



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

September 16-30, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

Table of Contents

01: September 16, 2022.....	03
02: September 17, 2022.....	07
03: September 18, 2022.....	14
04: September 19, 2022.....	16
05: September 20, 2022.....	22
06: September 21, 2022.....	26
07: September 22, 2022.....	37
08: September 23, 2022.....	38
09: September 24, 2022.....	43
10: September 25, 2022.....	46
11: September 26, 2022.....	54
12: September 27, 2022.....	59
13: September 28, 2022.....	64
14: September 29, 2022.....	73
15: September 30, 2022.....	81

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

Disclaimer: PICS reproduce the original text, facts and figures as appear in the newspapers and is not responsible for its accuracy.

September 16, 2022

Daily Times

Work on Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project continues smoothly: FO

The Foreign Office spokesman Asim Iftikhar has rejected media reports regarding any stoppage of work or abandonment of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project.

Responding to a question during his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, he said India is once again churning out false and baseless reports regarding the Neelum-Jhelum project. He said a fault was detected in the project and is currently undergoing remedial works for which the concerned entity, Gezhouba Group of China, has been contacted. He said the group has already attained full mobilization at the site and at present, the work is proceeding smoothly without any interruption with completion expected in 2023.

The spokesman said that there is no truth in any report of work stoppage or so-called abandonment. He said these reports are aimed at misleading the public, as well as part of malicious propaganda efforts to fuel controversy around Pakistan-China relations. He said such efforts will not succeed as all-weather strategic cooperative partners are fully committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both countries and people.

Regarding another question about presence of a UN-designated individual in Afghanistan, Asim Iftikhar said that the person is a proclaimed offender and wanted in numerous terrorism-related cases in Pakistan.

He said Pakistani authorities have formally raised this issue with the relevant Afghan interlocutors on multiple occasions. He said Pakistan as well as the international community have sufficient reasons to believe that there are still pockets of ungoverned spaces in Afghanistan that have been used by terrorist groups as safe havens.

The spokesman said that multiple deadly cross border terrorist attacks from Afghanistan only increase these legitimate concerns. He urged the Afghan interim authorities to take concrete and verifiable actions to deliver on the assurances they have given to the international community that they will not allow anyone to use Afghan soil against any country. Responding to another question, Asim Iftikhar said that any efforts to destabilize Pakistan will not be tolerated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/997992/work-on-neelum-jhelum-hydropower-project-continues-smoothly-fo/>

Gwadar Pak-China football match warms local hearts

Opening up a new era of cementing the people-to-people bond between China and Pakistan and promoting local games in Gwadar, the 1st “Pak-China Friendly Football Match” was held at Futsal Football ground alongside Marine Drive that runs with bustling beach of Gwadar.

According to Gwadar Pro, fascinated and thrilled by local spectators, the Pak-China Friendly Football Match was organized in connection with commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic relations under the auspice of Chinese Embassy Islamabad and in collaboration with Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) and District Football Association (DFA), Gwadar.

In the front to the enchanting sea of Gwadar that spells unimaginable vibrancy, Futsal football ground where Pak-China Friendly Football Match marked a new chapter of Pak-China romanticism took everybody by storm.

Seemingly it rocked due to its natural mesmerizing features like Gwadar beach at one side and beautiful mountain at the other side coupled with huge public response. It reminded people an iconic sensation “Gwadar cricket stadium” that gained whopping fame at national and international level.

Among Gwadar highlights, Fustal football ground has now emerged as testament of genesis of Pak-China people-to-people bond in Gwadar.

Having glanced at banner erected on the ground inscribing “Pak-China Friendly Football Match” one kid spectator Mir Shahid (14) said the incredibly winsome and credit goes to China for making this happen.

Pak-China Friendly Football Match let the local people know China’s ambitions brimming with friendship and gregariousness. The match has exposed vicious international agenda and brought people close to China. On the occasion, the Chinese Consul General Karachi Li Bijian said that holding of such games will help the youth of Gwadar polish their football credentials. He urged making such move sustainable to boost up football game in Gwadar.

District Football Association DFA Gwadar President Mir Arshad Kalmati said Pak-China friendly Football Match is a tangible success of China’s sincere efforts of nurturing warm bond and ties with local people of Gwadar.

“Since China entered Gwadar, other works were up and running but such sports activities were missing. Now the ground-breaking of football match glorifying Pakistan and China inseparable friendship has given a clear signal that China respects and cares what Gwadar people love and care,” he added.

“We expect more such games and Chinese cooperation especially synergic collaboration with Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) in the future,” he added.

Chief Guest Additional Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Zakir Ali Baloch said that such sports will make the best stride in engendering people-to-people connectivity and magnifying social contact with the local people of Gwadar.

“In my opinion, it will also lay down robust foundation of resilient relationship between Gwadar sports community and China,” he added saying holding of continuous cooperation in games will bring beget deep harmony and closeness between both countries.

IIRMR President Yasir Habib Khan said that Pak-China Friendly Football Match has proven a stepping stone in engaging the youth of Gwadar and pledged that Gwadar young generation especially those channelizing their energies in football sports would also be supported in future in cooperation with China and DFA Gwadar.

“Gwadar youth possess natural talent and they need just a pat on their back. Fortunately, China is with us that will make sure to extend maximum financial and other sort of assistance to them so that Gwadar footballers may prove their mettle on national, regional and international arenas,” he added.

Razwan Baloch, football fan in Gwadar said that it is going to be amazing sports for football fans of Gwadar to see their favorite teams playing quality football match. “Lack of funds are always an impairment in producing national level players. We desperately need such support. Gwadar youth pay tribute to China, IIRMR and DFA for making a joint endeavor for uplifting football game in Gwadar,” he added.

Four teams participated in the game. They included Captain Allah Bukhsh Gabol Football Club, Captain Naseer Raj Football Club, Captain Ghafoor Maher Football Club and Captain Majeed Essa Football Club.

The names of the teams were attributed to the names of legends of players of Gwadar. They comprised of 31 players that were Muhamad Isaque, Jalal Ghulam Rasool, Rezwan Ali, Yousaf Baloch, Muslim, Kashif Baloch, Muneer Ahmed, Amir Sawali, Numan Sajid, Sohail, Sajid Ali, Jameel Ahmed, Kabeer Mahroof, Ameer Umar, Zubair Ali, Zohair Baloch, Rezwan, Amir Muhammad, Faraz Ahmed, Basith Ali, Maheraj, Kamran Ali, Mubashar, Sajaj Arshid, Aqib, Mazhar Ali, Anwar Annu, Qadeer, Sameer Mujahid, Subhan Kareem and Naveed and Farooq.

The final match was won by Capt Gafoor Mehr Football Club. Chief Guest doled out winning trophy and cash gifts to players.

Fustal football ground is located at the foot of Koh-e-Batil, one of the famous hills in the south of Gwadar city at an altitude of 470 feet. It is not new one rather has existed for decades. The city administration rehabilitated and transformed it into modern soccer ground. The grass, the installation of floodlights, and the building of the pavilion cost an estimated amount of Rs6 million.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/998174/gwadar-pak-china-football-match-warms-local-hearts/>

Dawn News

Chinese officials donate relief items

CHARSADDA: The Chinese officials working on Mohmand Dam project handed over relief items to Al-Khidmat Foundation for onward distribution among the flood-affected people of the country.

The relief items were handed over to the humanitarian organisation at a ceremony, which was also attended by the additional deputy commissioner, Sania Safi, and Al-Khidmat Foundation district president Mohammad Jaseem and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Jaseem said that the donation of relief items for flood victims spoke of the national and international trust the organisation enjoyed for its humanitarian work. The relief goods donated by the Chinese officials mainly included food items for the flood-affected people.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1710305/chinese-officials-donate-relief-items>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese firm working on Neelum-Jhelum Project: WAPDA

Spokesperson of the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), while taking strong notice of a news item published in a section of press that the work on Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP) in Pakistan has been abandoned by a Chinese firm. While dismissing the rumours, the spokesperson clarified there was no truth in the news and the work on the NJHP was steadily in progress. Terming the news fabricated, baseless and misleading, the spokesperson said the Chinese Contractor had been continuously working at all sites without any interruption.

The 969 MW- NJHP was completed by a joint venture of two Chinese firms M/s CGGC and M/s CMEC in 2018. Prior to the July 6 incident, NJHP was functioning satisfactorily and generated 18.28 billion units.

NJHP was shut down on July 6 due to blockade in its tailrace tunnel considering safety of the power structure and all other equipment. However, immediately after the incident, M/s CGGC, the contractor for execution of civil works, was engaged in carrying out the remedial works. The contractor immediately started mobilization on the site. The contract agreement was also signed with M/s CGGC.

Since then, the contractor has been working at site without any interruption. The restoration work on the tailrace tunnel is progressing as per schedule and expected to be completed by February 2023. The spokesperson said that proper security to the Chinese contractor has been provided and there is no security concern at NJHP.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-firm-working-on-neelum-jhelum-project-wapda/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: 35.2 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے 63 منصوبے 2030 تک مکمل

لاہور (این این آئی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت 35.2 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے ساتھ کم از کم 63 منصوبے 2030 تک مکمل ہوں گے۔ گوادر میں اب تک 200 ملین ڈالر کے 3 منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ 230 ملین ڈالر کے 2 منصوبے 2025 میں مکمل ہوں گے اور 150 ملین ڈالر کے 2 مزید منصوبے 2030ء تک مکمل ہونے

والے ہیں۔ یہ بات چائنہ تھری گورنرز سائو تھ ایشیاء انویسٹمنٹ لمیٹڈ کی طرف سے جاری کردہ ایک رپورٹ میں بتائی گئی ہے۔ رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا کہ سی پیک کے تحت 19 ارب امریکی ڈالر کے 27 منصوبے پہلے ہی مکمل ہو چکے ہیں۔ ”پاکستان کے پاور سیکٹر اور اس کے مستقبل کا جائزہ“ کے عنوان سے جاری رپورٹ کے مطابق 7.7 ارب امریکی ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے 27 منصوبے زیر تکمیل ہیں۔

جو 2025 تک مکمل ہوں گے۔ رپورٹ میں مزید کہا گیا کہ تقریباً 27.5 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے ساتھ مزید 36 منصوبے پائپ لائن میں ہیں جو 2030 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے۔ توانائی کے شعبے کی تفصیلات کے مطابق اب تک 12 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے 11 منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ 6 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے 4 منصوبے زیر تکمیل ہیں اور ان کے 2025 تک مکمل ہونے کی امید ہے۔ 7.4 ارب ڈالر کے مزید 7 منصوبے پائپ لائن میں ہیں اور ان کی 2030 تک مکمل ہونے کی امید ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق انفراسٹرکچر کے شعبے میں 6.7 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے 7 منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ 10.9 ارب ڈالر کے مزید 6 منصوبے 2025 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے جبکہ 10.4 ارب ڈالر کے 12 منصوبے 2030 تک مکمل ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ اسی طرح گوادریں اب تک 200 ملین ڈالر کے تین منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ 230 ملین ڈالر کے 2 منصوبے 2025 میں مکمل ہوں گے اور 150 ملین ڈالر کے 2 مزید منصوبے 2030 تک مکمل ہونے والے ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ شناخت شدہ نو میں سے چار خصوصی اقتصادی زونز 500 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے 2025 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے جبکہ باقی 5، ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے 2030 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق اب تک تقریباً چھ سماجی و اقتصادی منصوبے 10 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں، 90 ملین ڈالر کے 11 منصوبے 2025 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے جبکہ 900 ملین امریکی ڈالر کے 10 منصوبے 2030 تک مکمل ہو جائیں گے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ دیگر شعبے جیسے کہ بین الاقوامی تعاون، زراعت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی بھی سی پیک کے میگا پراجیکٹ کے تحت شامل کیے گئے ہیں اور تیسرے فریق کی شرکت کے لیے منصوبہ بندی کے مرحلے میں ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-09-16/page-12/detail-7>

September 17, 2022

Business Recorder

Shehbaz, Xi discuss CPEC, regional situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping wherein he appreciated the transformational impact of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Pakistan's socio-economic development.

During the bilateral meeting took place on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the prime minister also reaffirmed his government's commitment to high quality development of CPEC. Both the leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international issues of mutual interest.

This was the prime minister's first meeting with the Chinese president since assuming office in April 2022. The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional warmth as well as exceptional mutual trust and understanding.

In his welcoming remarks, the Chinese president described Prime Minister Sharif as ‘a person of pragmatism and efficiency.’ He also added that the prime minister was a leader with “a longstanding commitment to China-Pakistan friendship.”

Noting the enduring nature of China-Pakistan bilateral ties, the prime minister underlined that our ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ and Iron-brotherhood had withstood the test of time. He reaffirmed his personal resolve to take their bilateral relations to greater heights.

Prime Minister Sharif extended his best wishes to President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China for the forthcoming 20th CPC National Congress.

He underscored that the SCO provided an excellent forum to further their shared vision and mutual values into concrete plans for regional cooperation and integration. The prime minister thanked President Xi, the government and the people of China for the generous and timely support to the flood affected people in Pakistan. He said the outpouring of sympathy and support from all quarters across China was touching and a true reflection of the “unique” friendship between China and Pakistan. He condoled with President Xi over the tragic loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake in Sichuan Province on September 5, emphasizing that the Government and people of Pakistan stood with China in the face of this natural calamity.

The prime minister briefed President Xi on his government’s policies for Pakistan’s sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization, and regional connectivity. Both leaders welcomed the signing of a protocol to the Framework Agreement on ML-1 Railway Project.

Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan’s consistent and unwavering support to China on all issues of its core interest including Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. He also thanked the Chinese government for support extended to Pakistan for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, FATF, national development, COVID-19 pandemic and other areas.

Sharing his views with President Xi on the international situation, the prime minister highlighted that challenges like climate change, health pandemics and growing inequalities could only be tackled through cooperation of all nations in accordance with the UN Charter. He lauded President Xi’s visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Development Initiative (GDI), which called for collective action for sustainable development and win-win outcomes.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/17/1-page/942740-news.html>

Resident diplomatic missions

Ministry hosts briefing on CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday hosted a briefing on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of several countries from East and Central Asia and the Middle East.

Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific), two rounds of briefings were convened on 15 and 16 September 2022.

The panel of briefers also included senior officials of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Board of Investment.

In her briefing, the Additional Secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan's desire for connectivity and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region.

She emphasized that CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect.

Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in special economic zones (SEZ).

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/17/5-page/942767-news.html>

Daily Times

The South China Sea and Pakistan

Dr Atique Ur Rehman

Geopolitics is dynamic and inconsistent. The power play by great powers continues to enhance their influence in military, energy, trade, and information management. The US focus remains on strengthening ties with NATO, pick and choose in middle eastern as well as south Asian and south-east Asian nations. China and Russia continue their quest for consensus and cooperation on global issues to counter the US and also enhance bilateral trade, particularly energy. Thus, the war for global supremacy continues in various regions of the world.

With the weakening of global order in a unipolar world, regional politics and disputes have got prominence. The Russia-Ukraine war might prove to be a major power play, immediately after Covid19, providing an opportunity for the US to exploit the post-conflict global energy crisis and Chinese trade markets.

The security of South Asia, and Southeast Asia, the most significant regions of Eurasia has consistently been threatened due to external influences. US role in the region has been prominent to counter Chinese expanding influence through Belt and Road Initiative and support India for a check on China in regional conflicts, particularly Indo-Pacific region.

South China Sea (SCS) is historically a contested area since the 19th century. It is the most frequently used global trade route. An approximately \$5 trillion trade passes through SCS annually.

Russia-Ukraine war might prove to be a major power play immediately after Covid19, providing an opportunity for the US to exploit the Chinese trade markets.

The dispute in SCS is about three issues, territorial sovereignty, maritime and geopolitics. South China sea is rich in oil, gas and fish reserves. It is housing 11 billion barrels of oil, 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 8% of the world's fishery resources. The sea is at the heart of a rapidly changing Asia Pacific, which accounts for a larger share of global trade and economic activity each year, an estimated 30 per cent of the global maritime trade passes through the South China Sea on its way to Southeast Asian ports. SCS is the gateway to the strait of Malacca and the port of Singapore, one of the world's most important merchant shipping routes; a stranglehold on the Paracel and the Spratly islands also ensures control over the supply route of Northeast Asia.

There are two major territorial disputes and a minor dispute in SCS. Major disputes are over Paracel and Spratly islands. There are three claimants of Paracel, China, Vietnam and Taiwan. The contested islands occupied by China have been converted into fortified military and communication bases with airfields, roads, buildings, and launching pads for missile systems. Most of the current problems stem from the 1951 San Francisco Treaty, which followed Japan's defeat in World War II. Within the terms of its surrender, Japan gave up its rights to its islands in the South China Sea, leaving a power vacuum in the region. No country was explicitly granted sovereignty over these waters, and China asserted its advantage by submitting the now infamous "nine-dotted line" claim covering almost the entire South China Sea in 1947. This line became China's official claim and is known today as the "Nine-Dash Line".

Spratly has six claimants, some claiming all of the island and some part of it. A minor dispute is over Scarborough Shoal island between China and the Philippines. The second issue in SCS is the claim over maritime resources. This dispute has no specific point of the contest rather claims are based on self-created logic and reasoning about fish in disputed areas. The major contest is geopolitics which revolves around influence in the SCS and is obviously between two giants China and US. Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam are siding with US and Cambodia and Macao are siding with China in this power play but this rivalry is a threat to peace and security in the Asia Pacific.

Territorial disputes in the South China Sea are a continuous threat not only to international security but also to regional countries. Any conflict will put an end to furthering economic ties in south-east Asian countries. Territorial disputes in the South China sea have serious implications for global peace and stability particularly for Asia-pacific states including Pakistan. Recently exhibited, the US over-emphasized interest in Taiwan and China's belligerence posture in the garb of military exercises indicates that in case of any escalation, how things will unfold in the region. Due to its geo-strategic location and military prowess, Pakistan is not a country which could be ignored by any of the world powers, nor Pakistan can ignore the development in its proximity. Recent posturing by the US, China and Taiwan has become problematic for Pakistan to maintain a balanced relationship with stakeholders in SCS, particularly China and US. Pakistan's economic vulnerability makes it difficult for her to maintain a balanced relationship with both great powers. CPEC which is the flagship program of BRI is contributing immensely

to Pakistan's infrastructure and energy sectors. On the other hand, the US has complete influence over the IMF and World Bank which has just bailed Pakistan out of its default position and FATF. Both great powers have significant leverage over Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan is desperately trying to maintain a balance in its foreign policy options and avoid block politics. Neither it can abandon America, nor it can show a hand to China. Abandoning the US will bring Pakistan to face multifaceted issues in the evolving new Cold War between the US, China, and Russia. Over the years, Pakistan has established strong relations with the US in counter-terrorism. The recent withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan and the post-withdrawal position also demand a close watch in troubled Afghanistan by both US and Pakistan.

After the exit from Afghanistan, the US has been relying on India to contain China. But the Indian quest for an autonomous foreign policy and growing trade with China, which is approximately touching \$127 billion, provides an opportunity for Pakistan to exploit the vacuum and force the US to bring Pakistan into the fold of their new Asia Pacific policy. At the same time, hick-ups in the progress of CPEC are bad indicators of the Pak-China trade relationship.

Maintaining cordial relations with China and the United States is imperative for Pakistan's national security. However, the Sino-US spiralling systematic rivalry and competition shrink Islamabad's space for manoeuvring between them to cater for its economic and security needs without upsetting anyone. Pakistan needs to adopt a hedging policy instead of a bandwagon or balance of power. Experts explain that hedging strategy necessitates the avoidance of binaries in international politics, prioritizes its economic gains and stabilizes domestic politics. Pakistan needs to maneuver between US and China to maximize its security and economic needs. Pakistan has very less space to make big detours owing to its internal political unrest and bad economic condition.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/998471/the-south-china-sea-and-pakistan/>

Sino intercropping tech may help Pakistan reduce soybean import bill

A Consultative Session on Growing Soybean under Strip Intercropping Technology with industrialists and farmers of Bahawalpur organized by the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in collaboration with Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held at Baghdad-ul-Jadeed Campus, IUB. According to Gwadar Pro on Friday Muhammad Ali Raza, Director, National Research Center of Intercropping, gave a detailed briefing on the cultivation of maize and soybeans through strip intercropping technology. "By cultivating 20% of the area through intercropping of soybean with maize and sugarcane in spring, Pakistan could reduce its soybean import bill by 30% within one season. In addition, in the same year, adopting soybean-wheat strip intercropping technology on 10% of the wheat cultivated area, Pakistan could reduce another 15% of its soybean import bill. All in all, Pakistan can reduce 45% of its soybean import bill within one year by just adopting this technology on its 10-20% area," he analyzed. Maize-soybean intercropping has significant potential to increase local soybean production in Pakistan without reducing the existing maize production. "From the successful experience from Sichuan

Agricultural University (SAU), China, high yielding soybean varieties can be obtained, which will save valuable foreign exchange spent on importing edible oil and poultry feed,” Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza said. “The information related to the Chinese experience is very valuable, and it is very gratifying that the intercropping experience has been carried out by China’s Sichuan Agricultural University under the leadership of Prof. Yang Wenyu. This project has also been included in the CPEC projects, thanks to which new development opportunities will be available for Pakistan,” Hafiz Mohammad Younis, President of Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry said. He also appraised Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, IUB Vice Chancellor’s vision to strive to improve the country’s agriculture and economy. It’s learned that a consultative meeting between farmers and industrialists regarding soybean intercropping will be held in Multan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/998700/sino-intercropping-tech-may-help-pakistan-reduce-soybean-import-bill/>

Dawn News

Pakistan invites investors to benefit from SEZs opportunities

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the globe to strengthen their investment in the country as well as trade linkages and consider opportunities offered under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

During a briefing hosted on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the additional secretary (Asia-Pacific) said the underlying vision of CPEC was based on Pakistan’s “desire for connectivity and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region”.

The two-day briefing came on the heels of the 9th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Safety and Security of CPEC held at the Chinese embassy on Sept 11.

The briefing, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for resident diplomatic missions of various countries from East and Central Asia and the Middle East, concluded on Friday. The panel of briefers included senior officials of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and Board of Investment.

Diplomatic missions briefed on CPEC; agreement reached on need for countering hostile elements’ agenda

The additional secretary emphasised that CPEC had added a new dimension to Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect.

The participating diplomatic missions underscored the need for abiding by “mutual interest in enhancing economic cooperation”.

The JWG's meeting was co-chaired by Special Secretary of Ministry of Interior Saif Anjum and Director General, Ministry of Public Security, China. Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong also attended the meeting.

At the JWG's meeting, it was reiterated that ensuring safety and security of CPEC projects in Pakistan "is of immense significance in furthering the bilateral relations".

The measures taken by the government of Pakistan towards ensuring the safety and security of Chinese projects and personnel in the country and the efforts made towards unearthing the perpetrators and facilitators of terrorist incidents targeting Chinese nationals were acknowledged and appreciated.

In order to enhance the prospects of bilateral relations, an in-principle agreement had been made on various joint measures, including furthering cooperation in law enforcement domain and capacity building of law enforcement agencies.

The proposal of establishing a separate Joint Working Group for security of non-corridor projects also came under discussion.

Both sides agreed to the need for countering the agenda of hostile elements in ensuring safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan through mutual efforts.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1710523>

The Nation

Pakistan shares underlying vision of CPEC with diplomats

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday hosted a briefing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of several countries from East and Central Asia and the Middle East.

Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, two rounds of briefings were convened on September 15 and 16.

The panel of briefers also included senior officials of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Board of Investment. In her briefing, the Additional Secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan's desire for connectivity and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region. She emphasized that CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect. Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZ). Thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant government departments for the briefing, the participating diplomatic missions underscored abiding mutual interest in enhancing economic

cooperation, the foreign ministry said. CPEC is a framework of regional connectivity. It will not only benefit China and Pakistan but will have positive impact on Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republic, and the region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-17/page-1/detail-3>

September 18, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Ordinary Chinese reaching out to flood victims in Pakistan

Sultan M Hali

UNPRECEDENTED torrential rains in Pakistan have wreaked havoc. They have taken a huge toll on human lives, houses and cattle. The outbreak of epidemics like Gastroenteritis and Dengue Fever are adding to the misery of the flood victims.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres revealed that the ongoing flooding had cost Pakistan \$30 billion, as he visited Pakistan to mobilise help for millions of people affected by devastating monsoon floods.

Over 1,500 people have died in flooding that covers a third of the country, wiping out crops and destroying homes, businesses, roads and bridges.

Guterres said he hoped his visit would galvanise international help, noting Pakistan had always shown generosity towards others, hosting millions of refugees for decades from neighbouring Afghanistan at enormous cost.

Guterres toured flood-hit parts of the south and also visited Mohenjo Daro, a centuries-old UNESCO-designated world heritage site threatened by the deluge.

He urged the international community to extend “massive support” to a country that had little contribution to the emissions but bore the brunt of climate change.

As many as 33 million people were affected by the natural disaster, with people losing not just homes but their livelihood too.

Numerous nations around the world, including China have come to the aid of Pakistan, but the remarkable fact is that ordinary Chinese people have come out in a big way to support their brothers and sisters in distress.

The Chinese government has provided an assistance of 400 million Chinese Yuan as financial assistance to flood-ravaged Pakistan, along with 25,000 tents and food supply.

The Red Cross Society of China provided USD 300,000 in emergency cash assistance to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, and launched a handover ceremony in Islamabad this week.

The Chinese enterprises in Pakistan’s southwest Balochistan province donated USD 250,000 on September 1 to the flood victims of the province.

In China, provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government are acting in various ways to express sympathy or support to Pakistan.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency has set up a joint working group with Pakistan on the implementation of follow-up cooperation in emergency relief.

Spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang Wenbin stated that “A friend in need is a friend indeed; true gold can stand the test of fire.

I am confident that the Pakistani people will prevail over the floods at an early date and the brotherly bond between China and Pakistan will be further elevated.”

Chinese investors in Pakistan have also come forward to help the flood victims. Panda Industries Association, an organization of Chinese investors in Pakistan, has sent seven trucks of relief goods worth millions of rupees to Dera Ghazi Khan for 4,000 flood victims in Punjab.

The first batch of goods sent to the flood victims included mosquito nets, ready-to-eat items, mineral water, clothes, tents and medicines.

China has also come forward to provide prefabricated houses to the flood victims for their rehabilitation.

Chinese Henan DR Group has produced low-cost prefabricated houses for the Pakistani flood affectees at the Faisalabad Free-Zone M3IC in Punjab.

The group is focusing on helping and supporting the flood victims by building low-cost houses at approximately Rs 1.8 million per unit.

The actual value of a single unit is Rs 2.6 to 2.8 million, however, the company’s management decided not to make any profit from the rehabilitation of flood victims.

The group has the capacity of preparing 200 houses per month and more than 2000 houses in a year.

Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, under the banner of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association (APCEA) have so far donated humanitarian aid of over 15.5 million Pakistani rupees (\$71,340) to local flood victims.

The donation was made to the prime minister’s relief fund. APCEA chairman Yang Jianduo said Chinese companies are also arranging machines to repair the damaged roads in an attempt to bring immediate help to the locals.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said China has decided to provide another batch of emergency humanitarian supplies and will try to get it there as soon as possible.

“China and Pakistan are true friends and good brothers by sharing weal and woe,” he said. Earlier, the embassy responded to a call of flood victims in Balochistan by donating food packs to 800 to 1,000 families living in relief camps.

This is in addition to the donation of 300 solar panel units in the areas where electricity supply was badly disrupted by the flood.

Chinese Volunteers in Pakistan also donated food to local flood victims by teaming up with a local nongovernmental organization.

Six Chinese companies in Pakistan's Punjab province have jointly set up the Panda Industries Association to raise Rs 6 million in cash and Rs.8 million in clothing for 4,000 flood victims in Punjab.

The six Chinese companies in the Panda Chamber include Challenge Fashion (Pvt) Co., Ltd, Easy Prefabricated Homes Ltd, LEDZONE, OPPO, TCL and Zhengbang Agriculture.

A team of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM) led by China State Construction Engineering Group Co, Ltd (CSCEC) is massively contributing to Pakistan's relief efforts, Gwadar Pro reported.

After knowing the devastating flood situation in different parts of Pakistan, the team promptly purchased a large number of local necessities such as rice, grain, oil and sugar and distributed the relief food among 800 nearby poor victims free of charge, thus relieving the urgent needs of local people.

The PKM project team prepared about 500 boxes of various kinds of drugs for treating post-disaster epidemics, organised medical teams to visit nearby villages for free diagnosis and carried out free medicine delivery activities to equip local villagers with the knowledge of post-disaster disease prevention, thus avoiding the occurrence of infectious diseases and ensuring the physical health and food safety of the people in the flood-hit areas.

There are heart-rending stories of how ordinary Chinese have extended a helping hand to the Pakistani people. I came across four friends in China, Yang Chaoliang, Yang Lulei, Wang Guozhong and Roy, who generously donated five lakh rupees and food supplies to the flood-stricken people. This kind of camaraderie is what comprises the spirit of iron brothers in the people of China and Pakistan.

—The Author is a Retired Group Captain of PAF, who has written several books on China.

<https://pakobserver.net/ordinary-chinese-reaching-out-to-flood-victims-in-pakistan-by-sultan-m-hali/>

September 19, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese co, Guard Agri despatch relief goods to flood-hit people

ZAHID BAIG

LAHORE: Chinese company Longping and Guard Agri Sunday despatched trucks loaded with relief goods to the flood-hit areas of Sukkur for early rehabilitation of flood victims.

Briefly speaking to media prior to despatch of relief goods Chinese company country head Mr Liu Lin Hui and Chief Executive Guard Agri Shahzad Ali Malik, Sitara-I-Imtiaz said adhering to the deep friendship between the Chinese and Pakistani, since August 20, 1999 Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co. and Guard Agricultural Research and Services (GARS) have actively joined the local disaster relief activities in Pakistan.

Giving details Mr Liu said a total of Rs 32.19 million goods were provided in disaster areas including Rs 26.19 million supplies (440 tents, worth Rs 8.8 million; 171.5 tons of rice, worth Rs 16.22 million; 1920 kg of salt, worth Rs 770,000; 5 tons of flour, worth Rs 400,000); Rs 2 million cash donated; Rs 4 million for local staff's house rebuilding. The relief is mainly used for the post-disaster reconstruction at Larkana, Naudero, Khair Pur, Nawab Shah, Sangar, Sawat and Mardan etc.

Momin Ali Malik senior executive guard agri said Longping is a high-tech modern seed group named after the academician Yuan Longping. The company has always taken the implementation of food security strategy as the original intention and taken "progress the seeds, benefit the world" as the mission. The company has been providing technical support for hybrid rice planting in Pakistan for more than 2 decades. He said Guard Agri takes "To import, acquire and develop the latest agricultural and crop technologies to produce quality seed to increase per acre yield and help the nation build grain surpluses to achieve adequate food security" as the mission. He said we are the top hybrid rice seed brand in the market, with annual sales of more than 2,000 tons, increasing rice production by more than 500 million kilogrammes per year and earning more than 100 million US dollars for Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/19/16-page/943004-news.html>

Daily Times

PSF invites entries for 'Descriptive Letter Writing Competition to Chinese Astronauts'

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) in collaboration with the Embassy of China in Pakistan was organizing a competition titled "Descriptive Letter Writing Competition to Chinese Astronauts" for students interested in space and breeding of crops in space.

According to an official, PSF being the premier organization for the promotion and popularization of science in the country conducts such competitions on regular basis to inculcate students' interest in various fields of science. Institute of Crop Sciences (ICS), Beijing is China's leading institute working under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences for the development of new seed varieties for increased yield and enhanced resistance against diseases and viruses.

ICS is also running "The National Center of Space Mutagenesis for Crop Improvement" whose main function is to send seeds for short trips to space to help scientists in developing new crop varieties that can thrive in the changing climate and help feed the world's growing population.

In May 2022 more than 12,000 seeds of several types of grass, oats, fungi, alfalfa and others including some from the University of Karachi were sent to spacecraft for breeding while orbiting our planet, where they are under microgravity and are bombarded by cosmic rays, which trigger the plants to mutate – a process known as space mutagenesis. After six months, the seeds and thus bred plants are coming back from space in Dec 2022.

About the requirements for descriptive letter writing competition, the official informed that the descriptive letter should be not more than 500 words (typed in Times New Roman on A-4 paper on 1.5 space and consist of Key words) Pak-China Friendship, Prevailing technologies about plant breeding, Space mutagenesis by plants, Effect of gravity on plant growth, Question and queries, Suggestion and any other related information.

About the particulars of students, the official informed that it must include complete Name, father's name, school, class, date of birth, email, cell number, school and home address/complete information should be provided on a separate sheet, not included in 400 words/main letter.

The medium of competition is English while the students from government and private schools of HSSC/SSC levels are eligible to participate. The entries should be signed/stamped by the Head of the School/Institute. The letters should reveal students' interest in space and the breeding of crops in space.

After evaluation by the PSF's expert committee, the selected letters will be sent to Chinese researchers. The winning students will be awarded certificates and cash prizes.

Female students are encouraged to participate in the competition. The related info can be obtained from the internet and websites of the Chinese Institute of Crop Sciences, The National Center of Space Mutagenesis for Crop Improvement, China; the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; etc.

The entries can be submitted till September 20 at the address: Director (Science Popularization), Pakistan Science Foundation, 1-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad, 051-9202294. The queries can be addressed at rauf.psf@gmail.com or fbkayani@gmail.com, or Ph: 051 9203186 Director (Science Popularization) Pakistan Science Foundation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/999221/psf-invites-entries-for-descriptive-letter-writing-competition-to-chinese-astronauts/>

China's Tianjin pledges RMB 10 million relief for Pakistan flood victims

To support the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Pakistan, the People's Government of Tianjin Municipality has announced a relief assistance package of RMB 10 million for the flood victims. The relief items include tents, food packages and blankets needed urgently in Pakistan.

The decision to this effect was conveyed through a letter addressed to Ambassador Moin ul Haque by Li Hongzhong, the Party Secretary of Tianjin, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, Mr. Li Hongzhong said that as All-

weather Strategic Cooperative Partner and Iron Brother, China stands with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time.

Expressing his good wishes for the early rehabilitation of the flood victims, Li reaffirmed the resolve of Tianjin Municipality to continue to deepen ties with the friendship cities and provinces of Pakistan.

A formal launch ceremony of the relief goods was held through a video link. The meeting was joined by Luan Jianzhang, DG FAO, Tianjin Municipal Government, Liu Jinsong, DG Asian Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Moin ul Haque, Murtaza Wahab, Administrator, Karachi Municipal Government and a senior representative from Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Moin appreciated the urgent assistance offered by Tianjin Municipality. Recalling that two countries have always stood together in difficult times in the past, Ambassador Moin said that Chinese assistance to Pakistan for flood victims has once again proven the unique nature of fraternal ties between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/999368/chinas-tianjin-pledges-rmb-10-million-relief-for-pakistan-flood-victims/>

Dawn News

Gwadar varsity VC stresses need for subjects on CPEC

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Gwadar University's vice chancellor has said efforts were being made to utilise the available resources to promote academic excellence, noting that in view of the city's geographical and international importance, subjects related to marine affairs, CPEC, economic development and modern scientific sciences should also be taught at the university.

In his briefing to the second meeting of the university's academic council, Prof Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir appreciated the efforts of both administrative staff and faculty members for "maintaining good governance and providing quality education to students in line with modern requirements".

Dr Sabir assured the faculty of a better environment and facilities to help promote quality research and academic activities. The council also discussed various matters related to academic development.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1710853>

Short videos portray strong bond between Pakistan, China: envoy

ISLAMABAD: The iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China could be witnessed through visuals in videos created by students in a bid to mark the 71st anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries.

This was highlighted by Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong at an event held in Islamabad.

To celebrate 71 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries, a special award ceremony for winners of a two-minute video competition on the Vibrant Cultural Colours of Pakistan was organised. The event was arranged by the All Pakistan China Friendship Association in partnership with the Embassy of People's Republic of China.

Nong Rong congratulated the winners and all other participants of the competition and appreciated them for their support and hard work. He said the future of Pakistan-China relations was promising as he could see it would be in capable hands of the talented youth of Pakistan.

He said cultural and educational exchanges were a strong pillar of neighbourly countries and helped open the door to mutual learning and understanding.

Senator Sana Jamali said Pakistani youth had promoted love for China in the hearts of the youth of Pakistan. Praising China for always being a good friend of Pakistan and helping the country with strong support, she said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was contributing to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

A total of 20 winners were selected by a panel of judges including a media representative from a total of 110 videos received from students between the ages of 15-21 years. Six people won the first, second and third prizes whereas there were 14 runners-up.

All students received certificates and winners received other mementos.

Ikhlq Usmani, President APCFA said that the students in their videos had successfully taken viewers on a quick cultural tour of Pakistan.

Zhang Heqing, cultural counsellor (Embassy of the People's Republic of China) presented awards to winners and congratulated schools for organising successful competition with students.

Aside from other prizes, students received books on the governance of China authored by President Xi Jinping.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1710759/short-videos-portray-strong-bond-between-pakistan-china-envoy>

The Nation

50 women complete six-month course at Pak-China vocational institute

ISLAMABAD - ISLAMABAD (INP): As many as 50 female students have received 15-day free of cost hands-on training after completing their six-month courses at the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, Gwadar.

The course is part of China's efforts for women empowerment, offering them an excellent chance to become an integral component of the "high-tech man force" direly needed for Gwadar free zones as well as national and internationally competitive markets.

According to Gwadar Pro, these female trainees received on-site skilled and professional training in five trades including Cargo Handling, Office Management, Chinese Language, Crane Operation and Financial Accounting.

They belonged to the first batch of 6-month course conducted by PCT & VI in collaboration with National Vocational and Technical Commission (NAVTC) of Pakistan under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme.

PCT & VI Principal Muhammad Hanif told Gwadar Pro that all female students of impoverished local communities of Gwadar seem to be naturally talented.

They needed an opportunity to show their mettle and once chance came, they seized it and capitalized in professional way. Among them few are likely to get job letters from banks and companies working in Gwadar Port, he disclosed.

These trainees are supposed to be technically and professionally trained and prepared for Gwadar Free Zones, he said, because companies in the Zone will direly seek such kind of skilled and qualified force.

The development has unleashed employment for Gwadar youth especially females in the business activities.

Later, students will learn practical experience as an internee in courses' related industry in China, he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-19/page-10/detail-8>

CPC plays lead role to help Pakistan amid floods

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - The Communist Party of China (CPC) is playing a lead role to help Pakistan amid floods and unprecedented losses. The floods that occurred across the country due to heavy rains affected people's livelihood at all levels.

The floods also damaged road connectivity. This resulted in destruction to the infrastructure and shortages of food supplies to the people in the affected areas. At this critical time, China provided all kind of support to the people of Pakistan in terms of financial assistance, medical assistance, tents, food for the needy and much more.

As part of the flood relief assistance, the international department of central committee of Communist Party of China through its embassy, donated food packs to needy families through the political parties including Jamhoori Watan Party, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Hazara Democratic Party, Balochistan Awami Party, Awami National Party and Mutahida Quami Movement Pakistan. The CPC also plans to provide more food pack assistance to the other parties in the coming days. The food packs have been donated in different affected areas of Quetta city, Pashtoon Abad, Urak, Saryab Marriabad, Hazara Town, Kalat, Kharan, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Karachi Hyderabad, Charsadda, Peshawar and many other areas.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-19/page-12/detail-6>

Jang News

آرمی چیف کا دورہ، چین کا 100 ملین یوان پاکستان کو دینے کا اعلان

آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ چین کے دورے پر ہیں، اس موقع پر چین کی جانب سے ہنگامی بنیادوں پر انسانی ہمدردی کے تحت 100 ملین یوان پاکستان کو دینے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔

چینی حکومت متاثرین سیلاب کے لیے 300 ملین یوان دے گی جبکہ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی جانب سے سیلاب زدگان کے لیے 100 ملین یوان دینے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔

چین سیلاب زدگان کے لیے مجموعی طور پر 500 ملین یوان امداد دے گا۔

چین کی 15 ارب 80 کروڑ روپے کی امداد

سیلاب زدگان کے لیے چینی امداد 15 ارب 80 کروڑ روپے بنتی ہے۔

آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کی کوششوں سے یو اے ای اور دیگر ممالک سے بھی بین الاقوامی امداد آئی ہے۔

آرمی چیف کی چینی وزیر دفاع سے ملاقات

پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کے مطابق آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ چین کے 2 روزہ سرکاری دورے پر ہیں۔

دورے کے دوران آرمی چیف نے چینی وزیر دفاع سے ملاقات کی۔

آرمی چیف سے ملاقات کے دوران چینی وزیر دفاع نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اور افواج پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے۔

چینی وزیر دفاع نے مزید کہا کہ چین پاکستان میں سیلاب سے متعلق امدادی سرگرمیوں کے لیے تکنیکی مدد فراہم کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔

چینی وزیر دفاع نے سیلاب سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں پاک فوج کی ریسکیو اور ریلیف کی کوششوں کو بھی سراہا۔

آرمی چیف نے چین کے وزیر دفاع کے جذبات اور پاکستان کے لیے چین کی حمایت جاری رکھنے پر شکریہ ادا کیا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1137667>

September 20, 2022

Daily Times

China thanks COAS for CPEC security

Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe on Monday expressed his country's willingness to provide technical assistance for supporting flood relief efforts in Pakistan. General Wei Fenghe made the offer during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who is on a two-day official visit to China, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Chinese defence minister said China greatly valued its time-tested relations with Pakistan and its army, and looked forward to further expanding the cooperation. He also said the development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was aimed at bringing more benefits and prosperity to the people of both countries, and termed Pak-China military cooperation an important pillar of bilateral relations. General Wei Fenghe thanked the

COAS for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment to CPEC projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability.

He expressed satisfaction over progress on CPEC and hoped for timely completion of the project. He conveyed his grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan due to climate changes and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He also appreciated Pakistan Army's rescue and relief efforts in flood affected areas. The COAS thanked the Chinese defence minister for his sentiments and continued Chinese support to Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/999768/china-thanks-coas-for-cpec-security/>

SCODA extends assistance to flood victims in Pakistan

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) has extended assistance to flood victims in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

“China and Pakistan are all-weather friends and iron brothers. Whenever times are tough, the two always come together and stand by each other. We will continue to join hands and create a better future together.” Ghulam Qadir, Pakistan's Commercial Counsellor to China said at the donation ceremony held by SCODA, to help the flood-affected people in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Li Gang, deputy secretary of party working committee of SCODA, on behalf of the committee and Chinese enterprises including East Sea Holding (Qingdao), Qingdao LULU Agriculture Equipment, China State Construction No 6 Bureau, SCO Everest (Qingdao) International Exhibition and Qingdao Xingangtong Mineral, delivered 225,000 yuan of relief funds to the representative of the Pakistani side. Since mid-June, monsoon rains and floods have affected 33 million people in Pakistan, destroyed more than 5,000 kilometers of roads and bridges, and caused an estimated economic loss of \$10 billion. The disaster saddened the hearts of SCODA members. Together with the Pakistan China Center, the SCODA committee immediately organized fund raising campaigns and prepared relief supplies to help the disaster-stricken people in Pakistan.

“The SCODA has made its modest contribution to the people affected by the disaster. I believe that with joint efforts of all, the Pakistani people will be able to overcome the floods, resume normal production and life soon.” Zhang Dong, deputy director of the SDODA committee, added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/999897/scoda-extends-assistance-to-flood-victims-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC and development

Since 2014, China has invested \$25billion in CPEC projects in Pakistan

With geoeconomics precedence in world politics, the importance of seaports and corridors has been enhanced multifold. In the evolving geopolitical milieu, the significance of CPEC is in the regional context.

The corridor will connect East Asia with South Asia. CPEC is an opportunity for Pakistan to link with the economies of South, East and Central Asia. The joint ventures with Chinese companies will train the Pakistani workforce. With Chinese goods in local markets, Pakistani entrepreneurs will be introduced to the foreign market. This industrial competition will improve the quality of products and also expand the local industry to outside markets.

Within the framework of CPEC, infrastructure development projects are being built and power plants to address energy shortages are being constructed; Hubco power plant is one such example. Solar as well as renewable energy generation plants are also being set up. With enhanced energy flows and adequate infrastructure, industrialisation will progress. The industrial collaboration, in particular, the Pakistani workforce interaction with entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds will help develop the technical expertise needed for the successful execution of CPEC. The corridor's passing through Balochistan will benefit the province. In the past, the province's resources were not exploited for the betterment of the locals so there exists a sense of deprivation. To win over the confidence of the locals, the policy should be empowerment at grassroots level. The development of the Reko Diq mine in Balochistan (by the Canadian company, Barrick Gold) is likely to generate jobs for the locals.

CPEC has generated a new frame of cooperation based on economic connectivity. Since 2014, China has invested \$25 billion in CPEC projects in Pakistan. In Balochistan alone, a \$10 million Chinese grant was allocated to build the Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute and \$4 million for the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan. China has also extended \$2 billion SAFE deposits to Pakistan. An amount of \$1.40 billion advance payment is also under consideration for the upcoming CPEC projects.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's exports to China stood at \$251.30 million, an 8 per cent increase from the previous year. In view of the statistics, China's debt threat seems imaginary and created on purpose. In an interview with Global Times, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said "this threat is constructed by those who see partnerships from a zero-sum perspective. They surely want to see Pakistan deprived and not able to explore its economic potential."

CPEC has increased job opportunities for the locals. So far, 75,000 jobs have been generated in 22 projects. The purpose of the corridor is to draw economic benefits for the good of the whole region. CPEC is a win-win cooperation, but just as the moon has scars reflecting the recent tectonic activity, the few lows that came with CPEC reflect Pakistan's economic transformation period.

Fortunately, Pakistan has covered the distance from 'CPEC will do' to 'CPEC has done'. There is a realisation about the challenges CPEC might face in the wake of regional competitive tendencies. To minimise the opposing forces, a realistic constructive approach needs to be adopted with a focus on economic development, technological expertise and cooperation with China. On the regional front, peace in Afghanistan is essential for CPEC's projection into Central Asia. In this regard, institution building under Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO) and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) to strengthen communication linkages among the regional countries will be required.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2377430/cpec-and-development>

The Nation

Pakistan supports China's bid to make SCO more influential

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is committed to support China's bid to make the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation more influential as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif prepares for Beijing trip soon.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa is already in China for an official visit which is being seen as significant to enhance cooperation.

PM Shehbaz participated in the September 15-16 SCO summit in Uzbek Silk Road city Samarkand where he held meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This was the first in person gathering of the central Asian grouping since 2019. Since its creation in June 2001, the SCO has performed an important role in the geopolitics of the world's biggest and most crucial continent.

It was first established by the People's Republic of China as a geopolitical stabilisation mechanism in its West Asian borderlands - a zone that had developed a sense of endemic instability in the 1990s. From the outset, the SCO presented itself as a bulwark against "terrorism, separatism and extremism", a language that sought to capitalise on the global counter terrorist consensus of the 9/11 era.

As the SCO has evolved, it has focused not only on counter-terrorism but also on drug trafficking, military cooperation and dabbled with economic collaboration.

In many respects it was an illustrative example of the ways in which Asia's states turned to multilateral security mechanisms in the 1990s and early 2000s as they began to grapple with the security consequences of globalisation and the unsettling of the old strategic balance.

More recently, it has been energised by the growing alignment of Russian and Chinese interests as well as the increased significance of Central Asia.

The founding members were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined in 2017, reflecting the priority that the two South Asian states placed on the Asian landmass and their recognition of its growing weight.

The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005. In April 2010, the UN and SCO Secretariats signed a Joint Declaration on Cooperation. SCO Secretariat has also established partnerships with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), and the International Organisation for

Migration (IOM), in addition to its ongoing cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

Pakistani diplomats said that Islamabad supported China's vision to make SCO stronger and influential. "Pakistan highly values the SCO and is part of efforts to strengthen its significance," said a senior Pakistani diplomat.

He said PM Shehbaz Sharif had spoken about the importance Pakistan attached to the SCO in his meetings with President Xi Jinping and President Putin.

"PM Shehbaz is preparing for China visit in November. The SCO meeting will again be discussed. Pakistan believes the SCO has delivered and will continue to deliver. We support China's bid for a stronger and influential SCO," he remarked.

International Relations expert Dr Huma Baqai said the forum of SCO was more important strategically, as Pakistan was looking forward to geoeconomic cooperation.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended an invitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Pakistan, which he accepted. On the other hand, we are facing the devastating situation of floods, and any cooperation will be fortunate for us. But unfortunately, we haven't done our homework according to the potential of this forum. The SCO which includes the world leading powers can be much more useful to bring in more energy supplies for us. Good relations with Russia, Iran and China will help meet energy needs of Pakistan," she commented.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-20/page-3/detail-17>

September 21, 2022

Business Recorder

PM forms body on Chinese IPPs, other matters

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has constituted a Standing Committee on payments to Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs), as well as other issues related to different ministries, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The receivables stock of Chinese IPPs is over Rs 300 billion due to which they are unable to import coal and meet other payment obligations.

On instructions of the prime minister, a meeting was convened by the finance minister with the Chinese IPPs on September 9 to work out a payment schedule of the outstanding dues. Minister Power, Minister Planning, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi, SAPM Zafaruddin Mahmood, and secretary Power, special secretary Finance and concerned officials attended.

The finance minister briefed the IPPs about the reasons for delay in payment and the plan to pay the outstanding dues. The Chinese IPPs highlighted their payment obligations and pending dues. They also pointed out the difficulties in foreign remittances to discharge their liabilities.

The finance minister constituted a working group under secretary Power to finalize the modalities and payment schedule. He assured them that the first tranche would be released in the coming week.

A couple of months ago, prime minister had issued instructions for resolution of issues being faced by the Chinese IPPs, but the concerned ministries failed to sort out their issues which reportedly irritated the PM Secretariat.

The sources said PM Secretariat also sought clarifications from both the Power Division and finance minister for reportedly not honouring PM's instructions.

On September 13, SAPM on Government Effectiveness, Jehanzeb Khan in a note to the prime minister proposed to create a forum in which concerned government functionaries and the IPPs meet every fortnight to reconcile payments and work out the next tranche. This would create an atmosphere of confidence and mutual trust - so important for public private partnerships.

He further contended that a Standing Committee on payment to IPPs be constituted with additional Power-Convener and representatives (not below the rank of BPS-20) from Finance, Planning, FBR, BO, EAD, CPPA-G, and CEO/ Country Director of the relevant IPP as members. Terms of References for Committee will be as follows: (i) to reconcile out-standing payments and prepare a schedule of payments; (ii) to assist the IPPs in resolution of any other matter pertaining to any other federal or provincial government; (iii) the committee will meet fortnightly and share minutes with PM Office; and (iv) the Committee, if deemed necessary, may add ToRs under intimation to PM Office.

The sources said prime minister has approved constitution of a Standing Committee to resolve issues of Chinese IPPs.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/21/1-page/943086-news.html>

Daily Times

PR explores “Gateway of Prosperity” under CPEC to boost Railways

Pakistan Railways was expanding the scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to explore the “Gateway of Prosperity” for both countries and the region at large through the advancement of the Railways sector.

The department considered CPEC as a long-term development project as it has the potential to serve as a corridor with multiple doors connecting China with Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, said an official document. It said the Chinese and Pakistani workforce, in a large number, was employed to ensure timely completion of the infrastructure projects.

There were also new projects launched such as Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6), Peshawar-D.I.Khan Motorway (M-14), KKH Alternate Route (Gilgit-Shandor-Chitral), Swat Expressway (Phase-II), Dir Expressway, and Karachi Circular Railways. Pakistan Railways was providing one of the key modes of transport in the public sector which promoted national integration and economic growth, it added. Pakistan Railways comprised a total of 466 locomotives for a 7,791 km long route. During July-March FY2022, the gross earnings of railways were recorded at Rs 43.73 billion, it added.

The modern transportation and communication system was one of the key inputs for achieving sustainable economic growth, the document said. “A network of roads, highways, motorways, seaports, and airlines in a country makes it a center of economic activity by attracting investment, raising productivity, and reducing the cost of doing business,” it said.

The government was committed to upgrading the transportation and communication system with the development of new roads, highways motorways, railway tracks, and airports to improve connectivity under CPEC. The CPEC was a pragmatic step for converting the unique geo-strategic location of Pakistan into geo-economics through various transport-related projects that would transform the road infrastructure of Pakistan and improve access to Central Asian, African, and European states, it added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1000368/pr-explores-gateway-of-prosperity-under-cpec-to-boost-railways/>

Pak-China JWG agrees to establish embryos laboratory for animals

China-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture here Tuesday agreed for establishing a laboratory to develop embryos of elite animals, besides setting up chilies farm to under first batch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects to boost agricultural sector.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People’s Republic of China jointly organized 3rd meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture. The meeting discussed and reviewed areas to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock sectors between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed progress of several investment initiatives by Chinese companies as Royal Group of China has established a laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals. The company also plans to set up a buffalo dairy farm of 8,000 heads. Dr Akmal Siddiq, Technical Advisor MNFS&R, while welcoming the initiative said that the project will significantly improve buffalo breeds and milk production both in Pakistan and China. Sichuan Litong Limited and China Machinery and Engineering Corporation have started chili contract-farming in Punjab and Sindh on 400 hectares as company is providing local farmers technology and training to grow high-quality chilies.

It has planned to expand this operation on 10,000 hectares and to also establish a chili processing plant. Dr. Waseem ul Hassan, Food Security Commissioner at MNFS&R said that Pakistan is a net-importer of chili and this initiative will help in producing import-substitution and genetic improvement of chili in the local climate. “Pakistan has tremendous potential to export horticultural products and looks forward to exploring export potential of these products in the Chinese market, said Dr Akmal Siddiq, Technical Advisor MNFS&R.

These two investment initiatives, among others, are in the first batch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects to boost agricultural trade and expand economic activities between the two countries. China Animal Husbandry Industry Company is also planning a livestock vaccine production plant in Gwadar which will produce vaccines to prevent animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, whereas Shandong Rainbow Agriculture Polytron Technologies is planning to set up laboratories for potato seed culture and oilseed development. The other company Zhengbang Limited has signed an MOU with Fauji Fertilizer Corporation to jointly establish plants to produce pesticides and cattle and poultry feed in the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone in Faisalabad under the said framework. Both sides appreciated and expressed satisfaction on the progress in business-to-business initiatives. In the government-to-government cooperation framework, China will provide technical assistance to establish Centre for Sustainable Management of Plant Pests and Diseases in Karachi. Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences will strengthen technology cooperation with Pakistan counterparts to enhance the capacity of prevention and control of pests and diseases. China will also help Pakistan in capacity building for cotton-seed technology.

Both countries will soon sign an MOU on Strengthening Cooperation on Animal Disease Control. Scientists from both countries will jointly work to enhance prevention and control of pests and diseases.

Both sides agreed to promote transfer of technology and strengthen capacity of the concerned institutions in Pakistan. Syed Khalid Gardezi, Additional Secretary MNFS&R said that the Joint Working Group is an effective platform for cooperation and trade between Pakistan and China, through which both countries can collaborate in capacity-building, infrastructure development, and transfer of technology. NI Hongxing said that China looks forward to further strengthen partnership with Pakistan in agriculture.

He hoped that by the next Joint Working Group meeting, in second half of 2023, a meaningful progress will be achieved to expand agricultural trade and deepen scientific ties between two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1000367/pak-china-jwg-agrees-to-establish-embryos-laboratory-for-animals/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese solar company donates goods for flood affectees

A Chinese leading solar company Zonergy Corporation, a long-standing and strong partner of Pakistan in solar power generation, donated RMB 100,000 to support the relief and rehabilitation efforts of Pakistan for the flood-hit people in Pakistan.

Zonergy Executive Vice President Changbin Qiu presented the check to Pakistani Ambassador Moin ul Haque at a ceremony held in the Pakistan Embassy Beijing, according to a report published by China Economic (CEN) on Tuesday.

Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, Changbin Qiu said his company will continue to support the people of Pakistan in this difficult time.

He informed that his company has already provided portable solar devices worth Rs 6.4 million and food supplies worth Rs 2.4 million to help the affected people in different parts of Pakistan.

He said Zonergy Corporation had previously donated Rs 5 million for the Prime Minister COVID Relief Fund.

“Our company has long been committed to Pakistan’s public welfare undertakings, fulfilling its corporate social responsibility, investing in the construction of purified drinking water stations in water-deficient areas to provide local residents with clean water, donating equipment to the Bahadin Zakriya University in Multan, Bahawalpur, and the Islamic University Training Resource Center, and offering internship opportunities for students,” he mentioned.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque appreciated the assistance provided by Zonergy Corporation in this difficult time.

Haque said that the company has developed a solar power project in the Qauid Azam solar park in Bahawalpur, which is an important project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He further appreciated the support and solidarity of the Chinese government and people for Pakistan during natural disasters, emphasizing that Chinese assistance to Pakistan for flood victims has once again proven the unique nature of fraternal ties between the two countries.

He lauded the company for producing clean energy and helping mitigate the negative impact of climate change.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-solar-company-donates-goods-for-flood-affectees/>

CPEC: A Vivid Reflection of Humanity

Kamran KR

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has won the hearts and souls of millions of displaced people confronting devastating floods in the country.

Despite the havoc of the ongoing floods the mega projects of CPEC have become the only hope for human survival, social communication and economic connectivity in Balochistan, Sindh and KP which is commendable.

Moreover, the Chinese government, embassy, private companies, and last but not the least, common people having trying to lessen the miseries of struggling people through lavish financial aid, humanitarian assistance, food-stuff, vaccines, medicines, tents, blankets and, above all, sovereign pledges and guarantees to restore all the damaged socio-economic infrastructure in these areas which is highly appreciated.

Most recently, even in the 22nd SCO 2022 head of the states meeting in Samarkand the Chinese President Xi Jinping assured the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif for his government's generous humanitarian assistance in the time of national crises of deadly floods in the country.

Xi termed China and Pakistan as close neighbours linked by mountains and rivers and with a shared future.

He called both the countries “strategic partners” and emphasized that the two sides “must continue to firmly support each other, foster stronger synergy between their development strategies, and harness the role of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to ensure smooth construction and operation of major projects.

Pakistan has been entangled by unprecedented and devastating floods which have caused a significant loss of life, means of sustenance, and property.

In this regard, TECNO Mobile, a subsidiary of China's Shenzhen Transsion Holdings Ltd, provided tons of food supplies, shelters, and hygiene kits to affected families in Sindh, Pakistan.

TECNO Pakistan along with its staff members initiated the #TECNOFundsForFlood campaign to provide tons of flour, sugar, rice and additional life-saving supplies to the severely impacted areas of Mirpurkhas district and other surrounding areas of Umarkot and Kunri through a direct drive of nearly 300 km.

On the other hand, the working committee of SCODA, on behalf of the committee and Chinese enterprises including East Sea Holding (Qingdao), Qingdao LULU Agriculture Equipment, China State Construction No 6 Bureau, SCO Everest (Qingdao) International Exhibition and Qingdao Xingangtong Mineral, delivered 225,000 yuan of relief funds to the representative of the Pakistani side for the struggling people in the affected areas in the country.

In this connection, the People's Government of Tianjin Municipality has announced a relief assistance package of RMB 10 million for the flood victims. The relief items include tents, food packages and blankets needed urgently in Pakistan.

Moreover, the Chinese enterprises continue to support Pakistan's flood relief efforts as the recent severe floods in the country.

Six Chinese companies in Pakistan's Punjab province have jointly set up the Panda Industries Association to raise Rs. 6 million in cash and Rs. 8 million in clothing for 4,000 flood victims in Punjab. The 6 Chinese companies in the Panda Chamber include Challenge Fashion (Pvt) Co., Ltd, Henan D.R. Construction Group, LEDZONE, OPPO, TCL and Zhengbang Agriculture.

On the political front, a number of Pakistani political parties expressed gratitude to the Communist Party of China (CPC) after receiving food donations amid the devastating floods in Pakistan.

The political parties getting flood relief assistance from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (ID-CPC) through the Chinese embassy in Pakistan included Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Hazara Democratic Party (HDP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Awami National Party (ANP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P).

Once again it has proved that China is our trustworthy friend and strategic partner which always stood first to help us in our national crises.

The generous humanitarian assistance of the Chinese government, CPC, multinational companies and common people has become a symbol of pure mercy, compassion and humanity. It vividly reflects spirits of solidarity and unconditional support for the affected people of Pakistan.

According to many official statistical data, Beijing has so far pledged a \$100 million assistance package to Pakistan. In this regard, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have sent condolences to their counterparts in Islamabad which is indeed a great gesture of brotherhood and caring & sharing.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to his Pakistani counterpart, Arif Alvi, over the severe floods hitting the country.

China was the first country to reach out to flood affected people and communities alike. Xi Jinping also said that with the joint efforts of the Pakistani government and people, those in the disaster-hit areas will surely overcome the flood and rebuild their homes as early as possible.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to President of China Xi Jinping for an assistance package of RMB 400 million for flood affectees in Pakistan.

In a tweet on social media he thanked President Xi Jinping for the Chinese assistance package of RMB 400 million, up from initial RMB 100 million, for flood victims in Pakistan.

In a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong, the Prime Minister recognized China as Pakistan's trusted friend, staunchest partner, and Iron-Brother, whose relief assistance was deeply appreciated by the people of the country, and in keeping with the time-honored bilateral friendship.

The Chinese government announced a relief package of RMB 400 million (\$57 million) while the Chinese provincial governments and institutions also announced donations for badly affected people in Pakistan.

In this connection, China provided urgently-needed supplies including 25,000 tents to assist the Pakistan government in its flood relief efforts and provided around 5,000 tents for flood-stricken people.

China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's government has donated a batch of relief supplies worth RMB one million to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) for tackling the flood.

The relief supplies include quilts with cotton wadding, cotton-padded clothes, tents and others. All the relief supplies were handed over to GB authorities at a ceremony held at the Khunjerab pass.

Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency, Luo Zhaohui had recently announced to deliver 200 tons of vegetables via Karakoram Highway to the flood-affected people within a week.

The ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China handed over \$300,000 in emergency cash assistance to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society for the flood disaster-affected people.

Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren announced giving Rs300 million in aid for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people on behalf of the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore during his meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. Meanwhile, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that China has been closely following the post-flood situation in Pakistan.

“Since the floods hit Pakistan, China has been closely following the situation. We responded immediately and made every effort to provide relief assistance,” said Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin.

The Chinese state-owned enterprises, private enterprises, companies and individuals in Pakistan as well as in China are actively contributing to help the affected people overcome the floods and rebuild their homes. Hopefully, the journey of compassionate humanitarian assistance will lessen the sufferings of marginalized people in the affected areas. Sooner with the help and state assurance of China their miseries will be converted into smiles. Thus China Pakistan Economic Corridor has become an ideal platform of humanity and humanitarian assistance in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-vivid-reflection-of-humanity-by-kamran-kr/>

On sideline of UNGA, FM Bilawal meets China's State Councilor Wang Yi

New York: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met China's State Councilor Wang Yi in New York on Monday and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral ties. The meeting came on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During the meeting, the two sides had a comprehensive exchange of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral partnership and multilateral cooperation, including at the United Nations. This was also their fourth meeting since Bilawal assumed the Foreign Office in April 2022.

The foreign minister took the meeting to express profound thanks to the Chinese leadership, government, and people for their prompt support and robust assistance to Pakistan in the wake of the catastrophic floods, which was a true reflection of the time-tested “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” between the two countries.

In a tweet, FM Bilawal said that the two leaders discussed further deepening the China-Pakistan “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” and enhancing economic engagement.

Recalling the summit meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping in Samarkand on September 15, 2022, the two ministers reaffirmed full commitment to further deepening strategic cooperation, extending strong support for each other’s core interests and major concerns, enhancing economic engagement, accelerating high-quality development of CPEC, and strengthening bilateral security cooperation.

The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan’s close convergence with China on multilateral issues premised on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, multilateralism, free trade, and development. He appreciated China’s contributions to global socio-economic development through open and inclusive initiatives like Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Development Initiative (GDI).

<https://pakobserver.net/on-sideline-of-unga-fm-bilawal-meets-chinas-state-councilor-wang-yi/>

CPEC & Pakistan Speed: The New Era of Development

Muhammad Ehsan, Beijing

International media such as Voice of America possibly in collaboration with think tanks has recently showed an urge in misinformative and defamatory propaganda newscasts against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, especially through Voice of America Urdu channel intending a huge infectious impact upon its more than three hundred thousand viewers, which sticks like a thorn in Pakistan’s economic development.

In August, Voice of America Urdu Service tried to raise the concern that the Shahbaz government has decided to close CPEC, but on the other hand over the years, China and Pakistan have been in close, full and friendly communication over CPEC.

China understands Pakistan’s effort to integrate resources, raise efficiency and make institutional adjustment.

The communication with Pakistan has only got closer and smoother & Pakistani analysts believe that CPEC cooperation will deliver greater results. Yet western media states that instead of growing Pakistan’s economy CPEC has escalated to a plethora of problems involving lack of

security to Chinese workers who have been constantly targeted by Baloch rebels, misallocation of investment and poor implementation by Pakistan.

The CPEC has been mentioned as the crowning glory in China's ambitious global Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that seeks to link up countries and continents through highways, rail tracks, port and airport linkages. The \$62 billion project seeks to link Kashgar in the Xinjiang region of China to the Gwadar port in the insurgency-driven Balochistan province.

International media is making its profound efforts to dent diplomatic relations between the iron-clad brothers. But professionals from both countries are highly committed to achieving the goals for the project.

In July, Voice of America Urdu Service stated that India's refusal to involve third world countries in CPEC will lead to failure and criticism. But instead, countries like Iran are looking for investment opportunities in CPEC, which proves nothing but further growth of CPEC.

We can understand CPEC's growth by Prime Minister Shahbaz's tweets stating, CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic base and pushed the economy towards self-development while reaffirming to accelerate pace & complete CPEC projects. Western media keeps posting articles with targeted disinformation tags such as "putting Pakistan into a debt trap" to in surge hatred against CPEC.

But this has continuously been proven falsified by Pakistani government, analysts and media professionals.

To counter western media propaganda, a special video message by Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was played.

He said that Pakistan-China relationship is indeed a special relationship that has no parallel in contemporary international relations.

Personally, it is a great honour to be talking about this special bond because my grandfather Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto is architect of this very relationship and in 1963, he signed a historic boundary agreement between Pakistan and China. He was also the last world leader to meet Chairman Mao.

Moreover, he said that Pakistan People's Party is committed to sustaining, maintaining and continuing this relationship. This clearly indicates that this prolonged relation among Iron brothers is solely based on mutual collaboration and respect.

VoA Urdu deliberately released statements as "Slowness of CPEC" surges distrust and discomfort among Pakistani viewers on CPEC.

Voice of America Urdu also directly stated this project lacks investment to the point where they say, not a dime is invested after the establishment of CPEC Authority which is clearly understated.

Higher management at Pakistan-Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) emphasized that the CPEC has attracted 25 billion USD in Foreign Direct investment.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed commented on the dividends of CPEC, stating that CPEC has created 75,000 jobs for Pakistanis so far, and energy projects under CPEC have produced over 5,000 MW electricity.

In certain VoA Urdu reports state that “China has not openly expressed its concerns regarding CPEC”, which seems to be a naïve enough statement, as China has clarified the goals and further plans for each CPEC project. Authorities said that we need to encourage strengthening of narrative building and join hands in combating fake news. Media bears the sacred mission of advocating order and justice. They said that we should take advantage of our complementarity, increase positive publicity, take initiative for building narratives from our own perspectives, and jointly respond to negative public opinions.

Western propaganda tells stories about inefficient and useless efforts towards development through CPEC programs. Such statements are proved senseless by economic analysts several times. The CPEC is a suitable solution to meet the energy deficit in Pakistan besides its commercial, economic, geopolitical and social benefits. The economic instability of Pakistan will be removed through business with neighboring countries through the port of Gwadar. CPEC is bringing developed infrastructure of roads, railway tracks, energy pipelines and Gwadar international airport.

This will open more job opportunities for jobless people. The \$11 billion will be spent on the development of corridor infrastructure out of a sum of \$62 billion investment by China besides providing loans to Pakistan at lowest possible interest rates so that Pakistan could not ask from any other institutions in the world for loans at highest interest rates.

The CPEC is not only beneficial for both of the countries in business and trade but also fruitful from the regional security & defense point of view as CPEC is developing the regional security cooperation between China and Pakistan besides increase in the naval partnership which is beneficial for both of the countries.

CPEC has positive and evident effects on the social development of Pakistan. The social welfare growth in the education sector 3.85, health and housing sector 4.74 and 8.6 percent simultaneously which is high level growth in terms of living standards.

CPEC has been one of the hot topics of the day for the media. Media all over the world including Pakistan has been noticed debating and discussing certain aspects of CPEC. The everyday coverage and every step of the development has been brought to the public through certain media outlets. So, it is important to counter the misinformation on every media outlet.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-pakistan-speed-the-new-era-of-development-by-muhammad-ehsan-beijing/>

adding, preliminary design of the project has been completed and a formal request for the loan for Package-I has been conveyed. ML-I is 1872-kilometer long track from Peshawar to Karachi and expected to create around 24,000 jobs and would jump up train speed to 160 kilometers per hour, he added. He said railway line would be upgraded from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian while a new track would be laid with improved sub grade for 160km per hour. Bridges would also be rehabilitated and constructed.

Moreover, he said, provision of modern signaling and telecom systems, conversion of level-crossing into underpasses or flyovers, fencing of track, establishment of dry port near Havelian and up-gradation of Walton Training Academy (Lahore) were also the components of this gigantic project. He said that completion of the project would not only create direct (20,000 local labour/technical experts and 4,000 Chinese experts) jobs but also reduce travel time between Karachi to Lahore from 18 to 10 hours. The official told that the capacity of the line would also be increased from 34 trains to 170 trains per day and speed of the freight trains would be increased at 120 km/h. After its completion, he said that the project would generate economic opportunities for daily wagers in main train stations of major cities and would also attract the foreign investment. On the other hand, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique had also reviewed the performance of railways' all dry ports in the country and directed to send evaluation reports of all ports to the ministry for promotion of trade and increasing revenue.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1001121/pr-to-transport-over-20-percent-of-freight-business-after-completion-of-ml-i-official/>

September 23, 2022

Daily Times

Exporters must follow rules set by Chinese authorities for imports: TDAP

Pakistan's exports to China in 2021 remained at \$3.589 billion and in 2022 the export volume can reach \$4 billion and with the increase in food products; however, Pakistani exporters must follow the rules and regulations set by the Chinese authorities for imports.

In this regard, according to Gwadar Pro, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with China Certification and Inspection Group (CCIG) Shanghai, and Tofflon Group Shanghai organized a webinar on Tuesday. Besides officials from TDAP and CCIG, a large number of Pakistani exporters and experts participated in the webinar. Pakistan has become a major source for the export of food products particularly rice, seafood, dried fruits, nuts, fruits, pink salt, and processed food. The Chinese officials briefed the participants on key economic indicators of China. As per the National Bureau of Statistics China (NBSC), the volume of China's exports of goods is \$3.36 trillion while the volume of China's imports of goods is \$2.69 trillion. Pakistan's exports to China are with the passage of time; the volume of exports in 2016 was \$1.91 billion, in 2017 \$1.83 billion, in 2018 \$2.18 billion, in 2019 \$1.81 billion, in 2020 \$2.12 billion and in 2021 \$3.589 billion.

“This year, Pakistan exports’ volume can surge up to \$4 billion and the space is available in food products,” said one of the experts from CCIG. According to the General Administration of Customs China’s statistics, the value of Pakistan’s food exports to China in 2021 was \$840 million. Of them, \$609 million was vegetable products, \$179 million was animal products while the value of prepared foodstuff was \$52 million. Similarly, in 2021, the value of the export of nuts and dried food from Pakistan to China was \$65 million. In 2021, the exports of processed seafood from Pakistan to China 2021 were \$8.4 million while the value of mangoes exported during the same year was \$127 million. China’s imports of rice are \$2.2 billion, seafood \$ 13.8 billion, nuts and dried fruit \$2.2 billion while sesamum seed \$1.7 billion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1001436/exporters-must-follow-rules-set-by-chinese-authorities-for-imports-tdap/>

Dawn News

Plan to relocate KU’s Confucius Institute

KARACHI: The vice chancellor of Karachi University has agreed to a plan to relocate Confucius Institute, where a suicide bombing took place earlier this year, into a more secured facility on the campus but within a boundary wall.

During a recent visit to the institute, its director Prof Dr Nasiruddin Khan briefed KU VC Dr Khaliq Mehmood Iraqi about future plans for the place of learning that had been hit by a terrorist strike five months ago.

Prof Khan informed the VC that over 250 students were learning Chinese language at the institute. He expected a further increase in enrolment in the days to come.

He said that the institute needed a separate building, where academic and residential blocks would be within a boundary wall.

Agreeing with the need of a new building on a separate piece of land within the KU premises, the VC asked the director to submit his proposal to the varsity’s syndicate so that it could discuss and formally approve it.

Dr Khan said that once the syndicate approved it, the Higher Education Commission would be requested for a grant. He mentioned that some other organisations were also ready to help in this regard.

Chinese teachers donate for flood-hit people

The Chinese teachers, who had survived the suicide bombing, donated from their salaries Rs 600,000 for the flood-affected people of the country, said a KU press release.

The Chinese faculty members at the Confucius Institute had returned to their country after the devastating attack that left their three colleagues and a Pakistani driver dead. However, they are still teaching the students of the institute through online classes.

They sent the donation to the director of the Confucius Institute, who handed over it to the KU VC.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711435/plan-to-relocate-kus-confucius-institute>

End to Chinese funding of fossil fuels sought

LAHORE: The Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee held a protest demonstration at Charing Cross on The Mall to demand an end to the Chinese funding of fossil fuels in Pakistan.

The protest marked the first anniversary of Beijing's pledge to stop fossil funding in the world.

The climate campaigners held a rally outside the Punjab Assembly building here to remind Chinese leader Xi Jinping's policy announcement that his country would no longer build new coal-fired power projects abroad. They called on Beijing to "fully honour this pledge and showcase China's renewable energy leadership by converting those planned but yet to be constructed, coal power projects to renewable energy."

A number of organisations and movements in Asia have also signed on an open letter to Xi to remind him of the urgency of his climate pledge and underscore how China could take on a much stronger role in the rapid, equitable and just energy transition in the Global South.

Farooq Tariq, PKRC general secretary, said "Pakistan is the biggest recipient of China's fossil fuel energy funding even after the announcement of President Xi Jinping to stop the overseas projects, the effects of which are visible as the country grapples with devastation of climate change."

He said Pakistan needed to be serious in dealing with these energy projects and must negotiate with China to change them into renewable and sustainable projects.

Lidy Nacpil, the coordinator of Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development, under whose call the protest was organised in Lahore, said: "We strongly urge China to end all forms of support and involvement of its institutions in all coal projects overseas, shift its public and commercial overseas energy financing to renewable energy for southern countries, and stop building its domestic coal energy system as well. We reiterate the urgency of these actions to combat climate change and address its impacts that are devastating many countries now and endangering the future of life on the planet."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711512>

The Express Tribune

Myths around BRI

The BRI projects have gained applause for their speedy implementation and low cost

Contrary to the capitalist ideologues' diffusion that projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are driven by China's grand vision to expand its global footprint and influence on the

governments of other countries, they meet critical development requirements of the partner nations and help foster their economic growth and alleviate poverty.

The BRI projects have gained applause for their speedy implementation and low cost as well as inclusion of states both from developing and developed world. Chinese effort to put up a broader multipolar international governance system and cooperation in infrastructure development is stoking fears within the US that the world's sole superpower may soon be losing its grip on global affairs.

Beijing's win-win strategy challenges the Washington-led neocolonial world order which, for decades, ensnared the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the western debt trap through neoliberal economic policies. In order to blunt China's and salvage America's image, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken during his trip to Africa accused China of overburdening the countries with "crushing debts".

Yet revelations from the UK-based campaigner Debt Justice — that Africans governments owe three times more debt to western banks, asset managers and oil trade than China and are charged double the interest — debunks the narrative being pushed by the US directly or through the parasitic states G7, competing each other for influence in Africa to suck the resources of the impoverished Africans.

Demystifying the puzzle that African countries are heavily indebted to China, Tim Jones, Head of Policy at international debt charity, called it a "distraction". He criticised the western governments for their failure to "compel" the companies to suspend debt repayments even during the pandemic as did China during the G20 debt suspension scheme.

In fact, whenever African governments found themselves in the lurch and looked toward China for relief, they weren't disappointed. A study by the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies estimated that Beijing had played an important role in helping African countries to manage their debt by forgiving at least \$3.4 billion of debt in Africa and restructuring or refinancing another \$15 billion between 2000 and 2019.

More recently, China announced cancelling 23 matured interest-free loans of 17 African countries in addition to providing emergency food assistance this year to the least-developed regional nations. The affirmative action urged many economists and researchers to reject the US narrative about Beijing's "debt trap diplomacy" or alleged Chinese attempts to gain political control, seize strategic assets and exercise influence over the African governments.

Some western observers assign the blame of Sri Lanka's default to China, the country's largest foreign funding source is in sovereign bonds or market borrowings, which contributes to almost 50% of its debt stock. Linking the country's inability to pay for crucial imports with Chinese "debt trap diplomacy" are categorically rebuffed as Beijing accounts for just 10-20% of Colombo's debt compared to a plurality of western allies or financial institutions, which are considered as the US strategic asset or where America has a veto power.

As Sri Lanka went into dire straits purely over internal issues, the western media used the debt crisis as a wild card to delegitimise the BRI and China's international image. It accused the project of being an "essential tool" for China to export more goods and win construction contracts. After Colombo defaulted on foreign debt, China's initiative and the Chinese-built port in Hambantota was attributed for the country's nonpayment.

Ever since the port became an iconic case to misrepresent China's global infrastructure lending rather than Sri Lanka's push to build a regional growth hub in Hambantota — an underdeveloped region devastated by the 2004 tsunami — CARI Director Deborah Brautigam denied it was a part of Chinese "master plan". Indeed, several international companies had offered to develop the port before Beijing and Colombo in July 2017 signed an agreement of \$1.5 billion to lease the deep-sea port to China Merchants Holdings Ports for 99 years.

CPEC, which is BRI's pilot project, is one of the persistent targets of the US-led "debt-trap" campaign against BRI. Beijing's promises to develop Gwadar port city are precisely impugned even though China has undertaken several projects to uplift the living standards of the local people under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Over the last seven year, Beijing has granted more than 5 billion yuan for establishment of New Gwadar International Airport with the longest runway in the region and capable of handling the largest aircraft, East Bay Expressway, 300-bed China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, China-Pakistan Vocational and Technical Training Institute, China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, China-Pakistan Fraternity Emergency Centre and a desalination plant.

China has recently provided 3,000 solar panels to the poorest of the poor in Gwadar for provision of electricity. The Gwadar Free Zone Phase-II and 300MW power plant projects are also underway. Patience, nevertheless, is the key as all these initiatives will pay back after a period of 15 years.

Again, Beijing has no role in Islamabad's debt crisis. According to the World Bank, rising global commodity prices led to double-digit inflation in the country with longstanding structural weaknesses of the economy and low productivity growth posing risks to a sustained recovery. The Bank, however, projects the public debt as a share of GDP will come down gradually over the medium term as Islamabad manages to repay its loans to foreign creditors.

At a time when UNDP estimates that 71 million people in the developing world have fallen into poverty in the three months starting March due to the war on Ukraine as a consequence of spikes in global food and energy prices — an impact much more powerful than Covid — the US should be encouraged to bolster efforts and assist the embattled government for providing relief to the poor rather than drawing links between freedom and prosperity to tempt China's allies toward the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.

Even though the US condemnation of every single Chinese initiative has become common place these days, China's blueprint of international peace and development is catching an unreserved support from the world. The message is clear: no matter how the US portrays the BRI projects

internationally — and notwithstanding the western prevarication to accept the wholesome advantages of the initiative — both the international luster of the BRI and a deep global mistrust in the US-led nest of intrigue seems to be growing.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2378206/myths-around-bri>

Nawaiwaqt News

8 ماہ میں چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات میں 6.23 فیصد اضافہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کو پاکستان کی برآمدات رواں سال کے پہلے 8 مہینوں میں 2.40 بلین ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گئیں جو کہ سال بہ سال 6.23 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔ عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے کسٹمز کی جنرل ایڈمنسٹریشن کے سرکاری اعداد و شمار کے مطابق مجموعی طور پر جنوری سے اگست 2022 تک پاکستان سے چین کی درآمدات اور برآمدات 18.41 بلین ڈالر رہی جو سال بہ سال 7.28 فیصد زیادہ ہے جبکہ 2021 کی اسی مدت میں یہ 17.16 بلین ڈالر تھیں۔ اگست کے مہینے میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں سال بہ سال 25.71 فیصد کمی واقع ہوئی۔ کرونا اور شدید مومن سون کی وجہ سے سیلاب سے زراعت، انفراسٹرکچر اور صنعت سمیت کئی شعبے تباہ ہوئے۔ سینئر فار ساتھ ایشیا اینڈ انٹرنیشنل سٹڈیز کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر محمود الحسن خان نے بتایا کہ چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی پارٹنر ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ برآمدات کا دوسرا بڑا ملک ہے اور گزشتہ سال خاص طور پر وبائی امراض کے باوجود دو طرفہ تجارت بہت زیادہ بڑھ رہی تھی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-09-23/page-12/detail-11>

September 24, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese ambassador calls on Dastgir

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Power Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan and discussed financial and other administrative issues being faced by the Chinese power sector companies.

The ambassador reached Power Division to hold a detailed meeting with the minister days after formation of an inter-ministerial standing committee to sort issues of Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) facing default in payment to coal suppliers. The stock of receivables of Chinese companies is over Rs 300 billion.

Terms of References for Committee will be as follows: (i) to reconcile out-standing payments and prepare a schedule of payments; (ii) to assist the IPPs in resolution of any other matter pertaining to any other federal or provincial government; (iii) the committee will meet fortnightly and share minutes with PM Office; and (iv) the Committee, if deemed necessary, may add ToRs under intimation to PM Office.

Chinese IPPs that have written letters to the Power Division or its attached organizations, also copy those letters to their embassy.

According to an official statement, Power Minister welcomed the Ambassador and expressed his reverence for Pak-China friendship. He remarked that back in 2014, no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan, but Pakistan's friendship with China has stood the test of time. The Chinese investment in power sector is of immense importance. Both parties noted the importance of hydro power projects under CPEC and agreed to expedite the ongoing projects.

The statement further added that the Ambassador appreciated the present government for their commitment towards CPEC and continuous engagement. He emphasized that this continued association will bear fruit for Pak-China friendship and improve the investment environment for Pakistan.

During a recent meeting, Finance Minister briefed the IPPs about the reasons for delay in payment and the plan to pay outstanding dues. The Chinese IPPs highlighted their payment obligations and pending dues. They also pointed out the difficulties in foreign remittances to discharge their liabilities.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/24/5-page/943345-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese delegation gives Rs4.5m to PRCS for flood victims

A delegation of Chinese Construction Company called on Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari here today and presented the donation cheque of PKR 4.5 million to PRCS for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected families.

Company Director Li-Ping and Deputy Director Chen Zhihang of Yunnan Sunny Road and Bridge Company Limited of China, handed over the donation cheque to PRCS Chairman in a simple ceremony held at National Headquarters.

In another event, a MoU was signed between Metro Pakistan (Pvt) Limited and Red Crescent for providing food items to the flood victims. According to the initiative, the flood-affected households will be provided with food and household items on a humanitarian basis. MetroCash & Carry will supply goods worth Rs 11 million to Red Crescent till 31 December 2022. Speaking on the occasion Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari thanked the Chinese company and Metro Pakistan Pvt. Limited for their generous support and hoped that the donation would help in alleviating the sufferings of the flood affectees.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1001965/chinese-delegation-gives-rs4-5m-to-prcs-for-flood-victims/>

The Nation

Chinese firm donates for flood affectees

ISLAMABAD - China Power Hub Generation Company has donated 100 waterproof tents and 100 ration bags with ready-to-cook food to the local administration of Hub town for the floods victims.

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2022-09-24>



<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page&Date=2022-09-24>

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2022-09-24>

September 25, 2022

Business Recorder

China: modernisation of education

Li Bijian

(—the thirteenth part of the “China in the past decade” series)

Education is crucial for China. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward a series of new concepts, new ideas and new strategies around the fundamental issues of what kind of citizens we should be cultivating, and how and for whom we are cultivating citizens. These important instructions on education, made by General Secretary Xi Jinping, has pointed out the direction and provided fundamental guidelines for the development of education in China in the new era.

Over the past 10 years, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, the education sector has fully implemented the Party’s education policy, carried out the fundamental mission of fostering virtue, nurtured a new generation of capable young people who have a good and all-round grounding in moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic aspects, and are well-prepared to join the socialist cause.

The education sector has been promoting education equality, improving the quality of education, and accelerating the modernization of education, so as to build a country strong in education and to provide education that our people are satisfied with. Education in China has displayed more characteristic features and made historic achievements, and is undergoing structural changes.

I. In the past decade, universal education has expanded remarkably, better guaranteeing people’s access to education and effectively alleviating this pressing problem that is of the greatest concern to the people. At present, China has nearly 530,000 schools of various levels and

categories, with over 290 million students currently receiving education. The gross enrollment ratio for preschool education reaches 88.1%, up 23.6 percentage points compared with 10 years ago. Following its full coverage nationwide, the retention rate of nine-year compulsory education hits 95.4%, an increase of 3.6 percentage points compared with 10 years ago. The gross enrollment ratios for senior secondary education and higher education climb to 91.4% and 57.8%, up 6.4 percentage points and 27.8 percentage points, respectively. The coverage of education in China has either reached or surpassed the average levels of middle- and high-income countries in the world. Specifically, preschool education and compulsory education have reached the average level of high-income countries, and higher education is becoming universal. The average schooling years of the working-age population reach 10.9 years. All the 200,000 dropouts from compulsory education have returned to school, which means that the long-standing student dropout problem has been solved, making an important contribution to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. All 2,895 counties across China have passed education inspections, and 99.8% of primary and secondary schools have met the 20 bottom line requirements for running a school. Schools have undergone fundamental changes, and the country has achieved new progress in promoting balanced and integrated development of compulsory education in urban and rural areas. The country's financial aid system for students has covered all educational stages, making nearly 1.3 billion payments over the past 10 years. China has continued to implement special plans for key colleges and universities to admit students from rural and poverty-stricken areas, enrolling a total of more than 950,000 students. All counties with a population of more than 300,000 have special education schools, and over 95% of children with disabilities are enrolled in compulsory education.

II. In the past decade, the educational service capacity has been steadily improved, providing a strong source of talent and intellectual support for the implementation of major national strategies and socioeconomic development. Over 218 million Chinese have a college degree, a substantial growth from a decade ago. China has implemented a training plan for cultivating outstanding talent in foundational disciplines, deepened the reform of master and doctoral degree programs in engineering, strengthened innovation and entrepreneurship education for college students, and accelerated the training of urgently needed talent. China has optimized forms of vocational education, promoted the integration of vocational and general education, and deepened the integration of production and education. Secondary and higher vocational schools (excluding technical schools) have cultivated more than 79 million graduates in the past 10 years. China has steadily advanced the development of world-class universities and disciplines. Several disciplines have been placed among the world's top ranks.

The innovation ability of Chinese higher education institutions (HEIs) has continued to improve. In the past 10 years, HEIs received 67% of all natural science awards and 72% of all technological invention awards. For three consecutive years, HEI researchers have been awarded first-class prizes at the State Natural Science Awards. HEIs have contributed to innovation and making key technological breakthroughs such as the observation of the quantum anomalous Hall effect for the first time, the quantum computer "Jiuzhang," China's first home-developed cutter

suction dredger “Tian Jing,” the world’s first pebble-bed modular high-temperature gas-cooled nuclear plant, and China’s first home-developed COVID-19 antibody drug approved for marketing. China has deepened industry-university- research cooperation and accelerated the commercial application of scientific and technological achievements. The monetary value of patent commercialization has amounted to 8.89 billion yuan, up from 820 million yuan a decade ago. China has promoted the prosperity and development of philosophy and social sciences in colleges and universities. China has promoted educational exchanges between the mainland and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and supported youth in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan to integrate into overall national development.

III. In the past decade, the reform and opening-up of education has continued to deepen, and the education system that serves the lifelong learning of people has been further improved. China has ensured that the Party exercises overall leadership over education, followed Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in educating people, promoted theoretical and political courses in primary and secondary schools as well as universities and colleges in an overall manner, incorporated “work skills” into the Party’s education policy, and fully promoted education in standard spoken and written Chinese across the country. Students have unswervingly followed the instructions and guidance of the Party and declared their commitment to making due contributions to building a strong country. China has committed to prioritizing the development of education, and Chinese government spending on education has remained above 4% of GDP for 10 consecutive years. The burden of homework and after-school tutoring on students in compulsory education have been further reduced, and the education sector is undergoing changes.

Reforms in areas such as education evaluation, examination and enrollment have continued to deepen, and law-based governance of education has become more strict and powerful. China has exercised full and strict Party self-governance in this regard. China has ensured that the average salaries of teachers in compulsory education are not lower than that of public servants working in the same locality. In the face of COVID-19, more than 18 million teachers rose to the challenge and switched to online teaching. The national education digitalization strategy to accelerate the digital transformation of education has been launched. China has been working to build a new paradigm of education opening-up, and deepen cooperation in the field of education among Belt and Road countries. China has strengthened cultural exchanges with other countries, developed closer relations among people, and helped build a community with a shared future for mankind. With an expanded international education platform, China’s education sector is becoming increasingly open and we are more confident about playing a more active role in education on the international stage.

Embarking on a new journey, China will adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, educate people for the Party, cultivate talent for the country, promote the high-quality development of education, and make new and

greater contributions to the realization of the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects.

(The writer is Consul General of China in Karachi)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/25/4-page/943392-news.html>

Daily Times

Stanford report unearths Indian social media maligning propaganda

An analytical report of Stanford, a global internet observatory center, has exposed Indian government-backed social media accounts spreading plethora of fake news and propaganda against Pakistan on a popular social media platform.

The report published under title, ‘My Heart Belongs to Kashmir: An Analysis of a Pro-Indian Army Covert Influence Operation on Twitter’ is available on the Stanford’s official website. The report said on August 24, Twitter shared 15 datasets of information operations it identified and removed from the platform with researchers in the Twitter Moderation Research Consortium for independent analysis. One of these datasets included 1,198 accounts that tweeted about Pakistan. Twitter suspended the network for violating their platform manipulation and spam policy, and said that the presumptive country of origin was India. Stanford built its analysis on a report on the same network by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The network tweeted primarily in English, but also in Hindi and Urdu. Accounts claimed to be proud Kashmiris and relatives of Indian soldiers. Tweets praised the Indian army’s so-called military successes and provision of services in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and spew venom against Pakistan and China. Two accounts existed to target specific individuals who were perceived as enemies of the Indian government, the report said. The Stanford Internet Observatory, founded in 2019, is a cross-disciplinary programme of research, teaching and policy engagement for the study of abuse in current information technologies, with a focus on social media.

The center also cited certain articles in the Indian press carrying Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram posts and the accounts which had been previously suspended including the official accounts for Chinar Corps, a branch of the Indian occupation army operating in the IIOJK.

“Twitter accounts, we note that official Chinar Corps Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts were temporarily suspended in the past, and Indian Army officials told reporters that the stated reason for the Facebook and Instagram suspensions was Meta’s policy on coordinated inauthentic behavior. The content of the Twitter network discussed in this report was consistent with the objectives of the Chinar Corps,” the report said.

The Asian News International, the Print, the India Express, English Jagram, and the New Indian Express had reported suspension of these accounts for “coordinated inauthentic behaviour”. The report further said that the Chinar Corps Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts were all

currently live, establishing that the content of the Twitter network was consistent with the Chinar Corps' objectives of praising the Indian army in IIOJK. Many of the accounts in the network claimed to be Indians, often Kashmiris, and frequently said they were located in Kashmir. One bio said "Proud Indian and Proud Kashmiri. My Heart belongs to Kashmir, Soul to India and Life to Humanity."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1002405/stanford-report-unearths-indian-social-media-maligning-propaganda/>

Experts term CPEC as true reflection of China-Pakistan friendship

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is the crystallization of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan.

This was stated by an eminent Chinese scholar Professor Dr Wang Yiwei at the "International media dialogue on the role of BRI in China Pakistan relation development in the past decade". The dialogue organized on the topic was attended by a large number of international journalists, scholars, experts and academicians working on CPEC research projects.

The keynote speaker Wang Yiwei, the Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Director of Institute of International Affairs, Director of Center for European Studies at Renmin University of China said that the reality of the CPEC is reflected in the "four pillars": energy, infrastructure, ports and development zones. "Is the world headed for fragmentation, confrontation or convergence?" He asked. Interconnectivity is the key to the future of mankind. He told that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project of BRI's six Economic Corridors. Wang noted that for BRI on land and at sea, to achieve Land-Sea connectivity, not only is to help Xinjiang, even the whole Central Asia create a shortcut to enter the India Ocean, but to help Pakistan narrow the gap between north-south development, which allows Pakistan to better integrate into the process of industrialization, urbanization and globalization. In the future, it will also benefit neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan and the countries in South Asian Subcontinent, and assist in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, significant in setting up an example.

Moreover, the construction of national capacity for governance concerned also mirrors the all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Pakistan in economy, people's livelihood and future development, to pursue peace and stability through development, to strengthen friendship through common development, to realize the mission and value of cultural exchanges and mutual learning through interconnectivity, Wang stated. He also stressed that BRI is also in the process of transition while globalization turns greener, healthier and more digitalized. At the same time, we need to address new risks and challenges, for example, against the Indo-Pacific Strategy from India and America, or tackling with the unbalanced development issues between areas. Therefore, we should "ensure both development and security, coordinate

bilateral and multilateral relations and promote high-standard, sustainable and people-centered progress”, told Wang.

While addressing the dialogue, Dr Fazal-ur-Rahman Director at Pakistan Institute of China Studies in Sargodha University said that the CPEC project is a historic initiative which will help the country attract investors and create jobs, along with business opportunities for locals. With the promise of international opportunities and unlimited resources, Pakistan has embarked on a journey of economic growth. For a country on the verge of becoming a strengthened economy, Pakistan has solidified its foundations, embracing the framework of regional connectivity through the Pakistan China Economic Corridor, said Dr Fazal.

Another keynote speaker Dr Tahir Mumtaz, head of China Study Center, COMSATS University said that CPEC includes a number of initiatives in Pakistan. Being the last land-stop before the Arabian sea, Gwadar has always been considered as a goldmine for possessing the geographical characteristics of a natural deep-sea port, said Dr Tahir It is now the central nexus on which all of CPEC is geared towards, however, connecting a path from this edge of the Pakistan all the way to China meant developing a mammoth transportation network. This is where One Belt One Road (OBOR) comes in. CPEC will also contribute towards the improvement of peoples’ lives in Pakistan and China by promoting bilateral connectivity, construction projects, economic and trade opportunities, logistics and local trade in the region.

Dr Tahir also said that as the next stage of CPEC development starts, private investors and firms are flocking to Gwadar with their expertise, experience and capital to make the most of this unprecedented opportunity. Sabah Aslam , Executive director at Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution said that it has been a very significant to witness that since the CPEC was first conceived years ago, the mega project became a ground reality. So far, the project has ushered long lasting and positive results for Pakistan and China. Its first phase of early harvest projects worth USD 19 billion is almost complete now and the results are in front of all, she said.

Reema Shaukat, Communication strategist Institute of Regional Studies said that the BRI is an enormous initiative of connecting Asia with Central Asian Republics, Far East, Middle East, Africa and Europe. The Belt pertains to land routes while the Road is all about sea routes. Pakistan is fortunate to have BRI’s flagship project CPEC-China-Pakistan Economic Corridor entailing both opportunities and challenges. CPEC under the BRI again has two components; the land component and the sea component. Bringing Gwadar port and its approaches via sea into this equation has in fact turned this project into an economically viable solution for both China and Pakistan, stated Reema.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1002494/experts-term-cpec-as-true-reflection-of-china-pakistan-friendship/>

The Nation

China's Indo-Pacific aspirations

Akhtar Khan

Asia's development, economic and political attention, and balance are shifting towards the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific area is increasingly shaping geopolitics of the international system, with regional and foreign powers actively battling and working with one another to oppose and extend their own and others' effects.

The region is important because it is home to 60% of the world's population. The Pacific coastline is shared by three of the world's largest economies: the United States, China, and Japan. This area includes not just big economies, but also several regional actors who play a significant role in Indo-Pacific affairs. Because of significant commercial routes, straits, and chokepoints, the importance of this region has grown even more. Almost 80% of global trade goes via the Malacca Strait alone. Different competitions are taking place among significant stakeholders, and as a result, the regional balance of power is altering. Currently, the United States and China are aggressively playing in this region to dominate it and oppose each other. They are also involving other Indo-Pacific littoral governments to fulfill their national interests.

Historically, China began its maritime trade under the Song dynasty in the 11 century, and several dynasties in China were active in sea trade for the next three centuries. However, towards the end of the 15 century, the Chinese emperors reduced their marine commerce owing to several internal concerns and obstacles. With its Belt and Road Initiative project, China is returning to maritime commerce almost 6 centuries later. President Xi Jinping presented the One Belt One Road (OBOR) programme, subsequently known as the Belt and Road Initiative, in 2013. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a worldwide initiative launched by China to connect several continents through road and marine trade routes.

China initially had geopolitical and economic interests in East Asia and the Western Pacific, but it has now expanded its interests to include the whole Indo-Pacific area. This Indo-Pacific area is vitally important to China; the reunification of Taiwan is China's top objective. Second, to address the Malacca conundrum, China is largely reliant on hydrocarbon imports. Almost 70% of China's energy reserves, petroleum, and LNG exports pass across the Malacca Strait. Not only does it meet its energy needs, but it also transports 20% of world marine commerce and 60% of Chinese trade commodities over the Malacca Strait, making it the most vital communication channel for the Chinese economy.

China's String of Pearl programme has also resulted in the militarisation of the region by India and the US to sabotage Chinese trade routes. The programme entails deep seaport construction, increased naval presence, and encirclement of India. With the String of Pearl, China has developed deep seaports in the majority of Indian Ocean littoral states, including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. This will assist China in countering the Malacca conundrum

since India has historically dominated the Malacca Waterway and has threatened to shut the Malacca strait.

China's rising footprints in the Indian Ocean, as well as its growing military presence in the Indo-Pacific region, has attracted US attention to the region. As a result, the US switched its strategic focus from the Pacific-Atlantic to the Pacific-Indian Ocean. Under Trump's administration, the US formally launched the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision (FOIP). The US is also giving China a run for its money through Quad (the United States, India, Australia, and Japan) and AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). AUKUS represents a redefinition and reestablishment of American dominance in the Indo-Pacific area.

The strategic confrontation between China and the United States began in the South China Sea when the US launched eight nuclear-powered submarines as an expansion to the US Navy's fleet. China has three marine zones at the moment: the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the South China Sea. The United States is combating and restraining China in all of these maritime zones through strategic partnerships and FOIP. To offset China's influence, the United States is strengthening ties with ASEAN countries. China and the United States are playing an action-reaction game in which both nations have militarised the region with their naval presence. How this competition pans out will decide the future of the region. Until then, the two powers will continue to lock horns with each other while the regional countries look for emerging blocs to protect their interests.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-25/page-6/detail-4>

The News

China develops strategies to use floodwater for agriculture

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China has developed technologies and strategies to transform floodwater to generate economic benefits.

The project could be replicated in Pakistan after studying its various aspects. A senior officer of the Federal Ministry of Climate Change has submitted a report to the effect. It has suggested that Chinese experience could turn floods into a resource to benefit the society.

In China there is a concept of Sponge City, where the water is absorbed in the soil through controlled leakages. The Sponge City Model is used for flood control with enhanced ecological infrastructure and drainage channels to control flood and divert it to areas under drought to boost agriculture. Such a model can also be used to tackle the volatility of rainfall brought by climate change. Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi receive lot of rain which can be collected to reduce the damage and use for agriculture sector.

The expert pointed out that Pakistan has more than 3000 glaciers in the Northern Areas. When they melt, water gathers in the form of a lake submerges vast areas including farms and villages.

China, diverts the raging water for farming, the report concluded. The Chinese technology doesn't involve huge funding but requires long term planning, the report concludes.

The report has suggested to learn from the green lifestyles of Chinese people. Electric vehicles are rarely seen in Pakistan but they are quite common in China.

They also use air purifiers, and energy-saving lamps catering to the domestic needs and they are prevalent in the most areas of the country. Pakistan can learn a lot about home-grown solutions from China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=131430>

September 26, 2022

Business Recorder

Railways exploring 'Gateway of Prosperity' under CPEC: official paper

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was expanding the scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to explore the "Gateway of Prosperity" for both countries and the region at large through the advancement of the Railways sector.

The department considered CPEC as a long-term development project as it has the potential to serve as a corridor with multiple doors connecting China with Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, said an official document.

It said the Chinese and Pakistani workforce, in a large number, was employed to ensure timely completion of the infrastructure projects.

There were also new projects launched such as Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6), Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway (M-14), KKH Alternate Route (Gilgit-Shandor-Chitral), Swat Expressway (Phase-II), Dir Expressway, and Karachi Circular Railways.

Pakistan Railways was providing one of the key modes of transport in the public sector which promoted national integration and economic growth, it added.

Pakistan Railways comprised a total of 466 locomotives for a 7,791 km long route. During July-March FY2022, the gross earnings of railways were recorded at Rs 43.73 billion, it added.

The modern transportation and communication system was one of the key inputs for achieving sustainable economic growth, the document said. "A network of roads, highways, motorways, seaports, and airlines in a country makes it a center of economic activity by attracting investment, raising productivity, and reducing the cost of doing business," it said.

The government was committed to upgrading the transportation and communication system with the development of new roads, highways motorways, railway tracks, and airports to improve connectivity under CPEC. The CPEC was a pragmatic step for converting the unique geo-strategic location of Pakistan into geo-economics through various transport-related projects that

would transform the road infrastructure of Pakistan and improve access to Central Asian, African, and European states, it added.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/26/3-page/943445-news.html>

Daily Times

China's leading firm offers training on solar energy

China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi and ETRC have arranged training sessions on solar energy in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

In this connection, a training session on solar energy is ongoing at the Energy Training and Research Centre (ETRC) in Lahore. The two-month event, which started last week, admitted 20 Pakistani students with a diploma of associate engineer (DEA) or bachelor of technology (B-Tech), said Ali Majid, LONGi General Manager in Pakistan, in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

Majid noted, there is a skill “gap” in fresh engineers as they are “good at designs but there was a gap for execution across the market.”

Such courses, says Majid, will fill the skill gap and make newly graduated engineers skilled labour, technicians, and associate engineers who are currently in high demand in Pakistan. “...Through these courses, they have hands-on experience. Then we offer them jobs,” Majid said.

While talking to Gwadar Pro, Faiz Bhutta, CEO of ETRC, revealed that another similar training programme is also in the pipeline. “In the same way, we have to train female [students], and there are 50 females who will be trained,” the CEO said, adding that “this is basically a collaboration-based programme. We will take it to KPK, Islamabad, and also Karachi.”

As per Majid, future training sessions will take place in more Pakistani cities and also be extended to more majors including Bachelor of Science in engineering (BSE).

“I am very thankful to them [LONGi and ETRC] from the bottom of my heart that they have been working for the solar industry for many years and they are training other engineers. Knowledge increases by sharing with others.

This is an example in front of us,” Muhammad Rana Abbas, president of the Pakistan Solar Association said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1002898/chinas-leading-firm-offers-training-on-solar-energy/>

Dawn News

Chinese national day celebrated

LAHORE: An impressive ceremony was held by Understanding China Forum to celebrate the Chinese Moon Cake Festival and National Day of China at a local club here on Sunday.

Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren was the guest of honour on this occasion.

The mid-autumn festival, also known as the Moon Cake Festival, is a traditional event in the Chinese culture. The history of the festival dates back to over 3,000 years.

On the occasion, the Chinese consul general said the friendship between Pakistan and China was strong and deep as Pakistan was a brotherly country.

The festival, he said, was the second important festival of China.

Mr Shiren also expressed his deep condolences for those who lost their lives in the recent floods in Pakistan, saying the country suffered great losses during the calamity.

Chairman of the Understanding China Forum and former foreign minister Kurshid Kasuri said that Pakistan always looked forward for best cooperation with China.

Forum's Director Rashid Jahangir appreciated the representation of local Chinese community in the event.

Forum's president Zafaruddin Mehmood, Chinese Deputy Consul General in Lahore Cao Ke and Oulk-Luo, President Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, were also present.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711986/chinese-national-day-celebrated>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese association donates RMB 125 million for flood-hit Pakistan

Beijing: The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) on Sunday donated relief and rehabilitation assistance worth RMB 125 million for the flood victims of Pakistan.

At a ceremony held in Beijing, Lin Songtian, President of the CPAFFC, shared his grief and condolences with the bereaved families. He said that in the wake of the devastating floods, the government and people of China had made a substantive contribution to Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts.

He said that Chinese assistance to Pakistan was demonstrative of its unique friendship with Pakistan and strong people-to-people ties between our two countries.

President Lin highlighted that besides ongoing assistance, China would also play its role in post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development in the affected areas.

Speaking at the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque, lauded timely assistance by the CPAFFC and China's local governments and enterprises for reinforcing Pakistan's ongoing relief efforts for the flood victims.

Recalling that the two countries have always stood together in difficult times, he said that today's ceremony is yet another demonstration of China's solidarity and sympathy with the people of Pakistan.

Ambassador Moin also requested the Chinese government to play a proactive role in Pakistan's economic recovery in the post-flood phase and reiterated Pakistan's strong desire to deepen cooperation with China in areas of green development, climate resilience, and disaster management.

Ambassador Sha Zukang, President of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, and Li Xikui, Chairman of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) also attended the ceremony.

The event was also attended by the leaders of prominent enterprises and charity organizations, media representatives, and senior officials of the Embassy of Pakistan. Senior government officials of many provinces and cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin, Hubei, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang also sent special messages of support and sympathy for Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-association-donates-rmb-125-million-for-flood-hit-pakistan/>

The Nation

PM prepares for all important China visit

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is preparing for an all-important China visit after a seemingly successful visit to the United States where he participated in the United Nations General Assembly session and held important bilateral meetings including those with the US leaders.

His meeting with US President Joe Biden was particularly described as positive. PM Sharif also appreciated the US support amid the ongoing flood destruction in the country.

Just before flying to the US, PM Sharif had attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. On the sidelines of the SCO meeting, the PM held talk with President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin among others.

In those meetings, the sides agreed to enhance cooperation and PM Sharif also pledged to visit China and Russia on the invitation from the respective leaders. These will be very important visits keeping in mind the US tension with both the powers.

In Beijing, PM Sharif is expected to brief President Xi Jinping about the progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects and the flood situation apart from the regional and international situation.

Pakistan-China relations started in 1950 when Pakistan was among the primary nations to recognize the People's Republic of China. Since that point, both nations have set significant significance on the steady extraordinary relationship.

The two nations have routinely traded high-level visits coming about in an assortment of understandings. The PRC has always given financial and specialized help to Pakistan, and each nation considers the other a near key partner.

Sharif has been close to the Chinese leadership. His older brother Nawaz Sharif – a three-time Prime Minister – too enjoyed good ties with Beijing and claims credit for CPEC.

Shehbaz Sharif worked together with China even as the chief minister of Punjab and so many Chinese leaders describe him as ‘Punjab speed’ – referring to his commitment to complete development projects at good pace.

Close aides of PM Sharif say the premier is upbeat about the November visit to China and expects to cement the ties further.

Pakistan and China have several consultations mechanisms including strategic dialogue at foreign ministers’ level, political consultations at foreign secretary/vice-minister level; consultations on South Asia, arms control, counter-terrorism; human rights, peacekeeping, maritime dialogue, border management consultations, and consular affairs.

Pakistan-China defence collaboration forms the backbone of the relationship. The cooperation spans high-level military exchanges, structured defence and security talks, joint exercises, training of personnel in each other’s institutions, joint defence production and defence trade.

The militaries of the two countries have institutionalised three tiers of bilateral consultations to enable close cooperation at all levels. There is an extensive range of cooperation, including joint ventures, for the production of military equipment, aircraft, submarines and tanks. China is also the recipient of the largest number of military training officials from Pakistan.

China is currently Pakistan’s largest single trading partner; while Pakistan is China’s second largest trading partner in South Asia.

Major imports from China include machinery and mechanical appliances, metals, chemical products, mineral ores, plastic scrap and transport equipment. Main exports include cotton yarn, cotton fabric, rice, leather and fish products.

In recent years, the bilateral trade volume between China and Pakistan has increased rapidly with stable commodity structure. However, despite robust investment from China, bilateral trade remains anemic.

China’s imports from Pakistan reflect a downward trend whereas China’s exports to Pakistan are on an upward trajectory. Bilateral trade, which stood at \$ 1.3 billion in 2002, reached \$ 19.08 billion in 2018. Imports from China stood at \$ 12.7 billion and exports from Pakistan to China at \$ 1.85 billion in 2019.s with Chinese.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-26/page-1/detail-5>

September 27, 2022

Daily Times

China, Pakistan, other nations vow to build stable global industrial and supply chains

Several countries including China, Pakistan, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia and Serbia have jointly proposed the ‘Initiative of International Cooperation on Resilient and Stable Industrial and Supply Chains’, with support by Republic of Argentina.

The initiative aims at strengthening the resilience and stability of global industrial and supply chains which will surely help support economic recovery of all countries, ensure the smooth running of the world economy and improve the wellbeing of humanity.

“We are committed to combining efforts with other countries to build resilient and stable global industrial and supply chains, aiming at a community of shared future for global development to address common risks and challenges,” a joint statement by the countries said.

They expressed endeavor to promote openness and inclusiveness, maintain the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization as the cornerstone, contribute to strengthening the security of global industrial and supply chains, and jointly foster a fair, open and predictable market environment for global specialization and cooperation.

They also expressed commitment to deepen technological innovation and cooperation, focus on the trend of technological development, and encourage businesses in various countries to jointly work on technological cooperation, research and development in every part of innovation and value chains at every level, in a shared effort to promote technological progress and industrial development.

The countries pledged to encourage green production and lifestyle, promote green technologies, processes and products to be applied across the board, and endeavour to jointly build green and low-carbon industrial and supply chains, to address a range of challenges confronting humanity, such as climate change, environmental pollution and resource scarcity.

They vowed to explore opportunities presented by digital economy and technologies, leverage the significant role that the next-generation information technologies are playing in driving industrial upgrading and economic recovery, bolster innovation and application of new technologies, contribute to strengthen cooperation on industrial ecology, strive to accelerate the digitalization, network and intelligence of industries, and reform the mode of production.

The countries expressed determination to promote better use of the planet’s resources by key industries, such as integrated circuits, new energies and biomedicine, and strive to support businesses in coordination and cooperation between the upstream and downstream parts of an industrial chain, in a joint endeavour to ensure sustainable supply in key areas.

They committed to promote logistics infrastructure, endeavour to increase energy efficiency of ports around the world, strive to enhance cross-border rail connectivity and to improve international air freight and delivery logistics, promote capacity expansion and upgrading at borders and ports of entry, and make an effort to address choke points in current logistics and transportation, to ensure logistics and transportation throughout supply chains unimpeded.

They expressed endeavour to reduce cost and increase quality and efficiency for logistics, encourage international logistics businesses to facilitate coordination, promote the interconnection and sharing of international logistics information, contribute to the development and mutual recognition of international standards and rules for logistics and supply chains, and strive to facilitate customs clearance at ports of entry, to ensure efficient operations of supply chains.

The vowed to consider the dominant role of businesses in the market, and encourage countries to take into account new challenges confronting businesses and endeavour to provide targeted policy support and skills training in their respective post-pandemic recovery plans, so as to better integrate themselves into global industrial and supply chains. “We ask all countries to join us in an equitable, inclusive and constructive partnership for industrial and supply chains, in a bid to jointly build a beautiful and prosperous world,” the joint statement concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1003261/china-pakistan-other-nations-vow-to-build-stable-global-industrial-and-supply-chains-2/>

China’s exhibition platforms help increase Pakistan’s foreign exchange: Trade Counselor

Pakistan can make active use of the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China International Import Expo in Shanghai, Canton Fair in Guangzhou and other product-specific platforms exhibitions in China to increase its foreign exchange reserves.

This was stated by Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counselor, Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). During the 19th China-ASEAN Expo, which was held from September 16 to 19, the Counselor said, “insufficient foreign exchange reserves has been a very serious problem for Pakistan in the past few years, especially in recent months.

Export is an important means to increase foreign exchange reserves and displaying and selling Pakistani products through exhibitions can effectively promote the popularity and export of products to China and other ASEAN countries.” Pakistan exported a range of distinctive products through the exhibition, such as textiles, carpets, sporting goods, marble, furniture, etc. Muhammad Kamil, a Pakistani exhibitor, said that the Chinese love Pakistani handicrafts so much that they have signed short and long-term contracts with Pakistani exhibitors, many of whom are repeat customers.

Pakistan has been participating in the China-ASEAN Expo for many years. A larger Pakistan pavilion has also been on display for the last two years. Each time, about 20 or more exhibitors participate in Pakistan's national platform and trade development. The signing of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in 2019 allowed 313 more Pakistani products to enjoy duty-free access to the Chinese market. These include textiles including garments, leather and leather products and fish. Muhammad Irfan mentioned that the Consulate General is working on issues related to the export of Pakistani fruits, meat and dairy products to China. He added, "despite travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, Pakistan's exports to China have almost doubled in the past three years. Pakistan's export to China crossed \$2.40 billion in the first eight months of this year, up 6.23 percent year on year. And we still have \$3 billion in potential exports to China."

The Chinese government has given preferential treatment to Pakistani products, but many Chinese consumers are curious to know what kind of products Pakistan can offer. "By building such pavilions at the expo, more Chinese people can learn about Pakistani products, which are of good quality, cost-effective, and from a friendly country to China," the Counselor said. The Counselor further explained, "in the past two to three years, we have been introducing non-traditional Pakistani products like biscuits, sweets and drinks, which are also highly popular with the Chinese customers."

We are also promoting Pakistani mangoes through B2B and B2C linkages. Numerous people in Guangzhou have asked to buy Pakistani mangoes. This year we have started efforts to introduce mango pulp and mango juice into the Chinese market."

Apart from its active participation in the on-site exhibition, Pakistan has opened online Pakistan pavilions on Chinese e-commerce platforms. The Counselor believes that e-commerce is one of the most modern channels to keep and observe the latest developments in international trade. Pakistan's national pavilion was launched at China's e-commerce giant JD.com last year.

"The new phenomenon of selling products to online platforms has been very successful in China and we are trying to promote Pakistan on e-commerce platforms as well," the Counselor revealed that they are also working on some other e-commerce platforms, "in the near future, B2B contacts will also be established through online platforms. In this way, the seller will have a direct contract through the easy commerce platforms to the consumers so that linkages will directly enhance the exposure of exporter, access to buyers over new products and visibility of the products which will help in brand loyalty in future."

At the recent SCO Summit held in Samarkand, China and Pakistan signed cooperation documents in railway, e-commerce and other fields. In this regard, the Counsellor said that Chinese brothers and sisters from all walks of life have extended helping hands to Pakistan in the recent devastating floods that have caused huge damage to the country's infrastructure. China is a global leader in modern railways and it is believed that with China's help, Pakistan can have new trains and good railway tracks.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1003567/chinas-exhibition-platforms-help-increase-pakistans-foreign-exchange-trade-counselor/>

The Express Tribune

ML-I cost may be raised to \$10b

Railways ministry proposes to increase cost of CPEC railway project by \$3 billion

ISLAMABAD: Just two years after its approval, the cost of the largest but stalled project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – Mainline-I – has been proposed to be increased by a whopping 45%, or \$3 billion, to nearly \$10 billion.

The Ministry of Railways has presented the updated cost of the project to the Planning Commission for onward submission to the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) for initiating the approval process, showed documents.

Once cleared by the CDWP, the mega scheme will land in the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) for its nod.

In a pre-CDWP meeting held on Friday, railway authorities could not satisfy the Planning Commission about the reasons behind the 45% increase in cost – even before the start of construction work and finalisation of financing plan, according to government sources.

Ecne had approved the ML-I project in August 2020 at a cost of \$6.8 billion, including a \$6 billion Chinese loan. But the project could not reach the groundbreaking stage due to disagreement over loan terms and China's objections to the cost of the scheme.

Sources said that the Ministry of Railways has now proposed that the cost may be escalated to \$9.9 billion, a surge of over \$3 billion, or 45%. The increase has been proposed for all three packages of the project that are planned to be constructed from 2023 to 2031.

Pakistan and China had signed a framework agreement in 2017 to complete the ML-I project under CPEC as a strategic scheme. However, the last Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government could not convince China and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about starting the construction work.

In April this year, Pakistan again requested China to consider financing the ML-I project, which had a price tag of \$6.8 billion five months ago. The request was made by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Chinese Charge d' Affairs Pang Chunxue.

In April, the Ministry of Railways said "PC-I of the ML-I project was not feasible as costs were not agreeable to the Chinese side", showed the documents.

The ML-I project includes dualisation and upgrading of the 1,872km railway track from Peshawar to Karachi. After floods destroyed the railway infrastructure, early completion of the project has become important to keep the north-south rail network in operating condition.

In March last year, Beijing conveyed its concerns about Pakistan's ability to repay the \$6 billion debt for the ML-I project. China also highlighted the troubling financial condition of Pakistan Railways that did not allow it to take \$6 billion in new debt on its books.

However, it seems that after the likely increase in cost to \$10 billion, it will become more difficult to get the required financing and at the same time convince the IMF to let Pakistan give sovereign guarantees for securing the Chinese loan.

Negotiations to secure the loan have been going on for the last almost three years but so far no conclusion has been reached. The project is facing a delay of almost five years against the original schedule agreed between the two countries.

Sources said the Ministry of Railways proposed that the cost of package-I of the project should be increased from \$2.7 billion to \$3.9 billion. This shows an increase of \$1.2 billion, or 44%.

Estimates for package-II have been proposed to be increased to \$4 billion, against the originally approved cost of \$2.7 billion, showing an increase of 49%.

Similarly, the cost of third construction package is proposed to be increased from \$1.4 billion to \$2 billion, an increase of \$533 million, or 38%.

The cost of skilled Pakistani labour is proposed to be increased from Rs675 to Rs1,800 per day. For the unskilled labour, the wage is estimated at Rs1,200 against the rate of Rs600 per day approved two years ago.

For the Chinese labour, the cost is estimated at \$95 per day, up from \$60. In rupee terms, the per-day cost of the Chinese labour at today's exchange rate will be Rs22420, compared to Rs1,800 for the Pakistani skilled labour.

The Planning Commission has asked the Ministry of Railways to provide per-unit cost breakdown of the total project cost and reasons for the 45% increase within two years.

Three years ago, Pakistan had constituted the ML-I financing committee and since then its nine meetings have been held. The financing committee submitted its final term sheet to China in January 2021 and is awaiting reply, according to government sources.

Pakistan agreed to pay the rate of interest from the earlier proposal of 1% to anything less than 2.38%. It also agreed to accept the loan in Chinese renminbi (RMB) along with the US dollar but China wanted to give 100% loan in RMB, according to the sources. Pakistan wants China to provide loan equal to 90% of the project cost while Beijing has offered loan equal to 85% of the cost. Pakistan has asked for a 25-year repayment period, including a 10-year grace period.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2378795/ml-i-cost-may-be-raised-to-10b>

The Nation

Pakistan Oxygen to set up plant in Rashakai SEZ

PESHAWAR - Pakistan Oxygen Limited (POL) has planned to set up a state-of-the-art plant in Rashakai Special Economic Zone of the premier China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Monday. Pakistan Oxygen Limited is a public listed company, and a leading supplier of medical and industrial gases in Pakistan with a proud legacy of over 85 years. They have 12 operational plants in Pakistan, and are now expanding their operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan Oxygen Limited has planned to invest around \$15 million in this project, which is expected to be operationalised by the end of 2023.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-27/page-4/detail-18>

September 28, 2022

Business Recorder

73rd Founding Day of China celebrated by PCFA KP chapter

‘Pakistan, China are enjoying time-tested friendship as iron brothers’

ISLAMABAD: “Pakistan and China are enjoying time-tested friendship as Iron Brother” this was stated by Zhang Heqing Counselor for Cultural, Education, Sports and Friendship at Embassy of the People Republic of China in Islamabad at a cake cutting ceremony organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) which was graced by KP Minister Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department (LG & RDD) Faisal Amin Gandapur, Minister Irrigation Arshad Ayub Khan, President PCFA Yousaf Ayub Khan and Secretary General PCFA Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani.

Zhang Heqing appreciate the friendly gesture of PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He mentioned that incoming timely Sino-Pakistan Friendship will be for the strengthening and CPEC will bring socio economic development. Zhang Heqing mentioned that celebrating 73rd Founding Day of China by Pakistani friends is heart touching.

The event was also attended by government of KP secretary LG & RDD Syed Zaheer-Ul-Islam, focal person to Chief Minister Kybher Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Khaliq Khan, Director China MOFA Bilal Shah, Director CPEC Mueeb Ahmed from MOFA government of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion provincial Minister LG & RDD Faisal Amin Gandapur extended greeting on behalf of government, Chief Minister KP and appreciate the China help and support during the recent floods and ask for more and more people’s to people’s interaction. He lauded the China’s leadership for bringing out China, out of poverty.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/28/7-page/943681-news.html>

Daily Times

China responds to Blinken's call for Pakistan debt relief

Hours after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Pakistan to seek debt relief from China so that it can more quickly recover from the floods devastations, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that his country was doing all it can to help its 'genuine friend and brother in times of need'. At least 1,600 people have lost their lives while the estimated cost of flood damages and losses stands at a staggering \$28 billion with nearly a third of the country still submerged by the deluge. Pakistan has made similar appeals for "debt swaps for climate action" to other countries.

When asked if China was planning any debt relief for Pakistan, Wenbin during his daily briefing said since the floods hit Pakistan, China has rushed to its aid as its genuine friend and brother in times of need. "The Chinese government has provided 400 million RMB (approximately \$56 million) worth of humanitarian assistance and China's civil society has also lent a helping hand," he said. The Chinese official said that they will continue to do their utmost to help the Pakistani people overcome the floods and rebuild their homes at an early date, adding that the two countries have had fruitful economic and financial cooperation. "The Pakistani people know it best."

Coming down hard on the United States over its criticism, Wenbin said instead of passing "unwarranted criticism against China-Pakistan cooperation, the US side might as well do something real and beneficial for the people of Pakistan". Earlier, Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed US commitment to the people of Pakistan, announcing the additional \$10 million as food security assistance to the already announced \$56.5 million in flood relief and humanitarian assistance. US Spokesperson Ned Price said this is a statement issued following the meeting between Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Washington DC. The spokesperson said "Secretary expressed sorrow over the devastation and loss of life throughout Pakistan caused by catastrophic flooding". Pakistan's Foreign Office said FM Bilawal apprised Secretary Blinken about the devastation caused by the cataclysmic floods with more than 33 million people displaced and a huge loss of lives and livelihoods. He highlighted the relief efforts of the Government and people of Pakistan and thanked the U.S. government for its assistance. The foreign minister said no country could deal with a crisis of this proportion on its own. He emphasized that Pakistan being one of the lowest emitters was ironically one of the most severely impacted by climate change.

The foreign minister said that Pakistan was seeking climate Justice and looked towards its partners to assist us in recovering from this climate induced calamity. FM Bilawal said that Pakistan was committed to building back better, greener and climate resilient infrastructure in areas such as irrigation, communication, energy, agri-technology, and health. Immediate action is required to help developing countries effectively face the climate crisis. The Foreign Minister underscored the historic and growing importance of Pakistan-US relationship in promoting

peace, security, and economic prosperity in the region. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening and broadening its ties with the U.S. particularly in the areas of trade and investment and underlined that both countries were celebrating 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in a befitting manner and were charting a promising and mutually-beneficial roadmap for their future generations.

Secretary Blinken expressed sincere condolences and solidarity with Pakistan over the loss of precious lives and monumental economic losses. He reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to continue cooperating with Pakistan in meeting the challenges of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Secretary Blinken also maintained that, given Pakistan's enormous potential, US private sector would like to invest in Pakistan including in energy sector. The foreign minister expressed the need to assist Afghanistan in averting the humanitarian crisis and underlined that Pakistan would continue to work with the international community to achieve peace, development, and stability in Afghanistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1003927/china-responds-to-blinkens-call-for-pakistan-debt-relief/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC and Prospects of Green Marshall Plan: A Policy Review

Dr Mehmood

The devastating floods in Pakistan have become a global icon of looming climate change symbolism. It has produced havoc in all the provinces and regions of the country. It demolished valuable infrastructures. It ruined cashable commodities, crops, local economies and communities alike.

In this regard, according to official estimates the country has lost more than US\$15-20 billion from the ongoing floods which are indeed a great loss. Therefore the concept of "Green CPEC" should be further streamlined and strengthened.

In this direction, there is an urgent need for green development in the country in which the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can play an important role. It has brought an era of green development through green projects for future generations to have a healthy environment. It is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which promotes the construction of green infrastructure, the development of green technology and green finance.

Moreover, discarding of coal generated energy projects in the BRI projects has further consolidated China's policy maker's persuasions of green development. Therefore, since the energy sector is one of the fastest growing and most fruitful areas of cooperation under the CPEC which should be further regularized for achieving the desired goals of green energy development in the country which would have serious impacts on the climate change ratios in the country.

It seems that cooperation between the two countries in the field of clean energy has been continuously strengthened by completing five wind power projects, one solar power project and one hydropower project, besides three hydropower projects under construction.

Moreover, various research papers and publications clearly indicate that the green development of the CPEC is on the rise which has facilitated to increase the local employment and technical education in Pakistan and also enhancing Pakistan's green and sustainable development capacity. It seems that China is ready to make use of its experience and technology in related fields to assist Pakistan to realize its vision for green development.

China and Pakistan have jointly taken an important step. A state-of-the-art weather monitoring station was established in Peshawar in August 2022 by The Belt and Road lidar Network. Pakistan already has a weather forecasting system which is utilized as much as possible, and now the station has been installed with the latest equipment.

In this regard, while addressing to the 77th session of United Nations General Assembly the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif urged the world leaders to come together and “act now” to deal with the issue of climate change.

The Prime Minister narrated colossal human and collateral damages due to climate change which resultantly melted glaciers fast, burnt forests produced unbearable heat waves (53 degree C), made the country the hottest place on the planet.

The Prime Minister said this calamity has pushed some 11 million people below the poverty line, while others will drift to cramped urban shelters, leaving little room for climate-smart rebuilding.

The floods have produced huge swathes due to which 1/3 part of the country is still under-water, submerged in an ocean of human suffering. 33 million people, including women and children are now at high risk from health hazards, with 650,000 women giving birth in makeshift tarpaulins.

On the other hand the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari strongly urged to have a Green Marshal Plan to mitigate the spillover socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic ramifications of the climate change. He attended the Closed-Door Leaders' Roundtable on CoP-27 on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

To conclude, climate change has become an existential threat for all nations and peoples. Its implications are now becoming more pronounced, frequent and severe. Pakistan is facing the brunt of natural calamities in the form of heat waves, glacial outbursts, droughts, torrential rains and unprecedented monsoons, causing both human and economic losses because of greenhouse gas emissions.

It is the need of the hour to take advantage of the Chinese experience which has already turned flood into a resource by using their latest technologies. Bilateral cooperation in weather monitoring should be established as soon as possible by using equipment and glacier melting

equipment which can monitor glaciers melting and conduct satellite imaging. China can help not only in flood control, but also in agriculture, such as crop pattern optimization.

Moreover, serious issues of smog in metropolitan cities may also be resolved with the help of China which has controlled the pollution in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Further complete transformation of living lifestyles is the need of hour. Common use of electric vehicles, air purifiers, and energy-saving lamps must be commonly utilized.

Pakistan has almost more than three thousand glaciers in northern areas. Since mid-June 2022, Pakistan has been drenched by extreme monsoon rains that have led to the country's worst flooding in a decade, and had many losses of precious lives and infrastructure. Therefore bilateral glaciers study should be started as soon as possible.

The flood water brings good fertile alluvial soils, which can help improve agriculture. Therefore, the Chinese concept of "Sponge City" should be promoted in which the water is absorbed in the soil through leakage. The Sponge city model, which is also called green development interventions and green infrastructure, is used for flood control with enhanced ecological infrastructure and drainage channels. Hopefully this model can help Pakistan eliminate two pressing problems: flood and drought.

Such a model can also be used to tackle the volatility of rainfall brought by climate change.

Pakistan needs to utilize that water through rainwater collecting techniques to reduce the damage and use the rainwater in some other areas like in the agriculture sector as a substitute.

Undoubtedly, China's generous investments under the CPEC supported the development of infrastructure and introduced alternative energy sources. The success of the CPEC has become a milestone for Pakistan, which would provide a foundation for the development in the decades to come. In this connection, the country should join hands with China for colossal cooperation to initiate more green development projects under the CPEC for future generations.

CPEC projects should also take environment, ecology, and biodiversity into consideration to combat the looming threat of climate change. The green development of the CPEC is crucial because Pakistan has witnessed the unprecedented challenges of extreme climate events in recent years in the form of flash floods and heat waves.

There is an urgent need to build a countrywide Climate Wall in the country in which all stakeholders and political parties should work by rising from their self-defined egos, glorifications and gratifications. A rigorous plantation national campaign must be compulsory in the country.

Cooperation in glacier study, forest fires, natural disasters control system, drone plantation, rescue and rehabilitation system between China and Pakistan is the need of the hour. Last but not the least, green development in CPEC Phase-II would be a strategic value addition in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-prospects-of-green-marshall-plan-a-policy-review-by-dr-mehmood/>

Extension of CPEC to Afghanistan: Prospect and Opportunities

Mir Sher Baz Khetrani

In August 2021, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan created challenges as well as opportunities for regional countries, especially China and Pakistan.

They were worried about the future security situation in Afghanistan and its spill-over into the neighbouring regions in both countries.

After its irresponsible and tumultuous withdrawal, the US seized Afghan's whopping assets of \$7 billion which further plunged the country into soaring inflation, starvation, unemployment and a growing brain drain.

The pertinent questions are raised here. How will China and Pakistan cope with the foreseen challenges emanating from Afghanistan? Will the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan become a harbinger of prosperity and connectivity for China, Pakistan and the region?

As the saying goes that "every challenge creates an equal opportunity". Though the US abandoned Afghanistan in hot water, there are innumerable opportunities for both China and Pakistan in the war-torn country.

Beijing after the US withdrawal has been actively engaged in humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and sent aid worth 200 million Yuan, including the corona vaccine and food supplies.

Moreover, the Chinese are interested in extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan with support of Pakistan. Presently, both countries are thoroughly cognizant of the fact that the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan would be instrumental in promoting economic prosperity in Afghanistan and regional connectivity in South Asia.

Extension of CPEC to Afghanistan was brought under the consideration by China's special envoy on Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at the Foreign Office in Islamabad.

Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid clearly states that "China is our most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country".

Ostensibly, the US swift withdrawal has left a vacuum that would certainly be filled by China. With the support of Pakistan, Beijing will leave no stone unturned to make a stable Afghanistan proving to be essential for the interest of the whole region.

Most of the superpowers invaded Afghanistan for their vested security interests and subsequently left war-torn Afghanistan once their interests met.

Unlike previous regional and superpowers, China eschews political and military interference and espouses the path of a win-win situation through economic alignment and regional connectivity with the outside world. For instance, Beijing is interested in long-term investment in regional countries including Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asia.

China has its flagship CPEC program in Pakistan while planning to invest \$400 billion in Iran as well as \$250 billion in Central Asia. With Afghanistan's key geographical location, Beijing is committed to connecting Afghanistan with every regional country.

Yao Jing who remained a former Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2016 articulates that “without Afghan connectivity, there is no way to connect China with the rest of the world”.

China's preoccupation with the natural resources of Afghanistan is extremely unlikely to be ruled out.

Afghanistan according to the Internal US department of defence memo is the “Saudi Arabia of lithium” blessed with approximately \$1trillion of lithium.

The usage of lithium is believed to have been surpassing the usage of oil in the era of science and technology. The extension of CPEC and Chinese expertise in the capitalization of lithium is a need of the time for Afghanistan.

The Taliban government, on the other hand, is willing to improve ties with China, Russia and Iran. These three countries including Pakistan are crucial regional players, arguably, paving the path to a regional bloc in the region.

The overlapping convergence in the national interests of the regional countries is conceived to be a harbinger for the success of CPEC in Afghanistan. Afghanistan till 2016 was not a part of the Belt and Road Initiative BRI due to security concerns amid Global War on Terror (GWOT).

Kabul in 2016 inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China. Beijing and Kabul agreed on numerous projects of the BRI. The extension of CPEC to Afghanistan will further enhance the political and economic dividends of Kabul.

And the inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC would enhance regional connectivity as Afghanistan remains a gateway to Central Asian states and the West Asian Corridor.

Consequently, Afghanistan has a great deal of potential to serve China's interests. In this regard, China's expertise under CPEC will change the destiny of Afghanistan.

Apart from its geographical location, Afghanistan always remained attractive to global and regional players under its natural resources.

The former mines minister of Afghanistan stated that the country had nearly US\$3 billion in natural resources encompassing, ore, lithium, rare earth, natural gas, uranium, chromium, coal, bauxite, lead, zinc, iron ore, marble, Sulphur and travertine.

According to the Internal US department of defence memo, Afghanistan is the “Saudi Arabia of lithium” blessed with approximately \$1trillion of lithium. The usage of lithium is believed to

have been surpassing the usage of oil in the era of science and technology. Chinese expertise in extracting natural resources would help in the economic development of Afghanistan.

With China's economic alignment policy, Afghanistan under the Taliban regime has the opportunity to engage Beijing in the economic development of the war-torn country.

Chinese investment and expertise in extracting mines would create economic prosperity by earning economic capital and jobs for the locals.

Therefore, the inclusion of Kabul in CPEC certainly proves to be the harbinger of prosperity and development for the people of Afghanistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/extension-of-cpec-to-afghanistan-prospect-and-opportunities-by-mir-sher-baz-khetran/>

The Nation

First phase of Rashakai Economic Zone to be completed in December

ISLAMABAD-The first phase of the development of Rashakai Economic Zone has entered its final stages and will be completed in December, said a senior official.

While talking to WealthPK, Ahsan Laiq, Acting Manager at Rashakai Estate Office, said work on the first phase started in 2021 and has now entered the final stages of its completion. "Development work on Rashakai Economic Zone was divided into three phases. The first phase involved developing 350 acres of the total 1,000 acres of land allotted for the zone," he said. In the first phase, infrastructure was to be developed. Infrastructure development represents the most important step in the development of any economic zone, because it is the hard structure essential for the initiation of economic activity. "Almost 90% of the electricity grid has been completed. The total allocation of electricity to Rashakai Economic Zone is 10MW. Power pylons have also been erected for distribution of electricity throughout the zone. The final connection of poles through electricity wires will be completed before December," he said.

Ahsan said a sewerage network has also been laid down in the economic zone. He said the main road of the Rashakai Economic Zone has also been laid down completely. "Here instead of charcoal black-top variant, concrete roads have been laid down. Due to industrial activity, there will be a lot of heavy traffic with trucks full of goods moving around. Normal roads do not have the capacity to handle such heavy traffic. Therefore, concrete roads have been laid down to prevent the deterioration of infrastructure in the future," Ahsan said.

To provide convenience to investors, a reception building at the entrance of the zone has also been completed. It will get operational before the end of this year. A private bank has also started functioning there to serve the incoming investors. The bank and the reception are housed in the administration building which will be responsible to manage the whole economic zone. The administration building is also complete.

“Some big names have already lined up to start operation in Rashakai Economic Zone. They include Century Steel from China, Pakistan Oxygen and Dawn Bread,” he said. In addition to these big names, he said, a few small ones have already started their operations in Rashakai Economic Zone. Ahsan said Rashakai Economic Zone has been marketed in various events in Beijing and also in Pakistan so that investors can get knowledge about the development opportunities there.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-28/page-9/detail-4>

Pak-China friendship termed unprecedented

Peshawar-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Irrigation Arshad Ayub said that the friendship between Pakistan and China is unprecedented.

The friendship between Pakistan and China is greater than the friendship between any two neighbouring countries. The relationship and friendship between the two countries cannot be described in words. Pakistan and China have deep political relations and the journey of meaningful economic relations is also a significant chapter in history.

China has played a significant role in the economic development of Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing the ceremony organized by Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding the 73rd founding day of the People’s Republic of China.

Cultural Consular of China Mr Zhang Heqing, Provincial Minister for Irrigation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arshad Ayub, Minister for Local Government Faisal Amin Gandapur, Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Yosuf Ayub, Secretary General Ali Nawaz Gilani and Bilal Shah Director.

Final vote count in Donetsk referendum ends in favor of joining Russia

China MOFA Pakistan and others participated. Speaking at the ceremony, the speakers said that the relationship of trust, confidence and mutual respect between Pakistan and China is a story of love and sincerity. Many changes took place in the world but China has always stood by Pakistan like a rock.

At the global level, China has fully cooperated with Pakistan and has always supported its position. Be it war or peace or any natural calamity, China has supported Pakistan like a sincere friend.

Cultural Consular of China Mr Zhang Heqing, Provincial Ministers Arshad Ayub, Faisal Amin Gandapur, President of Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Yusuf Ayub, Secretary General Ali Nawaz Gilani celebrated the 73rd founding day of the People’s Republic of China and cut the cake.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Sep-2022/pak-china-friendship-termed-unprecedented>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 12

راہداری کو کامیاب بنانے کی جی ہے جس کے لئے تعمیر کے کھنڈ پہلوؤں کو ہم آہنگ کرنا چاہئے۔ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی میں پاکستان انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف چائلڈ اسٹڈیز کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر فضل الرحمن نے مکالمے کے دوران کہا کہ یہ ایک منصوبہ ایک تاریخی اقدام ہے جس سے ملک میں سرمایہ کاروں کو راغب کرنے، روزگار اور مقامی افراد کو کاروباری مواقع ملنے کے

سی پیک اسٹریٹجک تعاون کی شراکت داری کا عکاس ہے چینی سفارتکار

سی پیک منصوبے سے سرمایہ کاروں کو راغب کرنے اور لوگوں کو کاروباری مواقع ملنے کے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کیلئے ایئر روڈ انشٹی ایئر (بی آر آئی) کا ٹیک شپ منصوبہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان برہم کے حالات میں اسٹریٹجک تعاون کی شراکت داری کا عکاس رہا ہے۔ یہ بات معروف چینی اسکالر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر داگنگ ای وے نے ایک بین الاقوامی ذرائع ابلاغ کے مکالمے میں کہی جس کا موضوع تھا "گزشتہ دہائی میں چین پاکستان تعلقات کی ترقی میں بی آر آئی کا کردار"۔ مکالمے میں سی پیک کے حقیقی منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے سماجیوں، اسکالرز، ماہرین اور ماہرین تعلیم کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ اہم مقرر پائیدار ترقی (باقی صفحہ 6 بتیہ نمبر 12)

Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=International / Local News&Date=2022-09-28

Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2022-09-28

September 29, 2022

Business Recorder

\$10bn may be sought from China during PM's visit

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to seek \$ 10 billion financial support from China as additional Balance of Payment (BoP) support, draw China's unutilized IMF SDRs and refinancing/rollover of commercial loans, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) has constituted a 21-member high level Working Group to coordinate and oversee preparation for Prime Minister's upcoming visit to China during which nearly three dozen projects/MoUs would be discussed/signed, the sources added. The constitution of Working Group is as follows: (i) Advisor to Prime Minister on Establishment, Ahad Cheema (Convener); (ii) SAPM on Government Effectiveness, Dr. Jehanzeb Khan (Co-Convener); (iii) Tariq Fatemi-SAPM (Member); (iv) Zafaruddin Mahmood-SAPM (Member); (v) Secretary, Foreign Affairs (Member); (vi) Secretary Finance (Member); (vii) Secretary Interior (Member); (viii) Secretary Commerce (Member); (ix) Secretary Communications; (x) Secretary, PD&SI (Member); (xi) Secretary Power Division (Member); (xii) Secretary Petroleum Division; (xiii) Secretary Railways; (xiv) Secretary Industries and Production (Member); (xv) Secretary Economic Affairs (Member); (xvi) Secretary National Food Security and Research (Member); (xvii) Secretary Board of Investment (BoI) (Member); (xviii) Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) (Member); (xix), Chairman NDMA

(Member); (xx) Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP); and (xxi) Director General (China), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)(Member).

The Terms and Reference (ToRs) of the Working Group shall be as follows: (i) coordinate and seek inputs/updates from various ministries/Division and relevant government entities on various CEPC initiatives including infrastructure projects, trade and investment related initiatives, financial support proposals, security measures to ensure protection of Chinese personnel and projects and other relevant bilateral issues;(ii) finalize each of the projects/trade/investment/financial proposals and firm up recommendations; and (iii) include/consider any other relevant agenda item not included in the outcomes.

The Working Group shall hold meetings and submit a comprehensive report for consideration of the Prime Minister by October 15, 2022.

The Working Group shall finalize recommendations on the following 28 major infrastructure including CPEC projects/agreement to be considered/signed during the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister: (i) agreement on financing of ML-1 and commencement of tendering ;(ii) payment to the CPEC IPPs and establishment of revolving account; (iii) Chinese investment to upgrade Pakistan's power transmission and distribution system; (iv) financial closure of Azad Pattan, Kohala, Thar Block power projects; (v) Karachi Circular Railway (KCR); (vi) realignment of KKH Thakot-Railkot; (vii) construction of Babusar Tunnel; (viii) convening of 11th JCC meeting; (ix) attracting investment in solar power parks and solar panel manufacturing; (x) expediting development of CPEC SEZs to mobilize investment in targeted sectors; (xi) improved incentives for industrial relocation from China to Pakistan; (xii) expansion of bilateral trade through increased market access for Pakistani exports including cement, clinker, agri goods, etc; (xiii) establishing a green channel/setting up FMD-free zone in Pakistan (including Gwadar); (xiv) establishment of border trade and transit facility between Xinjiang and Gilgit-Baltistan at Khunjerab border; (xv) business and investment conference; (xvi) corporate meeting of the Prime Minister with leading Chinese enterprises and financial institutions; (xvii) development of mining/petrochemical industry in Gwadar; (xviii) additional Balance of Payment (BoP) support; (xix) draw China's unutilized IMF SDRs; (xx) refinancing/rollover of commercial loans (approximately \$ 10 billion); (xxi) enhanced measures for security of Chinese personnel projects and instructions in Pakistan; (xxii) prosecute/punish perpetrators of terrorist attacks targeting Chinese at Dasu, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, Karachi University; (xxiii) package for post-flood rehab and reconstruction; (xxiv) desalination/water treatment system for Karachi; (xxv) establishing TVET centres for skills development; (xxvi) preparations to celebrate 2023 as "decade of CEPC" (xxvii) Chinese support for climate change mitigation, capacity building, and improving infrastructure resilience; and (xxviii) signing of agreements/MoUs.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/09/29/1-page/943733-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese citizen killed in ‘targeted attack’

In a targeted attack in Karachi’s Saddar area, a Chinese national was killed while two others were injured, police officials said on Wednesday. Speaking at the scene of the crime, SSP South Asad Raza told reporters that one person was killed and two people were injured who were shifted to a hospital for treatment. He confirmed that the three were Chinese people. He said at around 4:05pm, an unidentified person posing as a patient came to the private dental clinic of Dr Richard Hu near Preedy Street and sat in the waiting area for tooth treatment. “After about 15 to 20 minutes, he entered the clinic area and opened fire on Dr Richard Hu, his wife Mrs Phen Teyin and Ronald Raymond Chou with a 9mm pistol,” he said. “The assailant was wearing a red cap and was clad in dark blue trousers and shirt,” Raza elaborated, continuing that the suspect managed to escape from the crime scene with help of his accomplice who had parked his motorbike around the corner of Preedy Street towards M.A. Jinnah Road. As a result of the firing, Dr Richard and Phen Teyin sustained bullet injuries, while Ronald, who was their employee, passed away on the spot.

“Reportedly, Dr Richard H is running a private clinic in this area of Karachi for more than 40 years and the three victims held dual nationality of China and Pakistan,” the official added. Raza said that the police responded to the emergency in time and cordoned the area for the collection of evidence. “The CCTV of the clinic and nearby shops have been obtained and is being processed for identification of the assailant.”

Geo-fencing of the area was also undertaken to obtain important clues about the incident, he said. The investigation of the incident will be carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Department. “At this stage, the motive of the incident remains unclear whether the victims were targeted owing to personal reasons or it was a terrorist attack,” opined SSP Raza, adding that further investigation was underway.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said at around 4:38pm, Ronald Raymond Chou, 32, was brought dead to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. He had suffered two fatal bullet injuries on his neck and back.

Dr Syed said that two others – a man and a woman – were taken to the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre in an injured state. The police surgeon said the condition of both the injured foreigners was critical as they had suffered bullet wounds in their abdomen.

Both were provided initial treatment at Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre and after completion of medico legal formalities, she said, adding that they were later shifted to the Aga Khan University Hospital for further treatment.

Asif, a neighbour of the Chinese couple who also owns a clinic in the area, said that the injured couple had children who live abroad, while Dr Hu’s brother, who is also a dentist, runs a clinic in

another area of the city. Meanwhile, the deceased man working as a “cashier-receptionist” was also a relative of the couple, he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1004618/chinese-citizen-killed-in-targeted-attack/>

Online Chinese culture talk series launched

China Cultural Center in Pakistan launched a series of lectures on “Online Chinese Culture Talk”.

The first lecture, “Living Transmission” by Yuan Li, researcher at Chinese National Academy of Arts, provided a new window for Pakistani netizens to learn more about the profound Chinese culture.

In his lecture Yuan Li gives an in-depth introduction to the preservation, protection, inheritance and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage in China, especially the important role that the “living inheritance” method of intangible cultural heritage plays in the development of civilization.

In the long history, the Chinese nation has created a rich and splendid material cultural heritage and precious and colorful intangible cultural heritage. These tangible and intangible cultural heritages are historical witnesses of the development of Chinese civilization and cultural resources of great value.

There are twelve lectures in total which includes “Living Transmission” by Yuan Li, researcher at the Chinese National Academy of Arts, “Chinese language, characters and culture” by Professor Shi Dingguo, professor at Beijing Language and Culture University, “Gallantry in Tenderness: The Momentum and Spirit of Chinese Wushu” by professor Meng Tao, associate professor at Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, “Appreciation of Peking Opera Art” by Zhang Jianguo, “Chinese Literature and the World – a brief history on the Mergence of Foreign and Chinese Literature” by Lu Jiande, eminent scholar and research fellow in the Institute of Literature at CASS.

Other lecture series include “Get to know China through a few iconic dishes” by Chen Xiaoqing, “Bronze Culture and Chinese Civilization” by Peng Lin a senior Professor at Tsinghua University, “Spring Rain at Dusk: Telling the Story of Chinese Medicine” by Doctor Song Ping from China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. “Chinese Clothing: Its Past and Present” by Chu Yan, an associate professor of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, “The Art of Traditional Chinese Architecture” by Liu Tuo, architect researcher at the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

“China’s Tourism Resources and Industry Development” by Jiang Yiyi, Director of the Leisure Sports and Tourism School, Beijing Sports University. “The Chinese way and the Belt and Road Initiative – a Civilizational State Perspective” by Zhang Weiwei, a famous scholar of China.

The lectures cover a wide range of cultural fields, including philosophy, cultural heritage, literature, art, costume, cuisine, sports, Chinese medicine, etc. This lecture series will introduce you to the Chinese culture seen from different aspects.

It is understood that the “Online Chinese Culture Talk” is a Chinese and foreign ideological and cultural exchange event organized by China Cultural Center in Pakistan, which brings together the best and the brightest, aiming to continuously strengthen the exchange, dialogue and mutual appreciation between China and other countries in the field of ideology and culture by organizing high-level cultural lectures and academic exchanges. The lecture series were launched on 21 September and continue until mid of October 2022 which will also be promoted simultaneously on social media such as the China Cultural Center in Pakistan Facebook page, WeChat, Channels, and its Director’s Twitter handle.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1004573/online-chinese-culture-talk-series-launched/>

COPHC set to bring 50 more Chinese firms to Gwadar Free Zone: official

The China Overseas Ports Holding Co. (COPHC) is all set to bring 50 more Chinese companies to Gwadar Free Zone in a year or two, an official told Gwadar Pro.

The official said that the 60-acre Phase I of the Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) had already attracted 38 Chinese and 12 Pakistani firms. The North Free Zone (Phase II of the GFZ) has also been fully developed and two Chinese firms have already started construction activities there. “We are all set to bring 50 more companies to the North Free Zone within a year or two”, the official said. The Chinese companies coming to Phase II are large and prominent enterprises, which will give a big boost to industrialisation in Gwadar, he added.

The official, however, highlighted the scarcity of water and electricity in the port city as an impediment to future development. COPHC is doing everything in its capacity to end the two major problems, he said. “We have already installed a desalination plant of 1 million gallons per day capacity, which we intend to enhance up to 5 million gallons per day in next 5-8 years. Also, we are ready to provide 5 megawatts of electricity from our 15MWs thermal power plant to the residents of Gwadar”, he said.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan government is spending Rs2.5 billion on a 1 million gallons per day desalination plant in the city. However, the water and electricity problems require much more to be done on the part of the provincial and federal governments to accelerate development in Gwadar, he said. The federal government is connecting the port city with the national grid through a 550 kilometres long transmission line. However, “in our opinion, a localised solution will be the best to end the electricity outages on a permanent basis”, the official said. He was also accompanied by a senior official of a Chinese firm investing in the North Free Zone. The official said that COPHC had been able to resolve various issues faced by the Chinese investors including the registration and arrangement of the NOCs. The government has established a Customs office at the China Town, a residential facility for Chinese investors, and a desk of Pakistan Single Window (PSW). The visa issues have also been largely resolved, he said while

urging the government to fast-track the projects to resolve the issues pertaining to water and electricity. COPHC is the operator of Gwadar Port and developer of Gwadar Free Zone.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1004665/cophc-set-to-bring-50-more-chinese-firms-to-gwadar-free-zone-official/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan seeks Chinese investment in SEZs

Envoy says establishment of SEZs flagship initiative to attract FDI

SHANGHAI: Pakistan has one of the most attractive free trade and investment regimes in the world and is likely to be the most open economy in South Asia, remarked Pakistan's Consul General in Shanghai Hussain Haider.

Speaking at the Punjab (Pakistan)-YRD Region (China) webinar on "Investment opportunities in targeted SEZs of Punjab" on Tuesday, the consul general highlighted that the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was a flagship initiative of Pakistan government to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

"Pakistan attaches high importance to its trade and investment relations with China, which is the largest source of FDI into Pakistan. We hope to create better understanding of the investment environment among our Chinese friends," said Haider. The event was jointly organised by the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai.

PBIT CEO Jalal Hassan, in his opening remarks, elaborated that there were 10 SEZs in Punjab and more economic zones were in the pipeline. He believes that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the utmost priority of the government and the people of Pakistan equally. "We must also consider preparing a policy on green investment under CPEC as Pakistan will be busy in post-flood rehabilitation work for the next couple of years."

PBIT Head of China and South East Desk Sohail Qadri maintained that Punjab's SEZs were the hubs for key industrial sectors such as textile, agriculture and food processing.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2379164/pakistan-seeks-chinese-investment-in-sezs>

The News

Suicide bomber who targeted Chinese at KU was brainwashed by husband, says IO

Yousuf Katpar

Karachi: The administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts (ATC) has accepted a charge-sheet filed by the investigation officer (IO) in the case pertaining to the suicide blast at the University of Karachi that killed three Chinese teachers and their local driver in April this year.

The IO charge-sheeted Shari Hayat Baloch, alias Bramash, the female suicide bomber who targeted the Chinese tutors, her husband Habitan Bashir, commanders of the banned Balochistan Liberation Army's (BLA) Majeed Brigade and their facilitators.

Habitan, the Majeed Brigade commanders – Bashir Zeb, Captain Rehman Gul, and Khalil Ahmed, alias Waja – and a BLA man, Mir Safeer, have been shown as absconders who are living abroad. A person with a code name Zeb and unidentified facilitators have also been placed in the charge sheet's column of the absconding suspects.

Dad Bux, one of the alleged facilitators, has been listed as the only accused currently in judicial custody. Accepting the charge sheet, the judge transferred the case to the ATC-XVI for its disposal according to the law.

In the charge sheet, the IO stated that a video of Shari had emerged online before she blew herself up, wherein she alongside with her two children was seen wearing a suicide jacket covered with a black-coloured embroidered dupatta in a park. In the second part of the video, she can be seen recording a message for freedom of Balochistan in Balochi language.

The woman's video and her husband's Twitter posts provided strong reasons to believe that it was Habitan who not only made her join the separatist organisation but also brainwashed and helped her carry out the suicide attack, the IO said.

The incident could not have occurred without Shari's husband brainwashing and facilitating her, he pointed out.

During the course of the investigation, the officer said he recorded statements of witnesses under the Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and collected evidence, including CCTV footage, samples for DNA profiling and forensic reports.

He said Shari arrived in a rickshaw to the place of the incident from Delhi Colony where she had been staying in a rented apartment.

The IO maintained that he along with a team of forensic experts from Lahore visited the flat as well as the room of a private hotel where Habitan had stayed and collected evidence and recorded statements of the relevant people. He said fingerprints found at the Delhi Colony flat where the suicide bomber stayed did not match with those of any citizen when checked with the National Database and Registration Authority's record.

According to the charge sheet, Bux was arrested during a raid in the Mauripur road area on July 4. During interrogation, he confessed to have conducted reconnaissance at the behest of BLA commander Khalil and shared information with Habitan and commander Zeb. A prosecution witness also picked out the held suspect during an identification parade before a judicial magistrate.

A motorcycle used in the recce, mobile phones, grenades and other important evidence were also seized from his possession.

The IO said he wrote a letter to Nadra requesting it to block the CNICs of the absconding accused, but the authority refused to do so without the relevant court's order. As per intelligence sources and informers, he said, most absconders had moved abroad, particularly Afghanistan, and wanted to damage Pakistan's ties with its neighbour China through terrorist activities.

In the light of the investigation he had carried out thus far, evidence collected and statements of prosecution witnesses, he found the accused guilty of committing the offences punishable under the sections 302 (premeditated murder), 324 (attempt to murder), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), and 34 (common intention), of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) read with the sections 3 and 4 of Explosive Substance Act, 1908, and the sections 7 (punishment for terrorism) and 21(i) (aid and abetment) of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=132699>

China National Day celebrated

Islamabad : “Pakistan and China are enjoying time tested friendship as iron brother” this was stated by Zhang Heqing Counselor for Cultural, Education, Sports and Friendship at Embassy of the People Republic of China in Islamabad at a cake cutting ceremony, says a press release.

The event was organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) which was graced by KP Minister Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department Faisal Amin Gandapur, Minister Irrigation Arshad Ayub Khan, President PCFA Yousaf Ayub Khan, Secretary General PCFA Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani.

Zhang Heqing appreciated the friendly gesture of PCFA Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. He mentioned that incoming timely Sino-Pakistan Friendship will be for the strengthening and CPEC will bring socio economic development. The Chinese senior diplomat Zhang Heqing mentioned that celebrating 73rd Founding Day of China by Pakistan friends is heart touching.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary General PCFA KP mentioned that 73rd National Day and forthcoming 20 CPC will bring good mans for Chinese Nation and region. China is great helping hand for rest of world. There is great need to further understand China. Later souvenir were exchanged and a cake were cut.

The event was also attended by government of KP secretary LG & RDD Syed Zaheer-Ul-Islam, focal person to Chief Minister KP Muhammad Khaliq Khan, Director China MOFA Bilal Shah, Director CPEC Mueeb Ahmed from MOFA government of Pakistan.

Arshad Ayub Khan Minister for irrigation while congratulating Chinese leadership and people's on their forthcoming Founding Day expresses happiness on behalf of peoples of KP and assume that our happiness and all wealth are same and competent each other.

Yousaf Ayub Khan, president PCFA welcome the distinguished guest and hope for further interaction in Education, Sports, Cultural and business developments.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=132535>

Express News

کراچی: چینی باشندوں پر فائرنگ کا مقدمہ درج

کراچی کے علاقے صدر میں واقع ڈینٹل کلینک میں چینی باشندوں پر فائرنگ کے واقعے کا مقدمہ درج کر لیا گیا۔

مقدمہ سی ٹی ڈی تھانے میں ایس ایچ او پریڈی کی مدد سے درج کیا گیا ہے۔

مقدمے میں قتل اور دہشت گردی کی دفعات شامل کی گئی ہیں۔

مقدمے کے متن کے مطابق فائرنگ کا واقعہ گزشتہ روز پیش آیا تھا۔

پولیس کے مطابق فائرنگ میں 1 چینی باشندہ ہلاک اور 2 زخمی ہوئے تھے۔

پولیس کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ جائے وقوع سے 19 ایم ایم پستول کے 4 خول اور 3 سکے ملے ہیں، پولیس واقعے کی تفتیش کر رہی ہے۔

واردات کی سی سی ٹی وی ویڈیو میں کالے کپڑے اور لال ٹوپی پہنے شخص کو فائرنگ کرتے دیکھا جاسکتا ہے۔

پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ فائرنگ سے ڈاکٹر ایچ یو چر ڈاکا ملازم رونالڈ ہلاک ہوا، فائرنگ سے ہلاک اور زخمی ہونے والے افراد کی دہری شہریت ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1141510>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی زرعی کمپنی پاکستان کو ہا ہیر ڈچاول کے بیج عطیہ کریگی

لاہور (این این آئی) چینی زرعی کمپنی پاکستان کو ہا ہیر ڈچاول کے بیج عطیہ کرے گی جبکہ سیلاب سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں مزید تکنیکی ماہرین بھی بھیجیں جائیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا

اظہار چینی ڈومیلپر اور ہا ہیر ڈچاول فراہم کرنے والی چینی کمپنی ووبان چنگٹا بیٹینگ سیڈ کمپنی لمیٹڈ میں پاکستان بزنس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ڈائریکٹر چاوشو شینگ نے ایک انٹرویو میں کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-29/page-7/detail-12>

سی پیک میں ملازمتوں کے مواقع چینی زبان مقبول ہونے لگی

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی زبان پاکستان میں تیزی سے مقبول ہونے لگی، متعدد یونیورسٹیوں میں چائناسٹڈی سنٹرز قائم، اسلام آباد کی نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف ماڈرن لینگویجز میں

کنفیو شس انسٹی ٹیوٹ سرفہرست، طلبہ میں چینی زبان سیکھنے کا رجحان بڑھنے لگا، سی پیک میں چینی ملازمتوں کے مواقع کی وجہ سے طلبہ کی تعداد میں اضافہ، پاکستانی یونیورسٹیوں

کے چینی جامعات کے ساتھ معاہدے ہوئے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-29/page-7/detail-14>

September 30, 2022

Daily Times

Killers of Chinese-origin man funded by India: police

The law enforcement agencies have claimed that India was funding the new separatist outfit which had mounted an attack on the 'soft target' of a dental clinic in Karachi's busy Saddar area, leaving a Chinese-origin Pakistani dead and two others injured. The attack had been claimed by a

hitherto unknown Sindhi separatist group which officials believe could be part of a Baloch-Sindhi separatist terror nexus. A private news channel reported that law enforcement agencies probing the gun attack have made a major breakthrough in investigations. “The separatist group was funded from India,” police claimed. The investigation agencies further claimed that the culprits had chalked out a comprehensive escape plan after attacking the dental clinic. “They also did recce (reconnoitering) and an accomplice of the target killer stood alert with a motorcycle (escape vehicle) ready to flee with the attacker in case of any hindrance faced by the target killer,” the police claimed. Addressing the media after a meeting with industrialists to register workers in Karachi’s Korangi Industrial Area on Thursday, Sindh Inspector General Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon said that they are investigating the matter and gathering necessary evidence and exploring leads.

He added that they were in contact with relevant security agencies over the attack. He vowed to apprehend the suspects soon. Meanwhile, an official disclosed crucial information regarding the case. During his regular press briefing in Beijing on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin was asked about the murder of Ronald Raymond Chou and possible links of Baloch separatist groups to the attack.

Wenbin expressed condolences for the victim and sympathies with the injured. However, he said that irrespective of what his racial heritage may appear to be, the victim was not a Chinese citizen.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1005032/killers-of-chinese-origin-man-funded-by-india-police/>

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

United States (US) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during the first two months of financial year (2022-23), followed by United Kingdom (UK) and China.

Total exports to the US during July-August (2022-23) were recorded at US \$ 1122.883 million against the exports of US \$ 1011.482 million during July- August (2021-22), showing growth of 11.01 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$ 338.240 million against the exports of US \$ 350.983 million last year, showing a decrease of 3.63 percent.

China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US \$ 333.077 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$338.737 million during last year, showing nominal decline of 1.67 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US \$ 302.784 million against US \$265.280 million during last year, showing increase of 14.13 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US \$ 244.90 million against US \$ 251.719 million last year, the data revealed.

During July- August (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US \$257.048 million against US \$198.635 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US \$ 81.795 million against US \$95.672 million. Pakistan’s exports to Italy were recorded at \$197.140 million

against the exports of US \$ 162.227 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US \$211.454 million against US \$148.161 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$144.117 million against US \$ 106.415 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 96.921 million against US \$ 79.806 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US \$ 75.154 million against US \$ 59.874 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at US \$62.972 million during the current year compared to US \$52.698 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US \$74.329 million against US \$ 62.933 million, to Poland US \$ 65.078 million against US \$ 58.833 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at US \$ 50.089 million during the current year against US \$ 49.554 million during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1005200/us-uk-china-top-three-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-in-two-months/>

Chinese entrepreneurs keen to invest Pakistan's SEZs

Pakistan has one of the most free trade and investment regimes in the world and is likely the most free one in South Asia. The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is a flagship initiative of the Pakistani government to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Pakistan attaches high importance to its trade and investment relations with China, which is the largest source of foreign direct investment into Pakistan.

“We hope to enhance the understanding of our Chinese friends about Pakistan's investment environment,” Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai said.

On the Punjab (Pakistan)-YRD Region (China) Webinar on Investment Opportunities in Targeted SEZs of Punjab – jointly organized by Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) and Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai – Jalal Hassan, CEO of PBIT introduced in his opening remarks that there are ten special economic zones in Punjab and more economic zones and enterprises are in the pipeline, CEN reported.

The CEO believes that CPEC is the utmost priority of the government and the people of Pakistan.

He added, “We must also consider trimming a policy on green investments under CPEC as Pakistan will work for the next couple of years on post rehabilitation of Pakistan, which have been severely affected by the floods.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1005201/chinese-entrepreneurs-keen-to-invest-pakistans-sezs/>

China Customs approves import of buffalo embryos from Pakistan

China Customs has approved import of buffalo embryos from Pakistan China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday

Recently, China's General Administration of Customs issued a notice on the quarantine requirements for buffalo embryos imported from Pakistan, stating that China will allow the import of embryos produced by in vitro fertilization (IVF) using oocytes collected from live buffalo ovaries at production units registered in Pakistan through both China and Pakistan.

This means that China and Pakistan have opened a trade channel for the import and export of buffalo embryos, and both countries will make a breakthrough in the process of improving animal husbandry with high-quality genetics. Chinese experience with Pakistani buffalo dates back to 1974 when Pakistan presented China with 50 Nili-Ravi buffaloes, a world-famous breed of river dairy buffalo, as a national gift.

Royal Group is the only listed buffalo milk processing company in China. According to Derek Qin, Director of Overseas Business Department, Royal Cell Biotechnology (Guangxi) Co. Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Royal Cell), the sales volume of buffalo milk in China is about RMB 5 billion.

Royal Group's buffalo milk accounts for about 60 percent of the buffalo milk market in China as a whole.

After joining the "Belt and Road" project pool of China's National Development and Reform Commission in June this year, Royal Cell's "China-Pakistan Disease Free Pasture and Breeding Project" was again included in the first batch of agricultural projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the third meeting of the China-Pakistan Agricultural Joint Working Group held recently.

In October 2020, Royal Group officially launched the "Dairy Buffalo Industry Upgrading Project" and established Royal Cell in May 2021. Royal Cell opened its first buffalo embryo production and research laboratory in Pakistan in May this year.

Currently, the joint venture between Royal Cell and JW Group Pakistan, namely Royal JW Buffalo Industry Company, Ltd., is under registration and the farm construction will start next month.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1005150/china-customs-approves-import-of-buffalo-embryos-from-pakistan/>

Dawn News

No 'debt swap' talks with Beijing yet, says Bilawal

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Thursday that Islamabad had so far not requested a restructuring, deferment or swap of debt owed to China in the wake of the catastrophic floods that hit the country.

Insisting that whenever such a conversation takes place, it would be on Pakistan's own terms, he said that he would like the country to play the role of a bridge between China and the United States, rather exacerbating tensions or "being a geopolitical football".

“What China does — whether it’s with Sri Lanka or Pakistan — that’s totally China’s decision. Just like it’s 100 per cent America’s decision in either of these circumstances,” he said in an interview with Foreign Policy’s Ravi Agarwal, who pointed out that Beijing “hasn’t quite come to Pakistan’s aid in a big way” after this year’s catastrophic floods and that even Sri Lanka wasn’t able to get much help from China in the wake of an economic crisis.

Bilawal went on to say: “Rather than being a point of competition or a venue for these divisions (between China and the US) to be exacerbated, I would like Pakistan to continue to play a role that we have in the past. Pakistan originally played a bridge between China and the US, resulting in diplomatic relations between the two countries.”

“And right now, particularly when we’re drowning in floods, I don’t want to play any part in exacerbating any tensions or being a geopolitical football,” Dawn.com reported on Thursday.

“In this time of great geopolitical division, I would much rather play the role of a bridge by uniting these two great powers around working together for climate change.”

The foreign minister hoped that “perhaps, Pakistan’s unique position as a friend of both the US and China could encourage cooperation on this front”.

Bilawal’s remarks come against the backdrop of China and the US engaging in a war of words over assistance for debt and flood relief to Pakistan to help it cope with the consequences of this year’s deluges.

On Monday, US State Secretary Antony Blinken had called on Pakistan to seek debt relief from China while reiterating Washington’s support to Islamabad in these challenging times.

The remarks had drawn a censorious response from China, whose foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin had called out the US for “passing unwarranted criticism against Pakistan-China cooperation” and urged it to do something “real and beneficial” for the people of Pakistan.

Talking about the history of China-Pakistan ties, he recalled that Islamabad had offered its hand in friendship to Beijing when no one else did. “Now, everybody wants to be friends with China,” he commented, as he went on to elaborate on how China had come to Pakistan’s help in recent times.

Later, in a news conference on Thursday, the foreign minister said that while India and Pakistan should also cooperate to resist climate change.

“Our neighbor is concerned with all the caveats that we have already given. So, in principle, we should cooperate on climate change. Our people are facing the consequences. We should all work together.”

“We should have the moral strength to say that on climate change we should cooperate with India, if we do not work together now, it will affect the entire region, the entire world. We will not have the world that we live in,” he said.

When asked to comment on Secretary Blinken's statement regarding seeking debt relief from China, the minister said that so far, Islamabad had not made any request for debt-restructuring, deferment or swap. "If we have a conversation with China, it should be between Pakistan and China alone, no one else needs to interfere. Engagement with China should continue. Whenever we have this conversation, it will be between us and China. I hope that it does not become a victim of geopolitics."

Anwar Iqbal in Washington also contributed to this report

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1712681/no-debt-swap-talks-with-beijing-yet-says-bilawal>

Education transforms lives, opens new doors: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD: Education not only transforms people's lives but opens new doors and creates strong societies. It is the pathway to socio-economic development of a nation and universities provide both academic and personal experiences.

This was pointed out by Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday as he spoke to participants of a ceremony organised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to send off Pakistani students awarded scholarships to study in Chinese universities under the Chinese Government Scholarship Programme. The programme was launched in 2019 for Pakistani students to study in 289 designated Chinese universities. So far, 193 Pakistani students have been awarded scholarships under this programme, including 40 in 2019, 58 in 2020, 59 in 2021 and 36 this year.

Chairman of the commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed was part of the ceremony alongside HEC Executive Director Dr Shaista Sohail, global engagement advisor Mr Awais Ahmed, Director General (Scholarships) Aayesha Ikram, and HEC and embassy officials.

Addressing participants of the ceremony, Dr Ahmed said that Pakistan and China enjoy long, cordial relations and they have a long history of cooperation. He said Pakistan acknowledges the support China has been extending it at through all testing times.

He underlined that HEC has turned 20 and, during the last two decades, it has worked together with Chinese institutions on different collaborative programmes. He announced that HEC, in collaboration with Chinese partners, will start a one-window operation and set up a web portal as a focal point for all Chinese scholarship opportunities available for Pakistani students so that the country's youth could benefit from them to the maximum.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1712665/education-transforms-lives-opens-new-doors-chinese-envoy>

Pakistan Observer

Joint efforts by US, China must to confront climate change: FM

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday said that in times of geopolitical division Pakistan wants to be a 'bridge by uniting' the United States and China.

The PPP scion's remarks came during an interview with Foreign Policy, where he maintained that Pakistan's "unique position as a friend of both the United States and China" could help encourage cooperation between the two countries.

Dubbing the claim of China not coming to Pakistan's aid in its recent time of need as "absolutely incorrect". He maintained that Islamabad's relationship with Beijing was not new and had long bipartisan roots.

"And I like to say that we wanted to be friends with China when nobody wanted to be friends with China. Now, everybody wants to be friends with China," Bilawal added.

Responding to the interviewer's assertion that the US did not want to be friends with China, Bilawal said that "not everything is about the geopolitical conflict of the United States and China".

He stated that it was "preposterous" and "absolutely ridiculous" that a conversation about US and China relations was occurring while talking about Pakistan's survival and ability to deal with "cataclysmic flooding".

The minister emphasised that climate change could not be confronted if the two superpowers did not work together.

Commenting on Beijing's lack of aid to Colombo during their economic crisis, Bilawal maintained that Pakistan's context was "completely different" and that while the country was going "through a climate catastrophe".

The interviewer argued that Pakistan was going through both an economic and a climate crisis.

"In the sense that was solely an economic crisis of its own dynamics. But as far as what China does—whether it's with Sri Lanka or Pakistan—that's totally China's decision. Just like it's 100 per cent America's decision in either of these circumstances," the minister replied.

He retained that Pakistan would rather continue to play its past role of bridging the gap between the two countries than exacerbate the gap.

"Right now, particularly when we're drowning in floods, I don't want to play any part in exacerbating any tensions or being a geopolitical football," he said.

Regarding the Russia-Ukraine war, the foreign minister was of the belief that the "broad consensus" within Pakistan had declared that the country did not want to be "dragged into this conflict".

<https://pakobserver.net/joint-efforts-by-us-china-must-to-confront-climate-change-fm/>

A broader dimension of CPEC

Dr Muhammad Khan

THE most significant and decisive factor in the interstate relationship of the states is the bilateral trust and mutual respect of each other's sovereignty.

In international relations these aspects are driven by national interests of the states. In the relationship of Pakistan and China bilateral trust and mutual respect of each other's sovereignty have been the defining factors.

Generally, there have been convergences of national interests of both states in many areas. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the latest manifestation of trust, mutual respect and shared national interests with common developmental goals of both countries.

CPEC aimed to drive practical cooperation of both countries for the development of port facility at Gwadar and other projects like energy resources, infrastructure development and industrial cooperation.

The ultimate objective of these projects is economic opportunities for the masses of both countries and other regions of Asian Continent.

Siegfried O. Wolf authored a book entitled, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative: Concept, Context and Assessment".

The essence of this book is that, CPEC is a project of immense significance for Pakistan and China.

The book provides an in-depth analysis of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); the gigantic Chinese project, which encompasses a set of corridors and Maritime Silk route spreading over to three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

The author highlighted the philosophy behind Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and more about the strategy of Economic Corridors (ECs).

The primary objectives of having these economic corridors are to connect China with its neighbours and then other regions and countries beyond Asia.

Contextualizing from history, the ancient Silk Road started during the westward expansion of Chinese Han Dynasty from; 206 BCE to 220 CE.

It forged trade networks passing through contemporary Central Asian Region, Afghanistan, India and today's Pakistan to further south, reaching over to European and African continents.

The BRI is therefore, revival of the old Silk Road and Maritime Route by modern Chinese leadership.

The enormous size of Chinese economy and heavy industrialization warrants new communication corridors and routes in this highly interconnected and globalized world.

Besides, China needs energy resources and raw material in order to maintain its sustained growth and economic development.

The huge industrial base of China lacked the needed energy resources on long-term bases. China is currently importing over 50% of its energy resources from Middle East region and African countries.

Besides, it imports over 30 oil and gas from Central Asian region and Russia. Chinese imports and energy resources from Middle East and Africa have to pass through Indian Ocean region, before entering into South China Sea.

Since Indian Navy is dominating the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), therefore in a future scenario there may be constraints for Chinese trade at the Strait of Malacca; a key point in the Indian Ocean.

Strait of Malacca is a narrow passage of water between the Indonesian island of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.

In 2003, Chinese Government highlighted its vulnerability at Malacca; 'Chinese Malacca Dilemma'.

There have been many studies under Chinese Government and at the level of its think-tanks and universities to find out alternative routes for Chinese trade and energy imports.

Well deliberated findings of all such studies concluded that, in case there is a blockade of Malacca Strait, there are few alternatives routes available to China for its trade and oil imports.

Other available alternatives are either incompatible to take on the weight of modern ships and heavy traffic or else causing heavy expenditures owing to longer routes.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the only secure and guaranteed alternative which can guarantee an uninterrupted flow of Chinese trade and energy resources.

It is shortest route, less expensive and more secure for the sustenance of Chinese energy and trade needs.

Chinese leadership had selected CPEC after years of deliberations while weighing its pros and cons.

President Xi Jinping is the architect of this project, who has been embarked upon the position of life-time President and Secretary General of Communist Party of China (CPC).

From the Chinese perspective CPEC is the most significant part of BRI. The timely completion of CPEC will provide a boost for the completion of other projects and corridors of the BRI.

The Chinese dream for global governance through its soft approach depends a lot on the implementation of BRI and completion of CPEC will be a booster for the BRI.

In a rapidly evolving regional and global security situation, Pakistan holds the key for the continuance of Chinese economic development by providing a secure energy corridor.

Sequel to the development and operationalization of Gwadar Port, completion of CPEC as per scheduled is the real challenge, facing China and Pakistan.

Despite its financial constraints, Pakistan has dedicated two security divisions under Pakistan Army for ensuring security of the CPEC from Khunjerab Pass to Gwadar.

Pakistan and China are well aware of the rival forces which are operating against CPEC. There is a serious level of discomfort at Washington and New Delhi. Both desire to sabotage the project in the realm of power politics.

Some of the regional states of Gulf also oppose the project under the fear of undermining their port facilities, upon completion of this gigantic project of 21st century.

Pakistan theorizes that, CPEC is the initiator of a long-term regional integration between various regions of Asia.

This is possible only once the regional states; energy deficient and energy efficient correctly reassess their future priorities and cooperation.

CPEC is the project for advancing and stimulating the regional and global trade and commerce. In 21st century, economy (trade and commerce) drives the world politics.

The strategic competition and the trade war between Washington and Beijing should not hamper the CPEC, since it is a project of economic benefits for all regional states including; India, Iran, Central Asian and GCC states.

Whereas, CPEC effectively addresses the Chinese Malacca Dilemma, it provides a golden opportunity for the wider integration between various regions and states of Asian Continent.

Now, it is up to the leadership of the Asian states to secure the future of their forthcoming generations through a visionary approach and prudence.

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

<https://pakobserver.net/a-broader-dimension-of-cpec-by-dr-muhammad-khan/>

Target killing of Chinese

IN yet another despicable incident, a Chinese national was shot dead and two others were injured on Wednesday after an unidentified assailant opened fire inside a dental clinic in Karachi's Saddar area.

Both Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah whilst denouncing the incident ordered the investigation be completed immediately and the culprits brought to justice.

We have no doubt in saying that this can only be the work of those elements who do not and cannot see friendship between Pakistan and China growing and achieving new milestones.

This is the reason that time and again they keep attacking the Chinese nationals in Pakistan, especially those engaged in the CPEC project to undermine this relationship.

In April, three Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide attack outside the University of Karachi's Confucius Institute.

In July last year, a bus carrying engineers to a construction site near a dam was hit by a bomb killing 13 people including nine Chinese workers.

Regardless of these incidents, the Chinese side has never halted work on important projects in Pakistan rather also gave the message of collectively fighting such terrorist elements which we believe have the backing of foreign forces.

Indeed, such are the strong bonds between the two countries that these cowardly attacks cannot create cracks in the time tested and all weather friendship.

However, responsibility rests with our authorities concerned to ensure security of Chinese nationals at all costs.

Whilst ensuring that the culprits of the latest incident are apprehended at the earliest, it must be ensured that such an incident does not recur.

Further enhancing cooperation in different fields and completing the ongoing projects at the earliest will be the best slap on the face of terrorist elements.

In fact, our enemy does not want to see Pakistan making forward march on the path of development.

This is why it always tries to hurt our interests. Time has come to not only expose this enemy, the evidence of which has already been submitted with the United Nations in the form of several dossiers, it is also for our authorities concerned to crush the remnant terrorist elements for durable peace in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/target-killing-of-chinese/>

The Express Tribune

China stands with Pakistan in fighting floods

The Chinese government has announced RMB 400 million in emergency aid

Pakistan has been hit by historic floods, displacing more than 33 million people and causing huge loss of life, property and infrastructure. We share the plight of our brothers in Pakistan. The Chinese government and people are very concerned about the flood-relief work in Pakistan. Among the first ones to lend a helping hand, China has committed the biggest amount of assistance among all countries, totaling RMB 644 million (\$90 million). This is another vivid portrayal of the “ironclad” friendship between China and Pakistan. On hearing the floods situation, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang immediately sent condolences to President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif respectively.

The Chinese government has announced RMB 400 million in emergency aid, of which 13,000 tents, 10,000 blankets have already been airlifted to Pakistan. The Chinese military adds another RMB 100 million in aid. Over 10,000 food packages have been distributed by the Communist Party of China through party to party channels. The Red Cross Society of China has provided

urgent assistance of \$300,000 in cash. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has raised cash and relief materials with a total of RMB 125 million, including contribution from sister provinces, enterprises, institutions and individuals. The emergency account for flood relief opened by Pakistan's Embassy in China received RMB 17 million from the Chinese people within these days. I personally flew to Karachi to receive the first batch of tents on August 30. My colleagues and I were quite fulfilled, after intense work, to see the Chinese Air Force's Transport-20 aircraft, carrying humanitarian supplies, land in Pakistan.

Pakistan government's representative, Minister for Power, Mr Khurram Dastgir, shook my hand and expressed his gratitude, saying that China was among the first countries to airlift assistance to Pakistan. Later, I went to Balochistan to deliver food packages, which was widely welcomed by local people. Meanwhile, the Chinese enterprises and overseas Chinese in Pakistan have been actively donating money and materials since August. Some engineering companies took the initiative to help repair roads and bridges in affected areas. The series of assistance from all walks of life in China have shown the love coming from the hearts of the Chinese people, and reflects the profound friendship between our two countries, injecting strong momentum into the relief efforts. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his gratitude to China on many occasions, saying, "China has provided a lot of support and assistance to Pakistan in flood relief at a difficult time, which has greatly boosted the morale of the Pakistani people. This is the embodiment of the unique bond of friendship between China and Pakistan." NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz commented: "China's act of helping out in distress has further elevated the friendship between China and Pakistan." In times of trouble, true love is seen. We will not forget when the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake hit China, the Pakistani brothers took out the last tents in its inventory and sent them to the disaster-hit area in China by military aircraft at the first opportunity.

After the earthquake in Luding, Sichuan recently, China received the first condolences from Pakistani leaders. It is in face of such trials and tribulations that the hardcore friendship between the two countries has endured and grown from strengthen to strength. History and reality have proved that China-Pakistan relations did not develop in a day, nor were they bestowed by others, but were built over a long period of time, with both sides sharing the same hardship and suffering, step by step. China will continue to stand with Pakistan in disaster prevention and control, early warning and monitoring, and post-disaster reconstruction. China is also committed to financial and economic cooperation with Pakistan for its economic stability and prosperity. China will move forward with Pakistan hand in hand, striving to assist Pakistan win the victory in flood relief and making unremitting efforts to build a closer community of shared future between China and Pakistan!

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2379318/china-stands-with-pakistan-in-fighting-floods>

The Nation

Protecting Chinese Nationals

The attack that took place in Karachi's Saddar area on Wednesday, where a Chinese national was shot dead and two others were injured after an unidentified assailant opened fire inside a dental clinic, is part of a formidable dark agenda instigated by non-state actors against Pakistan's foreign policy. These attacks must not be seen in isolation—Chinese citizens have been consistently targeted this year by anti-Pakistan elements. The most notable attack, which sent shockwaves across the country, remains the horrific suicide bombing in the Confucius Institute at Karachi University in May; but there have been several other incidents this year targeting Chinese citizens, amplifying the need to increase protection for workers and those involved in CPEC.

After the first attack in May, China and Pakistan's foreign ministers released statements saying that China and Pakistan were committed to thwarting any attempts, including terrorism instigated by external actors, to undermine bilateral ties, and with regards to the attack on Chinese nationals, both countries would take firm and effective measures to deal with it. Those promises and resolve appear unreliable when these incidents, like the one that took place on Wednesday, continue to happen. This lapse in security seems even more incriminating considering a previous incident of violence against Chinese citizens occurred earlier in the year at the very same place, Saddar, Karachi.

The sole purpose of these attacks is to weaken Pakistan. These consistent attempts to target Chinese nationals and disrupt progress in the country are evidence that a larger game to disrupt the country's development and harm relationships is at play. The authorities must take note of the new insidious ways with which these non-state actors are trying to sabotage CPEC and threaten the stability and peace of the country. We need to invest in better security—and security does not just mean physical guarding forces around foreign residents in Pakistan, but better intelligence gathering and working on eliminating sleeper cells from urban centres.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-09-30/page-6/detail-2>

The News

Pakistan-China agree on early launch of ML-1 project

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Thursday agreed on early launch of much awaited Mainline-1 (ML1) project, aimed at revamping and modernising the country's age-old railway infrastructure.

The agreement was reached between the two countries during a dinner hosted by the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong for Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq here. Railways chairman, additional secretary, secretary aviation and chief executive officer Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) accompanied the minister.

The minister invited the Chinese Ambassador to consider a partnership of budget airlines with PIA in order to make Pakistan's small airports functional and provide better travel facilities to the passengers.

The Chinese ambassador assured the minister to discuss his desired issue with the Chinese private airlines. The envoy also assured of taking initiatives to allow direct flights from Pakistan to Beijing and Guangzhou for Pakistani airlines at the earliest.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=132962>

K2 Daily

چین غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کریگا

بلوچستان کے غریب گھروں کیلئے روڈ کارپوریشن کے پراجیکٹ پر توجہ مرکوز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے

بیجنگ (آئی این بی) چین کا پی ڈی آئی کر جہادی کردہ پی ڈی آئی پراجیکٹ پول میں منصوبوں کو دہائی امراض پر قابو پانے اور انسداد غربت میں پاکستان کی مدد کرنے کا گروپ نے پاکستان کے لیے تین منصوبے مخصوص ہیں، ان کا مقصد پاکستان کو پائیدار ترقی کے اہداف (SDGs) کے حصول میں مدد کرنا ہے۔ چائینا سٹاک ایف کے مطابق پی ڈی آئی کے فریڈ ز گروپ کا وزارتی اجلاس نیویارک میں منعقد ہوا جس میں چین کی طرف سے

جہادی کردہ پی ڈی آئی پراجیکٹ پول میں منصوبوں کی پہلی فہرست کے مطابق گوئیڈڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ ایجوکیشن کے خاتمے میں پاکستان کی مدد کرنے کا پی ڈی آئی پراجیکٹ پول کے مطابق تین منصوبے پاکستان کے لیے مخصوص ہیں اور ان کا مقصد پاکستان کو پائیدار ترقی کے اہداف (SDGs) کے حصول میں مدد کرنا ہے۔

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=International / Local News&Date=2022-09-30](#)

بنیاد 45

کی نقل کیمبرے میں ریکارڈ ہوئی ہے۔ طومر 32 سال مر 5 فٹ 8 انچ قد اور پی ٹی جی جاسٹ کا والدی والا شخص تھا۔ پولیس کے مطابق طومر 3 بج کر 54 منٹ پر صدر میں کلینک کے پاس پہنچا۔ 4 بج کر 6 منٹ تک آپ ایڈوائس کو مٹا رہا۔ طومر 4 بج کر 7 منٹ پر ڈیپل کلینک کے اندر داخل ہوا، کچھ دیر بعد تھوکنے کے لیے پائپر کلا مڑا کر پر تھوکنے کے دوران طومر نے اسکا ہاتھ جس سے اس کی نقل کیمبرے میں ریکارڈ ہوئی۔ پولیس کی ابتدائی تفتیش کے مطابق طومر نے کانوں پر سوپاگل خون کی پینڈ فرمی لگا رکھی تھی اور وہ کسی سے مسلسل رابطے میں تھا۔ پولیس حکام کے مطابق طومر کلینک کے اندر چھ منٹ پہنچا رہا، اس نے 4 بج کر 8 منٹ پر ہاتھ ایم ایم ہسپتال سے گاڑنگ کی سی سی ٹی وی فوٹیج میں طومر کو واردات کے بعد 4 بج کر 10 منٹ پر کلینک سے نقل کر قرار ہوتے دیکھا گیا ہے۔ پولیس حکام نے تباہی کا ایک مٹی ٹائپ کے مطابق طومر کا سماجی اسٹارٹ سوشل میڈیا پر انسٹوریٹس مارکیٹ کے سامنے جہانگیر پارک کے گیٹ پر موجود تھا، طومر بھاگتے ہوئے چپ لگا کر اس سوشل میڈیا پر پہنچا، جس کے بعد وہاں ایم اے جناح روڈ کی طرف فرار ہو گئے۔ پولیس کی تفتیش میں یہ چلا ہے کہ واردات انجام دینے والے طومر نے بیوی جنٹ شرٹ تنگ سوشل میڈیا چلانے والے اس کے سماجی نے فلوئڈ میں اور اسکا یہ ہوا تھا۔

کراچی، چینی باشندوں پر حملہ، ملزم کی شکل کیمبرے میں ریکارڈ

ملزم نے کانوں پر پینڈ فرمی لگا رکھی تھی وہ کسی سے مسلسل رابطے میں تھا، پولیس

ملزم کا سماجی جہانگیر پارک کے گیٹ پر موجود تھا، جناح روڈ کی طرف فرار ہوئے، یعنی شاہد کراچی (این این آئی) کراچی کے علاقے انکشافات کیے ہیں۔ پولیس کی ابتدائی تفتیش کے صدر میں گزشتہ روز چینی باشندوں پر حملہ کرنے کے مطابق ملزم نے ہاتھ مارنے کے حوالے سے پولیس نے ایم ایم اس سے اس (باقی صفحہ 7 بجے نمبر 45)

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page&Date=2022-09-30](#)

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2022-09-30](#)