT (FOB) on 90 days deferred payment basis inclusive of mark-up.

Ministry of Industries and Production submitted a summary for the procurement of 200KMT urea and stated that it negotiated on various options including import from Chinese firms that have committed to supply the negotiated quantity of urea fertiliser at the lowest rate.

On October 27, 2022, the TCP was allowed to proceed ahead with the lowest offer received from M/s Makhdoom Logistics Services @US\$ 520/MT for the import of 300,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer but M/s Makhdoom Logistics Services has not confirmed any cargo till date. The TCP initiated the process of encashment Bank Guarantee submitted by the supplier. As the procurement through tender was unsuccessful, the TCP suggested various options which after being examined by the Ministry of Industries and Production in consultation with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research discovered that the price offered by M/s SOCAR and PACIFIC are higher than the intentional market price, as well as, the price quoted by Chinese firms.

The ECC meeting was informed that based on the quoted prices by the three suppliers, the G2G option from China is considered the most viable. The Ministry added that additionally, the TCP may continue to explore the option of procuring urea fertiliser through fresh tendering/ G2G option required during December 2022. Following a lack of response from M/s Makhdoom Logistic, Ministry of Industries and TCP negotiated with Chinese firms nominated by the National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC), China for the export of 300,000MT urea fertiliser to Pakistan.

The ECC considered a summary submitted by the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division on high-speed diesel (HSD)/ gas oil premium. Considering the increasing demand for the HSD in the country, the ECC recommended that the PSO's weighted average premium (KPC and Spot) may be applied for the HSD price computation as per federal government applicable policy guidance and in case of higher HSD premium paid by importing OMCs other than PSO, the differential of premium will be computed in the price.

The ECC also approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs115 million in favour of the Ministry of Housing and Works.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/19/1-page/947777-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar, Chabahar ports to help boost Pak-Iran trade

Consul General of Iran in Lahore Reza Nezari has said that Gwadar and Chabahar are two ambitious ports which will further boost trade relations between Pakistan and Iran.

According to a press release, issued here on Friday, the Iranian consul general expressed these views during his visit to Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) offices. Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI, SM Naveed, Chairman Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, Ali Raza Rizvi, Chairman Standing Committee on Diplomatic and Governmental Relations, welcomed Reza Nezari, along with other executive members of the PCJCCI.

The consul general appreciated working of the PCJCCI related to regional connectivity and bilateral trade. He also praised various initiatives of the chamber including Pak-China Knowledge Portal, China-Way magazine, Chinese language courses and Pak-China Technology Gateway and another initiative of Pak-China Food and Cultural Analogue 2022. He said: "I feel so delighted on receiving invitation from the PCJCCI. We should conduct such gatherings more often to further enhance brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran."

Moazzam Ghurki said in his welcome address that Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry was resolute to serve as a model chamber and a vibrant platform for promoting mutual investment and friendship between Pakistan, China, Iran and other brotherly countries. He said: "We are striving to strengthen trilateral business, investment and cultural ties between China, Pakistan and Iran." The SEZA chairman said "we invite Iranian brothers to come forward and invest as zone developers to attract investment from their country in the fields of pharmaceutical, agriculture, marble, automobile, gems and jewellery and sectors".

The PCJCCI vice president and secretary general thanked the consul general Iran for his precious time and said that "we are endeavouring to build a better and prosperous future of Pakistan with the cooperation of Iran". He added that Pakistani business bodies would be honored to serve Iranian investors to form a troika among Pakistan, China and Iran.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1029253/gwadar-chabahar-ports-to-help-boost-pak-iran-trade/>

Pakistan's fruits and vegetable export to China over \$54m

Pakistan's fruits & vegetable export to China topped \$54.34 million, witnessing a massive increase in the month of January-September year-on-year, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting data from General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

According to GACC, imports of dried leguminous vegetables (commodity code 07139090), amounted to \$6.17 million, with imports totaling more than 4,040 tons in the January-September period, compared with \$3.97 million in the same period last year.

Ahmed Raza, a Pakistani fruits & vegetable exporter, told China Economic Net that in wake of the high demand for fruits and vegetables in the Chinese market, Pakistani traders have an imperial opportunity to increase their exports and grow as a food basket for China.

"Chinese people like Pakistani fruits & vegetables because of their good taste and high quality. If we enhance the techniques used by China to offer high-end products, the export value will increase," he added.

He further said that the flood badly affected many sectors of Pakistan including agriculture. Many crops including rice, sugarcane, fruits & vegetables vanished by the flood but these crops should be replanted as soon as possible to cover the losses and increase exports, he said. "Due to climate changes, when our farmers harvest fresh fruits and vegetables, they encounter difficulties in storage, transportation, and preservation.

Pakistani farmers are very helpless watching the fresh fruits and vegetables gradually deteriorate with the passage of time. To solve this problem China and Pakistan should further enhance cooperation in the fields of vegetable & fruit planting, storage, processing and make it high-end products," he mentioned.

It is to be noted that despite the pandemic of COVID-19 and the flood in Pakistan, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly.

Pakistan's exports 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 grew for three consecutive years.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1029233/pakistans-fruits-and-vegetable-export-to-china-over-54m/>

The Nation

CUI Wah hosts 4th China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop

ISLAMABAD - The fourth China Pakistan Marine Information Workshop (CPMI-2022) was held at CUI Wah campus the other day, which was jointly organised by academic and research institutions from China and Pakistan; including COMSATS University Islamabad, FAST, Pakistan Science Foundation, Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Center, National Institute of Oceanography (Pakistan Partners), and Harbin Engineering University, China Association of Science & Technology, Chinese Society of Naval Architecture, and Heilongjiang Science and Technology Association (Chinese Partners). This was the fourth workshop of this series as part of the One Belt One Road

initiative under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with this year's theme "Smart Ocean Informatics" with oral and poster presentations. Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal was the chief guest. On behalf of Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Dr. Miskatullah graced the opening ceremony as guests of honor. In his opening remarks, Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal extended his gratitude for bringing the China Pakistan Marine Information Workshop in COMSATS and organizing it successfully to strengthen the scientific collaboration in the field of marine engineering and sciences. He mentioned that CUI strongly believes in internationalization and working in emerging technologies and always take lead to bring research and academic programs to benefit Pakistan. He mentioned that there are a lot of opportunities in Pakistan at the coastal side of Gawadar for the development of marine sciences and engineering under CPEC to explore. He appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Director Campus, Prof Gang Qiao, Dean of College of Underwater Acoustic Engineering, HEU, China and Dr. Niaz Ahmad for his throughout support in bringing this event a success. The officials from China emphasized on international cooperation and the integration of artificial intelligence and information technology in the field of marine technologies. They thanked the organizers from CUI and HEU for organizing this workshop and bringing both, Pakistani and Chinese researchers, academicians and young scholars together to share their expertise. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Director Campus, in his remarks highlighted that this forum was designed and given an opportunity to scientists, engineers, academicians and industry professionals and researchers to deliberate on this emerging area of marine engineering and sciences in Pakistan and China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-19/page-9/detail-3>

November 20, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan cultural day celebrated in Beijing with colorful style

The annual International Culture Day of the Pakistan Embassy College (PECB) was celebrated here on Saturday with colorful Pakistani styles, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

The event was dedicated to the celebrations of the 75-year of independence of Pakistan. A part of the proceeds collected during the event would also be donated to the flood victims of Pakistan. Ambassadors and senior diplomats, officials, media representatives and students along with their families participated in this cultural gala.

Around 27 countries had set up their national stalls to exhibit their cultural handicrafts, products and traditional cuisine. Cultural performances of various countries were also presented which were enjoyed by the guests.

In his address at the event, the Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin ul Haque appreciated the school management and the students for the successful organization of the event which had become PECB's signature and popular event for the diplomatic and international community in China.

He noted that PECB was the first and the oldest international school in Beijing dedicated to imparting high-quality education to children of the expatriate community.

He said that students are the future leaders of our nations and encouraged them to continue their studies with diligence, determination, and honesty.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1029591/pakistan-cultural-day-celebrated-in-beijing-with-colorful-style/>

Express News

چینی قرضے پر سالانہ سود 36.3 ارب تک جا پہنچا

قرضوں کی ادائیگی میں سہولت کے لیے چین کی جانب سے 4.5 ارب ڈالر کی کرنسی تبادلہ فیسیلیٹی پر واجب الادا سود کی رقم میں 39 فیصد اضافہ ہو گیا جس: اسلام آباد کے باعث گزشتہ مالی سال میں پاکستان کو اس مد میں 36.3 ارب روپے ادا کرنے پڑے۔ اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے مالی سال 2021-22 کے لیے سالانہ فنانشل اکاؤنٹس سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ 4.5 ارب ڈالر مالیت کی چینی ٹریڈ فنانس فیسیلیٹی کے استعمال پر پاکستان کو سالانہ سود کی مد میں 36.3 ارب روپے ادا کرنے پڑے۔ اس سے پچھلے سال پاکستان نے سود کی مد میں 26.1 ارب روپے ادا کیے تھے یعنی اس رقم میں صرف ایک سال میں 39 فیصد اضافہ ہو گیا، جو 10.2 ارب روپے بنتا ہے۔ اسٹیٹ بینک نے چائنا پاکستان کرنسی سوپ اریجنٹ کے تحت ٹریڈ فنانس فیسیلیٹی کی پوری مجموعی رقم سے استفادہ کیا، جو 4.5 ارب ڈالر یا 30 ارب یوان بنتی ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ دو طرفہ تجارت اور براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ، شارٹ ٹرم لیکوڈیٹی سپورٹ اور فریقین کی باہمی رضامندی سے طے ہونے والے کسی بھی دوسرے مقصد کے لیے اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان اور پیپلز بینک آف چائنا کے مابین دسمبر 2011ء میں دو طرفہ کرنسی سوپ معاہدہ (سی ایس اے) طے پایا تھا۔ مالی سال 2021ء میں اس معاہدے کی بالائی حد تین سالہ مدت کے لیے 20 ارب یوان سے بڑھا کر 30 ارب یوان یا 4.5 ارب ڈالر کر دی گئی تھی۔ وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے رواں ماہ بیجنگ کا دورہ کیا اور چینی وزیر اعظم سے ٹریڈ فنانس فیسیلیٹی کی بالائی حد میں مزید 10 ارب یوان یا 1.5 ارب ڈالر اضافے کی درخواست کی تھی۔

اگر یہ درخواست چین کی جانب سے منظور کر لی گئی تو رواں مالی سال کے دوران پاکستان کو اس کے عوض 50 ارب روپے سود ادا کرنا پڑے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2403413/6/>

November 21, 2022

Business Recorder

Bilawal lauds 'G-77 members and China' for trust, support

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Pakistani team under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has delivered win on world stage on account of damage and loss fund at COP-27.

The foreign minister on Sunday in a series of tweets said "Sincerest gratitude to all members of G-77 & China for their continued support & trust in Pakistan's leadership. A special shout out to Team Pakistan at COP27. Team MOFA & Climate led by sherry Rehman under able premiership of Shehbaz Sharif has delivered major win on world stage."

He further tweeted that “probably most consequential event as foreign minister has been COP27 in Egypt. Shaken by Pakistan floods, worst natural disaster Pakistan has ever seen, for us climate change is not a problem of the future. CoP-27 endorsed Pakistan’s proposal as chair of G77 & China, to place ‘loss & damage’ on the agenda.

In monumental achievement for climate justice & G77 led by Pakistan. COP27 has successfully concluded with loss & damage as part of the agenda, including a fund & financial arrangements to address this issue. I congratulate Foreign Minister Shoukry, President at COP-27P hosting a historic COP. Pakistan leading & winning on the world stage. Win for climate justice, win for developing world in honor of 33 million victims of Pakistan Floods & millions around the world who suffer from a climate catastrophe they did not create & do not have resources to address loss and damage.”

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/11/21/1-page/947901-news.html>

Dawn News

Ahsan Iqbal seeks ‘CPEC-like’ ties with Saudi Arabia

KARACHI: Hailing the “long-standing and brotherly relationship” between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal expressed hope the countries could forge a CPEC-style relationship, according to a Dawn.com report.

“We want to establish CPEC-style economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia,” the minister said, adding that China and Saudi Arabia had been offered joint investment under CPEC.

He made these remarks while addressing overseas Pakistanis at an event at the Pakistani Consulate in Jeddah.

While commenting on the economic situation of Pakistan, the minister tried to alleviate concerns over default, saying that rumours related to default risks were “Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf’s (PTI) propaganda”.

Says concerns over default are ‘PTI’s propaganda’

His remarks came after former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his party members raised alarms about the economic situation and alleged that the government is not able to control it.

“The news about Pakistan’s default risk is based on a malicious campaign initiated by the PTI which has no reality,” he said, adding that the PTI destroyed the country’s economy which led to an economic crisis.

“The [PML-N led] government has improved the economy by following the agreement with the IMF and for the last six months Pakistan has adopted a path of stability.”

He said the incumbent government also managed to successfully remove Pakistan from the Financial Action Task Force’s grey list.

This is the third time in the past week that a government minister has tried to dispel the impression of a default risk.

On Friday, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha assured that the country was not facing any danger of going to default.

“Alhamdulillah (Thank God), there is no such possibility. Yes, we were worried when we took over the government [in April] because at that time the IMF programme was suspended and the avenues of getting external finances were closed for us,” Ms Pasha had said in her remarks in the National Assembly.

Following this, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar came out on Saturday with another assurance and said that Pakistan will meet its upcoming \$1 billion bonds payment and there was no fuel shortage in the country.

“We have never defaulted before. We will not even be close to a default,” the minister said in his brief address on the state-run PTV.

Mr Dar stressed that the \$1bn payment for Sukuk, or Islamic bonds, scheduled to mature on Dec 5 would be made on time, without any delay, and insisted that arrangements had been completed in principle for the upcoming payments.

Regarding the current account deficit, Mr Dar said it was under a strict watch and being monitored and managed for the sake of national interest.

Voting rights for overseas Pakistanis

Meanwhile, commenting on the voting rights for overseas Pakistanis, Mr Iqbal said the government supported their right to vote but wanted to ensure a system that doesn't compromise the sanctity and security of the electoral process.

“There is no secure internet-based voting system in the world yet. However, various proposals are under consideration, including the proposal to give representation to overseas Pakistanis through specific seats in the parliament,” Mr Iqbal said.

He also lauded the role of the oversea Pakistanis in the socio-economic development of the country.

“Overseas [Pakistanis] based in Saudi Arabia are a strategic partner of Pakistan and their efforts are commendable which helps Pakistan to promote their narrative,” the minister said.

The minister also announced the government will soon introduce a life insurance scheme for overseas Pakistanis to support their families in case of accidental death.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1722167/ahsan-iqbal-seeks-cpec-like-ties-with-saudi-arabia>

The Nation

CPEC created 190,000 jobs over 9 years: Chinese official

ISLAMABAD - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiatives, has created 190,000 jobs over the past 9 years, a Chinese official told on Sunday.

China and Pakistan established the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on the CPEC in 2013, focusing on cooperation in Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industries, said Meng

Wei, spokesperson of China's National Development and Reform Commission. In recent years, the two sides have expanded their cooperation to the fields of science and technology, agriculture, society, people's livelihood and information technology industries, the spokesperson said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-21/page-2/detail-3>

CPEC ushering new areas of cooperation between Pakistan, China

ISLAMABAD-The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is ushering new era of cooperation and exchanges between the two countries in multiple areas including energy, industries, culture, and trade and commerce.

The first phase of the CPEC (2015-2020) has made significant progress, with most of the planned projects in the transport infrastructure and energy sectors successfully implemented and under implementation.

According to an article published by the CGTN think tank, the early-harvest projects in the first phase of the CPEC have created about 38,000 jobs, more than 75 percent of which are local jobs.

Among them, energy projects have created the most jobs, absorbing a total of 16,000 jobs. Pakistani workers and engineers are employed. The construction of transportation infrastructure has created about 13,000 jobs. Among them, the largest infrastructure project under the Corridor Project, Peshawar-Karachi Expressway (Sukkur-Multan Section), has absorbed 9,800 Pakistani workers, and Karakoram the second phase of highway upgrading, and reconstruction created 2,071 local jobs.

In 2018, the article said the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and China was \$19.08 billion, a year-on-year decrease of 5 percent. From January to December 2020, the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and China was \$17.49 billion, a year-on-year decrease of 2.7 percent; from January to December 2021, the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and China was \$27.82 billion, a year-on-year increase of 59.1 percent. Among them, China's exports to Pakistan were \$24.23 billion, a year-on-year increase of 57.8 percent.

According to an article published by the CGTN Think Tank, imports from Pakistan were \$3.59 billion, a year-on-year increase of 68.9 percent.

According to Pakistani statistics, China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years since fiscal year 2015 and is Pakistan's largest source of imports and second largest export destination. In the fiscal year 2019-2020, the total bilateral trade was \$10.67 billion, and the trade volume between Pakistan and China accounted for 16.7 percent of the total trade volume of Pakistan. Before 2015, Pakistan suffered from power shortages. Power outages took place all over the country. Major cities were out of power for about 10 hours a day, and rural areas are out of power for about 22 hours a day.

The article said the national average power shortage was 4,000 hours of megawatts. Since the establishment of the CPEC, the domestic power shortage in Pakistan has been greatly alleviated.

There are more than 10 energy and power projects in the CPEC, including Dawo Wind Power Project, Thar Coal-fired Power Station, Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Station, Karot Hydropower Station, Mattiari-Lahore ± 660 kV DC Transmission Project, Suki Knari Hydropower Station and others. According to statistics from the Pakistan Bureau of statistics, CPEC, as of January 2022, the total capacity of energy projects completed under the framework of the CPEC reached 5.32 million kilowatts.

The Mattiari-Lahore ± 660 kV DC power transmission project, which has been completed and put into operation, has solved the problem of power transmission and distribution in Pakistan with advanced technology, reduced power line losses and improved the power transmission network in Pakistan.

The second phase of the Karakoram Highway Upgrade and Reconstruction Project and the Peshawar-Karachi Expressway Project have improved the traffic capacity of the “arterial roads” of road traffic between Pakistan and China and within Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Projects of Pakistan, said that the CPEC has helped Pakistan build a number of world-class highways. Today, Pakistan has built an efficient and high-speed road network connecting the eastern, southern and northern regions, which has promoted interconnection and created new opportunities for the development of Pakistan’s tourism industry.

In addition to direct employment, corridor projects have also created thousands of indirect jobs. Gwadar was originally a small wharf on the Arabian coast of southwestern Pakistan, located in the impoverished province of Balochistan. Gwadar Port is far away from the mainland, with inconvenient transportation, barren land and weak infrastructure, the residents mainly rely on fishing. In 2015, with the joint efforts of Pakistan and China, the CPEC project in Gwadar Port was successfully implemented. Today’s Gwadar Port is not only officially operating, achieving the goal of connecting with major ports in the world, but also greatly improving the living and employment environment of the local residents.

Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Projects of Pakistan, said that remarkable progress has been made in the first phase of the CPEC construction, and the Gwadar Port has also made great progress in the construction of the CPEC.

If the economy is the essence of a country, and culture is the soul of a country, the CPEC project is like opening a door to cultural exchanges.

Pakistan and China are exchanging socio-economic models, exchanging material and immaterial cultures, and promoting mutual understanding. In terms of material culture, Pakistan and China are exchanging products, commodities and resources with each other.

Intangible culture includes food, language, clothing, religion and way of life. The Chinese engineers of the CPEC project have brought Chinese culture into the lives of local people while carrying out their work. At the same time, Chinese engineers are also actively learning the Pakistani language Urdu, trying to understand the culture and living habits of the Pakistani people, to work smoothly with their Pakistani colleagues. CGTN Think Tank is an open platform that promotes connections between leading thinkers from China and abroad. It

provides a hybrid platform featuring different ideas, research and opinions drawn from the world's leading intellectuals.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-21/page-9/detail-0>

Express News

سی پیک سے 9 سال میں پاکستان میں 1 لاکھ 90 ہزار روزگار مواقع پیدا کیے، چین

ترجمان بینگ وی نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک نے گزشتہ 9 سال میں ایک لاکھ 90 ہزار افراد کے لیے ملازمتوں کے مواقع فراہم کیے: اسلام آباد چین کے نیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن کے ترجمان بینگ وی نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) نے گزشتہ 9 سال میں ایک لاکھ 90 ہزار افراد کے لیے ملازمتوں کے مواقع فراہم کیے۔

پرمشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی قائم کی جس میں گوادر پورٹ، توانائی، انفراسٹرکچر اور صنعتوں میں تعاون پر توجہ دی CPEC انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان نے 2013 میں گئی۔ حالیہ برسوں میں دونوں ممالک نے سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی، زراعت، معاشرتی ترقی، ذریعہ معاش اور انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کی صنعتوں کے شعبوں میں اپنے تعاون کو وسعت دی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2403752/6/>

چین سے درآمد 230 ملین سے 46 مسافر بوگیوں رواں ماہ پاکستان پہنچ جائیں گی

چین سے درآمد 230 ملین مسافر بوگیوں میں سے 46 رواں ماہ پاکستان پہنچ جائیں گی۔ لاہور چین سے درآمد 230 ملین مسافر بوگیوں کی پہلی کھیپ میں 46 مکمل طور پر تیار ہیں اور 24 نومبر کو کراچی پورٹ پر پہنچ جائیں گی، بوگیوں کا لاہور کراچی کے درمیان ٹرانسل مکمل کرنے کے بعد ہی ٹرین آپریشن کے لیے استعمال میں لایا جائے گا، ان بوگیوں میں سے سی بزنس کلاس پارلر کلاس اور اکانومی کلاس شامل ہے۔ پاکستان ریلوے اور چین سے 149 ملین ڈالر کی مسافر بوگیوں درآمد کرنے کا معاہدہ کیا ہے جبکہ چین سے دیگر بوگیوں کے لیے میٹرل درآمد کر کے انہیں یہاں پاکستان کیمرج شاپس میں تیار کیا جائے گا۔ مسافر بوگیوں کو واشنگ لائن لے جا کر دھویا جائے گا۔ چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر ریلوے سلمان صادق کا کہنا ہے کہ درآمد کی جانے والی مسافر بوگیوں کا ٹرانسل کرنے ٹیکنیکل طور پر کرنا ضروری ہوتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2403751/6/>

چین کے تعاون سے 35 پاکستانی طلباء و طالبات ای کامرس کمپنی کے مالک بن گئے

پاکستان اور چین کے باہمی تعاون سے کراچی میں 35 طلباء و طالبات نے ضروری تدریس کے بعد ای کامرس کمپنیاں کھولی ہیں اور وہ اب ان کے مالک بن چکے: کراچی ہیں۔

اس ضمن میں کراچی میں نوجوانوں میں چین کی کاروباری صلاحیت پیدا کرنے کے لیے ای کامرس سمیت مختلف کورسز کروائے گئے تھے۔ ہنان کیمیکل اینڈ ڈو کیشنل ٹیکنیکل کالج کی مدد سے پہلا کورس داؤد یونیورسٹی آف انجینئرنگ اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی میں ہوا جس کے نتیجے میں 35 طلباء ای کامرس کاروبار سیکھ کر آئی ای کامرس پلیٹ فارم پر اپنی بین الاقوامی کمپنیوں کے مالک بن گئے ہیں۔ نوجوانوں کو چینی زبان سکھانے کے ساتھ چینی مارکیٹ میں رسائی کا طریقہ سکھایا گیا اور نوجوانوں کو کم سرمائے سے آن لائن کاروبار کرنے کے گر سکھائے تھے۔

داؤد یونیورسٹی آف انجینئرنگ اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی کے وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر فیض اللہ عباسی نے ایکسپریس سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" تعاون کو بہتر طور پر فروغ دینے کے لیے لائٹو یونیورسٹی کے تعاون سے دوسرا ٹریننگ پروگرام بڑے پیمانے پر بھی شروع کروانے جارہے ہیں آن لائن ای کام بی آر آئی کلاسز کے لیے محکمہ تعلیم گانہ صوبہ اور لائٹو یونیورسٹی کے ساتھ مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط بھی کیے ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سے نوجوانوں کی بے روزگاری کا خاتمہ اور ان کے لیے بیرون ملک میں روزگار کے مزید مواقع مہیا ہونگے اور پاکستان اور چین کے تعلیمی اداروں کے روابط اور مضبوط ہوں گے۔ چین کے اساتذہ عالمی سطح پر کاروبار کرنے کے طریقے سکھاتے ہیں جس سے چین اور پاکستان میں اقتصادی تعاون بڑھے گا۔

اس موقع پر ایجوکاسٹ کے بانی عبداللہ بٹ نے ایکسپریس سے بات ہوئے کہا کہ اگلے 2 برس میں 10,000 ای کامرس پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو چینی کاروباری اداروں کے لیے تربیت دی جائے گی۔

سندھ ٹیکنیکل بورڈ کے چیئرمین ڈاکٹر مسرور شیخ نے ایکسپریس سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ 3 ماہ کے 3 کورسز جس میں ہر کورس میں 32 گھنٹے آن لائن اور 32 گھنٹے فزیکل کلاسز لے کر طلباء کامیابی سے بین الاقوامی سطح پر اپنی کمپنیوں کے مالک بن گئے اس پروگرام کو مزید آگے تک پھیلانے کیلئے ہم چاہتے ہیں تعلیمی ادارے تعاون کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پورے پاکستان کے طلباء میٹرک کی بنیاد پر آن لائن داخلہ لے کر چائنیز زبان کے ساتھ چائنا میں کاروبار، چائنا کے قانون اور چائنا کے کلچر کو سیکھ سکتے ہیں۔ تربیت کی تکمیل کے بعد ہر ٹرینی کو فری لانس سیزمار کیٹنگ کی صلاحیت بڑھ جائے گی اور وہ اپنا کاروبار چین میں بخوبی کر سکتے ہیں۔

داؤد یونیورسٹی کے میٹھیٹکس کے طالب علم محمود نے کہا 3 ماہ کے چائنیز پروگرام سے سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کیا ہے اب اپنی آن لائن کمپنی کا مالک ہوں اور جلد ہی اپنے نیٹورک کو بڑھاؤں گا جس سے پاکستان کی معیشت کو فائدہ پہنچے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2404086/508/>

November 22, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan's SEZs help improve regional connectivity

Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Chairman S.M Naveed said on Monday that SEZs could play a vital role in improving the regional connectivity with regard to trade.

S M Naveed, who was a former PCJCCI President, expressed these views in a think-tank session of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) here. He said, "We should unite to improve connectivity and trade among countries in the region."

Punjab's Special Economic Zones were a hub of key industrial sectors like; textile, agriculture, food processing, automobiles and services, he said and asserted that around 10 zones were currently working in Punjab which includes; M3 Industrial City, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rahim Yar Khan Industrial Estate, Bhalwal Industrial Estate, JW China Pakistan, Vehari Industrial Estate and others.

"We are focusing to provide maximum support to all the projects by providing gas, water, electricity and other facilities to factories in industrial parks. We are also providing business enterprises with suitable policy packages to attract potential investors," he mentioned.

He added that with the opening of various industrial zones under CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), the volume of regional trade would expand manifold.

On the occasion, the PCJCCI President Moazzam Ali Ghurki said, “The SEZs provide economic connectivity between resource-starving and resource-rich countries. This kind of regional integration enhances peace, promotes tranquility and ensures economic prosperity for the whole region.”

The PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong attended the session online and shared his views by saying that Pakistan offered a big market for investment in energy, automobile, textile, surgical equipment, infrastructure, engineering, agriculture, minerals and SMEs. Its focus was also on renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, thermal, and bio-gas.

He said Pakistan welcomed Chinese investment in all the sectors to take advantage of liberal and forward looking investment policy. SEZs industrial units would enjoy a 10-year exemption from custom duties and taxes for all capital goods imported into Pakistan for the development, operations and maintenance, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1030614/pakistans-sezs-help-improve-regional-connectivity/>

The Nation

Gwadar protests: The way forward

Yasir Habib Khan

Since the Gwadar protests have entered the second phase, all roads to the solution go through the Balochistan government and the federal government as well the leadership of the Gwadar protests. It is a matter between the protestors and both governments that should be sorted out without any delay of time.

More procrastination increases the chances given to non-state actors to unleash a new chapter of demonising Pak-China relations, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port. This is already evidenced with the fact that protests were also held in other parts of Gwadar including Pishkan, Zamran, Turbat, Pasni, Buleda, and Ormara, but these were not covered. This act exhibits the reality that they have nothing to do with the problems of protestors. And when protestors besieged Gwadar port and allegedly stated that the China-driven Gwadar port’s development did not engender trickle down effects on their daily lives, stories flashed that China allegedly sold empty dreams to locals at the expense of its gains.

Since the day Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif restored the real pace of CPEC within six months and shifted Pak-China relations in top gear, particularly after his successful meeting with President Xi Jinping on the heels of the conclusion of the 20th CPC national congress in Beijing, international players have been galvanised to paint progress of CPEC and Gwadar port negatively. Problems come and go between people and the government but it does not mean that they are forever daggers drawn. Their interests and gains are for Pakistan. No power may drive a wedge between them. Both believe that if candid efforts are put into force Gwadar Port is a game changer for local people as well as the rest of Pakistan.

Let sagacity prevail. It is high time that government bigwigs must sit down with protestors’ leadership and find a way to settle down all grey areas once and for all with a complete sense of seriousness besides identifying the flaws to know why promises made during the first

phase of Gwadar protests could not be materialized and hold liable those who failed to do so. I believe that there are few black sheep in the ranks of government or maybe among protestors that botched the harmony and sparked the way for the second phase of Gwadar protests.

If all is observed in a holistic and pragmatic style, my understanding asks many questions. Is there any way forward or solution for the Gwadar protests erupting a second time in the capital of South Balochistan? Do the demands of protestors led by Maulana Hadayat ul Rehman qualify to be met to let the environment of peace prevail, which matters a lot for the local people's future progress and a shot in the arm for new investment being planned to pour in Gwadar port and Gwadar's entire region? Is it true that the government reneged on promises made one year ago with the protestors of Gwadar?

And finally, is the protest targeted toward the China-led Gwadar Port and the presence of Chinese people and the development that has had a positive impact on the lives of the local people?

Let us be honest with the hard facts. Since protests were last seen in 2021 and are ongoing after a gap of at least one year, neither previously nor so far have the protestors been holding placards bearing anti-China slogans. Even the speeches by protest leader Maulana Hadayat ul Rehman did not bedevil the Chinese government and the Chinese people.

The protestors' issue remains that at the time of conceiving Gwadar port, the people of Gwadar were shown grand dreams by the government of Pakistan of the provision of basic civic amenities at their thresholds with an avalanche of development packages that will improve their living standards, livelihoods and businesses. They were also shown the daydreams by the government of Pakistan that their kids will get the best educational facilities, their patients will get quality health facilities, their locals will get respectful jobs and their area will be an exemplary model of progress and growth.

Besides, when last year's protests were called off, the government promised to free Gwadar sea from the illegal trawler mafia bent on plundering ocean resources and snatching their fishing livelihood. The reason is that fishing still accounts for 60 percent to 70 percent of their earnings through which they feed their families. They were promised to eliminate needless checkpoints erected in many places within Gwadar. They were promised to be respected by personnel at check posts because they are the rightful owners of their motherland.

Based on my factual analysis, the solution and way forward for an entire plethora of issues is acceptance of their rightful demands. Because I am a frequent visitor of Gwadar and I have amicable relations with the local people of Gwadar alongside bosom friendship with Chinese officials, I have been watching every development in Gwadar closely over the last many years. Being an observer of the issue, my narrative is that first of all it is a matter between the Pakistan government and the people of Gwadar. All conflicting issues between them should be settled mutually without any delay in time.

The protestors have no complaints about China and China led development in Gwadar. Protestors' leadership Maulana Hadayat ul Rehman is the local eminent leader of Jamaat-e-

Islami. Recently JI head Sirajul Haq met with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong.

During the meeting, the top leadership of JI including JI secretary general Ameerul Azim, JI Foreign Affairs Department director Asif Luqman Qazi and al-Khidmat Foundation president Abdu-shakoor were present.

The JI Emir thanked the Chinese aid for the flood hit area, hoping the neighbouring country would continue support in the rehabilitation phase. He also impressed upon the Chinese envoy that strong Pak-China relations were vital for the development and stability of the region. He said CPEC would not only prove beneficial for the development of Pakistan but its completion linked to the prosperity of the entire region. He called for expediting work on the multi-billion project, particularly focusing on Balochistan and its people's benefit.

He said that the strong and unwavering stance of China on the Kashmir issue was a source of strength and satisfaction for the people of Kashmir and Pakistan and they were highly indebted to the people and the government of China in this regard.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-22/page-7/detail-0>

Nepra to hear Chinese company's petition for hike in EPC cost on Dec 1

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - National Electric Power Regulatory Authority will hear the petition of CIHC Pak Power Company Limited (CPPCL) for a hike in EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) cost of 300MW Gwadar coal-fired power project to \$403 million (up by 25.38 percent) on December 1. In its petition for modification/revision in tariff for 300MW coal-fired project in Gwadar, the company has also sought 21.43pc hike in return on equity (RoE) and requested the regulator to allow upward adjustment of Internal Rate of Return (IRR) to 17pc from the earlier determined 14pc. As per the petition submitted to NEPRA, the Chinese company has requested an increase of \$82 million in EPC cost. CIHC Pak Power Company Limited (CPPCL) is setting up the 300MW coal-fired power plant in Gwadar, Balochistan. The company had requested a hike of 25.38pc in the EPC cost of the project from the earlier revised determined \$321.41 million to \$403 million. Originally, NEPRA had allowed EPC of \$236.13 million for Gwadar coal project, which was later revised to \$321.41 million. Now, the Chinese company wants another upward revision in the cost. The petitioner also requested the regulator to remove the provisions limiting the project cost indexation to a specific PKR rate i.e. 105/USD. The CPPCL requested that Sinosure fee at actual under a Buyers Credit Insurance be allowed subject to maximum of 7pc of debt servicing. The petition requested the authority to include the financial guarantee as part of the annual recurring costs at rate of 0.9pc of the guaranteed amount applicable in a particular year. The Chinese company sought an increase in the project development and sponsor's cost to \$47.87 million against the allowed amount of \$10.50 million. The petition requested that the API-4 may be kept as the base index for the determination of coal price as outlined in the authority's fuel pricing mechanism dated 23rd September 2016. The petition also sought clarification on taxes and duties. The petition requested to allow increase in O&M cost of \$17.43 million against allowed amount of \$12.71 million. The company has also requested for allowing

Buyer's Credit Policy for Sinosure fee. Earlier, in the revised determination, NEPRA had allowed Overseas Investment Insurance Policy. In its original petition, the petition requested \$369.89 million on account of EPC comprising offshore portion of \$250.16 million and onshore portion of \$119.73 million. The EPC cost includes costs of procurement, engineering design, site preparation, construction of boundary wall, access road, bridge on river/creek, temporary facilities, main plant (including import, installation, erection, completion, commissioning of boiler, turbine and generator), balance of plant (electrical and mechanical equipment and systems), control and metering, civil works, coal handling system, ash handling system, on-site ash disposal system, seawater intake and outfall channels, black start generator, desalination plant, electrostatic precipitator, selective catalytic reduction ("SCR") to capture NOx, colony, project management, erection and commissioning, security costs and security personnel accommodation. Originally, NEPRA had allowed the EPC cost of \$236.13 million for 300MW coal-fired power plant in Gwadar. The regulator had allowed the Chinese company a tariff of Rs6.96 per unit for the project. Based on the CIHC Pak Power Company Limited (CPPCL) petition, NEPRA has framed questions for consideration in the hearing scheduled on December 1, 2022.

The questions raised by the regulator are: Whether there is justification to seek tariff on imported coal when the extension in FC by PPIB is subject to the condition that the project would be converted/shifted on local (Thar Coal)? Whether there is a justification to approve a new project on imported coal when the existing projects are being considered for conversion on local coal with additional modification costs of the existing plant and machinery? Whether the requested EPC cost of \$403 million against the approved cost of \$ 321 million is justified? Whether the request to remove the provisions limiting the project cost indexation to a specific PKR rate i.e. 105/ USD is justified? Whether the requested Sinosure Fee at actual under a Buyers Credit Insurance subject to maximum of 7pc of debt servicing is reasonable and justified? Whether the request to include the financial guarantee as part of the annual recurring costs @0.9pc of the guaranteed amount applicable in a particular year is reasonable and justified? Whether the requested project development and sponsor's cost of \$47.87 million against approved cost of \$10.50 million is justified? Whether the request to kept API-4 as the base index for the determination of coal price as outlined in the Authority's fuel pricing mechanism dated 23rd September 2016 is reasonable and justified? Whether the request to apply taxes & duties clause of upfront tariff in the instant case is justified? Whether the request to allow upward adjustment of IRR to 17pc from 14pc is justified?

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-22/page-9/detail-1>

The News

PTI govt suspended work on all CPEC projects: Ahsan

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir & Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has maintained that PTI government didn't initiate even one single new scheme in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during its around four year's government.

Returning from Sharm el Shaikh via Saudi Arabia, he told The News here other evening that Imran government put all ongoing projects of development in the corridor held in abeyance since all sanctioned projects which PTI government inherited from the PMLN, were placed under suspension including ML-one Railway's gigantic project on which not a single inch move forward was made by the PTI government.

Ahsan Iqbal attended COP27 summit in costal tourist resort Sharm el Shaikh where he briefed participants about Pakistan's case pertaining to effects of weather changes and recent rainy flood in various parts of the country that caused huge losses.

He maintained that the CPEC that suffered badly during the previous government of the PTI, was back on track now and it had started working on the desired pace.

The minister said that had the PTI government not follow path of negativity CPEC could have generated double the jobs that it had produced so far. To a query, he said that costal tourism would be promoted in Gwadar on the lines, Sharm el Shaikh had been developed by the Egyptian government. Gwadar has much more bright prospectuses for attracting tourists across the world due to its beauty and magnificence, he added.

The PTI sources were not available for their comments on the role of PTI government with regard to the CPEC.

In the meanwhile CPEC which was inked by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping during former's government in Pakistan has created 190,000 jobs over the past nine years. An official from China has revealed that CPEC that is flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) conceived by President Xi has scope and capacity of provision of employment and business for several thousand once it completes.

Meng Wei, spokesperson of China's National Development and Reform Commission (CNDRC) said on Sunday that Pakistan and China established the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on the CPEC in 2013, focusing on cooperation in Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industries. In recent years, the two sides have expanded their cooperation to the fields of science and technology, agriculture, society, people's livelihood and information technology industries, he said.

The cooperation outcome can be represented by Gwadar East Bay Expressway project, China-funded Gwadar Seawater Desalination Project, Karot Hydropower Station, China's aid to Pakistan's flood-hit areas and in other fields. The two sides will jointly implement the consensus between the leaders of the two countries, accelerate the cooperation in the fields of agriculture, mining, information technology, society and people's livelihood, and promote the high-quality construction of the CPEC in the days to come, the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday directed the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) and Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) to submit PC-1 of the Narowal Sports City on November 30.

The minister made these directions while chairing a meeting to review the progress of Narowal Sports City. The meeting was attended by the officials of IPC, PSB, NESPAK and P3A Board. The minister expressed dissatisfaction over the delay and reprimanded the IPC's officials for not executing the projects. "There is no progress despite the lapse of seven months which shows the non-serious attitude of the Ministry," said the minister, adding that it's public money which must be utilised for the public.

The sports city has 14 stadiums and courts of sports, such as cricket, football, hockey, volleyball, squash, table tennis, lawn tennis, badminton court and other games besides swimming pools which was started by the minister. However, in 2018, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stopped this project as a result athletes were deprived from this facility.

During the meeting, the minister also directed the P3A Board to establish a company on December 15, which will help in maintenance of the Sport City while recommending people from different walks of life in the company.

The minister observed that CDWP had directed to establish such a company that would be responsible for the management and maintenance of the Sports City.

The minister noted that Narowal Sport City should be a national asset that not only becomes the face of Pakistani sports spirit but a profitable and credible resource for the country.

“This project should be functional on March 23, 2023 and necessary procurements should be ready before the deadline,” directed the minister, while highlighting the significance of the public interest project.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=149928>

Express News

سی پیک تعاون کا فلیگ شپ منصوبہ ہے، چینی وزارت خارجہ

چین کی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماؤ نینگ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک تعاون کا فلیگ شپ منصوبہ ہے۔ بیجنگ

چین کی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماؤ نینگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان نے فلیگ شپ منصوبے سی پیک کے تحت تعاون کو وسعت دی ہے اور ماحولیات، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، صنعتی ترقی اور صحت جیسے شعبوں میں قابل ذکر پیش رفت کی ہے۔

انہوں نے معمول کی بریفنگ کے دوران اسے پی پی کے سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ چین پاکستان تعاون کے لیے سی پیک ایک فلیگ شپ منصوبہ ہے، جس نے پاکستان میں سماجی اقتصادی ترقی اور علاقائی باہمی روابط میں ٹھوس کردار ادا کیا، حالیہ برسوں میں دونوں ممالک نے سی پیک کے تحت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو وسعت دی ہے اور ماحولیات، صنعتی، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کی ترقی اور صحت جیسے شعبوں میں قابل ذکر پیش رفت ہوئی ہے۔

ترجمان نے بتایا کہ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی (آئی ٹی) پر مشتبہ ورکنگ گروپ کا پہلا اجلاس منعقد ہوا، انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے صوبہ بلوچستان کو شمسی توانائی کا سامان عطیہ کیا اور گوادر بندرگاہ میں ایک گرین پروجیکٹ کے تحت بھی کافی پیش رفت ہوئی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2404312/6/>

November 23, 2022

Daily Times

Chinese firm installs solar plant at Centre for speech and hearing

Chinese company LONGi Solar has installed a solar power plant at the Centre for Speech and Hearing (CSH) in Mardan, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The project was executed by Renergy, a local partner of LONGi Solar and Huawei. In a post shared on Monday, Renergy said that the project was part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of the two companies.

The 20.7 kilowatts solar plant involves Huawei inverters. According to a statement issued by CSH on its website, CEO of Longi Solar Zoe Gao and CEO of Global Industries Dave Marzouk performed the opening ceremony of the solar project.

They highly commended the services of CSH for the speech and hearing-impaired children of the area.

In a video shared by CSH, Mrs Shaheen Saifullah, a member of the fund-raising committee for the centre, said that the solar plant will ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity.

In the summer, the hearing aids provided to the special kids stop working properly due to sweating triggered electricity outages. Now this issue will end with the uninterrupted power supply, she said.

CSH Mardan was founded in 1984 by the parents of a baby girl born with congenital deafness who dreamed of giving her a life as close to normalcy as possible. Parents of other such children also joined hands in establishing the centre, as per the CSH website.

CSH imparts special education to the children of surrounding districts including Swabi, Charsadda and Nowshera.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031031/chinese-firm-installs-solar-plant-at-centre-for-speech-and-hearing/>

Dawn News

Sino-Pak diploma in agri tech offered

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Bailie Vocational College, China, and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad have launched Sino-Pak dual diploma programme in modern agriculture technology in collaboration with the Tang International Education Group.

Under this initiative, students will spend two years at the UAF and third year in China.

A launch ceremony was held here on Monday in the presence of UAF VC Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Bailie College President Peng Dongjun, Tang President Ma Xiaoyan, CEO of Zalmi Foundation Cedric Aimal Edvin and Principal of Community College Dr Anjum Zia.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Iqrar said the programme would help students in learning from the Chinese experiences.

He said it was a market-driven programme based on agricultural technology and business.

He said students were needed to learn Chinese language for third year to study in China.

Dr Anjum Zia said that 40 students were enrolled in the first batch of the dual diploma programme.

He said the UAF was taking all possible measures for skill development.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1722401/sino-pak-diploma-in-agri-tech-offered>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pakistan share future vision

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

BOTH China and Pakistan are constantly engaged in a strategic duo—sharing a lasting future vision of their all-time 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 has ushered in a new era of revitalisation of the Pak-China alliance based on a long lasting confluence of interests.

China and Pakistan share a decades-old legacy of friendly relations based on more than 70 years.

Governments in both the countries have remained changing, but their fidelity to bilateral support and cooperation has remained unswerving.

President Xi told Sharif during the latter’s two-day official visit (1-2 Nov) to China 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 geo-political 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 the 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 spillover 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 China and Pakistan 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 reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy.

The Pakistani side underscores that the 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 China and Pakistan voice for a peaceful pacification of the Ukraine conflict. Both sides — Beijing and Islamabad 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 the strategic culture of the South Asian region — equally draws the attention of both China and Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-share-future-vision-by-syed-qamar-afzal-rizvi/>

CPEC back on track

MINISTER for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal has confirmed what was widely believed during the entire period of the PTI Government about lacklustre treatment meted out to the historic initiative of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is rightly seen as a game changer by the majority of people of Pakistan.

Talking to newsmen, he stated that the CPEC that suffered badly during the previous government of the PTI, was back on track now as work is picking up momentum once again.

He maintained that the PTI government didn’t initiate even one single new scheme under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during its around four-year rule besides suspension of work on all development projects sanctioned by the previous PML(N) Government.

The confirmation of the Minister, who is fully involved in all processes relating to the implementation of the CPEC projects, explains why the country remains impoverished and backward despite immense potential to grow in all spheres of life.

Pakistan is a resource-starved country and cannot imagine undertaking all the projects and programmes needed to put the country on the path of accelerated socio-economic development and, therefore, CPEC offered a golden opportunity to translate into reality our dreams for progress and prosperity.

It is also a reality that modern infrastructure and energy security were also pre-requisites for national development and the planners rightly put the emphasis on this aspect while launching the CPEC with the collaboration of our Chinese friends.

While the country doesn't have an enviable history of completing development projects within the stipulated timeframe and original estimates, CPEC projects were completed on a fast-track basis and people of Pakistan are now benefiting from them within a short period of time.

The statement of Mr. Meng Wei, spokesperson of China's National Development and Reform Commission (CNDRC) gives an idea of benefits accruing from CPEC initiative, who said that about two hundred thousand jobs have so far been created and many more would be available when all projects are completed.

He expressed the confidence that the decision to expand the cooperation to the fields of science and technology, agriculture, society, people's livelihood and information technology industries would immensely benefit people of Pakistan in many ways.

We hope a firm mechanism with legal covers would be put in place to ensure that work on not only CPEC but also on other development projects and programmes continues unhindered irrespective of who is ruling the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-back-on-track/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: چین پاکستان کیساتھ تعاون مزید تیز کرنے پر تیار

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین کی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماؤ نینگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان نے فلگ شپ منصوبہ سی پیک کے تحت تعاون کو وسعت دی ہے اور ماحولیات، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، صنعتی ترقی اور صحت جیسے شعبوں میں قابل ذکر پیش رفت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے ریگولر پریس بریفنگ کے دوران مزید کہا کہ چین پاکستان تعاون کے لیے سی پیک ایک اہم فلگ شپ منصوبہ ہے جس نے پاکستان میں سماجی اقتصادی ترقی اور علاقائی باہمی روابط میں ٹھوس کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ پاکستان کے ساتھ سی پیک منصوبوں پر عملی تعاون کو تیز کرنے کے لیے تیار ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ چین میں چار نئی راہداریوں، ڈیجیٹل، صنعتی، سبز اور صحت کے شعبوں میں تیزی سے کام کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے۔ صوبہ بلوچستان کو سولر اینل عطیہ کیے ہیں جب کہ گوادر گرین پراجیکٹ کے علاوہ دونوں ملکوں نے کرونا کے خلاف موثر تعاون کیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-23/page-1/detail-29>

November 24, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan to remove bottlenecks in implementation of ML-1, KCR projects

The federal government decided to remove bottlenecks in the implementation on Main Line-1 (ML-1) Railway and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) projects in line with the agreements reached between Pakistan and China during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.

Sources in the Planning Commission told Gwadar Pro that the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal gave these directions during a special meeting held here to help implement the decisions taken between the leadership of China and Pakistan recently. The minister also directed the officials to implement the decisions taken at the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and remove all the bottlenecks in that regard. The minister also directed the Embassy of Pakistan in China to hold a meeting with the Chinese side to follow-up decisions taken in the 11th JCC and in PM's visit to China.

He also asked the embassy to arrange an online meeting with the Vice Chairman, NDRC to review progress on CPEC projects. The meeting also reviewed progress made over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in line with the decisions taken at the 11th JCC held on October 27. The meeting was attended by the Executive Director China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Chief Economist, Planning Commission and representatives from various ministries, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, the conveners of the Joint Working Groups on Energy, Transport Infrastructure, Gwadar, Socio-Economic Development, Security, Long-Term Planning of CPEC, Industrial Cooperation, International Cooperation, Science & Technology, and Agriculture Cooperation apprised the minister about the progress since JCC took place. The minister said that CPEC is a vital national project, which has transformed the relation between the two countries into a strong economic partnership, adding that the next phase of CPEC envisages the development of industrial cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031430/pakistan-to-remove-bottlenecks-in-implementation-of-ml-1-kcr-projects/>

Dawn News

Suki Kanari project to start power production in Nov 2024

MANSEHRA: Federal water and energy minister Khurram Dastgir Khan laid the foundation stone of the main transmission line for the Suki Kanari hydropower project in Malkandi area of Balakot tehsil here on Wednesday.

He also said it was the first mega energy project being carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“The Suki Kanari hydropower project to be completed at the cost of over \$2 billion under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative will start power production by Nov 2024,” the minister told the transmission lines inaugural ceremony.

Mr Khan said the main transmission line being laid to link 884 megawatts Suki Kanari dam with the national grid would cost over Rs10.8 billion and help address electricity shortfall in the country,” he said.

Special adviser to the prime minister Sardar Shahjehan Yusuf, former MNA retired Captain Mohammad Safdar and Chinese officials were also present on the occasion.

The minister said the project would produce 3.129 billion kilowatts of electricity every year and thus, contributing to the prosperity and development of the country.

He said the Suki Kanari hydropower project was one of the mega development initiatives approved by PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif as the prime minister.

Mr Khan said the Hazara Motorway's construction, which was also approved by Mr Nawaz, would provide employment to over 6,000 people.

He lashed out at former prime minister Imran Khan and his government over bad governance.

"Mr Imran, who had come to power through a stolen mandate and so-called change, couldn't add a single electricity unit to the system during his entire rule," he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1722735/suki-kanari-project-to-start-power-production-in-nov-2024>

The Nation

China to continue cooperation with Pakistan to evolve high yield hybrid rice seeds

ISLAMABAD-China will continue its support and cooperation in conducting modern joint research for evolving the best quality more new varieties of high yield hybrid rice seed for bumper crop. This was stated by Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General, while talking to Chairman Pakistan Hi Tech Hybrid Seed Association Shahzad Ali Malik during his visit of Guard Agricultural Research and Services here Wednesday, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, Zhao stressed the need for further strengthening the cooperation in the agriculture sector and entering into more Joint ventures for research on modern scientific lines to boost yield per acre in Pakistan. He said Pakistan must take advantage of agricultural achievements made by Chinese private sector and said there is vast scope of investment in agricultural sector. He said China is proud that Guard Agricultural Research and Services evolved first ever hibrid rice seed with the collaboration and joint ventures of Chinese counterpart Longping Hi Tech Industry. Speaking on the occasion Shahzad Ali Malik said Guard Agricultural Research and Services is the pioneer in introducing hybrid coarse rice seed in Pakistan that developed a new 'Extra long grain super hybrid rice' heat tolerant seed with double per acre yield and length after cooking as compared to competitor existing varieties. He said that Guard Agricultural Research is working to bring such seeds to market which can ensure prosperity for the growers and food security for the country's ever-increasing population. He said they partnered with their Chinese counterparts in 1998 and since then they are putting in efforts to bring high-yielding varieties and have tolerance against climate change as well.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-24/page-9/detail-6>

November 25, 2022

Daily Times

China to work with Pakistan to maintain regional peace: Wu Qian

China is willing to work with the Pakistani side to deepen cooperation in military training, joint exercises and military technology between the two militaries and contribute new

strength to maintaining regional peace and stability, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said on Thursday.

“We are willing to work with the Pakistani side to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and visits between the two militaries, deepen cooperation in military training, joint exercises, military technology and other fields,” he said during his briefing held in Beijing.

He said that the Chinese side would also work with the Pakistani side to continue to push bilateral pragmatic cooperation in various fields to a new level, inject new impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, and contribute new strength to maintaining regional peace and stability.

The spokesman remarked that China and Pakistan were good friends, good partners and good brothers. “Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the two countries have always supported each other and forged ahead, demonstrating the “iron core” friendship between China and Pakistan,” he added.

He said that the military relationship between the two countries was an important pillar of bilateral relations. “In recent years, the two sides have continuously strengthened strategic coordination, deepened practical cooperation in various fields, enhanced their ability to jointly cope with various risks and challenges, and firmly maintained regional peace and stability,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031830/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-maintain-regional-peace-wu-qian/>

Chinese investments helping Pakistan diversify its energy mix: president

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said the Chinese investment and contributions to Pakistan’s energy infrastructure were increasing the country’s ability to diversify its energy mix based on nuclear, hydel, solar and wind energy in a bid to help meet its energy needs.

The president stressed focusing on alternate and renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, besides using efficient and critical technologies to minimize the emission of greenhouse gases from coal and oil-based energy sources.

The president expressed these views while talking to the General Manager of China Energy International Group Co. Ltd, Lyu Xiufeng, who led a delegation here at Aiwan-e-Sadr. During the meeting, the president was briefed on Neelum Jhelum, Dasu, Suki Kinari, Azad Pattan and Mohmand hydropower projects and Karachi K2/K3, Bhikki Combined Cycle Power Project, Jhimpir Wind Power Projects and M-4 Motorway projects.

Talking to the delegation, President Alvi said the warm relations between the leadership and people of Pakistan and China formed the bedrock of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Partnership. The president stated that CPEC was a multi-dimensional project, which was helping the country in improving its road, port and communication networks, besides promoting industrialization in the country and meeting its energy and power needs. He said

that the smooth and expedited implementation of CPEC projects would ensure the realization of its full potential in a given time frame.

The president also expressed his gratitude to the Chinese Government and the Chinese people for standing shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in wake of the recent devastating floods and appreciated the initiatives taken by the China Energy International Group for contributing to the rehabilitation of flood victims in the most affected areas of the country.

While expressing his satisfaction with the pace of progress of various power and communication-related projects, President Alvi expressed the need to ensure the safety, security, longevity and soundness of the projects to realize their full potential for the people of the country.

The president also appreciated the initiative of China Energy for focusing on and undertaking solar energy-based projects which were cost-effective, easy to install, and maintain, and gave clean and cost-effective energy. Briefing the president, Lyu Xiufeng, General Manager of China Energy International Group, said that China Energy had its presence in Pakistan since the 1990s and they had been involved in 21 mega projects in Pakistan with a total investment of more than USD 12 billion.

He said that China Energy had invested USD 3.5 billion in two projects in Azad Pattan 700.7 MW and Suki Kinari 870MW. He said that company was also keenly working for the energy stabilization, transportation connectivity and social prosperity of the people of Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031670/chinese-investments-helping-pakistan-diversify-its-energy-mix-president/>

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

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

Total exports to the US from July-October (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 2132.689 million against the exports of US\$ 2096.444 million during July- October (2021-22), showing growth of 1.72 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 685.614 million against the exports of US\$ 745.751 million last year, showing a decrease of 8.06 percent.

China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 678.386 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 763.572 million during last year, showing a decline of 11.15 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 605.778 million against US\$ 536.227 million last year, showing an increase of 12.91 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 499.040 million against US\$ 532.488 million last year.

During July-October (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 564.836 million against US\$ 437.312 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 176.019 million against US\$158.721 million. Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at US\$

401.020 million against the exports of US\$ 327.871 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 450.245 million against US\$ 316.495 million last year.

Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 294.859 million against US\$ 244.324 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US\$ 209.851 million against US\$ 163.961 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 147.053 million against US\$ 127.196 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at US\$ 118.416 million during the current year compared to US\$ 103.683 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 163.221 million against US\$ 125.404 million, and exports to Poland were US\$ 120.988 million against US\$ 112.263 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at US\$ 101.225 million during the current year against US\$ 90.823 million during last year.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a growth of 2.59 percent in four months, from US\$ 9576.107 million to US\$ 9825.020 million, the SBP data showed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031669/us-uk-china-top-three-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-in-four-months/>

Pakistan greatly values collaboration with China: Faisal Ali Subzwari

Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari said that Pakistan greatly values its close collaboration with China in multiple sectors including technology transfer, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Second North Bund Forum 2022 held in Shanghai, Syed Faisal Ali highlighted the importance of close bilateral cooperation in the shipping and maritime industry, adding that the country is looking to develop digital and green ports to better leverage its location and enhance its position as a transit and transshipment hub in the region.

The Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai and other officials also attended the forum. With the theme of 'Green, Intelligent and Resilient Global Shipping & Aviation through Global Partnership', the Forum aims to deliberate on the promotion of international cooperation in the shipping and maritime industry and propose ways for working together to build a more resilient and reliable supply chain service network and jointly promoting the smooth operation of the international shipping industry amid the lingering pandemic impact and fluctuations in the global economic landscape.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1031651/pakistan-greatly-values-collaboration-with-china-faisal-ali-subzwari/>

The Nation

Railways to receive 46 new coaches from China by Dec-end

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Railways would receive the first batch of 46 new coaches from China by the end of December, next month, 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 will 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 kilometers 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 (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://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-25/page-8/detail-2>

Pakistan can modernise agriculture sector with China’s help

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan can modernise its agriculture sector with China’s help to boost the national economy, WealthPK reported.

The cooperation between China and Pakistan can prove significant for the development of the agriculture sector in the latter. Pakistan has enormous potential to access the huge agricultural market in China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Dr Liaqat Ali Shah, Executive Director and Head of the Policy Division at CPEC Authority, told WealthPK that the mega project would boost the agriculture sector in Pakistan. He said that CPEC offered a great opportunity to cement bilateral cooperation and mitigate the trade imbalance between the two countries.

“The agriculture sector is playing a crucial role in the country’s economy through a variety of channels. However, in the current scenario, agriculture in Pakistan is facing several challenges including shortage of water, sudden climate fluctuations, shortage of pesticides, unavailability of proper seeds, poor infrastructure and lack of innovative research. These issues can be mitigated through modern technology and strong policies,” he said. Dr Liaqat Ali said that agriculture is the backbone of the national economy. He said that the involvement and cooperation of China could mark a new era in the modernisation of Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

He said that the economy of Pakistan depends heavily on agriculture. He said that Pakistan's economy could not become stable without the development of the agriculture sector. "Agricultural production is a top priority for the Pakistani government and proactive measures have been taken to reduce costs and improve efficiency in the industry. Rapid population growth creates a greater need to modernise agriculture across the country," he said. Dr Liaqat Ali said that there was considerable potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in various fields such as agriculture, rural development and capacity building for farmers. He said that cooperation by China in the field of agriculture would enable Pakistan to overcome the challenges and boost the export of agricultural products to China and other countries. He said that agriculture is a core export industry, contributing significantly to Pakistan's foreign exchange besides assisting other economic sectors to expand. "It is a manifestation of the fact that the agriculture sector is vital for the country's overall economy," he added. He said that due to its ability to quickly end poverty and produce economic benefits, agriculture has a competitive advantage over other sectors of the economy.

"Pakistan needs to adopt modern agricultural methods to boost this sector. Agriculture productivity can be increased by the use of modern technology and improvement in existing technology. We can integrate the growth of food crops and that of cash crops by adapting to local conditions, building on strengths and avoiding weaknesses," Dr Liaqat Ali told WealthPK.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-25/page-8/detail-4>

November 26, 2022

Pakistan Observer

PM invites Turkiye to join CPEC

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited Turkiye to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to bring about regional prosperity, alleviate poverty and empower people through better education and health facilities.

The prime minister, addressing a joint press stakeout along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said Pakistan had been "experiencing and enjoying" the benefits of CPEC.

"I would suggest that let this be a cooperation between China, Pakistan and Turkiye. This would be a wonderful joint cooperation ... This is how we can meet the challenges of today," the prime minister remarked.

He said that he would be "happy" to discuss the matter with the Chinese leadership if Turkiye moved ahead with the idea of joining CPEC.

Meanwhile, addressing the launching ceremony of the third of the four MILGEM Corvette Ships for the Pakistan Navy, PNS Khyber, at the Istanbul Shipyard on Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a two-day official visit to Turkiye, said that it is high time Ankara and Islamabad transform their ties into a strategic partnership as the world is "envious" of the relationship between two brotherly countries.

He called for Turkiye and Pakistan to join hands in the production of solar, wind and hydel energy to cut carbon emissions and open up new avenues of investment cooperation.

On his arrival at the venue, the Turkish president welcomed the prime minister who was accompanied by a high-level delegation. PM Shehbaz was given the guard of honour as the national anthems of both the countries were played.

Accompanied by President Erdogan, the prime minister launched the ship which he said manifested deep bilateral engagement in defence cooperation.

Calling Turkiye his “second home” the prime minister recalled the support extended by the people of Pakistan at the time when Turkiye was fighting for freedom.

He said while supporting the Turkish people, our forefathers never knew that Turkiye would stand by Pakistan through thick and thin and all international platforms instead, they had done so out of their religious brotherhood.

Appreciating the “visionary leadership” of President Erdogan, the prime minister said he had transformed Turkiye into a modern society. He also spoke highly of the social welfare projects executed by the Turkish government even in far-flung areas besides transforming the agriculture and industrial sectors.

The prime minister also urged the defence experts from both sides to enhance their defence production capacity with a view to strengthening cooperation for peace in the region.

He appreciated the role of President Erdogan in brokering a deal between Russia and Ukraine for wheat export for the benefit of developing countries like Pakistan.

He told the gathering that Pakistan was recently hit by one of the most devastating flood and within no time, Turkiye sent 13 goods trains carrying 72,000 tonnes of humanitarian goods and 15 military aircraft carrying food, tents, medicines and medical teams.

He appreciated the Turkish Navy and Istanbul Shipyard for ensuring the project’s completion within the timeframe.

He told the audience that Pakistan was blessed with immense resources and ongoing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was set to enhance regional connectivity and maximize trade with Gwadar Port being a focal point.

Bemoaning Pakistan’s import bill due to petroleum products, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan wanted to shift to renewable sources of energy and Turkish investors had great potential for financing these fields.

“I want to propose ... that let’s join hands together and get rid of high-carbon emissions, cut our import bills and let’s really promote investment in these fields.”

PM Shehbaz said solar, hydel and wind energy would make “great sense” for promoting investments between the two countries.

“I think it’s high time we transform our relations into something because the world is envious of our relation and our brotherhood but they also say that while ‘these two countries are great

and their hearts beat together’ ... but they also say that our trade and investment relations are not commensurate with our historical relations and brotherhood.”

The prime minister said the two countries under Erdogan’s leadership had a “great chance” to move forward in this field.

In his address, Turkish President Erdogan said Turkiye had achieved great things in the field of defence cooperation.

He told the gathering that four corvettes were being produced under MILGEM project – two locally and two in Pakistan. The final ship will be delivered in February 2025, he added.

The Turkish president said his government would carry Turkiye to first place in the world’s defence industry super league as the country was expanding its domestic naval and air military projects. In 2023, Turkiye’s new homegrown drone and fighter jet will be launched, he added.

President Erdogan said that Pakistan and Turkiye are united to end the menace of terrorism. He went on to say that bilateral defense cooperation is the main pillar of mutual relations, Pakistan and Turkiye have deep brotherly relations.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-invites-turkiye-to-join-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

Financing, urea sought from China

Pakistan hopes to get Chinese loan, along with AIIB funds, to repay \$1b Sukuk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday requested China to expedite the approval for refinancing a \$500 million commercial loan and deliver an already approved 125,000 metric tonnes of urea at the earliest – two issues that explain the predicament of the country’s economy.

The requests were made by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to the Ambassador of China, Nong Rong, who called upon Dar. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, secretary finance and other senior officers from the finance division also attended the meeting.

“During the lengthy meeting, both sides discussed outstanding issues that require progress to show tangible results from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent visit to Beijing,” an official told the Express Tribune.

Sources informed that the finance minister requested the Chinese ambassador to fast-track the refinancing of the \$500 million loan from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). This month, Pakistan paid back the same loan it is now asking China to refinance.

Due to the repayment of the Chinese loans, Pakistan’s gross official foreign exchange reserves slipped to \$7.8 billion, hardly sufficient to cover one and half month of imports.

Pakistan is betting on the Chinese loan, along with a \$500 million loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to repay a \$1 billion Sukuk bond next month.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad said on Friday that Pakistan will pay back the \$1 billion loan on December 2.

The country's dependence on China and other creditors has deepened after a delay in loan approvals from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

According to the officials, "During the meeting, Dar also requested the Chinese embassy to fast-track the shipments of 125,000 metric tonnes of urea from China to Pakistan."

The cabinet approved the procurement of the 125,000 metric tonnes of urea at a price of \$480 per tonne but the deliveries were promised for January. Sources revealed, however, that Pakistan had requested the Chinese ambassador to help the country in quickly acquiring the requisite supplies of urea.

The country needs important agricultural input for the sowing of wheat and other crops, as it faces a challenge to narrow the gap between demand and supply. It is feared that if imports are not procured on a timely basis, there might be a shortage of urea next month.

On October 27, 2022, the ECC approved a proposal allowing the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to proceed with the lowest offer received from M/s Makhdoom Logistics Services at the rate of \$520 per metric tonne for the import of 300,000 metric tonnes of urea fertiliser. However, M/s Makhdoom defaulted on its obligations without paying any major penalty, as the TCP conveniently had only \$500,000 as surety bond.

The ECC had also approved procurement of 35,000 metric tonnes of urea from Azerbaijan's firm, M/s SOCAR, at the very exorbitant price of \$685 per tonne, higher by 43% as compared to the Chinese deal.

The Ministry of Industries had informed the ECC that the prices offered by SOCAR were higher than the international market price as well as the price quoted by Chinese firms.

Pakistan finds the Chinese government-to-government path to be the most viable option to meet the shortfall in demand.

Details indicate that the minister for commerce observed that as the cultivation of wheat was in full swing, therefore, the availability of urea should be ensured for the crop in December 2022, thus backing a proposal to import urea from Azerbaijan.

It was stated that fresh tendering for the import of urea was a time-consuming process and TCP needed to urgently explore options by December. The TCP chairman further observed that if the urea supply was managed in December 2022, within the existing supply of local urea in the country, then procurement of the entire 300,000 metric tonnes of urea from the Chinese companies at the agreed rates for supply landing in January 2022 would be the best option.

However, in case there is no supply of urea, then the best option would be to procure urea from M/s SOCAR which was in a position to supply the same in December 2022 when the country will be in great need due to the incoming rabi season.

During the prime minister's visit to China, the matter was also discussed with the Chinese side.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2388272/financing-urea-sought-from-china>

The Nation

Chinese envoy calls on finance minister

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China on Friday discussed enhancing bilateral relations in economic and financial sectors between both the countries. Nong Rong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division yesterday. SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Finance and other senior officers of Finance Division attended the meeting. Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar warmly welcomed the Ambassador of Republic of China and shared the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and China. It was highlighted that both countries have historic and strong bilateral ties in various economic sectors.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar highlighted the repercussions of unprecedented floods faced by Pakistan which have largely impacted the infrastructure, agriculture, lives and properties of the people. He appreciated support given by the Govt of China during these testing times and shared that present government is taking various measures to ease the life of masses by ensuring fiscal and monetary stability. The ambassador of China assured Chinese govt's sustained support to Pakistan in hour of need and shared that China stands with people of Pakistan in these hard times. He also thanked Govt of Pakistan for giving facilitation to Chinese projects in Pakistan.

In concluding remarks, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar thanked the Chinese ambassador for continuous assistance and support. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue has also held a meeting with delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Minister of Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif along with President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik at Finance Division.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Finance Secretary and other senior officers also attended the meeting. The delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry expressed gratitude to the finance minister and apprised the finance minister about their contribution in the economic development of the country. They also briefed about various issues being faced by them especially related to Special Economic Zone. It was added that these issues are hugely impacting the overall productivity and efficiency of their chamber. The delegation requested the finance minister for resolving their issues at earliest time possible.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar welcomed the delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry and acknowledged their contributions in the economic growth of the country. The finance minister shared that present government is well aware of the challenges being faced by various sectors of the economy and is proactively taking all pragmatic measures for smoothing out the operational anomalies for ensuring the greater ease of doing business in Pakistan.

The finance minister further apprised the delegation of various policy measures being undertaken by the government of Pakistan which would further improve the business friendly environment in Pakistan. He urged the delegation to work for the enhancement of value added exports for sustainable economic growth of the country. The delegation thanked the finance minister for cooperation and support.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-26/page-8/detail-1>

BRI: Chinese economic diplomacy in 21st century

Engr. Qaiser Nawab

Traveling from Shanghai to Beijing in an economy class from medium speed China rail services was my intentional decision to meet the common Chinese people and to know their perception regarding Chinese developmental expansion around the globe. I and my traveling colleague were the only two foreigners in the economy class cabin. Throughout the trip, I observed one thing that common Chinese people want to know about the world. BRI is an opportunity to integrate Chinese to other parts of the world. I came across the famous statement in China, “China is a sleeping giant. Let her lie and sleep; for when she awakens, she will astonish the world.” Traveling inside China and other parts of the world, I came to know that China has a huge potential of integrating the global order due to its acceptability of diversity and plurality.

In the 21st century, the world saw the awakening of the sleeping giant and building its significance in the international system through its economic success, military modernization, and soft power influence. From a nascent consumer market to the most influential economy, China is ranked among the most major and powerful economies in the world. With its long-term strategic measures to modernize its society, China has successfully transformed into a high-tech industry economy and become a nation of global influence. The economic policies and goals to boost domestic consumption, accelerate technological development, and lure global investment have made China a dominant power in the global economy.

The Asian giant’s military might have also been expanding at an astounding pace and scope. Since the 1990s, the military strategy of China has focused more on fighting and winning a high-tech war against a modern foe rather than waging a people’s war. China has been modernizing its military forces by putting great stress on the significance of maritime security, cyber operations, offensive operations, and mobility operations, to strategically dominate contemporary warfare. The increasing size of China’s military and economy is indicative of the trend that she is now emerging as a new superpower, or rather, has already emerged as a global superpower.

In the age of global information, success not only depends on whose military wins but also on whose narrative wins. Therefore, the practice of “soft power” works as an attractive policy option to win the hearts of global nations. China’s traditional culture has always been appealing, but now it is entering the realm of popular culture around the world. The foreign policy of China has also shifted from one of internal development to one of external influence, not only economically but also militarily, diplomatically, and normatively, most notably through a systematic discourse and smart power strategy.

China is efficiently portraying its soft image by investing heavily in its domestic infrastructure and, subsequently, in global infrastructure as well. China's worldwide infrastructure development project known as the "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" has tremendously boosted trade, encouraged economic growth, and enhanced regional integration. From being a simple regional project to connect Asia, Africa, and Europe, via land and sea networks, BRI has become entirely global and extended into every field imaginable, including infrastructure, culture, finance, people-to-people interactions, education, and interstate politics. BRI has largely been successful not in terms of concrete projects only but in ways that have helped China strengthen its diplomatic and economic ties with 140 partner nations and position itself as the champion of globalization, leading to a new world order where it would be the potential hegemon.

Since the rise of China, its broader and integrative geo-economic agenda is seeking to enhance its reach into distant markets and trade enterprises. The mega project of the Belt and Road Initiative is an expression of China's geo-economic strategy that is embedded in the historical trends of globalization and the neoliberal order. In the international political landscape, geo-economic, strategic, and geopolitical areas are deeply intertwined due to the complex multi-layered foundation of international political realities. Unprecedented developments such as BRI are not without certain areas of opportunities as well as challenges.

Through its Belt and Road Initiative, China has intended to achieve mutual progress, shared prosperity, and win-win cooperation throughout the region with the goal of fostering infrastructure development and socioeconomic uplift. The country has also been assisting the BRI partner nations to accelerate technological advancement, fight extreme poverty, and achieve high-quality growth. The Chinese investment policies are also set to encourage the development of high technology in nations such as Pakistan.

China and Pakistan's bilateral relations are in the historical milieu of cooperation, shared geopolitical outlook, strategic partnership, and economic interdependence. The bilateral engagement has successfully evolved into concrete commitments and pragmatic considerations of interests and values. The entrenched commitments between the two neighboring states have developed further by prospects of consolidation as a consequence of Pakistan being an essential actor in BRI's development. The BRI initiative has brought forth many positive and long-lasting results for both China and Pakistan. Through the promotion of bilateral connectivity, logistics, construction projects, and economic and trade opportunities, the strategic project has been contributing to the improvement of people's lives in both nations.

China has opened its doors to sharing high-tech technology with Pakistan. Furthermore, it has encouraged widespread cooperation in a variety of fields, including academia, research, government, industry, and the arts. Pakistan, on the other hand, is devoted to embracing the same technology and providing a stable environment for the development of projects that will promote the rejuvenation of the economy. Although China's Belt and Road Initiative has successfully depicted its softer image as a global and responsible force that seeks to assist the entire globe through economic development and foreign investment while enhancing its



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November 27, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan, China currency deal to boost investment in Gwadar

With the implementation of new financial currency arrangement by converting Chinese currency “RMB” directly into Pakistan rupee without involving the US dollar, Chinese investors can save 0.5 million Pakistan rupee on every transaction of Rs. 10 million, said Liao Longtai, General Manager (GM) of Hangeng Trade Company in Gwadar.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, he said “the new mechanism has boosted our confidence and more investors will pour in to invest in Pakistan in general and Gwadar in particular”.

“In the previous financial system, Chinese traders and investors had to first convert RMB into the US dollar and then into the Pakistani rupee. Owing to the volatile value of the US dollar, exchange rate damage had to be borne out by Chinese traders that used to keep them upset.

The new RMB-Rupee direct conversion mechanism has finally ended the loss for Chinese investors,” he added.

In Pakistan, hundreds of Chinese companies are working in the sectors of energy, telecom, automobile, agriculture, medicine, transport, infrastructure, industry, and many more. Hangeng Trade Company GM Liao Longtai is among thousands of Chinese officials who have termed the development a watershed moment that is going to catalyze Pakistan-China trade.

The breakthrough has also quashed a sense of reluctance among potential Chinese enterprises interested to pump fresh investment into CPEC projects. In the past, one of their major concerns was financial damages due to the unpredictable exchange rate in Pakistan.

According to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and the National Bank of Pakistan, PBOC has decided to authorize the Karachi Branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) to act as the Pakistani RMB clearing bank, PBOC announced last week.

It will undertake supervisory and regulatory responsibilities. Officials from ICBC along with senior officials from the Chinese Consulate Karachi and Bank of China visited Gwadar this week to review the progress on CPEC projects.

Luo Jianxue, President of the Lahore Overseas Chinese Association said that direct exchange of Chinese and Pakistani currencies can reduce the links and save the cost of capital exchange and will no longer be affected by the change of the US dollar exchange rate.

Chinese Consulate Lahore Commercial Counsellor Yan Yang said that on July 13, 2021, China and Pakistan renewed the bilateral currency swap agreement with a scale of 30 billion RMB (Rs. 730 billion).

It augurs well that Pakistan has entered into the RMB settlement club as China's RMB settlements with Belt and Road countries stood at 5.42 trillion yuan (763.4 billion U.S. dollars) in 2021, up 19.6 percent year on year. It accounted for 14.8 percent of China's total cross-border use of RMB in 2021, said a report released by the People's Bank of China.

By the end of 2021, China had signed bilateral currency swap agreements with 22 countries along the Belt and Road and established RMB clearing arrangements in eight countries along the Belt and Road.

The Pakistani government had been weighing up an option for CPEC investors, especially companies in the Gwadar Free Zone, to operate in RMB to save them from financial losses being incurred by the downward spiral of Pakistani currency against the US dollar.

The matter rose to prominence when COPHCL Chairman Zhang Baozhong briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during Federal Steering Committee on Gwadar initiatives a few months back about concerns that deter Chinese investment in Gwadar relating to currency devaluation.

He requested that Chinese investors be allowed to maintain accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without getting their invested money converted into Rupees.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to convene meetings with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Bank of China for the use of RMB/PKR for bilateral trade between China and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz gave the instructions to SBP during a meeting with the Chinese businessmen held on May 30 this year. For the promotion of trade in the Chinese currency, a pilot project encompassing the introduction of 'RMB pricing' will be introduced in the first phase. In the second phase, RMB settlement and financing policies will be focused on.

The exchange rate for the currencies of both countries will be set in the China Foreign Exchange Trading System (CFETS) and in authorized banks declared as cross-border currency markets in China and Pakistan, according to the official details.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1032590/pakistan-china-currency-deal-to-boost-investment-in-gwadar/>

Dawn News

Experts warn of US-China strategic competition

ISLAMABAD: Experts and intellectuals have cautioned that the evolving US China strategic competition will have serious implications over Pakistan's foreign policy and would create new regional alliances.

The speakers discussed various dimensions of the subject from the theoretical and practical perspective and suggested policy recommendation for Pakistan under the developing scenario.

The seminar was organised by Centre of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR).

COPAIR President Amna Malik said the global peace and diplomacy was the focus of the seminar and discussed means to tackle global issues and US-China strategic competition.

The COPAIR president reckoned that the competition of the great powers is impacting Pakistan directly and indirectly, because this century is the century of strategic alliances and innovations.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of Department International Relation in Numl University Dr Mohammad Riaz Shad highlighted the containment policy of the US against China in Obama, Trump and Biden administrations. Besides, Dr Riaz discussed the trade war and regional alliances of the both Powers.

On his opening remarks, Dr Riaz suggested that Pakistan should adopt balanced approach and neutrality.

Writer and columnist Prof Zamir Awan expressed that Pakistan is a window for China. Pakistan helped China during China economic blockade by the US.

Dean of Social Sciences in Islamic International University Dr Amna Mahmood also spoke at the occasion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1723356/experts-warn-of-us-china-strategic-competition>

The Nation

PIA granted permission to operate Islamabad-Xian-Islamabad direct flights

BEIJING -Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was granted permission by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) to operate direct weekly passenger flights on the Islamabad Xian-Islamabad route from next month. "PK-856 will depart from Islamabad International Airport every Tuesday for Xian and PK-857 will return to Islamabad on the same day," official sources told APP here on Saturday. The Islamabad-Xian-Islamabad will be the third direct flight of the national flag carrier between Pakistan and China. PIA was already operating weekly passenger flights on Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad and Islamabad-Chengdu-

Islamabad routes on Sunday and Wednesday respectively. It is worth mentioning that the CAAC accorded approval to PIA to restart its direct flight operation between Islamabad and Beijing from October 30, considering Pakistan as its all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China. PIA is among the few international airlines which have been allowed to operate three direct flights in a week. Pakistani officials, traders and students have warmly welcomed the launch of PIA's direct passenger flight between the two countries. They said the direct flights of the national flag carrier between various Pakistani and Chinese cities would also facilitate Chinese personnel working on different projects being completed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-27/page-8/detail-5>

Express News

پاکستان ریلویز نے چین سے جدید خطوط پر استوار بوگیاں درآمد کر لیں

پاکستان ریلوے نے مسافروں کو سفری سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے جدید خطوط پر استوار بوگیاں درآمد کر لیں جن میں معذور افراد کے لیے بیت الخلا بھی: کراچی موجود ہے۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق کراچی بندرگاہ پر پاکستان ریلوے نے چین سے درآمد کی گئی بوگیوں کی پہلی کھیپ حاصل کر لی ہے، جدید سہولیات سے آراستہ کوچز میں فرمی وائی فائی، چارجنگ سویچ، ایل ای ڈی سمیت معذور افراد کے لیے بیت الخلا کی سہولت بھی موجود ہے۔

میں سے 46 بوگیاں کراچی پہنچادی گئیں ہیں جبکہ بقیہ بوگیاں پاکستان اسپیر پارٹس سے خود تیار کرے گا۔ یکم دسمبر سے ان بوگیوں کا ٹرائل شروع کر دیا جائے گا۔ 230 اسٹنٹ جی ایم پاکستان ریلوے شاہد عزیز نے کہا کہ آج پاکستان کی تاریخ کا یادگار دن ہے، 46 جدید سہولیات سے آراستہ کوچز پہنچ گئی ہیں، یہ پاکستان اور چائنا کے بہترین تعلقات کی مثال ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ معاہدہ اگست 2021 میں ہوا، 230 کوچز چائنا سے لینے کا کنٹریکٹ ہوا، مستقبل میں ہم رامٹرل سے پاکستان میں بنائیں گے، یہ کوچز 160 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹے کی رفتار سے چلنے کی صلاحیت رکھتی ہیں، پہلی بار معذور افراد کے لیے اسپیشل وٹش رومز بنائے گئے ہیں۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین مزید 184 بوگیوں کے پرزے اسمبلنگ کے لیے پاکستان کو فراہم کرے گا، چین سے آنے والے کوچز میں اکنامی پارلر کار اور اے سی اسٹینڈرڈ کوچز شامل ہوں گی، اکنامی اور اے سی اسٹینڈرڈ کوچز میں آرام دہ برتھیں، نائٹ لیمپس اور موبائل چارج بھی لگائے گئے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2407053/1/>

November 28, 2022

Daily Times

“An Extraordinary Decade of China in New Era” VR photo exhibition goes online

Hosted by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and China Cultural Center in Pakistan have launched an online Virtual Reality exhibition “An Extraordinary Decade of China in the New Era” on its Facebook and social media platforms.

The exhibition aims to present Pakistani friends the amazing stories of an extraordinary decade of China in the new era, starting from the 18th National Congress of the CPC in November 2012 to the 20th National Congress of the CPC in October 2022.

The photo exhibition consists of five parts: the preface and the five parts of “Continuing to create Miracle of Development”, “Delivering a Happy Life”, “Improving Governance Efficiency”, “Bringing together strength of the People”, and “Working together to build a Beautiful World”. A total of 251 exquisite pictures are included, which vividly describe the new era. The wonderful stories of China’s extraordinary ten years in the fields of politics, economy, culture, people’s livelihood, and diplomacy have recorded the footsteps of the Chinese people’s unremitting self-improvement in pursuit of their dreams, and demonstrated the era of the Chinese people and the people of the world working together and advancing hand in hand.

At the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China(CPC) held in November 2012, the new central leadership of the CPC with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core took over the relay baton of history. Since then, China has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

This is a great era when we build on past successes to make further advances. The century-old CPC is uniting and leading hundreds of millions of Chinese people to continue to strive for fulfilling the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China has realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and has embarked on the new journey to fully build a modern socialist country. From standing up to growing prosperous then to becoming strong, China is standing tall and firm in the East as a large country, and it is embracing an irreversible trend of national rejuvenation.

This is a great era when we break new ground while keeping to the right path. Standing at a new historic juncture in China’s development, Chinese communists with Comrade Xi Jinping as their chief representative fully consider the overall goal of national rejuvenation and the international situation in a context of change at a level unseen in a century, and continue to integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China’s reality and fine traditional Chinese culture to explore new ground both in theory and in practice. They created Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, making new advances in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context.

Under the leadership of the Party, the Chinese people have turned China into a vibrant and prosperous country over the past 10 years. They enjoy a colourful and happy life, champion the national spirit of forging ahead courageously, demonstrate the institutional advance of “China’s effective governance,” and envisage for the world a future of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

This exhibition tells the fantastic stories taking place over the past 10 years in China’s new era.

It records how the Chinese people pursue their dreams through unremitting efforts, and displays how the Chinese people and people around the world work together to tide over difficulties and promote common progress.

The Virtual Reality Exhibition can be accessed through following web link. <https://nm.chnphoto.cn/NewEra-en/index.html> for more upcoming events and activities, please also follow the official Facebook page of China Cultural Center in Pakistan. www.facebook.com/cccenterinpak.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1032821/an-extraordinary-decade-of-china-in-new-era-vr-photo-exhibition-goes-online/>

The Express Tribune

‘China, Pakistan welcome third party participation in CPEC’

We hope countries and international organisations will achieve common goals with building of CPEC, says Zhao Lijian

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an open and inclusive platform and both Beijing and Islamabad would welcome all countries and international organisations to participate in the construction of the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative to achieve common development, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an open and inclusive platform. China and Pakistan welcome any efforts that support the Belt and Road Initiative and the building of CPEC,” he said during his regular briefing in response to a question.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a joint press conference along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul during his recent visit to Turkiye invited Turkiye to participate in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, and said he was willing to discuss the matter with Chinese leadership if Turkiye moved ahead with the idea of joining the flagship project.

In his comments, Zhao Lijian termed the CPEC flagship project as an open and inclusive platform and a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative and both the Chinese and Pakistani sides would welcome countries and international organisations which are ready to join it.

“We hope countries and international organisations that are ready to conduct mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve common development,” he added.

He remarked that such countries and organisations could join CPEC in appropriate ways to share the dividends of Belt and Road cooperation.

It is worth mentioning that CPEC, a pilot project of the BRI was launched in 2013 focusing on cooperation in Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industries.

The two countries have recently expanded their cooperation to the fields of science and technology, agriculture, people's livelihood, and information technology industries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2388615/china-pakistan-welcome-third-party-participation-in-cpec>

The Nation

Pak permanent pavilion inaugurated at Shanghai FTZ

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider, has said that the establishment of the Pakistan Permanent Pavilion at the Global Hub, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is of great significance for enhancing the awareness of Pakistan's high-quality and branded goods and expanding its exports to China and other countries.

The diplomat said this at the in-auguration of the pavilion, Gwadar Pro reported yesterday.

Terming the pavilion as an important sign of promoting the bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, the Consul General added that it would help create a better understanding of Pakistani products in a well-known global metropolis like Shanghai.

He said that, "China is Pakistan's second largest export destination and the opening of national pavilions in different cities has created more channels between Pakistani products and Chinese consumers.

With the passage of time, more Pakistani businessmen with a wider variety of products will find their way into the pavilion and Chinese market.

He further maintained that the Pakistani Consulate General will continue to build platforms for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises, and will hold more docking meetings and activities at the National Pavilion in the future.

The Waigaoqiao FTZ is China's first of its kind, with the highest economic aggregate. It benefits from pilot policies and professional trade service teams that can help cross border and domestic trade.

Li Chunxi, Vice General Manager of Shanghai Waigaoqiao International Trading Operation Center Co., Ltd, congratulated Pakistan on the establishment of the Pakistan National Pavilion and welcomed more interactions with Pakistani businesses.

The pavilion was elegantly designed and attracted the interest of visitors from all walks of life. Items currently in the 100-square meters plus pavilion are handmade carpets, copper and jade ornaments, carved wooden screens, tables and chairs.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-11-28/page-10/detail-12>

The News

Learning from China model

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his desire to learn from Chinese economic and governance model. He considers it would help implement CPEC projects. He is neither first nor the last. It has become fashion among the political/ruling elite to talk about China model.

Analysis of prevailing situation highlights there is limited understanding of Chinese model among political elite of Pakistan. Thus, it is necessary to understand first and then decide whether we want to implement it or not.

Before discussing the model, we need to understand Chinese model has certain characteristics which make it different from liberal democracy and even from traditional communism. China practices Whole Process Democracy which ensures inclusiveness in policy formulation and implementation. It is designed to achieve goal of people-centric development according to their will.

Formulation of Five-Year Plan and its implementation is best example of this philosophy. The plan process starts 2-3 years before its finalisation. State seeks inputs from a wide range of stakeholders including people, districts, provincial and national governments and Communist Party of China (CPC). Then, draft plan is being shared with National Congress, politburo and stand committee of politburo, think tanks and netizens. Before finalising the plan, it is shared with other political parties.

Second, China has adopted scientific approach for decision-making. Political leadership and experts come up with scientific argument. On the basis of scientific data, they develop different options. Best available option is selected.

Third, China does not hire consultants, donors or tourist experts to develop policies or plans. They engage local wisdom and competent CPC leadership to lead the process. It is pertinent to mention here, CPC has rich pools of professionals (53.3%) with diverse expertise.

Fourth, CPC, which spearheads everything, is a merit and value-based party. There is no space for hereditary leadership. Everyone has to go through the process. The party members have to earn the leadership, no shortcut.

However, once decision is made, it is implemented with without “ifs or buts”. Government and CPC work hand in hand. They also act as monitoring bodies for each other. Bureaucracy or any other institution cannot create any hurdle or delay.

The process discussed above can be understood by studying Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SSEZ). CPC and the government took the decision after deliberation and tasked relevant departments, governments (central, provincial, local) and party cadres to meet the targets. This strategy led to successful execution of plans, and now Shenzhen is one of the most successful SEZ in the world.

On the contrary, the decision-making, and implementation processes in Pakistan are highly exclusive. Political parties put all their efforts to paralyse local government system, a representative of people.

Only a small number of think tanks or NGOs are consulted in the name of inclusiveness. On the implementation side, bureaucracy knows everything. So, in the whole process, the real stakeholders – the people and local governments – are missing.

Second, Pakistan hires donor-driven consultants or tourist experts or victim of post-retirement enlightenment disease to develop policies. Tourism experts are an interesting category. These Pakistanis work abroad and only visit country to see their families and get some work to sponsor their trip.

They have limited or outdated knowledge of society. Moreover, international donors, foreign consultants and tourist experts do not have much time or interest to consult people at the local

level. They use these organisations as proxy. Their only goal is to make donors happy. So, they devise policies which have limited relevance for Pakistan.

Third, political parties have very few professionals in their ranks, except Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and PTI. In the beginning, PTI tried to adopt professionals and established groups for intellectual input. But, after coming to power, they divorced the strategy and started introducing cronies or vested interest groups. Though JI has professionals, but it severely lacks political skills.

Unfortunately, Pakistan ruling parties are dependent on the wisdom of their leadership. Leaders are considered superhuman who knows everything. These leaders only consult their cronies or listen to donors or journalists. There is limited or no space for professionals or scientific decision-making.

Fourth, donors also try to directly fund certain initiatives of parliament. It is feared it will compromise decision-making independence and space for indigenous wisdom. On the basis of above discussion, we can conclude the political system of Pakistan does not allow us to copy Chinese model at all.

In this context, Pakistan will have to adopt a stepwise strategy if it wants to learn from China. First, induct professionals with good understanding of China model in political parties and government positions. Second, political parties will have to reform themselves and get rid of mentality of superhuman leadership. They should focus on the process of grooming leadership. Third, for adopting Chinese model, re-orient political and institutional systems.

In conclusion, Pakistan can start process by introducing these reforms for implementation of CPEC. It will help Pakistan devise right set of instruments for engagement with China and to bring Chinese investment. It will also lay down foundation for better understanding of China, especially China in New Era, and its relevance for Pakistan. Lasty, without making reforms discussed above, desire to learn or benefit from the Chinese model is only rhetoric.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=152057>

November 29, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan's SEZs can help attract investment: PCJCCI

With the acceleration of construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there is a strong wave of international investment led by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan because our textile, leather, pharmaceutical and surgical instrument industries' products are among the best in the world.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Punjab government, Chairman S.M Naveed expressed these views in an executive committee meeting of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) held here at its Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting was attended by PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki, Senior Vice President Fang Yulong, Vice President Hamza Khalid, Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif and other executive members.

S.M Naveed said that large-scale transfer of China's modern industries to Pakistan would drive the development of Pakistan's industrial modernisation and help boost Pakistan's export of advanced industrial products, bringing a large amount of foreign exchange income to Pakistan and enhancing the country's financial strength.

According to CPEC Authority of Pakistan, he mentioned, the main sectors in which Chinese companies could establish their industries in Pakistani SEZs included textile, footwear, pharmaceutical and information technology (IT) sectors. He added that millions of jobs could be created for the locals through Chinese textile industry, because it employed as many as 2,000 local Pakistanis in one shift. "From here we see that once a large number of Chinese enterprises are landed in Pakistan's SEZs, millions of jobs will be created for the locals," he hoped.

S.M. Naveed said that at the same time, local workers working in Chinese enterprises will receive extensive technical training, upgrading human resources development in Pakistan.

On this occasion, PCJCCI president said the best part is that the Chinese side will continue to provide intellectual and technical support to accelerate Pakistan's priority sectors, especially through the nine SEZs of Pakistan under CPEC wherein three SEZs has been prioritised and are now at an advanced stage of development.

VP Hamza Khalid expressed the confidence that through this cooperation, many Chinese companies will reap benefits of Pakistan's competitive advantages. It will definitely help in transforming trade potential into investment potential.

Salahuddin Hanif said that the young entrepreneurs of Pakistan should unite to boost the economy of Pakistan through learning contemporary techniques from Chinese enterprises.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1033157/pakistans-sezs-can-help-attract-investment-pcjcci/>

Online training session for Chinese enterprises on RMB and PKR rate held

Bank of China (BOC) Pakistan Operations in collaboration with the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) held an online training session for Chinese enterprises in Pakistan on the analysis and outlook of USD, RMB & PKR rates, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

On the occasion, Wang Jie, President of BOC Pakistan Operations delivered a welcoming speech. Dr. He Xiaobo, General Manager of Offshore RMB Trading Center, BOC Hong Kong explained the trend of the exchange rate of RMB and US dollar. According to He, although the pandemic continues to sweep the world, the average daily trading volume of the global foreign exchange market in 2022 still increase by 14.98% from \$6.58 trillion in 2019 to \$7.5 trillion. "As global energy prices fall, U.S. inflation could hit a turning point, which would moderate the dollar index's gains. China's current account surplus will continue to be maintained, and the China-US interest rate differential is estimated to enter a convergence cycle."

Dr. He predicted, "as the epidemic prevention and control continues to improve, the internationalization of RMB will continue to deepen, and there are abundant policy reserves, which will provide a solid foundation for the RMB exchange rate to remain basically stable."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1033144/online-training-session-for-chinese-enterprises-on-rmb-and-pkr-rate-held/>

The Express Tribune

Turkey and CPEC

Pakistan and Turkey have reiterated to buoy their relationship in all spheres of cooperation

Pakistan and Turkey have reiterated to buoy their relationship in all spheres of cooperation. The impetus is on commerce and defence amalgamation where there is much scope to broaden the canvas. The Milgem Corvette Ships project is a case in point where both the Asian states are in a synchronised deal to upgrade their military cooperation. Though their volume of trade is quite inconsistent, less than a billion dollars, there is room for stretching it up to \$5 billion. Pakistan is, likewise, quite eager to attract Turkish investment, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made it a point to solicit expertise in renewable energy products, including solar and wind, to the tune of \$10 billion.

The most galvanising aspect of talks between the two countries was Islamabad's invitation to Ankara to join CPEC. PM Shehbaz took pleasure in informing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Pakistan will be pleased to talk to Chinese leadership over it. It goes without saying that Pakistan sits at the crossroads of CPEC and BRI of Beijing, and is a recipient of around \$60 billion investment. The triangular nexus that Shehbaz suggested will be a shot in the arm in exposing the muscles of these Asian economies, and will certainly be a win-win situation. Pakistan is already homing in Afghanistan into CPEC in an attempt to realise geo-economics integration in the region.

The Asian Century phenomenon has brought together many developing economics. Turkey, with its economic vibrancy and flanks of interaction in both Europe and Asia, can act as a strategic game-changer if it becomes part of CPEC. The Chinese initiative is meant to connect more than 60 countries in three continents, and Pakistan has exhibited a forward-looking approach by inviting Turkey to join the bandwagon of prosperity and connectivity. While Pakistan and Turkey are already bona fide members of ECO (formerly RCD), and Iran is in a 25-year-long \$400 billion deal with China, Turkey's formal inclusion will bring in dividends. The intention obviously is not power politics but to alleviate poverty by empowering the people.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2388686/turkey-and-cpec>

Pakistan, China set up S&T centre

Delegation of Chinese enterprises will visit Pakistan for in-depth field investigation

BEIJING: In a milestone move to boost bilateral cooperation in science and technology (S&T), an S&T cooperation centre was launched in a webinar held in Beijing on Monday.

The S&T centre was initiated by the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) and Pakistan's Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA).

Speaking at the forum, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said that information technology emerged as an important area of China-Pakistan cooperation during the recent

visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as reflected in the establishment of the S&T joint working group under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The envoy added that the S&T centre would be a significant move towards enhanced bilateral cooperation.

In his speech, ZBRA President Zhang Xiaodong mentioned that “taking the centre as a platform, we will mobilise all parties in China and Pakistan, especially hi-tech enterprises and institutions, to develop and gather resources for science and technology cooperation”.

He added that a delegation of Chinese S&T enterprises would be formed for a visit to Pakistan next year for in-depth field investigation.

Terming the S&T centre a “liaison office for Chinese enterprises”, an STZA officer noted that apart from boosting innovations, people-to-people and student-to-student cooperation channels, the centre will also build a business-to-business platform for the transfer of technology, collaboration and cross-border investments.

It is learnt that the centre will focus on cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, robotics, financial technology, blockchain and biotechnology.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2388648/pakistan-china-set-up-st-centre>

November 30, 2022

Daily Times

Chinese team concedes 14-day medical mission in Pakistan

A Chinese medical team has returned to its homeland after the conclusion of its 14-day mission of post-flood medical treatment and infectious disease prevention in Pakistan.

“After the 14-day aid in Pakistan, we are ready to continue giving full play to our professional strengths and enhance exchanges with Pakistan and contribute to the reconstruction of Pakistan’s health system”, said Mr Huang Wenxin, head of China (Guangxi) Medical Expert Team for Aiding Pakistan in Flood Relief.

The team has concluded its work in Pakistan from Oct. 28 to Nov. 11.

During the trip, the expert team, consisting of experts on gastroenterology, infectious diseases, respiratory medicine, dermatology, general surgery, nursing, monitoring, analysis and prevention of infectious diseases, drinking water sanitation, mosquito vector monitoring and transmission, environmental elimination, and laboratory testing, visited Islamabad, Karachi, and the badly-hit Khaipur district in Sindh province.

In Gambat Relief Camp, the team donated medical supplies to Khaipur, including antibiotics and antiviral drugs for respiratory tract infections and infectious diarrhoea, dermatological topical medication for infection, anti-allergy medicine, anti-diabetic medicine, mosquito repellent medicine, antimalarial medicine, malaria detection kits, protective clothing, medical masks, etc.

Experts in the team together with local doctors provided free medical care to the flood affectees. “We also checked the water source and impact of mosquitoes and flies in the camp, and discussed with the health officials of Heilbul County on how to strengthen health education for the flood victims and promote a healthy lifestyle”, Huang Wenxin told China Economic Net (CEN).

“I’m deeply impressed by the patients saying thanks to us, the hospitable local doctors, and the full support from local health officials and security personnel”, Huang Wenxin recalled.

The team also met with Pakistan’s national and local health and disaster management authorities and put forward suggestions on post-disaster medical treatment, sanitation and epidemic prevention.

It is suggested that national health campaigns, medium and long-term plans regarding the construction of hydraulic projects, and epidemic surveillance can be carried out to improve urban and rural sanitation, enhance the capacity for flood control, drought resistance, and disaster prevention, and control epidemics effectively.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1033509/chinese-team-concedes-14-day-medical-mission-in-pakistan/>

CPEC energy projects offer low-cost electricity for Pakistan: NEPRA

* In October 2021, CPEC projects based on imported coal produced electricity at Rs 8.0/kWh. While the cost of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG stands at Rs 21.5/kWh and Rs 20.0/kWh respectively

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost, Tauseef H. Farooqi, Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) said.

In an interview with China Economic Net (CEN), the Chairman said, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6570 MW. They generated 28549.94 Gwh and 25772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

The average 20% annual addition to the national grid has alleviated rampant cases of load shedding within the country and especially powered the export-oriented industries in Pakistan.

Pakistan’s energy sector is mainly dependent on imported fuel (oil and LNG), which has caused a heavy burden on foreign reserves and confined the industrial development of the country

“As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan has been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries”, the Chairman revealed. Regarding the power generation cost, in October 2021, CPEC

projects based on imported coal produced electricity at Rs.8.0/kWh. While the cost of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG were Rs.21.5/kWh and Rs.20.0/kWh respectively, twice more expensive than CPEC projects, data provided by KASB Trade shows.

The cost has been rising over the last year due to surged fuel prices in the international market. Nevertheless, the CPEC projects still provide competitive rates. In October this year, the power generation cost of CPEC projects based on imported coal was Rs.18.5/kWh, and that of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG was Rs.34.0/kWh, Rs.31.0/kWh.

When it comes to electricity rate, the chairman told the CPEC projects (EPP) based on coal is Rs.22.13/kWh on average, and that of non-CPEC projects based on oil is Rs.36.61/kWh. This shows the CPEC energy projects, utilizing fuel with higher efficiency, are providing affordable electricity to millions of Pakistani households

Rising fuel prices and a new energy landscape after the Ukraine war necessitate Pakistan to avail of its indigenous resources, and at the time being, the most efficient solution is Thar coal. Data provided by NEPRA shows that proven coal reserves in Thar are approximately 175 billion tons. After the commissioning of phase II of Block II, the daily coal production is approximately 24,000 tons, sufficient to fire 1320 MWs. Based on current coal prices of South African Coal, the fuel saving is approximately Rs. 13.46/kWh and the annual fuel savings for 1320 MW will be approximately Rs. 121 billion from Thar coal.

CPEC projects have enabled Pakistan to utilize the Thar coal and produce electricity at around Rs.7-7.5/kWh, the report says. Currently, the 660 MW Engro Power Thar Limited, Lucky Electric, Engro Powergen Thar and Thar Energy are completely or partially running on Thar coal. On top of that, another 1,320 MW Shanghai Electric coal power plant, together with an open-pit coal mine of 7.8m tons capacity in Thar Coal Block-1, has been completed recently and is in the process of synchronizing with the national grid. Once put into commercial operation, it will help double electricity generation based on Thar coal to 2640 MW and lower average electricity costs in Pakistan.

In December 2020, Pakistan announced that it would not build any new power projects that depend on imported coal, and pledged that by 2030, 60pc of its energy will come from clean and renewable sources. This coincided with China's commitment to building a green CPEC, which entails not building new coal-fired power plants overseas, and increasing support for low-carbon energy.

In this connection, four hydropower projects have been completed or are in development under the CPEC Framework, including the biggest run of the river hydropower project 720 MW Karot HPP commissioned on 29th June 2022, 840 MW Suki Kinari HPP under construction, and a 640 MW project recently approved in Mahl.

According to the State of Industry Report 2022 issued by NEPRA, the HPPs have a comparatively long operational life which can be used as an advantage for reducing their tariff through a large spread of the cost over the life of the project. Besides, CPEC projects have invigorated the once barren land in Jhimpir and transformed the region into a wind corridor in real. Four wind farms built here with a total installed capacity of 300 MW have supplied economical and clean energy to the national grid of Pakistan.

In Bahawalpur located the first ever solar power plant in Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park. The plant was initially launched with a capacity of generating 100 MW of power. Since 2015, there has been addition of 300 MW power generation capacity, and there are numerous planned projects reported for the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park by AEDB with a cumulative capacity of 1,050 MW.

The State of Industry Report 2022 by NEPRA shows the price of electricity from wind and solar power plants are less than half of the price of electricity currently being procured from thermal sources.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1033790/cpec-energy-projects-offer-low-cost-electricity-for-pakistan-nepra/>

Pakistan Observer

Dar expresses gratitude to President, Bank of China for continuous support to Pakistan

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a virtual meeting with President Bank of China Mr. Liu Jin at Finance Division, on Tuesday. SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Secretary Finance and other senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting.

Finance Minister Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar shared that it has always been great pleasure to work with Bank of China and Pakistan has enjoyed sound financial dealings with the bank. The Finance Minister also highlighted the recent visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to China and talked about reciprocation of warm sentiments from Chinese leadership.

The Finance Minister, while talking about the long standing and durable relationships between government of China and Government of Pakistan, shared gratitude to President, Bank of China for continuous support to Pakistan in testing times. It was shared that Bank of China has played a crucial role in extending budgetary support to Pakistan which has played a significant role in easing pressure on the external account and meeting budgetary needs.

The Finance Minister extended invitation to President Bank of China to visit Pakistan. He briefed the President Bank of China about the financial and fiscal conditions inherited by the present government and shared that present government has strong resolution to bring back the macroeconomic stability. In this regard, the Finance Minister sought the support of Bank of China and asked the President for expansion of business relations with Pakistan to deepen the economic and financial relations.

The President Bank of China also highlighted the historical and bilateral ties between both countries and appreciated the Government of Pakistan for taking the necessary measures for easing the lives of masses in the country. He also acknowledged the contribution of Pakistan in supporting China during hard times. He also commended the ongoing facilitation being provided by the government of Pakistan on various Chinese projects under the umbrella of CPEC.

In conclusion, the Finance Minister thanked the President Bank of China for continuous support and assured him of same support by the present government in deepening the economic, trade and investment cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/dar-expresses-gratitude-to-president-bank-of-china-for-continuous-support-to-pakistan/>

China’s Manifestation of “Geo-economics” & BRI

Saher Liaqat

CHINA, in an unprecedented space of time, has emerged as the second largest economy in the world and is exerting a form of ‘geo-economics’ influence that is transforming the nature of international relations in the 21st century.

Through this remarkable achievement, China has enticed so much attention in the world and international actors are curious about what Chinese leadership intends to do with its growing power and economic leverage.

China’s Belt & Road Initiative is one of the key manifestations of China’s goal to re-establish the fabled ‘Silk Route’ which historically had an important expression in China’s long-standing economic significance in Asia.

In the context of long-run economic restructuring, an expanding material geo-economics influence, and the development of a more self-confident and externally oriented policy agenda, it is no coincidence that China’s leaders, especially Xi Jinping, have been talking about this possibility which potentially incorporates direct and indirect sources of influence.

BRI is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program and a global initiative aimed at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the historic Silk Road with prime focus on Asia, Eastern Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East – a region of great significance in terms of emerging markets.

The Belt & Road Initiative was unveiled by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 and was initially known as One Belt One Road till 2016.

According to the official data, as of March 2022, 146 countries and 32 international organizations have taken part in the Initiative through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), representing more than a third of the world’s GDP and two-thirds of the world’s population altogether.

BRI was officially launched to achieve five major goals including policy coordination, infrastructure, trade, financial integration and people-to-people cooperation.

China, via the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, is developing an inclusive, mutually open, balanced and valuable economic cooperation framework aimed at regional integration and connectivity.

In the early years of the BRI, eight whimsical trade routes were central to Beijing’s ambitions of trade connectivity: six land-based economic corridors encompassing the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and two maritime trade routes containing the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”.

The Chinese government departments: National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) laid the action plans for these trade routes of BRI in 2015, in the “Vision and Actions” agenda.

The two principal aspects of the BRI constitute the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt’ (SREB) and the ‘Maritime Silk Road’ (MSR).

MSR is designed primarily to effectively link and integrate the maritime states of Southeast and South Asia in particular whereas, SREB, on the contrary, intends to re-establish and modernize traditional overland connections with Central and South Asia, connecting them to both China itself and ultimately to Europe.

BRI combines new and old projects, covers an extensive geographic scope and includes efforts to strengthen hard and soft infrastructure, and cultural ties.

It envisages an integrated network of ports, railways and roads, a development that will help consolidate China’s place at the centre of economic activity across much of Asia and Europe.

The initial stimulus for BRI was provided by the economic downturn in the face of the Global Financial crisis of 2008 in the West that provided China with a huge opportunity to come to the front and play a leading role in global economic development by bringing more countries into its economic orbit.

Therefore, since BRI’s launch in 2013, it has been serving Beijing’s geopolitical and geo-economics objectives by expanding China’s influence around the globe.

In its early years, Beijing sought to simply strengthen its ties with the governments abroad and gain a foothold as one of their key economic partners using the strategy of offering loans, investment and summitry while avoiding confrontation with the US.

Thus, China engaged diplomatically with the countries where the US was less-invested politically such as countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa and the economic corridors situated at the heart of BRI mainly traverse these regions. The economic corridor of Pakistan serves as the best example, signifying this approach of Beijing.

CPEC, the principal BRI in Pakistan, a mega project worth billions of dollars is not only an economic corridor or transit route for the Chinese market but includes infrastructure and energy projects, construction of modern transportation networks, industrialization and the improvement of Gwadar Port which is the most operational port regarding oil and gas shipping lanes.

Moreover, there is a range of proposed special economic zones that runs about 2700 km along the route from Kashgar, China’s westernmost city, through central Pakistan to Gwadar port on Pakistan’s southwest coast, with these projects mainly focused on boosting the economic performance of Pakistan making the country a regional economic hub.

Rationally speaking, BRI has the full potential to achieve considerable economic and political gains for China and many of them have been explicitly acknowledged in China’s official policy communiqué, for example, the expansion of China’s export markets, the reduction of

trade frictions such as tariffs and transportation costs and the promotion of the Renminbi (RMB) as an international currency.

China's growing economic stature has enabled it to transit from a grand strategy that merely sought its economic goals to one that benefits it to leverage its growing economic power in achieving unreachable foreign policy goals.

China's economic rise has also given China's leaders generally, and Xi, in particular, much greater potential agency.

Chinese leaders are keen to use it to restore their former dominant status at the forefront of international diplomacy and great power politics and especially in its region which is widely supported by both the leadership of the PRC and by the population more generally.

It cannot be denied that China's enhanced geo-economic influence and rising power are giving it an upper hand to pursue these ambitions much more rapidly which were hardly possible a decade or so ago.

Though the predictable implications and consequences of BRI cannot be fully judged, its possible trajectory is already becoming clear. China has both the state capacity and the practical experience in making such a project a reality.

It has both the material resource and the key agencies, such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NRDC) that have developed detailed plans for the successful implementation of specific aspects of the BRI.

It is therefore important to emphasize that despite the shift to a more market-oriented economy, Beijing and its developmental agencies continue to play a major role in the overall coordination of economic development while projecting soft power in the form of geo-economics.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-manifestation-of-geo-economics-bri-by-saher-liaqat/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC projects offer low-cost electricity

Installed capacity of such high efficiency projects stands at 6,570MW

BEIJING: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy projects have improved the electricity sector in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency and at lower cost, remarked Tauseef H Farooqi, said Chairman of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

According to Farooqui, total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydroelectric power, stands at 6,570 megawatts. They have generated 28,549 gigawatt-hours (GWh) and 25,772 GWh of electricity in financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total power generation in Pakistan.

The average 20% annual addition to the national grid has alleviated rampant cases of load-shedding and especially powered the export-oriented industries. Pakistan's energy sector is mainly dependent on imported fuel (oil and liquefied natural gas – LNG).

“As CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs have been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries,” the Nepra chairman emphasised in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2388773/cpec-projects-offer-low-cost-electricity>

The Nation

2nd conference on China-Pak non-wood forest science held in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD - The second conference on exploration of China-Pakistan tropical arid non-wood forest science and technology exchange cooperation in Gwadar was held online. according to Gwadar pro, theme of the second conference was on highly efficient water and soil conversion plants. Two research fellows, Ms Razia Junaid and Ms Misbah Amin presented their research papers. Pakistani delegation consisting of professors of Faisalabad and Karachi universities participated online, while other dignitaries consisting of Chairman COphC Zhang Baozhong, Chancellor Indus University Khalid Amin and senior officials from Chinese Embassy and Karachi Consulate took part through video link. Indus University, University of Karachi and Faisalabad University of agriculture in collaboration with China's Central south University of Forestry and Technology and China Overseas ports holding Company jointly established the Belt and Road Scientific research Laboratory in Gwadar Free Zone. The conference is a sustainable research cooperation programme between Pakistani and Chinese academic and research institutions. The Scientific Research Laboratory has taken remarkable steps to promote the agricultural development of Gwadar and Balochistan. Scientific research on xerophytes has been conducted. Using the modernised sophisticated tissue culture and cloning techniques many varieties of bananas, jujube and fig plants have been grown in Gwadar green house. The objective of this coordination is the transfer of modern technological know-how to Pakistan to produce water efficient plants adaptable to Gwadar's arid ecosystem. China has dramatically de-decertified large swaths of arid land, known as the Great Green wall, to cultivable land. This serves two-goods of generating revenue and helping curb climate change.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Nov-2022/2nd-conference-on-china-pak-non-wood-forest-science-held-in-gwadar>

The News

Pakistan seeks refinance of China bank loans

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has requested that the Bank of China refinance commercial loans after the existing portfolio has been paid off.

Pakistan requires the re-financing of \$3.3 billion from different Chinese banks during the current fiscal year.

According to an official announcement made here on Tuesday, Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar held a virtual meeting with the President of the People's Bank of China, Liu Jin, at the Finance Division.

The SAPM on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Secretary of Finance and other senior officers from the Finance Division attended the meeting.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar shared that it has always been a great pleasure working with the Bank of China and Pakistan has enjoyed sound financial dealings with the bank. He also highlighted the recent visit of the prime minister of Pakistan to China and talked about the reciprocation of warm sentiments from the Chinese leadership.

The minister, while talking about the long-standing and durable relationships between the government of China and the Government of Pakistan, expressed gratitude to the president and the Bank of China for their continuous support to Pakistan in testing times. It was shared that the Bank of China has played a crucial role in extending budgetary support to Pakistan, which has played a significant role in easing pressure on the external account and meeting budgetary needs.

The finance minister invited the president of the People's Bank of China to come to Pakistan. He briefed the president of the Bank of China on the financial and fiscal conditions inherited by the present government and shared that the current government has a strong resolution to bring back macroeconomic stability. In this regard, he sought the Bank of China's support and asked the president to expand business relations with Pakistan to deepen economic and financial ties.

The president of the People's Bank of China also highlighted the historical and bilateral ties between both countries and appreciated the government of Pakistan for taking the necessary measures to ease the lives of the masses in the country. He also acknowledged the contribution of Pakistan to supporting China during hard times. He also praised Pakistan's government for its ongoing assistance with various Chinese projects under the auspices of CPEC. In conclusion, the finance minister thanked the president of the Bank of China for continuous support and assured him of the same support by the present government in deepening economic, trade, and investment cooperation.

<http://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=152748>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان، چین کے مابین گہرے تعلقات، مزید مستحکم ہو رہے ہیں: وزیر مملکت داخلہ

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) وزیر مملکت داخلہ عبدالرحمان کانسو نے گلوبل پبلک سیکیورٹی فورم کی پہلی کانفرنس میں ویڈیو لنک کے ذریعے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر مملکت داخلہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین گہرے تعلقات ہیں جو وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ مزید مستحکم ہو رہے ہیں۔ وزیر مملکت داخلہ نے کہا کہ سیکیورٹی چیلنجز سے نبرد آزما ہونے کے لئے گلوبل پبلک سیکیورٹی فورم کا قیام وقت کی اہم ضرورت تھی، چین اور پاکستان عالمی فورمز پر ایک دوسرے کی غیر مشروط حمایت کرتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-30/page-8/detail-54>

Chinese Newspapers

November 16, 2022

Global Times

Planned oil refinery in Gwadar will open up new chapter of development

By Yasir Habib Khan

Gwadar, the engine room of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is set to be the recipient of a \$4.5 billion oil refinery as a Chinese firm lays down plan to build oil refinery with annual oil processing capacity of 8 million tons, according to the press release of the firm, the East Sea Group.

The Chinese entry came at a time when uncertainty was brewing about fate of oil refinery in Gwadar after international players dragged their feet and went indecisive on the offer of establishing oil refinery in Gwadar.

With the matter remaining in limbo triggering ominous susceptibility on future of Gwadar development, the Chinese enterprise's engagement to build oil refinery in Gwadar Free Zone area phase II has electrified mood and morale of the CPEC's reinvigoration.

East Sea Group CEO Fang Yulong, who is also Senior Vice President of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), created pleasant ripple while breaking the news to launch mega project of building "Gwadar Petroleum Storage and Transportation Trading Centre" during the briefing at Think Tank Session at the PCICCI secretariat.

East Sea Group has sent a letter of intent to the authorities through China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan Ltd, the operator of Gwadar Free Zone, saying it is ready to invest around \$4.5 billion to set up oil refinery in phases.

According to sources familiar with the matter, the proposal revealed that the refinery will provide a substantial storage capacity to Pakistan, enabling it to maintain reserves for 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 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.

The move of launching a Chinese oil refinery seems to have encouraged other foreign investment that had stalled due to many reasons in the oil refinery sector during recent past.

In January 2019, Saudi Arabian officials 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 of Gwadar, oil refinery may be established somewhere else in Pakistan.

A bolt from the blue, few days back Saudi Arabia springs back into action with signaling renew engagement to come up with oil refinery project in Gwadar. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are inching toward signing a multi-billion-dollar deal for an oil refinery project that had stalled for the past several years, tribune.com reported. Teams from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have been engaged in a series of meetings to finalize a commercial deal on the project, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates 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 Pakistan.

Currently, there are five local players operating in the oil refining sector in Pakistan including PARCO, Attock Refinery Limited, National Refinery Limited, Pakistan Refinery Limited and Cnergyico Pk Limited. All of the refineries are hydro skimming refineries, except for PARCO which is a mild-conversion refinery.

Pakistan's oil refining capacity is about 450,000 barrels per day, 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 \$2 billion annually, as there is no primary petrochemical production facility in Pakistan.

The author is the founder and president of the Institute of International Relations and Media Research in Pakistan. bizopinion@globaltimes.com.cn

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1279668.shtml>

China displays advanced weapons, equipment at Pakistani defense expo

By Liu Xuanzun

China is displaying many advanced weapons and equipment, including drone and anti-drone systems, at an ongoing defense expo in Pakistan, a move analysts said on Wednesday indicates that the two countries' defense cooperation will continue to deepen under their ironclad friendship, with Pakistan's armed forces already operating advanced main battle equipment of Chinese origin.

The 11th session of the International Defense Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) kicked off on Tuesday at the Karachi Expo Center in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, with seven Chinese defense trade companies participating under the delegation "China Defence" led by the country's State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Exhibits of the Chinese delegation include the Wing Loong series drones, CH series drones, the WJ-700 drone, a comprehensive anti-drone system, a type of multi-role drone ship, the Y-9E transport aircraft, the LY-70 air defense system, the VT4 main battle tank, the SR5

multiple launch rocket system, the YLC-2E multi-role radar, a command information system, an electronic warfare defense system and a communications navigation system, Xinhua reported.

Delegates from more than 50 countries and regions are attending the four-day show, and the Chinese delegation is one of the largest national delegations at the event, the report said.

China's State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence said that the Chinese delegation's participation in international defense expos aims to display the country's advanced military equipment and technologies, promote international cooperation and communication in science, technology and industry for national defense, and build a defense security community to safeguard regional peace and stability, according to Xinhua.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the opening ceremony of the IDEAS and visited the Chinese delegation. A Pakistani defense official was quoted as saying that China's military equipment and technologies are famous internationally, and defense cooperation between Pakistan and China is exemplary.

The armed forces of Pakistan have commissioned many advanced weapons and equipment of Chinese origin, including the VT4 main battle tank, the SH-15 self-propelled howitzer, the Type 054A/P frigate, the JF-17 fighter jet, the J-10C fighter jet and the ZDK-03 early warning aircraft, according to official announcements and media reports.

China and Pakistan are expected to continue to deepen their defense cooperation, as Chinese weapons and equipment have boosted Pakistan's national defense as a system, a Chinese military expert who requested anonymity told the Global Times on Wednesday.

With China-Pakistan defense cooperation as an example, the expo is also a chance for China to have more defense cooperation with other countries in the region, the expert said.

The Russia-Ukraine crisis has highlighted the importance of drones and anti-drone systems, and Chinese defense firms have answers to that, the expert said.

Pakistan has consistently held the biennial event since 2000, except in 2020, when the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IDEAS has become a defense expo of key influence in Asia, Xinhua said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1279689.shtml>

November 22, 2022

Global Times

China-South Asia Expo wraps up with signed projects worth \$56 billion

An outbound international freight train is about to depart from a station in southwest China's Chongqing, June 16, 2022. The first outbound international freight train for test from China's Chongqing to South Asia pulled out of a station in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Thursday. The new route from Chongqing to Nepal's capital Kathmandu can save about 20 days on the way compared with traditional logistics routes.(Photo: Xinhua)

An outbound international freight train is about to depart from a station in southwest China's Chongqing, June 16, 2022. The first outbound international freight train for test from China's Chongqing to South Asia pulled out of a station in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Thursday. The new route from Chongqing to Nepal's capital Kathmandu can save about 20 days on the way compared with traditional logistics routes.(Photo: Xinhua)

The sixth China-South Asia Exposition came to an end on Tuesday, with signed investment deals exceeding 400 billion yuan (\$56.07 billion), China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Experts noted that the event demonstrated the resilience and potential of economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries.

According to the Xinhua News Agency, the investment projects focus on 12 key industrial lines in Southwest China's Yunnan Province, including green energy, modern agriculture, advanced manufacturing, new materials and biomedicine.

The 6th China-South Asia Expo was successfully held online and on-site from November 19 to 22 in Kunming, Yunnan. With the theme of "New Opportunities for New Development", this year's expo welcomed people from 80 countries, regions and international organizations, as well as 64 of the domestic and foreign 500 enterprises.

The third China-South Asia Cooperation Forum, the first China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development and Cooperation, and the first Belt and Road Supply Chain Summit and other activities were held during the four-day event.

The China-South Asia Expo is an important platform for multilateral economic and trade cooperation, and cultural exchanges between China and South Asian countries, Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry, said on Tuesday.

Since the first expo took place in 2013, up to 89 countries, regions and international organizations have participated, and 2,770 domestic and foreign projects have been signed, with a cumulative investment exceeding 3.7 trillion yuan.

China and South Asian countries have been friendly neighbors and development partners, Zhao said. China's trade with South Asia reached \$187.5 billion in 2021, which is \$50 billion more than the pre-pandemic period.

Trade between India and China reached \$103.6 billion in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 14.6 percent year-on-year.

According to Zhao, cooperation projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the Colombo Port City and the Hambantota Harbor under China-Sri Lanka cooperation are steadily advancing. Cultural and personnel exchanges between the two parties have continued to expand, with Yunnan alone receiving nearly 2,000 international students from South Asian countries.

China is willing to cooperate with South Asian countries to build the Belt and Road Initiative with high quality, implement the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, in a bid to jointly achieve development, Zhao noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1280179.shtml>

November 23, 2022

People's Daily

CPEC transforms Pakistan-China relations into strong economic partnership: Pakistani minister

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 23 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has strengthened relations between the two neighboring countries, Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Tuesday.

Calling CPEC a vital national project of Pakistan, Iqbal said that it has transformed the relationship between the two countries into a strong economic partnership.

Chairing a meeting of top officials of the ministry and representatives from concerned ministries, Iqbal said that the next phase of the CPEC envisages the development of industrial cooperation.

He directed concerned stakeholders to expedite the implementation of CPEC projects.

The minister also asked concerned ministries to speed up work on special economic zones under the framework of the CPEC to attract the relocation of Chinese industry to Pakistan with a low cost of production.

(Web editor: Cai Hairuo, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1123/c90000-10175235.html>

November 30, 2022

China Daily

CPEC energy projects offer low-cost electricity for Pakistan: NEPRA Chairman

"CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost," Mr. Tauseef H. Farooqi, Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

According to the Chairman, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydro power, stands at 6570 MW. They have generated 28549.94 Gwh and 25772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

The average 20% annual addition to the national grid has alleviated rampant cases of load shedding within the country and especially powered the export-oriented industries in Pakistan.

Higher efficiency on power generation

Pakistan's energy sector is mainly dependent on imported fuel (oil and LNG), which has caused a heavy burden on foreign reserves and confined industrial development of the country.

"As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan has been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries", the Chairman revealed.

Regarding the power generation cost, in October 2021, CPEC projects based on imported coal produced electricity at Rs.8.0/kWh. While the cost of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG were Rs.21.5/kWh and Rs.20.0/kWh respectively, twice more expensive than CPEC projects, data provided by KASB Trade shows.

The cost has been rising over the last year due to surged fuel prices in the international market. Nevertheless, the CPEC projects still provide competitive rates. In October this year, power generation cost of CPEC projects based on imported coal was Rs.18.5/kWh, and that of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG was Rs.34.0/kWh, Rs.31.0/kWh.

When it comes to electricity rate, the chairman told CEN, CPEC projects (EPP) based on coal is Rs.22.13/kWh on average, and that of non-CPEC projects based on oil is Rs.36.61/kWh. This shows the CPEC energy projects, utilizing fuel with higher efficiency, are providing affordable electricity to millions of Pakistani households.

Utilization of Thar Coal

Rising fuel prices and a new energy landscape after the Ukrain war necessitates Pakistan to avail of its indigenous resources, and at the time being, the most efficient solution is Thar coal.

Data provided by NEPRA shows that proven coal reserves in Thar are approximately 175 billion tons. After the commissioning of phase II of Block II, the daily coal production is approximately 24,000 tons, sufficient to fire 1320 MWs. Based on current coal prices of South African Coal, the fuel saving is approximately Rs. 13.46/kWh and the annual fuel savings for 1320 MW will be approximately Rs. 121 billion from Thar coal.

CPEC projects have enabled Pakistan to utilize the Thar coal and produce electricity at around Rs.7-7.5/kWh, the report says. Currently, the 660 MW Engro Power Thar Limited, Lucky Electric, Engro Powergen Thar and Thar Energy are completely or partially running on Thar coal.

On top of that, another 1,320 MW Shanghai Electric coal power plant, together with an open-pit coal mine of 7.8m tons capacity in Thar Coal Block-1, has been completed recently and is in the process of synchronizing with the national grid. Once put into commercial operation, it will help double electricity generation based on Thar coal to 2640 MW and lower average electricity costs in Pakistan.

Transit to renewable energies

In December 2020, Pakistan announced that it would not build any new power projects that depend on imported coal, and pledged that by 2030, 60pc of its energy will come from clean and renewable sources. This coincided with China's commitment of building a green CPEC, which entails not building new coal-fired power plants overseas, and increasing support for low-carbon energy.

In this connection, four hydro power projects have been completed or in development under the CPEC Framework, including the biggest run of the river hydro power project 720 MW Karot HPP commissioned on 29th June 2022, 840 MW Suki Kinari HPP under construction, and a 640 MW project recently approved in Mahl.

According to the State of Industry Report 2022 issued by NEPRA, the HPPs have a comparatively long operational life which can be used as an advantage for reducing their tariff through a large spread of the cost over the life of the project.

Besides, CPEC projects have invigorated the once barren land in Jhimpir and transformed the region into a 'wind corridor' in real. Four wind farms built here with a total installed capacity of 300 MW have supplied economical and clean energy to national grid of Pakistan.

In Bahawalpur located the first ever solar power plant in Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park. The plant was initially launched with a capacity of generating 100 MW of power. Since 2015, there have been addition of 300 MW power generation capacity, and there are numerous planned projects reported for the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park by AEDB with cumulative capacity of 1,050 MW.

The State of Industry Report 2022 by NEPRA shows the price of electricity from wind and solar power plants are less than half of the price of electricity currently being procured from thermal sources.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/30/WS6386ab2ea31057c47eba1ccf.html>

Act together to fight climate change

By Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

As the chair of the COP 27 Group of 77 and China (i.e. developing countries), it was my responsibility to bring together the countries of the world to finally make realistic and significant steps to address the current and future implications of climate change and global warming on the planet, with particular reference to the developing world. For me this was not just a professional responsibility but a deeply personal one as foreign minister of Pakistan, the country that was ravaged by the climate change catastrophe of severe floods in 2022. The decision at Sharm el-Sheikh to establish a fund to assist developing countries address loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change was a momentous first step, a signal of hope for humanity and the planet.

As the chair, I proposed the discussion on a loss and damage financing facility last June in the preparations for COP 27. We faced familiar resistance to placing the issue on the Conference agenda. Ultimately, and not easily, we succeeded.

The impacts of climate change and global warming have progressively become more frequent and ferocious. Those who have contributed the least to global warming are suffering the

most. For 30 years, the most vulnerable countries have pressed for a fund through which those who have contributed the most to global carbon emissions would help the vulnerable countries recover from climate disasters and other consequences of climate change — rising sea levels, drought, hurricanes and floods.

The epic floods in Pakistan this year, vividly and brutally confirmed the growing magnitude of climate disasters — with tens of thousands killed or injured; millions displaced; 13,000 km of roads, 2 million homes, 500 bridges and 5 million acres of crops destroyed, and one-third of the country literally under water. My home province of Sindh was the most devastated. It was only after seeing first-hand the scale of loss of catastrophic proportions, the indescribable suffering of innocent people, incalculable damage, and realizing there was no international financial mechanism to address disasters of this scale, that I fully understood the magnitude of the loss, understood the full extent of the damage done, and the absolute necessity to take bold steps to save people and the natural environment.

This monumental disaster — and simultaneous floods in Nigeria, drought in the Horn of Africa, and hurricanes in the Pacific and the Caribbean — reinforced the determination of developing countries to secure climate justice. Pakistan's tenacious efforts, actively supported by the most vulnerable and other developing countries, yielded the agreement at the opening of COP 27 to place this item on the agenda. As the chair, I realized the importance of Pakistan leading the developing countries in the subsequent negotiations at the Conference to press for the establishment of the fund. We commend the Group's solidarity in pursuing the creation of the loss and damage funding arrangements and of the fund itself. We appreciate the ultimate acceptance of the proposal by the developed countries, including the European Union and the US.

The developing countries look forward to urgent work in the Transitional Committee of 24 members to finalize the fund's institutional arrangements, structure, governance, and terms of reference, as well as to define the elements of the new funding arrangements, to identify and expand the sources of funding and establishing means to ensure coordination and complementarity with existing arrangements. Among the most important tasks for the Transition Committee is to identify the scale of funding required to meet the current consequences of climate change. This may sound technical to the lay reader but it literally means life and death for our children and grandchildren and generations yet unborn.

While the agreement does not establish the legal responsibility of those who have contributed the most to climate change and global warming, it does confirm the central principle of climate justice — that those who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, — although they have contributed the least to global warming, — deserve financial support from those who have contributed the most to climate change, and who have done the most damage to the environment.

A first test of climate justice will be the response to Pakistan's plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction from the floods disaster and efforts to build resilience against future disasters. This plan will be submitted to a Pledging Conference to be convened jointly by Pakistan and the UN secretary-general in January 2023. The World Bank has estimated that Pakistan

suffered damage amounting to over \$30 billion and will require at least \$16.5 billion in urgent external support.

The loss and damage fund has yet to be operationalized. Pakistan expects that financing for its rehabilitation and reconstruction plan will come from the industrial countries and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and multilateral development banks. Such support could include debt write-offs, swaps and restructuring; new Sustainable Development Reserves (SDR) allocations or rechanneling of the unused SDRs of the developed countries; direct support for reconstruction projects, as well as private investment for projects that can be structured, e.g. with blended finance, to be commercially viable. We also expect expressions of solidarity from Pakistan's friends in the Islamic world and the Global South.

Although climate impacts have become inevitable due to the 1.1-degree Celsius global warming that has occurred already over the past 150 years, it remains vital to limit the impacts of climate change as far as possible going forward. More should have been done before. But it is our responsibility not to whine, but to act.

It is therefore concerning that the adaptation plans of so many developing countries are still not funded. The Glasgow decision to "at least double" climate finance for adaptation must be urgently fulfilled. At COP 27, Pakistan proposed immediate implementation of this decision. We expect that at COP 28 in the United Arab Emirates next year we will be able to establish a mechanism to measure and monitor financial flows for climate adaptation.

Most importantly, the commitment made since 2009 to mobilize \$100 billion annually in climate finance has not been fulfilled. The developed countries need to urgently meet this commitment and agree to a New Collective Quantified Goal for larger climate finance from the floor of \$100 billion by the next conference of parties in November 2023.

Of course, the ultimate and common goal is to halt global warming and avoid the "tipping points" that climate scientists predict would lead to a global climate catastrophe. However, the onus to ensure that global temperature rise is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius is mainly on the industrial countries which have consumed two-thirds of the "carbon budget" over the past 150 years. The remaining one-third of this "budget" is what developing countries will need to grow out of poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the mitigation commitments of the Global North must be enhanced and accelerated. Unfortunately, it was evident at COP 27 that the industrial countries had not implemented the mitigation commitments assumed in Glasgow and were reluctant to agree to a larger and faster pathway to reduce emissions and keep the 1.5-degree Celsius target "alive".

Climate action is but one component of the cooperative efforts required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals — to end hunger and poverty; promote health and education, restore global growth, and ensure lives of dignity and well-being for all nations and peoples.

As it concludes its tenure as chair of the Group of 77 and China at the end of this year, Pakistan will make a final push to advance the SDGs and climate goals at a Ministerial Conference of the developing countries in New York in mid-December. The outcomes of this

meeting will, we hope, set the agenda that the Global South can promote at the SDG Summit and COP 28 next year.

It may be too late for the victims of Pakistan floods, but it is my fervent hope that the loss and damage facility will be in place to assist other countries devastated. For what happened to Pakistan will not be exclusive to Pakistan. In 2022 it was Pakistan, next year it could be anyone. Or everyone. The future of the world depends on our common efforts that need to move forward now.

The author is foreign minister of Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202211/30/WS6386975ca31057c47eba1c1d.html>