



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

September 16-30, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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September 16, 2021

Business Recorder

PIA plane airlifts 3m doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China

BEIJING: 50th special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has airlifted three million doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine from Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad. “PK-6853 is the 50th special cargo flight since launch of transportation of Covid-19 vaccine by the national flag carrier,” Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP here on Wednesday.

One August 29, the national flag carriers airlifted around 12 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccines through its four special cargo flights.

He said that the PIA took responsibility of airlifting Covid-19 vaccine and is successfully fulfilling the task.

“Today our 50th special flight left for Islamabad with another batch of vaccine”, he added. Sangi said that under the leadership of its Chief Executive Officer Arshad Malik, the national flag carrier has so far airlifted over 63 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccine through 49 special flights.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/16/2-page/900816-news.html>

Daily Times

Localisation key to success for Pak handicrafts in Chinese market

Localization is key to success for high-end Pakistani handicrafts in Chinese market, says a report published by China Economic Net on Wednesday.

“This design is specially made for the Chinese customers; they like it a lot,” noted Muhammad Kamil Khan, CEO of Pak Link Enterprises, while showcasing the high-end Pakistani handicrafts in the 18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), adding that understanding China’s culture and traditions helps his products make its way into the Chinese market.

Muhammad Kamil Khan added, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world with a wide variety of minerals and marble. Of these precious marbles, the most famous and exclusive one is onyx. “Onyx is a very popular decorative stone that is used to create any number of indoor and outdoor carvings and shapes,” he explained.

How to shine in a foreign market? Muhammad Kamil Khan, who has been in the industry since 2012, got his own key to success. “This is a business rule that if you wanna do business in this country, you have to learn about their culture, like what kind of things they like.”

For instance, “peach symbolizes longevity in Chinese culture, so we made this onyx handicraft in the shape of peaches,” he pointed at a stunning onyx product. Also, in traditional Chinese culture, bamboo has profound cultural meanings beyond its biological existence.

It represents the character of moral integrity, resistance, modesty, and loyalty. “I’m pretty sure bamboo will be less popular in other countries than in China. [So] you need to figure out what they are in, and to localize and customize your products,” Muhammad further said.

Muhammad mentioned, when the situation was good, they were exporting to another country, too. “But now we focus on China because China is a big hub, and its purchasing power is of great potential here.”

The 18th CAEXPO, held in Nanning, capital of South China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, concluded with 179 international and domestic deals, involving over 300 billion yuan (\$46.47 billion). The deal value, up 13.7 percent from last year, was the expo’s highest on record. Like the previous year, Pakistan was participating in the Expo as a special partner country, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/816775/localisation-key-to-success-for-pak-handicrafts-in-chinese-market/>

Pakistan, China sign MoU on publication of classic works

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that an MOU on Mutual Translation and Publication of Classic Works has been signed between China Writers Association and Pakistan Academy of Letters to enhance copyright trades as well as literature exchanges under the Framework of CPEC.

“Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-brothers. Litterateur and writers occupy a pivotal role in further strengthening Pakistan-China friendship, laying the foundation of Community of Shared Destiny between our two nations,” he told China Economic Net. “We are working on more MOUs on book translating. We are also establishing links between major Chinese publishers and Pakistani printing houses,” he added.

Addressing opening ceremony of Pakistan Pavilion at Beijing International Book Fair, he said that there is a natural affinity in the literary trends of Pakistan and China. “Our literature is an apt manifestation of Asian values, a vehicle for highlighting the historical continuity of our civilization and promoting a spiritual and tolerant outlook of our national ethos.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/816755/pakistan-china-sign-mou-on-publication-of-classic-works/>

Pakistan Observer

ASEAN, China, Pakistan cooperation to expand CPEC: Badar uz Zaman

As CPEC has entered the second phase, the new energy cooperation between Pakistan, ASEAN and China will be an unavoidable important agenda of the triangle partnership and will play an important role to further expand CPEC.

This was stated by Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of embassy of Pakistan in China, while talking to Gwadar Pro during the 18th China ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO).

At the 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Pakistan & Bilateral Trade/Investment Forum, a sub-activity of the 18th CAEXPO, representatives of Chinese energy enterprises shared their successful experience of participating in CPEC.

Ren Hongbin, Vice Minister of Commerce of China, also stated that “China hopes that Pakistan will make good use of CAEXPO and other platforms to promote sustained growth of bilateral trade and strengthen cooperation in sustainable development.”

After the forum, Badar said in the exclusive interview: “Thanks to the effort of Pakistan and China, we have completed many projects of energy, which is the major sector of CPEC. Sustainable development is an important global issue.

Pakistan is also focusing on the products and industries related to new energy including solar, hydro, and wind.

In addition to that, we are already working on some industrial products, special economic zones and other projects regarding sustainable development.

Therefore, the second phase of CPEC is a new stage in which we are focusing more on the environment and socio-ecology.”

In order to ensure the sustainable development of CPEC and renewable energy growth under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan and China have taken numerous measures to ensure the projects go ahead.

Ning Jizhe, Director of China’s National Bureau of Statistics, also said during CAEXPO that strengthening international cooperation on environmental protection and jointly tackling climate change will be an important precondition for economic recovery and production capacity recovery in the post-COVID-19 era.

Badar said: “We are complying with all the requirements, all the quality, and all the quarantine and systematic requirements of CDC.

Thanks to the unremitting efforts of the builders from our two countries, the bilateral trade has been increasing, renewable energy projects have been signed and operated normally, and our productive capacity has been developed to cope with the worldwide public crisis”

He also agreed that the tripartite cooperation between Pakistan, China and ASEAN countries is conducive to sustainable development of CPEC. Badar said: “China has Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with both ASEAN and Pakistan.

BRI also provides favorable conditions for the three sides to reach a consensus on low-carbon transformation and renewable energy development.”

During the 18th CAEXPO, China has also shown its consistent positive attitude toward developing clean energy and realizing sustainable development.

Zhang Jianhua, Chairman of China’s National Energy Administration, said: “At present, China’s new energy installed capacity accounts for one third of the world’s total.

China has built the largest power network in the world with the strongest transmission capacity, the highest operational voltage level, the most new-energy interconnection and the best safe operation record.

China has endeavored to work together with BRI countries to push forward the power sector green and low-carbon transition and realize high-quality development, strive for mutual benefit through cooperation based on trust.

China will also actively contribute her wisdom and strength to the sustainable development of BRI countries’ society and economy.”

<https://pakobserver.net/asean-china-pakistan-cooperation-to-expand-cpec-badar-uz-zaman/>

The Nation

Chinese, Russian, Korean companies keen to invest in PSM

ISLAMABAD - International investment companies from China, Russia and Korea have shown keen interest in investing in Pakistan Steel Mills due to its sheer potential and importance in the economy of the country.

Roadshow for Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) with international investors continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday. The renowned national & international investors have shown interest in the revival of Pakistan’s mega industrial corporation. Ministry of Privatisation started conducting roadshows from September 13 with international investment companies, which are from China, Russia and Korea etc. These investment companies showed keen interest in investing in Pakistan Steel Mills.

On the third consecutive day, Wednesday, of the roadshow; a leading Chinese consortium was briefed about the future prospect of this venture and other relevant details regarding the sale of shares in the newly formed subsidiary of PSM through Scheme of Arrangement (SoA). Federal Minister & Secretary for Privatisation responded to their queries along with the financial advisors, senior legal consultants and senior officers of the Ministry. Federal minister told the investors that the response mechanism from the Ministry of Privatisation will be swift, effective

and investors' friendly, all the relevant information will be provided up to the satisfaction of the potential investors. The roadshow will last till 21st of this month, and the participation of investment companies from other countries is also expected in coming days.

Federal minister also chaired a review meeting yesterday. He was briefed about the current status of various transactions and expected dates of completion. The transactions of Jinnah Convention Center (JCC), Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC) are at an advanced level. Federal minister said that it is so encouraging that Prime Minister himself has taken a keen interest in the developments made in the privatisation program and assured in a one on one meeting that he himself will assist to resolve the issues/ difficulties faced by the Ministry at various levels/forums. In the review meeting a detailed plan for the DISCOs was also discussed.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-16/page-8/detail-4>

Speakers condemn propaganda against Beijing Olympics 2022

MANSOOR ALI

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a seminar held under the aegis of Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Wednesday strongly condemned propaganda against the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 and urged the international community not to drag games into politics.

The seminar was attended by Dr Ikram-ul-Haq, Secretary Council of Islamic Ideology, Bishop Nazir Alam, Bishop of Pakistan, Mufti Imran, representative of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F, Ms Reema Shaukat, member Pak- Afghan Youth Forum, Abrar Hussian, Former Ambassador and Vice Chairman Institute of Policy Studies, Allama Tehmeed Jan Al-Azhari, Ghulam Murtaza, Director Peace and Education Foundation, and Dr Qari Abdul Rasheed, Member Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Balochistan Chapter.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ikram-ul-Haq said that Islam encourages sports and sports are an important tool for diplomacy.

Bishop Nazir Alam was of the view that sports can help in creating harmony among different faiths and we Christian community of Pakistan will support the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

Mufti Imran said that religious community will work side by side with the government and we wish well for the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022. Reema Shaukat, member Pak-Afghan Youth Forum, stressed that sports are the cornerstone of Pak-China friendship.

Abrar Hussian told the audience that after hosting Winter 2022 Olympics Beijing will become the first city in the world to have hosted the olympics two times.

Allama Tehmeed Jan Al-Azhari said that we appreciate the humane behaviour of China towards the world in making sure the availability of vaccines.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-16/page-10/detail-0>

Shafqat, Nong discuss matter of Pakistani students studying in China

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood and the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Wednesday met and discussed the issue of Pakistani students studying in China and agreed to maintain communication and coordination on this matter.

The minister in his social media message said that many issues relating to education cooperation were discussed including issue of Pakistani students in Chinese universities. Hope to deepen education ties between the two countries.

A statement issued said that the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training and National Heritage Shafqat Mahmood on Wednesday. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on a range of bilateral issues of mutual interests based on education and skills development.

Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood stated that Pakistan and China have a strong bond and it is growing deeper with every passing day. China is the first country to provide Covid-19 pandemic vaccines to Pakistan and also a role model for the world, the way it fought against the deadly virus and defeated this unseen enemy, he added.

Ambassador of China said since last many decades, China always stands with Pakistan on national and international fora to support Pakistan on all the issues which tells the significance of our mutual friendship. He further stated that one of the largest numbers of foreign students studying in China is from Pakistan; likewise Pakistan is receiving highest number of Chinese scholarships than any other country in the world.

The meeting of two all-weather friends was marked with traditional warmth, mutual understanding and trust. The two sides have reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their relationships in the areas of education, skills development and culture.

The meeting was also attended by the Secretary Federal Education Ms. Farah Hamid Khan, Executive director HEC Ms. Shaista Sohail and other higher authorities of the ministry.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-16/page-14/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین جو اینٹ چیئیر کی ممبر کمپنی کا ای کامرس فورم علی بابا کیساتھ شراکتی معاہدہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چین جو اینٹ چیئیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کی ممبر کمپنی ای کامرس نے چین کے عالمی ای کامرس فورم علی بابا کے ساتھ شراکتی معاہدہ کر لیا ہے۔ پاک چین چیئیر کے صدر ایس ایم نوید نے گزشتہ روز اجلاس میں ممبر کمپنی کے کو فاونڈر عزیز نظام کو اس اہم معاہدے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ اس موقع پر پاک چین چیئیر کے سینئر نائب صدر داؤد احمد، نائب صدر خالد رفیق چوہدری اور سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف بھی موجود تھے۔ ایس ایم نوید نے امید کی کہ معاہدہ پاکستان کی ایس ایم ایز کیلئے نہ صرف چین بلکہ تمام عالمی منڈیوں میں برآمدی مواقع بڑھانے کا سبب بنے گا۔ انہوں نے حکومت پاکستان کو تجویز دی کہ جس طرح ایمیزان سیکھو متی سطح پر رابطہ استوار کیا

گیا ہے دنیا کی دیگر ای کامرس پلیٹ فارموں سے بھی کیا جائے۔ اس موقع پر پاک چین چیمر کے سینئر نائب صدر داؤد احمد نے کہا کہ کرونا کی وباء نے تجارت کارخ جسمانی رابطوں کی بجائے ای کامرس کی طرف موڑ دیا ہے اور اس وقت صرف وہی کاروبار ترقی کر رہے ہیں جو ای کامرس کی پلیٹ فارموں کو موثر انداز میں استعمال کر رہے ہیں۔ پاک چین چیمر کی ممبر کمپنی ای کامرس پرائیویٹ کے کو فاونڈر محمد عزیز نظام نے کہا کہ وہ پاکستانی ایس ایم ایز کو علی بابا سے بھرپور استفادہ اٹھانے کے قابل بنانے کیلئے تربیتی پروگرام بھی شروع کریں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-09-16/page-11/detail-26>

چین میں بین الاقوامی امن فوجی مشقیں اختتام پذیر، پاکستان سمیت دیگر ممالک کی شرکت

ژینگ ڈو (شہنہوا) چینی فوج کے زیر اہتمام کثیر القومی لائیو امن مشقیں "مشترکہ مستقبل-2021" وسطی صوبہ بینان کی چھوٹا نشان کانٹی کے ایک تربیتی بیس پر بدھ کو اختتام پذیر ہو گئیں۔ مرکزی فوجی کسٹن کے رکن اور سی ایم سی جوائنٹ سٹاف ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے چیف آف سٹاف لی زو چینگ نے ان جامع مشقوں کا مشاہدہ کیا، ان مشقوں میں پاکستان سمیت دیگر ممالک نے شرکت کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-09-16/page-8/detail-37>

September 17, 2021

Business Recorder

We've to restore Chinese investor confidence: SAPM

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor told Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives that comparative bidding has to be held for ML-1 Railway project (Karachi-Lahore-Peshawar). Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives met with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in the chair at the Parliament House, on Thursday.

The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umer also attended the meeting.

The committee discussed in detail the development projects under the CPEC.

While briefing the Committee, Khalid Mansoor said that China estimated \$9 billion cost of ML-1 Railway project, while the Ministry of Railway of Pakistan estimated \$6 billion cost. He said that there is need to gauge confidence of Chinese companies for investment in the country.

He told the Committee that only \$50 million have been disbursed out of \$1 billion grant for 27 socio-economic development projects as given by Chinese government.

Four years ago, China has given \$1 billion grant to Pakistan socio-economic development projects.

To a question, the Special Assistant told the Committee that it is true that the Chinese investment companies are facing issues and we have to restore their confidence. He said that 40 Chinese companies have contacted him for investment.

Committee Chairman Senator Saleem Mandviwalla said, “The Chinese ambassador met him and he expressed serious concerns over problems faced by the Chinese companies in Pakistan. The Chinese ambassador says, I don’t understand where we go for resolving problems. When we go to the ministries, no one responds to them, the ambassador says.”

Mandviwalla said, “There was zero progress on the CPEC projects during the last three years.” He expressed his concern over the proposals and recommendations of the committee on various development projects at provincial and federal levels, which were not being considered. The chairman Committee reiterated that the Senate recommendations and proposals should be considered, otherwise, it is a futile exercise by the Committee.

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives informed the chairman that the final approval of the PSDP projects is given by the NEC. “The National Economic Council (NEC) approval is final.”

The minister informed the committee that 31st March next year is the last date for any project to be taken to the NEC.

The chairman Committee gave directions that for the coming year, the Committee will pre-plan the project required federally and provincially and send their final proposals before February. Senator Shafeeq Tareen expressed his concern on the approval process of provincial projects, which can only be approved if the chief minister gives it a go ahead.

The minister informed the Committee that the provincial projects cannot be laid on our table, unless approved by the PDWP, to be further approved by the NEC.

The Special Assistant informed the Committee that an overview committee on the development projects of Balochistan headed by MNA Khalid Magsi has been constituted and has representations of all political parties, to which Senator Shafiq Tareen disagreed.

The chairman Committee sought list of the members of the overview committee. While briefing the committee on the financial and physical progress of all major CPEC projects, the committee was informed that 21 projects amounting to \$15.7 billion are completed out of which are 10 power projects (5,320MW) and HVDC transmission line cost \$9.6 billion. Five infrastructure projects (roads, mass transit and optical fiber) amounting to \$5.8 billion. Two Gwadar Port/Free Zone and City Master Plan cost \$0.3 billion.

The Special Assistant said that 21 projects amounting to \$9.3 billion are under-implementation and 27 projects amounting to \$28.4 billion are under consideration.

While discussing the under implementation project he said, “Necessary Facilities of Fresh Water Treatment and Supply” in Gwadar financed through the PSDP costing \$130 million, is 60 percent complete.

Pak-China Friendship Hospital at Gwadar and Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar financed by GRANT is 90 percent and 10 percent completed respectively.

While discussing the under-consideration projects of \$ 28.4bn, Senator Sardar Shafiq Tareen said that coal resources of Balochistan should also be utilised for power plants, to which the Special Assistant replied that as coal from Balochistan is rich in sulphur; therefore, it is not feasible. Commenting on Bostan Economic Zone, Senator Sardar Shafiq showed resentment that despite being the only zone of the province and very important on account of its location being very near to Chaman, Bostan Zone is being ignored and there is nothing done, which can be seen on ground.

The SAPM on CPEC Affairs replied that they have coordinated with the chief secretary Balochistan in this regard and progress could be seen.

Senator Sardar Shafiq Tareen also raised the issue of construction of new bypass to be built at Muslimbagh on Kuchlak to Zhob road.

He also pointed out that construction of Muslimbagh to Zhob road has not been started as yet, on which the SAPM replied that a case is sub-judice.

Raising questions on railway project, Senator Sardar Shafiq Tareen commented that Quetta-Zhob-Kotla Jaam railway line is too short and must be prioritised.

The chairman Committee also recommended prioritising this project.

The Special Assistant informed the committee that all the under-consideration projects are at initial stage.

The chairman Committee sought a report on the progress on these projects and reasons obstructing their implementation.

The Committee chairman also decided to hold the next meeting at Gwadar in the mid of October.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/17/1-page/900933-news.html>

MoU signed to strengthen Sino-Pak tourism ties

ISLAMABAD: Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar said that the signing of an MoU on Establishing Cooperation Mechanisms among SCO Tourism Cities between the Qingdao Tourism Association and the provinces of Punjab and Sindh will prove to be a stepping stone in rejuvenating two-way tourism relations between Pakistan and China.

She stated that the BOI strongly believed that now is the time to join hands and facilitate two-way tourism related business initiatives between China and Pakistan, as the aspiration to promote the tourism sector comes from the highest office.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has time and again reiterated the need for the development of tourism sector in Pakistan.

Project Director BOI, Islamabad on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC Asim Ayub said that Pakistan has immense investment potential in the tourism sector and the BOI is undertaking rigorous efforts to facilitate bilateral investment cooperation between Pakistan and China. He expressed these views, while addressing an online China-Pakistan two-way Tourism Promotion Conference facilitated and organised by the BOI from Pakistan's side on Thursday. Aftab ur Rehman Rana, MD, PTDC, Wang Rongguo, Researcher of Shandong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Hao Guoxin, Deputy Director of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Demonstration Area (SCO-DA), Muhammad Ali Khoso, Managing Director of Sindh Tourism Development Corporation, Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Managing Director, Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab, Fang Peng, General Manager of SCO-DA, Wang Zihai, Honorary Investment Counselor of BOI and Director of Pakistan China Center, besides others representatives from the Tourism Departments of Shandong, Weihai, Rushan, Qingdao, Punjab and Sindh, were present on the occasion.

The BOI appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Honorary Investment Counselor (HIC) of Pakistan in China, Wang Zi Hai for providing his learned opinion and cooperation to BOI in organizing the conference while taking on board the representatives from the federal and provincial Tourism Development Corporations from the Pakistan side.

Qingdao, the major metropolis of the Shandong province, and known as the “the Switzerland of the East” is cooperating with the provinces of Punjab and Sindh will go a long way in paving way for a sustainable bilateral tourism development journey.

Qingdao has already established sister city relations with Karachi, which is the largest and the most economically vibrant coastal city of Pakistan.

Both cities are bestowed with enormous potential for cultural and touristic cooperation.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) delivered a brief presentation on the tourism sector of Pakistan.

He informed that Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world, which is blessed with diverse inventory of tourism attractions and unique endowments of national landscape features.

Xia Peng, Director of Business, Tourism, Culture department of Management Committee of the SCO Demonstration Area, stated that the aim of signing the MoU is to market and promote Pakistan and China's high-quality cultural and tourism resources, and facilitate the mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

Muhammad Ali Khoso, Managing Director of Sindh Tourism Development Corporation, Pakistan, introduced the audience to the immense potential for Tourism in the province of Sindh. Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Managing Director of Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab, Pakistan, expressed his views on the significance of the bilateral tourism promotion initiative and informed the participants regarding Punjab's tourism resources.

He informed that it was for the first time that the province of Punjab has collaborated with the Chinese provinces in the tourism sector in an inclusive manner.

Wang Zi Hai, Honorary Investment Counselor (HIC) of BOI in China, thanked the BOI team for facilitating such an impactful online conference, and for ensuring the participation from relevant federal and provincial tourism departments in Pakistan.

The signing ceremony of the Initiative on Establishing Cooperation Mechanisms among SCO Tourism Cities took place online during the conference.

Representatives from Sindh Tourism Development Corporation, Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab, and Qingdao Tourism Association signed the document, which was accepted with an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and the conviction among the participants to undertake impactful tourism projects under the umbrella of the MoU.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/17/18-page/901045-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan has promising digital future: Chinese expert

Pakistan has promising digital future and as an emerging economy, Pakistan is facing both opportunities and challenges, said Dai Xulong, Vice-Chairman of China Association for International Economic Cooperation (CAFIEC), Ministry of Commerce of China and president of Council for International Economic and Technology Administration, Beijing (CIETA).

“As an emerging economy, Pakistan is facing both opportunities and challenges. It is considered to be the fifth-largest young country in the world. Around 63 percent population of the country comprises youth aged between 15 and 33. The large proportion of young people means they are adaptable but they have weak spending power,” Dai said in an interview.

To solve this, market segmentation would be a feasible way for Pakistan on its path to digitalization. “Some Chinese phone brands’ performance in Pakistan has been impressive in recent years,” Dai added, “so to divide a target market into smaller, more defined categories would definitely help win more market share; that’s what we could share with our Pakistani brothers.” Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic stroked a blow to Pakistan’s economy.

The only way to deal with the crisis is to strengthen cooperation in digitalisation at a deeper level and in broader areas, Dai Xulong pinpointed, since “no country can stay immune from COVID-19’s impact.” As per Dai, digital technology has special edges during the unprecedented pandemic era.

“Digital is going to transform you whether you like it or not,” Dai told China Economic Net, adding that the pandemic was a knockout punch to the global real economy but the digital economy still has room to grow as it’s pushing everyone to adjust themselves to the digital age faster than ever.

Take telecommunication as an example. Even 4G has not penetrated countrywide in Pakistan now, and there are still some areas that are yet to get 3G/4G service. Worst of all, the users who have not yet switched to smartphones will keep on using 2G-based phones. However, it is worth mentioning that the pandemic has provided the telecom sector of Pakistan an opportunity to expand further and to strive to reduce existing digital inequality. Pakistan's 3G and 4G user base have reached 101.59 million by the end of July 2021, up from 99.85 million at the end of June 2021, marking a 1.74 million increase, according to figures from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). By the end of July 2021, Pakistan's cellular subscriber base has expanded by 0.65 million to 184.9 million, up from 184.25 million in June.

"We would like to share our experience in developing digital technology and scientific and technological innovation with Pakistan, but it takes a process," Dai explained, pointing out that the development of digital economy cannot be achieved without the development of digital infrastructure.

China needs to take note of the importance of digital infrastructure when working with countries with weak digital infrastructure like Pakistan to promote its development of digital economy, he further mentioned.

Established in 1983, CAFIEC of the Ministry of Commerce of China is a national organisation focusing on conducting activities, engaging in research and organizing exchanges in international economic cooperation and on China companies' outbound strategies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817217/pakistan-has-promising-digital-future-chinese-expert/>

Pakistani sets up textile material startup in Shanghai

A Pakistani has founded a new textile material startup in Shanghai to promote Sino-Pak bilateral cooperation in textile sector.

"I have founded a new textile material startup in Shanghai's Lingang New Area. Although it is new-born, I'm full of expectations," said Faizan Shafiq from the Donghua University in an interview with China Economic Net. "Since I was a child, I have heard 'long live the Sino-Pakistani friendship' countless times. From then on, I had a strong curiosity about China," Faizan mentioned. He came to China the first time seven years ago, and in 2017, in order to pursue studies in textile industry, he passed the application and began to study for a Ph.D. degree in textile chemistry in Donghua University, Shanghai.

Born in Faisalabad, the hub of textile industry in Pakistan, Faizan joined the field naturally. "Nowadays, many materials are technologies being used in the textile industry cause environmental disruption." He was determined to develop a new environment-friendly material. After a series of experiments, Faizan created a new kind of dye obtained from natural plants instead of chemicals.

He hopes that in the future, more and more people can wear cloths dyed by his invention, "The process of extracting dyes from plants fascinates me. We're using it on cotton cloth and silk. I

am always committed to the green transformation of the textile industry,” noted Faizan. In this way, Faizan was determined to start his own business in China. His idea was supported by his doctoral tutor. Faizan and his Chinese classmates completed the research and development of the new dye in the laboratory, then his tutor found a foundry for him.

The sales of new products are mainly focusing on the European and American markets that have a certain degree of acceptance of environmentally friendly materials. And in the future, the Chinese market that has promoted the low-carbon lifestyle will also be the top priority, according to Faizan. This spring, Faizan learned that in Shanghai’s Lingang New Area, foreign students studying in Shanghai universities can also start their own businesses. With the joint efforts of the staff of the International Student Pioneer Park, his company was quickly established.

“Pakistan has a lot of advantages in the textile sector, like rich labor resources and low labor costs. And Pakistan has signed a free trade agreement with China. So it can access a very big consumer market in the world,” Faizan analyzed,

“On the other hand, our government are encouraging innovations in many fields. If we just sell textile raw materials, the economic benefits can only be maintained at a very low level. If we have the vision and courage to try new fabrics, new methods, new processes even new marketing modes, it will multiply our benefits.” Regarding the China-Pak cooperation in this field, Faizan said China has played a key role in Pakistani textile industry as now all the metal items are imported specially from China, as well as advanced production machines. “We can innovate boldly under the framework of China-Pakistan technical cooperation.

“I’ll graduate next year. At that time, our company will start marketing and accepting orders. As a microcosm of China-Pak cooperation, our company can get quality raw materials from Pakistan where has a well-developed textile base.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817213/pakistani-sets-up-textile-material-startup-in-shanghai/>

The Nation

China’s peaceful role in Afghanistan

Yasir Habib Khan

After 20 years of 9/11, the recent first of its kind “Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on the Afghan Issue” among the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, attended by State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi set the tone for a prosperous future of Afghanistan, offering a “comprehensive repair plan” to all damages inflicted by the US-led offensive under the grab of the war on terror.

Meeting deliberations appear to have laid down a roadmap to defy international conspiracies and deny Afghan’ land as a further proxy warzone for other foreign powers.

Indeed, the lopsided war on terror in Afghanistan created by the US is the epitome of a complete failure. The reason is very simple. Eradication of terrorism and radicalisation was believed to be

the basic cause behind unleashing combat. After a 20-year span, both factors (terrorism and radicalisation) ominously gained conspicuous ground, even setting their footstep globally. It is an irony that this war prompted more wars, throwing a spanner in the work of peace and stability.

Under the grab of the War on terror, the US authorised itself to invade any country. First, it attacked Afghanistan and dismantled the Taliban government. Instead of finding a political solution, the White House imposed a war for 20 years. Resultantly, Afghan people plunged into the worst humanitarian crisis, and they are still struggling and paying a heavy price for what the US botched.

In a meeting, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Afghanistan is now standing at the crossroads of history. “The United States and its allies withdrew from Afghanistan hastily, indicating that the power politics, military intervention and so-called ‘democratic transformation’ promoted by the Western countries led by the United States ended in failure. However, Afghanistan is still facing severe challenges such as humanitarian issues, people’s livelihoods and the COVID-19 pandemic. Some international forces may also use political, economic and financial means to create new troubles for Afghanistan. Yesterday, the Afghan Taliban announced the formation of an interim government, the ‘interim’ indicated that Afghanistan’s future still has a lot of uncertainties,” he added.

Wang Yi stated when revealed that as neighbouring countries, they are more eager than anyone else to see Afghanistan out of war and chaos, and resume peace and development. It is endorsed that we should make an objective assessment of the history of the Afghan issue and call on the United States and its allies to learn profound lessons and assume their due responsibilities on the Afghan issue. The United States and its allies are the culprits of the Afghan issue. Over the past 20 years, terrorist forces in Afghanistan have been on the rise instead of being eradicated, and the Afghan people have been stuck in poverty and hardship instead of achieving development and dignity.

There is complete agreement on Wang Yi’s views when he said, “we should guide and urge the Afghan Taliban to unite with all ethnic groups and factions, build a broad and inclusive political structure, pursue moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, draw a clear line with terrorist forces, and establish and develop friendly relations with other countries, especially neighbouring countries.”

On the issue of pandemic prevention and control in Afghanistan, it is said that as one of the countries with the lowest vaccination rates in the world, Afghanistan is at risk of an accelerated spread of the pandemic. All parties can join hands and continue to provide anti-pandemic supplies and technical assistance to Afghanistan. China has decided to donate three million vaccine doses to the Afghan people in the first batch. China is also ready to provide more anti-pandemic and emergency materials to Afghanistan under the China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve.

It is also expected from all regional countries to keep port gates open. Afghanistan's economic and trade exchanges are highly dependent on land ports. On the premise of ensuring the security of our countries, we should maintain unimpeded ports of entry with Afghanistan. China is ready to actively discuss the resumption of China-Afghanistan freight trains, support other neighbouring countries in enhancing customs clearance capacity-building with Afghanistan, and facilitate Afghanistan's interaction with the outside world, especially its access to humanitarian supplies.

On the issue of strengthening the management and control of refugees and migrants, the United States and its allies should take the primary responsibility for addressing the issue of Afghan refugees and migrants, while providing countries that are in a position and willing to host Afghan refugees with necessary compensations.

With offering humanitarian assistance as soon as possible, neighbouring countries ought to help each other and lend a helping hand to each other in times of difficulty. Based on the needs of the Afghan people, China has decided to urgently provide food, materials for winter, COVID-19 vaccines, and medicines worth 200 million yuan. When security and other conditions are available, China is willing to help Afghanistan build projects that will contribute to improving people's livelihood, and support peace, reconstruction and the economic development of Afghanistan within its capacity.

For deepening cooperation on the counter-terrorism and security fronts, the meeting has urged the Taliban to resolutely make a clean break with all extremist and terrorist forces and take effective steps to restrain and combat them. All parties should step up intelligence sharing and cooperation in border control, timely arrest and eliminate terrorist groups slipping in from Afghanistan, and ensure regional security and stability.

The participants stressed that it is imperative for Afghanistan's neighbouring countries to harmonise their opinions and stance in the face of the changes in this country. The international community should respect Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, assist it in realising security and stability and rebuilding its economy, and provide urgent humanitarian assistance. The United States and its allies must shoulder their responsibilities. The participants called for an open and inclusive new Afghan government which will represent all ethnic groups and factions and completely cut its ties with all types of international terrorist organisations. All participants spoke highly of the consensus reached at the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Afghan Issue Among the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan, recognised its unique role, and agreed to institutionalise this foreign ministers' meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-17/page-7/detail-0>

The News

Chinese solar power giant promoting energiewende in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese solar power giant is actively engaged in promoting energiewende in Pakistan, as a big step forward making the country pollution free.

According to Gwadar Pro, recently, Sungrow Power Supply Co., Ltd., the global leading inverter solution supplier for renewable energy, showcased the latest PV and energy storage product solutions at Solar Pakistan 2021 in Lahore.

Besides, the solar power giant signed a 50 MW distribution contract, furthering its commitment to renewable energy and fueling the national transition to a low carbon economy.

The 50 MW agreement was forged between Sungrow and Pakistani local distributor Energy For You to supply residential and commercial inverter solutions within a year.

“We have signed an MoU agreement with EFY. Our inverter distributions are mainly for residential and commercial use. For instance, the power generation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of an office building can reach 100-200 kilowatts.

These small customers mean huge market demand for us,” said Howard Fu, Country Director of Sungrow Pakistan, in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

Besides, Sungrow’s brand-new residential energy storage system made local industry headlines and is expected to be available in Pakistan in January 2022.

It rolled out new residential energy storage systems (ESS) comprising of hybrid inverters and high-voltage batteries -SBR series, for Pakistani households, ensuring Pakistan’s renewable energy system is more reliable and affordable.

“The newly introduced ESS solutions, which are adaptable for various scenarios both in increasing the national uptake of solar and slashing the electricity bills for end users, are the ideal match to the market,” noted Howard Fu, and he added that the new residential energy storage system is adopted to generate electricity through the photovoltaic system by day, and the stored electric energy can be used during the electricity consumption peak from 7 to 9 p.m. “Undoubtedly, the peak-load shifting will greatly save local electricity costs, providing convenience for local life.”

Since entering the Pakistan market in 2015, Sungrow has made great contributions to the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It provided inverters for the Zonergy 900MW Solar Power Project, as well as Pakistan’s largest cement plant and first plant energy storage system.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=4150>

CPEC enters into new stage of expansion: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong has said that with the completion of the early harvest projects, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered a new stage of enrichment and expansion.

He said this while exchanging the views with Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, both expressed their confidence and expectation for the bright prospect of the CPEC, says a press release.

Ambassador Nong said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dushanbe was a good success. China appreciates the great importance Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistani government attach to China-Pakistan practical cooperation and their positive efforts to this end. With the completion of the early harvest projects, the CPEC has entered a new stage of enrichment and expansion.

Agriculture, industry and social livelihood projects, which are of great concern to the PTI government, will be the focus of CPEC Phase II. Positive progress has been made in relevant cooperation, and CPEC is right on its way towards a demonstration project of high-quality development under the Belt and Road Initiative. As Prime Minister Imran said, the CPEC is a trans-formational project. China is ready to work with Pakistani side to create a sound environment for the CPEC and bilateral practical cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and common development.

Planning Minister Asad Umar agreed with Ambassador Nong's remarks, saying that the PTI government has been committed to advancing the CPEC while significant progress has been made in Gwadar Port, energy and infrastructure sector, as well as the construction of SEZs.

He reiterated the remarks made by PM Khan during his meeting with State Councilor Wang Yi, stressing that Pakistan will do its utmost to protect the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and resolutely push forward the construction of the CPEC that benefits the Pakistani people and the country beyond.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=4427>

September 18, 2021

Daily Times

China to work with Pakistan to create 'sound' environment for CPEC

Ambassador Nong Rong exchanged views on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday, wherein both expressed their confidence and expectation for the bright prospect of the CPEC.

Ambassador Nong said that Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting with President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dushanbe was a good success. China appreciates the great importance Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistani government attach to China-Pakistan practical cooperation and their positive efforts to this end. With the completion of the early harvest projects, the CPEC has entered a new stage of enrichment and expansion. Agriculture, industry and social livelihood projects, which are of great concern to the PTI government, will be the focus of CPEC Phase II. Positive progress has been made in relevant cooperation, and CPEC is right on its way towards a demonstration project of high-quality development under the Belt and Road Initiative. As Prime Minister Imran said, the CPEC is a trans-formational project. China is ready to work with Pakistani side to create a sound environment for the CPEC and bilateral practical cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and common development.

Planning Minister Asad Umar agreed with Ambassador Nong's remarks, saying that the PTI government has been committed to advancing the CPEC while significant progress has been made in Gwadar Port, energy and infrastructure sector, as well as the construction of SEZs. He reiterated the remarks made by Prime Minister Imran Khan during his meeting with State Councilor Wang Yi, stressing that Pakistan will do its utmost to protect the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and resolutely push forward the construction of the CPEC that benefits the Pakistani people and the country beyond.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817818/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-create-sound-environment-for-cpec/>

China unhappy with pace of CPEC

That the Chinese are “not happy with the current progress of CPEC projects” ought to ring serious alarm bells in Islamabad not just because the Corridor is the landmark project that will provide the kind of infrastructure that will give the Pakistani economy a long-term facelift, but also because China is the single biggest foreign investor in this country. And CPEC is just one, although integral, part of the larger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), President Xi Jinping's revolutionary idea that is recreating the ancient Silk Route commerce in the modern setting.

Yet things have got to the point that the chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development, Saleem Mandviwalla, said that “they (Chinese) are crying” and that “the Chinese ambassador has complained to me that you have destroyed CPEC and no work was done in the past three years.” That in itself is a ringing indictment of the government's efforts to protect and promote this project, which comes with unprecedented investment in the country's economy. The PM's special advisor on CPEC, Khalid Mansoor, has now made it his business to sort things out and “restore Chinese confidence” and admitted that he himself hasn't been satisfied with the progress of certain projects.

That naturally begs the question of why he didn't raise the red flag himself? And much earlier? It's for a reason that everybody in government, including the prime minister, appreciates and

endorses CPEC. It has given us an opportunity to upgrade the entire country's infrastructure in one go; something that would never have happened otherwise. Granted, projects of such magnitude often run into unforeseen technical and logistical issues. But for them to be delayed on account of other reasons, especially easily avoidable ones, is unforgivable. There is a very urgent need to address this issue. It wasn't too long ago when then CPEC Authority Chairman Asim Bajwa often tweeted about progress and how everything was on track, which we now know wasn't quite the case. So, if the Chinese are right about the lack of progress, then Bajwa must be responsible, and therefore should be held accountable, for a bulk of it. There should be a detailed investigation into the matter and everybody responsible must be made to answer for it. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817780/china-unhappy-with-pace-of-cpec/>

Pakistan, China to boost co-op through investment counselors

Pakistan will further boost Pak-China cooperation through newly appointed investment counsellors, said Pakistan Ambassador Moin ul Haque.

According to Gwadar Pro, eight newly appointed Investment Counsellors have been approved by the Board of Investment (BOI). It will help Pakistan and China moving ahead to forge close practical cooperation in trade and investments sector. "I believe the investment counsellors will play an important role in further facilitating Pak-China trade and investment," said Moin ul Haque at the investment counsellor awarding ceremony held in Beijing at the Pakistan embassy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817826/pakistan-china-to-boost-co-op-through-investment-counsellors/>

Major work on CPEC projects done by PTI govt: Asad Umar

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Friday dispelled the impression of slowing down pace of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, saying that major work on CPEC projects was completed during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI) government.

He said in first phase of CPEC, two major sectors- power and infrastructure, were under main focus.

"Power projects with installed capacity of 3,340 MW were completed during the previous government while 5,864 MW of power projects were being completed during the current government's tenure," he said while addressing a press conference here.

Apart from it, he said work on another 1824 MW projects had also been started recently that would be completed after the tenure of current government.

In infrastructure and road sector, the minister informed that the PML-N government completed 394 kilometers long motorways and highways under CPEC while the current government had so far completed 413 kms of the motorways and highways.

Asad Umar said the PML-N government totally ignored the Western Corridor that was the heart of CPEC.

He said Gwadar-Hoshab road was completed by the previous government while the Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan motorway was initiated by the PML-N government who completed 42pc of the project while the rest was completed by the current government.

Apart from these two projects, the previous government could not reach to even the initial approval stage of any of the road project on the Western alignment, he added.

The minister said the DI Khan-Zhob road (210 km) was approved and a loan application had been submitted while negotiations for loan were in process.

Similarly, contractor for the Zhob-Quetta project had been mobilised and PC-1 of the Quetta-Khuzdar road was approved while funding for this project had already been allocated in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2021-22.

He informed that the current government had completed 67pc work of the 110 kms Khuzda-Basima road while it would also complete the rest work soon.

Likewise the 146 km Hoshab-Awaran road project had also been approved and contractor had been mobilised.

The Hoshab-Awaran project is an integral part of the CPEC central alignment that connects the port city of Gwadar with Sindh.

“In fact, real work on Western Corridor of CPEC was started during PTI government,” he said adding that it did not wait for the Chinese investment and started work on the projects with its own resources under PSDP.

The minister informed the government was also starting work on the connecting roads to the Western Alignment.

Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway project is one of such projects which has recently approved.

Similarly, the 460 kms Karachi-Quetta-Chaman road has also been approved and one of the portion would be completed by the government itself while the other sections of this project would be constructed under Public Private Partnership.

Likewise, the government has also accorded approval to other such roads such as Nokundi-Mashkel road, Mashkel-Panjgur road, Awaran-Jhal Jhao road.

The minister said these connecting roads and the Western Alignment were being built to take maximum benefit of the opportunities to be open up in Afghanistan after peace and stability prevailed in the country.

Asad Umar said after completion of first phase, we were entering in the second but very important phase of CPEC under which investment would come to a range of sectors including

industrialization, agriculture, livestock, science technology, and other social sector development sectors.

He said when the current government took over, not a single Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under CPEC was operational but now two SEZs Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone in Faisalabad and Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were operational while another SEZ named Dhabeji would also be functional soon once the Sindh government has selected the contractor for the SEZ.

Agriculture, he said was an important sector in which Chinese had vast experience who would help Pakistan in strengthening the sector.

So far eight important initiatives in agriculture sector have been approved under CPEC under which the Chinese would help Pakistanis to develop the sector.

He said the Chinese would help Pakistani farmers in increasing per acre yield of the crops. Similarly he said the Chinese would help in removing foot and mouth disease from the the animals as this disease was the major hurdle in way of exporting Halal meat to the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/817753/major-work-on-cpec-projects-done-by-pti-govt-asad-umar/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China cooperation for regional stability

Dr Tao Liang

POLITICAL situation in Afghanistan is uncertain with the United States and its West allies pull major ground forces out of the region.

Here are two basic issues of general concern to the international community: one is the prospect of Afghan political situation and the other is a worry that the region could be likely again to turn into a hotbed of extremism to pose a threat to regional and world peace and stability after Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, chaos and bombing attacks at the Kabul airport after Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan have been intensifying fears.

As one of the most important geopolitical stakeholders in the region, China and Pakistan couldn't stay out of the situation. The two countries share common interests and responsibilities to advance peace and stability in Afghanistan and its adjacent regions.

The two courtiers' cooperation on the regional issues will not only contribute to safeguarding the interests of both sides, but also to peace and stability in the regions.

The prospect in the regions after the military withdrawal. As a "world empire", as long as the United States defines any region on the planet as where its national strategic interests are, the regions are bound to be included in American overall foreign strategy. During the Cold War, America regarded the Middle East as a major strategic interest area.

Due to its important geostrategic position adjacent to the Persian Gulf and Central Asia, Pakistan has been absorbed in the Asian collective security defence system by the United States against the Soviet Union with other countries. Then Afghanistan was a neutral state and buffer zone among major powers in the regions

With Iranian Islamic Revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the strategic balance in the region was broken.

Most obviously, The Iranian Revolution resulted in the United States losing important strategic ally and military base in the Middle East to impair America's strategy to the region.

More critically, The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan acted as a strategic buffer zone between the great powers since 19th Century shattered the balance to lead to Afghanistan almost forgotten to be placed on the stage of world politics.

The United States fully supported militarily and financially Afghan resistance forces against the Soviet Union, forcing the final withdrawal of the Soviet Union to expedite the end of the Cold War.

After the Cold War, the geopolitical structures underwent fundamental changes in Central and South Asia, and a basic feature is that regional endogenous conflicts have been prevailing over games among great powers, in particular America that were not interested in the regions any more.

Notably, the United States hastily, irresponsibly made a decision to suspend completely assistance towards Afghanistan, and excluded the regional issues from its foreign strategic agenda.

Subsequently, Afghanistan was plunged into prolonged political chaos and armed conflict until Taliban came into power in Kabul.

As a result, the world and the US had to pay much for the irresponsible decision in the following years.

Afghanistan and neighbourhood in turmoil became a breeding ground for religious radicalism and terrorism to cripple regional peace and stability.

America launched the 20-year war on terror while costing lots of money and young lives to pay for the past behaviours after 9/11 accidents.

Currently when the United States announced the withdrawal from Afghanistan, why the international community's strong response to this is that a few believe the war on terror can bring lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and surrounding areas.

On the contrary, American rash military withdrawal is likely to leave a political instability and conflict, including humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the vicinity like the US policy towards Afghanistan in the early 1990s.

So the international community concerns about political stability in the country, and Afghanistan again falling into a breeding ground for terrorism and extremism leading to a humanitarian catastrophe because of the lack of confidence in the new Taliban's regime in Kabul after American military withdrawal.

However, effects of the political changes can undoubtedly spill over into neighbour regional security and stability.

The impact on China and Pakistan: As one of the most important stakeholders in the region, China and Pakistan may be greatly affected after the US withdrawal. China can confront following two points.

Firstly, Chinese border security may be under a threat. As Afghanistan's largest neighbour China, its Xinjiang region borders on Afghanistan. For a long time, local separatists in Xinjiang such as the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) have colluded with foreign forces to carry out terrorist activities in China in order to achieve their own political goals, which exert a bad influence on Chinese social stability and development.

The solid sources uncover that ETIM is inextricably linked to religious extremism in Central and South Asia.

After the withdrawal of US troops, the uncertainty of the political situation in Afghanistan could lead to the spread of religious extremism in the regions to diffuse into China to pose a threat to Chinese border security. Secondly, Chinese economic activities in Afghanistan and the neighbourhood may be hurt.

During Afghanistan's reconstruction, Chinese enterprises have been actively participating in the country's social and economic recovery and development rough investment and projects to form close economic and trade relations of the two countries.

The future political turmoil in Afghanistan could not only damage China-Afghanistan economic and trade relations and Chinese enterprises in Afghanistan, but also Afghan interests. — To be continued.

—The writer is, Associate Professor, Department of History, Yunnan University in Kunming, focusing on relations of South Asian and major powers.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-cooperation-for-regional-stability-by-dr-tao-liang/>

China, Afghanistan and Intelligence Chief diplomacy

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

SUDDEN fall of Kabul has changed the basic concept of “Integrated Security System (ISS)” and “reliability” of CIA and Pentagon secret surveillance and reports.

Taliban shocked many so-called regional security experts as well as rattled many important capitals of the world.

Ultimately, it created extra-ordinary geo-political and geo-strategic situation in the region which required extraordinary initiatives. Thus the innovative idea of Intelligence Chief Diplomacy (ICD) did emerge.

Before the announcement of the Taliban's interim government, China adopted numerous innovative but integrated efforts to reach-out to Taliban, a new political reality.

It arranged the First Neighbouring Countries Conference (FNCC) on Afghanistan for the future roadmap about regional peace, stability and security.

State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi while attending the First Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Afghan issue among the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan in Beijing via video link, mocked the US irresponsible policies in the region, especially in Afghanistan which achieved nothing but devastating destruction and debris.

He urged all the regional/neighbouring countries to establish close liaison and coordination with Taliban.

Wang Yi proposed a roadmap for a new inclusive interim-government of Taliban consisting of all ethnic groups and factions, persuasion of flexible and holistic domestic and foreign policies, zero tolerance against terrorist forces and develop friendly relations with other countries, especially neighbouring countries.

He indicated two most important points of extensive tolerance and resolute crackdown on terrorism.

He hoped that Taliban can learn from historical experience, actively interact with all ethnic groups and factions in Afghanistan during their rule and earnestly fulfil their commitments to strive for international recognition.

He highlighted his country's six multifaceted policies about Afghanistan starting from helping Afghanistan strengthen pandemic prevention and control for which China has decided to donate 3 million vaccine doses to the Afghan people in the first batch.

The resumption of China-Afghanistan freight trains, promotion of greater regional connectivity, socio-economic integration, business friendly environment, custom incentives and capacity building measures with Afghanistan and facilitate Afghanistan's interaction with the outside world, especially its access to humanitarian supplies would be great help for the new Afghan interim government.

Strengthening the management and control of refugees and migrants should be initiated and coordinated as soon as possible. In this regard, China has decided to urgently provide food, material for winter, COVID-19 vaccines and medicines worth 200 million Yuan.

China desired to deepening cooperation on the counter-terrorism and security fronts. Changes in the situation in Afghanistan have complicated the landscape of international and regional fight against terrorism.

Last but not the least China carries out cooperation in drug control for which Taliban has recently announced that Afghanistan would not be a country of cultivation of opium anymore, which we should encourage and support.

Wang Yi labelled the foreign ministers' meeting as the first attempt by Afghanistan's neighbouring countries to work closely in response to the evolving situation in the country.

He upheld it significant for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism of its neighbouring countries which is both timely and necessary.

However, the announcement of the so-called inclusive government of Taliban disappointed many regional countries including die-hard supporters – Pakistan, China, Qatar and even Iran.

It had no “uniqueness” in terms of any woman appointment and inclusiveness in terms of inclusion of other important factions other than Taliban. Thus it was so-called inclusive within the “clan” of Taliban.

Even the visit of DG ISI Lt General Faiz Hameed to Kabul was not taken as an “appropriate” step in the international media.

Furthermore, the visits of the Russian intelligence chief and MI-6 head to India alarmed the neighbouring countries.

To rectify the emerging concerns of neighbouring countries in terms of terrorism, increasing infiltration in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Iran etc.,

secret activities of East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in the Xinjiang region in China's Far West, increase in suicidal activities against China in Pakistan and last but not the least emergence of new great game the unusual and innovative meeting of intelligence chiefs from key regional countries China, Russia, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan was hosted at Islamabad.

According to different media reports (September 12, 2021), the meeting of the Intelligence Chiefs (ICs) mainly focused on the ongoing security situation in Afghanistan and how to ensure regional peace and stability of this geopolitically significant region.

It is hoped that the ICs must have thoroughly discussed numerous important issues including regional stance of the “recognition” of Taliban which is now a new political reality in Afghanistan and they should use holistic approach to include other factions in the interim government.

During the first ever meeting of regional ICs the genuine concerns of regional countries regarding sustainable security, human & drugs trafficking, crucial issue of human migration/influx of expected refugees, fears of Taliban's martial influence and outreach to neighbouring countries and alleged secret alliance or strategic compromise with ISIS and Al-Qaeda must have been debated.

In this regard, regional countries must cooperate and facilitate the Taliban interim government.

Issues of economic and humanitarian assistance to the people and government of Taliban must also be tabled and evenly debated.

The meeting of regional ICs must have discussed to establish a close liaison and meaningful engagement with Taliban interim step-up for ensuring peace within Afghanistan.

Being a prominent geopolitical regional expert, this scribe suggests that all regional countries should maintain a close engagement and cooperation with Taliban in which rigorous economic and humanitarian assistance diplomacy may play a decisive role in the days to come.

The government and Foreign Office of Pakistan should not follow a hasty policy towards Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) conditional pardon even if they promise not to get involved in terrorist activities and submit to the Pakistani Constitution.

It is a very risky affair which needs a thorough deliberation among the main stakeholders within the country.

The policy makers and establishment of Pakistan should be vigilant to counter an expected series of terrorist activities in Pakistan, especially against Chinese interests.

India has been a spoiler for regional peace and it has already developed a back-channel engagement with Taliban which should be closely monitored.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-afghanistan-and-intelligence-chief-diplomacy-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The News

‘Better livelihood for smallholders under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation’

Islamabad : Around 70 per cent of farmers in Pakistan are small land holders who largely fail to contribute in the overall economy due to lack of knowledge about modern practices, access to quality machinery, seed and pesticides, storage and reduction of post-harvest losses and affordable tools, transport and warehouses.

The issues of small farmers (who own less than 5 acres of land) were highlighted in a virtual validation workshop titled “A Better Livelihood for Smallholders under China-Pakistan Agriculture Cooperation” organised by (International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FECO and National Rural Support Program (NRSP).

Experts from both countries looked into the impact of China Pakistan Economic Corridor on small farmers. They said that the agriculture sector was not given much importance in the first phase of CPEC but in the second phase which started in 2018, agriculture sector would be the prime focus of all initiatives.

In his opening remarks, Country Director IFAD Hubert Boirard said that Pakistan could offer vast opportunities in agriculture sector. He said that small farmers are big part of Pakistan's agriculture sector and joint efforts are required to sustain them.

While talking about the progress on cooperation between China and Pakistan to enhance the capacity of small farmers and facilitate them with right technology and machinery, Dr. Wang Geng, Director FECC Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Yangzhijing, Dean of International Education, Xingjiang Agriculture University, said that main objective of the project is to establish and operate an effective knowledge generation and sharing platform to provide customized assistance in helping Pakistan to unleash transformative power of agriculture sector for country's inclusive development.

“So far project has a very good progress despite COVID 19. We have achieved component one which is to diagnose and describe challenges and risk faced by Pakistan's agriculture sector, especially small farmers,” said Dr. Wang Geng.

Dr Rashid Bajwa, CEO NRSP, highlighted the areas that require focus in order to break the cycle of poverty for small farmers so that they can earn a living from farming and agriculture. “For first time, focus is small land holders. Before, we discussed agriculture on generic basis while ignoring the potential and issues of small farmers,” he said.

Bajwa said that small farmers mainly face issues related to land preparation, sowing techniques, lack of technology, crop management and harvest and post-harvest issues. He suggested that, in this regard, focus areas shall be access to advance agriculture and irrigation technologies, provision of advanced hybrid and climate resilient seed varieties, engagement of Chinese private sector, learning from Chinese experience, IT training of small farmers, increase export from Pakistan to China and technology transfer for disease control.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=4250>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک توسیع کے دوسرے مرحلہ میں داخل ہو گیا، چینی سفی

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی سفیر ٹونگ روٹنگ نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی نمائندے سٹیٹ ٹونسٹر اور وزیر خارجہ وینگ ڈی کیساتھ ملاقات بڑی کامیابی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا چین عمران خان اور حکومت پاکستان کی دو طرفہ تعاون اور اس جانب ان کی مثبت کوششوں کو سراہتا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر کیساتھ ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہارویسٹ منصوبوں کی تکمیل سے سی پیک توسیع اور بہتری کے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے۔

زراعت، صنعت اور دیگر سماجی روزگار کے منصوبے جن کو پی ٹی آئی حکومت بہت اہمیت دیتی ہے۔ دوسرے مرحلے میں خصوصی توجہ کامرکز ہونگے۔ چینی سفیر نے مزید کہا کہ جیسا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ سی پیک ایک ٹرانس پیئرٹ منصوبہ ہے۔ چین اس منصوبے کیلئے سازگار ماحول اور دو طرفہ عملی تعاون کیلئے پاکستان کیساتھ کام کرنے کیلئے تیار ہے تاکہ باہمی فوائد اور ترقی حاصل کی جاسکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-09-18/page-8>

September 19, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese Halal food producers eager to invest in Pakistan

In the near future, more Chinese Halal food will be seen in Pakistani supermarkets, said Ma Zhijun, Director of Halal Food Committee, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Sichuan (CCPIT Sichuan).

He was addressing an online training seminar on Pakistani food market access held in Chengdu, according to China Economic Net.

Pakistan Halal Authority, Peshawar Customs, and dozens of Chinese food companies participated in the seminar, which is sponsored by the South Asian (Chengdu) Standardization Research Center and Chengdu Institute of Standardization.

Among the Halal food in Pakistan, 70% are imported, mainly from Iran and Malaysia. “In the past, Chinese food in Pakistan is mostly seen in local Chinese supermarkets and restaurants. But in the future, more Pakistani consumers will get a taste of it. A leading convenience food supplier in Sichuan is set to export its products to Pakistan. Halal food will also be provided at the Summer World University Games held in Chengdu next year”, Ma added.

Pakistani and Chinese people share some preferences in terms of food. For example, Sichuan food features spicy flavor, which exactly meets the preference of Pakistani people. Hot pot condiments, rice crusts, instant noodles, and pickles, all widely consumed in China, are also warmly welcome in previous exhibitions staged in Pakistan. “Consuls at the Pakistani Consulate General in Chengdu, China love Sichuan food”, said Ma.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818064/chinese-halal-food-producers-eager-to-invest-in-pakistan/>

Experts say it's time to rejuvenate Pak-China tourism

Representatives from China and Pakistan introduced their rich and colorful tourism resources to the guests at China-Pakistan Two-way Tourism Promotion Conference cum Unveiling Ceremony of China-Pakistan Tourism One-stop Service Center held in Qingdao, China and agreed that it was high time to rejuvenate two-way tourism between the two countries.

They are full of confidence that with joint efforts, Pakistan and China can succeed in taking tourism cooperation to new heights.

China-Pakistan One-Stop Tourism Service Platform is an agency that provides services and support for Chinese citizens travelling in Pakistan and for Pakistani citizens travelling in China.

The services encompass consultation, visa, tourism planning, route selection, tourism insurance, as well as dining, accommodation and transportation on the road, shopping and safety.

It is not only a platform for culture and tourism exchange, but also a bridge consolidating the economic and trade relations of both countries.

The platform will explore tourism projects, scenic spots and route layout, in an effort to create a good momentum and a solid foundation for integrated development of tourism in SCO countries, and to make due contribution to the full bloom of tourism in the post-pandemic era.

Wang Rongguo, Second Level Researcher, Shandong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism underlined that Shandong and Pakistan both have a large population, which is great potential for the development of tourism.

Pakistan is a very desirable tourist destination for the people of Shandong. Shandong and Pakistan hope to get to know each other better by this way.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has time and again reiterated the need for developing tourism in Pakistan. The guests recognised the Board of Investment (BoI) of Pakistan's strong support and great efforts for this event. Asim Ayub, Project Director, Board of Investment, PMU-CPEC-ICDP highlighted, "This event is a great epitome of people to people exchanges under CPEC Phase 2. BoI strongly believes that now is the time to join hands and promote the two-way tourism between China and Pakistan. Let me assure you that the Government of Pakistan has an unprecedented interest in achieving the tourism cooperation between the two countries."

"Agha Hunain Abbas Khan from Pakistani Embassy in China pointed out that Pakistan has been generously blessed by nature with exotic geographic landscapes comprising of vast deserts, fertile river valleys and the most significant, world's tallest mountain ranges in the north. Priding on its ancient civilizational roots, cultural diversity and growing economic strength, Pakistan has the potential to emerge as one of the major touristic attractions of the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818267/experts-say-its-time-to-rejuvenate-pak-china-tourism/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China cooperation for regional stability

Dr Tao Liang

Simultaneously, the US withdrawal can have influence on Pakistan. The first thing is about Pakistani internal security.

Due to their relations geography and culture, Pakistan and Afghanistan have made historically a special relationship, which is not only connected closely with the regional security and stability, but also their own internal security and stability.

Friendly and harmonious Pakistan-Afghanistan relations will contribute to regional stability and curb the rise of extremism as well as serve Pakistani security interests.

Otherwise, it could lead to regional instability, rampancy of extremism, interference from outside powers to harm Pakistani interests at last.

The second one is about Pakistani economic development. The political uncertainty in Afghanistan may cause an uncertainty about Pak-Afghan relationship to have impact on Pakistan's economic and social development.

A troubling bilateral relationship could give rise to extremism, threaten Pakistani political and social stability to hamper its economic development.

Evidently, the major external obstacle to the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC), a long-term important economic development and cooperation project of the two countries, is terrorist attacks by local extremists. Changes of situation in the region may entangle the construction and development of CPEC.

The necessity and feasibility of cooperation between China and Pakistan on the matters: The US withdrawal from Afghanistan is going to have unpredictable implications for the economic and security interests of the two countries and regional stability.

In order to handle efficiently potential crisis, China and Pakistan must work closely and actively with all parties in Afghanistan to promote political reconciliation in advance, achieve lasting peace and promote stable social and economic development in the region.

Pakistan is indispensable to the regional long time peace and stability. First of all, Pakistani geostrategic location and identity as an Islamic power to maintain good relations with other Islamic countries have built Pakistan's unique role in global and regional geopolitics, especially in South and Central Asia, where its role in maintaining long-term peace and stability and countering extremism and other geopolitical issues is irreplaceable.

Secondly, Pakistan possesses a special relationship with Afghanistan on the ground of sharing history and culture.

Undoubtedly, whatever will happen to political situation in Afghanistan after the U.S. leaving Afghanistan, Pakistan's role will be crucial to address uncertainty in the future. Just as mentioned above, Afghanistan's prospect will have an important impact on China's security interests.

It is imperative that China will take a positive part in Afghan affairs to facilitate political reconciliation and keep peace with the leading political power in Afghanistan.

Additionally, China's involvement in the regional issues is not only in Chinese national interest, but also required for international responsibilities.

However, China's participation is not meant to fill the so-called "power vacuum" left by the United States, as the Western media is suggesting. As the Chinese government says, there is no "vacuum" in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is Afghans' Afghanistan.

In line with the principle of "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned", China will make a commitment to playing a constructive role in promoting a political settlement to the Afghan issue on the basis of fully respecting Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Based on the common geostrategic interests and good political mutual trust, China-Pak cooperation on Afghan affairs will effectively promote long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan and its neighbourhood.

The basic goal of China-Pakistan cooperation is to promote political reconciliation among all political forces in Afghanistan to ward off the situation out of control.

A stable, prosperous and friendly Afghanistan with neighbouring countries is a critical cornerstone to put an end to extremism and terrorism.

The way of cooperation is to actively join in the political reconciliation process with political parties, and provide necessary help for peaceful negotiations in Afghanistan, especially to back up Afghan Taliban's regime to integrate with international community.

Besides, it is evitable that China and Pakistan with international community are going to commit to boosting Afghanistan's social and economic construction to improve Afghan well-being to preserve peace and stability in the area with kinds of assistance, especially economic support.

Finally, the two countries work together to share information to deal with emergencies, such as "terror attack" in accordance with a certain regional cooperation institution. The collaboration is possible for the following reasons.

Firstly, the geographical convenience of China and Pakistan is conducive to cooperation with Afghanistan on political, economic and security issues.

Secondly, China and Pakistan share political, economic and security interests in the region; Thirdly, the traditional friendship and mutual political trust of both countries are the political foundation of the effective regional cooperation.

Lastly, Pakistan is destined to play a great role in the regional peace and stability for the "special" relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and geographic and historical factors benefiting to China-Pak cooperation.

Thus the cooperation to deal with effectively the regional security issues may be more advantageous than others.

Of course, future situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring regions will not only have something to do with China and Pakistan, but be concerned seriously with neighbouring countries and other interested parties.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization that China and Pakistan are members of as well as Afghanistan as an observer state of is about to offer a security dialogue and cooperation platform with other member states.

Both countries together may make full use of the SCO platform to establish a multilateral consultation and cooperation mechanism to promote lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and neighbouring regions with other stakeholders.

So as to achieve the above goals, the international community must recognize the reality of Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan instead of isolation from the Taliban regime on the grounds of political and religious prejudice.

The world with good faith may understand that the new Taliban regime is turning a new leaf to actively integrate into the international community for Afghan people's welfare.

Furthermore, the international community has responsibilities to support financially and economically Afghan economic and social development with the Taliban regime for regional and global long-term peace and stability. — Concluded

—The writer is, Associate Professor, Department of History, Yunnan University in Kunming, focusing on relations of South Asian and major powers.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-cooperation-for-regional-stability-dr-tao-liang/>

The Express Tribune

40 buses for Karachi's Green Line BRT arrive from China, finally

Good news for residents of Karachi as the first consignment of 40 Green Line Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) —the port city's first mass transit system — buses finally arrived from China on Sunday. The work on the Rs24 billion federal-funded project — conceived by the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government — had started in February 2016 and was scheduled to finish before the general election in July 2018.

The residents of Pakistan's largest city had to wait for five years to see the first metro bus hit the road. All this while, the citizens suffered a great deal due to the dug-up roads along the 26km stretch of the bus route making the commute difficult and lengthy; loss of business as a consequence of the construction work; and a smoke- and dust-filled atmosphere, giving rise to respiratory ailments.

Addressing the ceremony of the arrival of the buses, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Sunday said that 40 more buses for the project will reach Karachi next month.

He said that the commercial operation will start within two months whereas the test run of the buses is expected in October.

Asad said that 44 kilometres of roads are being constructed in Karachi and approval of Karachi Circular Railway will also be given soon.

He further said that this is the first time that a modern transport system has been introduced in the port city.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Governor Imran Ismail said that the *Green Line* bus service will provide the best transport facilities to the people of Karachi.

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Amin-ul-Haque, speaking on the occasion, said that the federal government is working on various welfare projects for the people of the metropolis.

Initially, around 450,000 passengers would be facilitated on daily basis and would eventually grow to over 1 million passengers daily.

A bus depot had also been built for 80 buses while 22 bus stations have already been constructed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Green Line will only cover one stretch of the city between North Karachi and Merewether Tower.

The Green Line is just one component of ‘Karachi Breeze’ — a project that comprises four more bus lines and promises a comprehensive transport solution for the city.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2320985/40-buses-for-karachis-green-line-brt-arrive-from-china-finally>

September 20, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistanis, Chinese participate in friendship marathon

The nationals of Pakistan and China representing various segments of society enthusiastically participated in a friendship marathon in Tianjin organized by the Pakistani Embassy in coordination with the Tianjin Municipal Government.

According to China Economic Net, the Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Director General of Foreign Affairs Office of Tianjin Municipal Government, Luan Jianzhang inaugurated the event.

This event was part of the celebrations of 70 years of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. It was a manifestation of warm and cordial relations between the two friendly countries and peoples.

Ambassador Haque said, “We are going to sign three important agreements establishing sister provinces and sister cities, between the largest province of Punjab, the largest city of Pakistan Karachi, and the capital city Islamabad with Tianjin”.

Haque stated that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries has been nurtured and sustained over the seven decades by commitment and devotion of the peoples and the governments of the two countries.

“This relationship is unique in the world and is higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel and it has been an example of inter-states relationships in the world,” he mentioned.

Children of Pakistan Embassy College (PECB) attired in colourful dresses presented national songs, participated in kite painting, and applied henna.

Ambassador Haque expressed his pleasure over the participation of all Pakistani and Chinese friends in big numbers to make this event a great success.

A group of Chinese girls mesmerised the audience with traditional Chinese songs and Pecking Opera performances.

At the end of the ceremony, Ambassador Moin and the Director-General distributed the prizes among the winners of the marathon. Noor Hussain, a Pakistani national won the marathon.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818463/pakistanis-chinese-participate-in-friendship-marathon/>

Chinese companies to invest \$15 billion in Pakistan's petrochemicals

Federal Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI), Fareena Mazhar on Sunday said that Chinese companies were ready to invest \$15 billion in Pakistan's petrochemicals sector.

Under the said project, Chinese companies would invest in the petrochemical sector in Gwadar, including the project of energy pipeline from Gwadar to China, she told APP.

The secretary said bilateral talks were underway for investment in various projects related to Chinese investment in Pakistan. It was hoped that in the future, Chinese companies would bring investment in Pakistan in the fields of energy, agriculture, tourism and others.

She said the government wanted to promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) culture in the country for bringing foreign investment and to create employment opportunities in the country.

She said the government was introducing new SMEs policy as well as initiated the regulatory reforms for better business regulations in the country.

Replying to a question, she informed that the '7th Reform Action Plan' was mainly focusing on improvements in firm entry regulations, reliability of electricity, tax regulations, trade regulations, creditors' rights, better property rights, and court efficiency etc. and reforms in these areas play a major role in the process of economic development.

The Board of Investment (BOI) was working hard to attract foreign investment in the country and improve the 'Ease of Doing Business' by cost of doing business in the country, she said.

In this regard, the BOI was working on about 50 reforms to create a conducive environment for business and enhance the industrialization in the country.

The secretary said Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiatives (PRMI) was a key initiative of the government for the modernization and regulation of local business to provide a conducive business environment in the country.

Fareena said implementation of these reforms, initiated by BOI, was part of the broader strategy of the government aimed at improving productivity and enhancing exports to achieve the objective of sustainable economic growth in the country.

The secretary said main objective of PRMI reforms strategy was to improve the entry and operational environment for business, focusing on the simplification and automation of the regulatory framework at all three government levels including federal, provincial and district level.

She said the vital success indicator of the initiative would be increased in the overall private sector and foreign direct investment level without compromising the effectiveness of the various regulatory regimes.

Fareena said enabling a business environment played a pivotal role in attracting domestic and foreign investment. She said all over the world, the emphasis was on improving the business climate.

Replying to another question, she said the World Bank's coming, Ease of Doing Business (EODB) report 2021-22 to be issued in December this year, was expected to further improve Pakistan's ranking below 100. "Improving Pakistan's 'Ease of Doing Business Ranking' will boost foreign investment in the country", she said.

The secretary said higher rankings in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business (EODB) index indicated better regulations for businesses and stronger protections of their rights.

An environment where new entrants with drive and innovative ideas could get started in business, she said adding, areas where productive firms could invest, expand, and create new jobs was our prime focus. The secretary said EoDB ranking was instrumental to improve the size of the formal sector, to curb corruption through transparency and accountability.

She said in short improvements in EoDB ranking would help reduce time, cost and processes involved in starting and operating a business.

Fareena said it was very encouraging to say that during last two years, Pakistan advanced from 39 places to 108th place on the ease of doing business global ranking.

The company's registration has shown a 63 percent growth and 99 percent of these registrations were done online while 45 percent applicants were issued registration certificates on the same day, she said.

She said for every DB cycle, an action plan containing more than 50 reforms actions across all 10 indicators was prepared in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. In the last two years, "we have improved the World Bank's EODB ranking by 39 points in ease of doing business, which is very beneficial for attracting foreign investment and growth of the local industrial sector", she said.

The secretary BOI said the board was working hard on business reforms which would increase industrial competitiveness in the country and improve the climate for foreign investment in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818665/chinese-companies-to-invest-15-billion-in-pakistans-petrochemicals/>

Pakistan to celebrate Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival is an important traditional festival of the Chinese nation. With ancient legends and touching stories, it embodies mankind's vision for a harmonious and happy life. From September 18 – October 6, 2021, hosted by the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism and jointly organised by the Network of International Cultural Entities, overseas China Cultural Centres and China Tourism Offices, the Mid-Autumn Festival: A Moon moment to remember.

Large scale brand activities will be launched for people around the world.

The theme of this activity is based on traditional Mid-Autumn Festival culture, focusing around four major sections which include Mid-Autumn Festival Classics, Food Delicacies of Mid-Autumn, Mid-Autumn Ode to Music, Mid-Autumn Poetry and Chorale, promoting culture and tourism through virtual exhibitions, online concerts, food workshops, short videos, mini training classes and other forms of rich and colourful activities. The festival will promote Chinese traditional festivals and cultural customs in a comprehensive and three-dimensional way, convey the value of family harmony, social harmony and express the best wishes for reunion, harmony and health.

“Let us meet the clouds, across time and space, beyond the country, standing on the same planet, looking at the same round moon, telling the stories of the heart and spending a colourful Mid-Autumn Festival together!”

During this period, some exciting event previews and highlights will be launched for the viewers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818645/pakistan-to-celebrate-chinese-mid-autumn-festival/>

Dawn News

Govt to make partial payments soon to anxious Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD: The government is expected to make partial payments out of about \$1.4 billion payables in a few days to assuage concerns of the worried Chinese firms that have invested in independent power producers (IPPs) and other projects.

“We are working hard to clear at least some of the payments at the earliest,” a senior government official told Dawn, adding the payables of the power producers working under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had crossed Rs230bn (about \$1.4bn) and the Chinese investors had been agitating against this at the highest government level.

Meanwhile, the Chinese contractors of Dasu Hydropower Project, which is not part of the CPEC, have not resumed the construction activities they had stopped more than two months ago after a terrorist attack, despite elaborate security cover provided by the Pakistan Army.

Payables of power producers working under CPEC have topped Rs230bn

However, they have raised the issue of compensation claims to get back to work, which could be settled through reasonable discussions under available forums, but construction works should be started without further delay, a senior official said.

He pointed out that Chinese contractors had also stopped working on the Mohmand Dam after a similar incident, but resumed the works after almost a week of bilateral engagements.

“No doubt, payment is an issue,” but currently no company has given any default notice as envisaged in the Power Purchase Agreements, said an official. Obviously, dues have piled up because timely payments had not been made, he said, adding the government had agreed to set up a revolving fund to ensure timely clearance of dues to the IPPs under CPEC automatically through recovery of consumer bills, but this could not materialise.

In response to a question, he said there were no coal shortages at any of the three power plants based on imported coal — Hubco, Sahiwal and Port Qasim that have a total capacity of about 4,000MW. The 660MW Thar Coal Power Project is based on local coal and has no supply issues at all.

The official explained that all of the coal-based power projects were on ‘high dispatch order’ because of their lower fuel cost. The government continues to ensure fuel cost payments.

The problem is on the capacity payments side, where, too, the government had never faced any lenders’ default. However, the return on equity was a genuine expectation of the sponsors, but due to some issues, payments could not be made on time.

Officials said that Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor had been engaging with all the relevant authorities to ensure some payments on an urgent basis. “We are working very hard for some payments within this month or early next month,” said an official close to the SAPM.

“The Chinese companies are very accommodating and there is nothing to suggest that we are on the verge of default.”

Answering another question, the official said the two countries had strong relations and also had had initial discussions on re-profiling of debt portion of the IPPs under CPEC.

“They do not resort to extreme steps or issue notices, but try to resolve matters at the government level,” said the official. “Arbitrations deliver nothing”, working relationships matter.

Mr Mansoor, who joined the government after it removed former CPEC Authority chief Asim Saleem Bajwa, had last week briefed a parliamentary panel on the issues faced by the investors in terms of compliance with agreements of power projects of CPEC’s first phase.

He said the issues included payments to IPPs, long outstanding dues, establishment of a revolving account for automatic payments and increase in withholding tax on sponsors’ dividends to 25 per cent from 7.5pc.

He said the authorities now planned to set up an Investment Facilitation Centre to offer One Window Operation to all Chinese investors. He said 135 Chinese companies were operating in Pakistan on CPEC and other projects and top priority was now being accorded to regaining the trust of those working on CPEC schemes.

At the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Saleem Mandviwala, a former finance minister and now chairman of the committee, said that the Chinese were complaining that a flagship CPEC programme had been ruined over the past three years and many companies were unhappy.

Planning Minister Asad Umar, however, said at a press conference later that his government had completed a major part of the CPEC and that politicians should talk about sensitive programmes with care.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1647302>

September 21, 2021

Daily Times

Large-scale farming to bring agricultural progress in Pakistan: Chinese scholar

There is enormous potential for China and Pakistan to cooperate in energy, animal husbandry, cold water fish, agricultural machinery, etc. Comprehensive agricultural projects on a village or region scale will prolong industry chain and bring more benefits to Pakistani people.

This was stated by Long Ruijun, Professor at School of Life Sciences, Lanzhou University in an interview with China Economic Net.

Currently, Long Ruijun's team is cooperating with their Pakistani partners in energy, animal husbandry, cold water fish, agricultural machinery, etc. Training sessions and personnel exchanges have also been made possible.

Specially, Long Ruijun highlighted that the similarity of geography and weather between Pakistan's northern mountain areas and China's Gansu Province creates more possibilities of technology transfer and cooperation.

"Based on the similarity, many developed Chinese agricultural technologies can be applied to Pakistan straightway," Long Ruijun talked about the advantage.

It's learned that Lanzhou University has established China-Pakistan Biomass Energy Center jointly with Pakistan Agricultural Research Council to help Pakistanis solve energy shortage via using methane gas, etc.

Moreover, as animal husbandry is a pillar industry in Pakistan, competitive genetic resources of forage grass and yak and small and medium sized machinery for producing silage are being introduced to Pakistan.

Having made a series cooperation with Pakistan, Long Ruijun acknowledged that China-Pakistan friendship is the anchor of stability for bilateral collaboration in multiple areas, which meanwhile helps more agricultural cooperation emerge between the two countries.

“When Chinese experts ask me if they want to extend international cooperation, which country should they go to cooperate with first, I always tell them that would be Pakistan.

With the 70-year strong diplomatic ties and unbreakable traditional friendship, various forms of cooperation will be started more smoothly,” Long Ruijun told China Economic Net.

China-Pakistan can be a role model of successful agricultural cooperation for the cooperation with other countries in South Asia and Central Asia in the future,” he added.

Currently increasingly more projects are being reached between China and Pakistan. Long Ruijun said the key to the current smooth cooperation made by them is that they always support Pakistani friends with the technologies really desperately needed in Pakistan.

“When we go to Pakistan, we should follow the Pakistani way and adapt and optimize our technologies to suit Pakistan’s reality,” Long Ruijun underlined.

“We’re planning to establish some comprehensive agricultural demonstration in Pakistan on a village or region scale, to prolong industry chain,” Long Ruijun said.

In Long Ruijun’s view, developing large-scale farming will create much more benefits for local villagers, decrease transportation costs, and attract more foreign investment as well.

By the close integration of cultivation, breeding, processing, marketing and intelligent management, technologies of crop varieties, irrigation, solar energy, machinery, e-commerce, etc. can be applied simultaneously, to produce value-added products that can enter the international market.

As a ‘bridge’ connecting China and Pakistan in the last few years, Long Ruijun truly felt the development brought by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“In 2017 when we travelled from northern KP province to Islamabad, it took a long time. My friend just told me, a road constructed under CPEC has greatly shortened the time.

The progress of infrastructure in Pakistan facilitates our cooperation to a large extent,” Long told China Economic Net.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/818908/large-scale-farming-to-bring-agricultural-progress-in-pakistan-chinese-scholar/>

The Express Tribune

New Gwadar airport on radar again

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday approved the New Gwadar International Airport project at an upward revised cost of Rs51.3 billion, showing an increase of 138% in its

construction price within five years amid a slow pace progress on an important China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) scheme.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) took the decision to revise upward the project cost. Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Jehanzeb Khan chaired the CDWP meeting. The body has a mandate to scrutinise and approve development schemes and refer the mega projects for final ratification of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec).

“New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) second revision worth Rs51.3 billion referred to the Ecneec for further consideration,” according to the Ministry of Planning handout. The second revised PC-1 of the project had been submitted by the Aviation Division to revise the scope and cost of ASF camp, CAA residential building to be funded and executed by the Pakistan side, it added.

The CDWP accorded go-ahead to the Gwadar airport being an ongoing project with the directions to “review PSDP requirements keeping in view limited development portfolio and future revenues to the country”.

Out of Rs51.3 billion, an amount of Rs18.1 billion is planned to be spent from the Public Sector Development Programme while the remaining Rs33.8 billion will be provided by China. China is providing a grant of 1.52 billion yuan or Rs34 billion for the project. Oman had also given a \$17.5 million grant for the project.

The project was part of phase-1 of CPEC that was supposed to be completed by 2018. However, the construction of the New Gwadar International Airport is also falling behind schedule along with dozens of other CPEC projects.

The Planning Commission deputy chairman also directed that combined electricity generation from solar and wind should be explored to meet the future needs for Gwadar Airport.

The new Gwadar airport is considered important for the development of Gwadar Port and its free zone. The Ministry of Planning is now gradually taking back control of CPEC.

The original Gwadar airport project had been approved at a cost of Rs7.5 billion in 2010 and the revised one was cleared in 2015 at a cost of Rs22.2 billion. The CDWP approved the second revision on Monday at 138% higher than the 2015 cost.

A key reason behind the increase in cost was that the new plan was based on a detailed design of the project.

In October last year, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had presented the project for CDWP approval but the body had raised certain objections.

For the ASF camp, Rs6.4 billion, and for the CAA Residential Complex, Rs2.5 billion, have been included in the project construction cost.

At the time of approval of the original PC-I in January 2010, the dollar was at Rs85 against the rupee. The PML-N government made the first revision in January 2015 as part of the CPEC

project and then the dollar strengthened to Rs100. Now, the PTI government has proposed the second revision and the dollar value jumped to Rs169 in September this year.

The existing airport is capable of handling only small aircraft while the new airport is being designed to cater to the needs of large Airbus A-380 aircraft.

The CDWP also approved one development project with a cost of Rs2.7 billion. The feasibility studies and detailed engineering design for KPCIP (Transport and Municipal Services) Under Project Readiness Financing -PRF2 was approved by the CDWP.

The project envisages engineering and procurement support, planning feasibility, detailed design and capacity building for Urban Municipal Services, and project management, financial management, procurement, and transport planning.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2321135/new-gwadar-airport-on-radar-again>

September 22, 2021

Pakistan Observer

Operation of Gwadar Port as a trans-shipment hub

Commodore Dr Anjum Sarfraz (R)

SEAPORTS play an important role in the economic development of a state. Countries having all weather deep draught ports, located in the main shipping lanes equipped with state of the art cranes and associated equipment, are an enormous source of advancement of economy.

Gwadar port has a strategic location at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, a busy shipping lane, the average traffic flow is 24 ships per day.

These vessels carry various commodities to and from the USA, Europe via Suez, Far Eastern countries via Malacca Strait, and East African countries to Gulf States.

The idea to build Gwadar port was conceived by the government in 1993/94 but it could not materialize due to shortage of funds.

In 1997 the government appointed a Task Force with Captain Haleem Siddiqui, a Master Mariner and a leading business man as Chairman, who was Minister of State in the Ministry of Water and Power, to address ports and shipping issues.

Gwadar as one of the focus areas of development as a port was identified. However, the project remained a non-starter due to economic sanctions imposed after nuclear detonation in May 1998.

Finally, on 22 March 2002, the groundbreaking ceremony of the project worth \$ 248 million was held and the port facilities were inaugurated for operations in Jan 2007.

Main objectives are: (1) act as an alternate port, (2) handle transit trade of Afghanistan, China and CAR States, (3) serve as a trans-shipment hub, (4) facilitate supply of cargo to the hinterland of Pakistan and development of Balochistan especially Gwadar region.

The main features are: (i) quay wall 602m (including RO-RO facility), service berth 100m, (ii) design depth 13.8 m, turning basin 590m, channel length 4.7 Km, (iii) the backup area 383,000 square meters for stacking the cargo, (iv) allowable length of the ship 295m.

A Concession Agreement (CA) was signed between Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) in Feb 2007 for forty years for operating and managing the port.

Main features include: (a) all the charges on account of use of port facilities and services shall be collected by PSA. The PSA shall pay nine percent (9%) of its gross revenue to GPA every month.

(b) In all cases, channel dredging, both initial construction and maintenance dredging, shall be funded and undertaken by GPA, (c) the PSA shall install quayside cranes and other heavy terminal equipment. From Feb 2007 to Feb 2013, the PSA handled only 162 ships.

The PSA, neither made substantial efforts to enhance port operations nor made any investment for expansion of port facilities, although the conditions of the CA are considered unfairly advantageous to PSA.

The government in February 2013 transferred the agreement to China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), ironically almost on the same terms and conditions.

This Company has so far handled about 170 ships in eight years. Except for a few carrying commodities for Pakistan, it was mostly construction material for Gwadar airport, Gwadar Free Zone, cranes and other equipment for port operation and transit trade for Afghanistan.

After commencement of CPEC in April 2015, the port has been made its component and is being projected as a deep draught port, a jewel in the crown of CPEC. However, port operation is still insignificant.

The reasons may be lack of hinterland connections to other areas of Pakistan and required routes to China, security situation in Afghanistan, less import/export requirement of Xinjiang, the western province of China.

However, for trans-shipment these limitations do not matter much. It is considered that the potential of Gwadar Port to be operated as a trans-shipment hub has not been given due importance.

The trans-shipment concept refers to the shipment of containers or goods to an intermediate port before being taken to the final destination.

It plays a critical role due to infrastructure limitations in smaller sea ports, primarily having shallow draught, and inefficient cranes for handling containers. The shipping lines strategy is to have minimum ports of calls of their bigger ships.

Nowadays on average, a container is handled three to four times between the first port of loading and the final port of discharge.

Gwadar Port has the opposite location to be operated as a transshipment hub. Bigger ships can unload/load containers here and feeders can take it to the Gulf and other regional countries and vice versa.

Regarding ease of business, the containers for transshipment do not go out of the bonded area of the port, therefore, there is minimum involvement of customs and anti-narcotic officials.

The government has issued SRO No: 03(1)/2021 dated 4 January 2021, which gives details about transshipment.

It is obvious that initially it would be difficult for Gwadar port to compete with well-established transshipment ports in the region like Salalah, Sohar, Duqm, Jebel Ali and Hambantota of Sri Lanka.

Therefore, in the beginning overall cost may be levied less as compared to the competitive ports.

It is pertinent to mention that a large number of ships of Chinese state-owned company COSCO, fourth largest in the world, call on regional ports.

It is most likely that ships of this Company will prefer using Gwadar port for trans-shipment because it will benefit the Chinese Company operating the Gwadar Port. Other shipping lines are likely to follow.

The prime factor for a trans-shipment hub is depth of the channel, which is presently lacking at Gwadar because its present average depth has been reduced to 11.5m which needs to be dredged to designed depth to 14.0m. The estimated cost is about \$ 26.0 million in six months. Efficient Wi-Fi system is another essential requirement which needs to be improved.

It is pertinent to mention that deep draught ports Sohar and Duqm of Oman were made operational in 2004 and 2012 respectively mainly for trans-shipment. If we had started trans-shipment from Gwadar Port in Jan 2007, we would have faced less competition now.

However, the government should give due importance to the operation of Gwadar port as a trans-shipment hub, which will be a source of economic enhancement and creation of jobs for the area of Gwadar region which is the need of the hour.

<https://pakobserver.net/operation-of-gwadar-port-as-a-trans-shipment-hub-by-commodore-dr-anjum-sarfraz-r/>

CPEC, SCO & Uzbekistan

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further consolidated Pakistan's energy production & supplies, enhanced process of massive industrialization, agricultural output and last but not the least guarantor of Pakistan's economic stability, sustainability and prosperity.

Most recently, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Head of the States meeting was held in Tajikistan during which roadmap of regional security, socio-economic integration, eradication of poverty, peace in Afghanistan, promotion of international & regional trade, removal of trade & investment barriers, formation of joint strategy to combat terrorism and work for inclusive government in Afghanistan was included in its joint declaration indicating strong will of China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan to achieve greater regional connectivity through greater economic and innovative tools of transportation systems.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi termed CPEC supplemental to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) vision of regional connectivity and economic integration which has now further enhanced its relevance, utility and strategic orientation. It covers more than 60% of Eurasia with extensive implications for the entire world.

With its strategic expansion, the total population of the SCO countries will be almost 3.5 billion, which roughly accounts for half of the world, and the combined GDP is estimated to be exceeding 25% of the global GDP.

Uzbekistan has been rigorously pursuing policies of greater regional connectivity with the South Asian Region.

In this connection, constant bilateral political consultation, economic cooperation, trade & investment potential, joint venture prospects and last but not the least, transportation cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan have been streamlined, systematized and made strategic oriented.

Most recently, in this context the Uzbek President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, held talks with the Pakistan Premier, Imran Khan, in Dushanbe.

The wide-ranging talks covered bilateral cooperation with a special focus on trade, economic relations and regional connectivity.

The two leaders thoroughly discussed development and implementation of numerous agreements to further strengthen Pak-Uzbek multifaceted cooperation.

The two leaders emphasized the importance of further joint work to create favourable conditions for the expansion of fruitful business exchanges.

Prospects of the early adoption of an agreement on preferential trade, the implementation of the provisions of the agreement on transit and trade relations, the implementation of investment projects in various sectors of the economy in accordance with the adopted roadmap were also prioritized.

Matters of regional security, especially emerging geopolitical and geostrategic situation in Afghanistan, were also discussed. An agreement was reached to continue close cooperation to ensure regional security.

On his part, PM Imran Khan termed structured political ties, fast tracking trade and economic cooperation by operationalizing Uzbekistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA), enhancing defence and security cooperation and further increasing collaboration in the fields of education, culture and tourism significant for further strengthening of sustainable socio-economic bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in which CPEC would play an important role in the days to come. He showcased the importance of early finalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Premier Khan stressed the importance of a multi-modal and multidimensional integrated system of connectivity and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the visionary Trans-Afghan Railway Project (TARP) and assured all possible support for its early realization.

It is hoped that once completed, this project would effectively link the Central Asian countries with the world through the seaports of Karachi and Gwadar.

He further highlighted Pakistan's efforts in support of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

He thanked President Mirziyoyev for Uzbekistan's support to Pakistan's initiative on engagement of Afghanistan's immediate neighbouring countries for a coordinated approach.

Constant initiation and successful implementation of numerous structural reforms have revolutionized the socio-economic outlook of Uzbekistan.

It consists of unification of exchange rates, liberalisation of foreign trade, removing barriers hindering the cross-border flow of goods and people, commencing the transformation of the banking sector, radical tax reform and ensuring that state intervention remains at a minimum level. It has increased the economic status of Uzbekistan as an investment destination.

It has further improved its ranking on the Doing Business Index to 69th place in 2020, as opposed to the 87th position in 2016.

Moreover, Uzbekistan was one of the best performing economies in the Central Asian region in 2020 growing by 1.7 percent making it one of few economies to register positive economic growth.

According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (June 2021), the gross domestic product for the first six months of this year increased by 6.2 percent which is very impressive and steady progress.

Moreover, many international rating agencies have also estimated a positive economic outlook for the country for 2021-2022.

According to J.P. Morgan (August, 2021) Uzbekistan's economy is expected to grow by 8.1 percent in 2021 and by 6.3 percent in 2022. Thus present and future economic prospects are bright.

Moreover, international rating agency Moody's rates Uzbekistan in the 'positive' category and estimates Uzbekistan's economic growth rate at 5.5 percent during this fiscal year and 6.3 percent next year. Even the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) forecasts that Uzbekistan's economy will grow by 6 percent in 2022.

Uzbekistan's President Mirziyoyev also handled the COVID-19 crisis in a prudent manner. The government of Mirziyoyev initiated a host of emergency measures.

The World Health Organisation praised Uzbekistan for strengthening its health sector during the COVID crisis.

In a bid to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Uzbekistan has decided to introduce mandatory health insurance (MHI) as part of the health reforms agenda.

So, health cooperation under BRI extended Health partnership, Health Silk Route and CPEC would be an ideal combination to promote bilateral health cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in the days to come.

Being a prominent regional expert of China, CPEC and BRI, this scribe suggests that holistic policies of economic integration, innovative socio-economic policies, befitting transportation systems (TIR, trans-regional railway), and last but not the least, beneficial greater regional connectivity through the ideal combination of BRI and CPEC would be a game and fate changer.

Stability in Afghanistan would speed up numerous trans-regional projects of energy cooperation especially TAPI, CASA-1000 and, of course, will give new impetus to proposed trans-regional railway project of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Early signing of PTA will lead towards the ultimate goal of FTA in which the role of the private sector is immense which needs to be harmonized as soon as possible.

In this context, mere cosmetic webinars on regional connectivity will achieve nothing but systematic holding of a series of trade & investment road-maps/shows, intensified business contacts, close liaison with respect of chambers of commerce, active roles of respective embassies and comprehensive but sensible media projection should be the way forward.

Sincere efforts should be initiated to achieve optimal utility of Gwadar seaport by all the Central Asian Countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecsco-uzbekistan-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The News

‘Around 5 million Chinese to be working in Pakistan by 2025’

KARACHI: There would be around five million Chinese nationals working in Pakistan by 2025 whose health needs can only be met by enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese medical universities, research institutes and biotechnological firms under the China Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), a senior Pakistani public health expert said on Tuesday.

“In order to meet the health needs of millions of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian States, we need to have specialised health facilities, based on both modern and traditional treatment systems. This can only be achieved by enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese health institutions under the China Pakistan Health Corridor,” Vice Chancellor Health Services Academy (HSA) Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan told The News. He said talks were in advanced stages to sign multiple, joint collaborative agreements with different Chinese academic, research institutes and biotechnological firms and added that during the 11th Annual Public Health Conference in Islamabad on September 23-24, 2021, several Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) would be signed between Pakistan and Chinese institutions.

“We wish to train Pakistani experts in modern medical technologies as well as traditional Chinese medicines, which is a treatment of choice by millions of people in China. These experts would not only fulfill the medical needs of visiting Chinese nationals but also of the Pakistani people, who believe in alternate medicine,” Prof Shahzad Ali Khan said.

In the first step, Chairman China Pakistan Health Corridor Dr Lee, also the VC, HSA, will sign an MoU for the HSA's joining into the China Pakistan Health Corridor, he said, adding the Department of Public Health of Wuhan University will sign an MoU for multiple cooperation in the academic partnership between China and Pakistan in the field of public health.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=6039>

HSA all set to join China-Pakistan Health Corridor initiative

Islamabad: The Health Services Academy (HSA) will join the China-Pakistan Health Corridor Initiative by signing multiple collaborative agreements with its Chinese counterpart organizations that will be represented at the 11th Annual Public Health Conference of the Academy scheduled on September 23-24.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect will be signed between the Chairman of the China-Pakistan Health Corridor Dr. Lee and Vice Chancellor of HSA Prof. Shahzad Ali Khan.

In another historic development, the Department of Public Health of Wuhan University will sign an MoU for multiple cooperation in academic partnership between China and Pakistan in the field of public health. Key component of this collaboration will include digital health, medical technology, traditional medicine, and joint health research projects.

Through yet another agreement, the WHO Traditional Medicine Foundation of China will seek collaboration with HSA in the field of Traditional and Alternative Medicine (TAM) in Pakistan. Digital Human will sign an MoU with HSA for the establishment of the Digital Human Project and Digital Medicine Lab at HSA.

With its headquarter in Jinan, the China-Pakistan Health Corridor initiative is a multidisciplinary interconnected group of centers consisting of medical universities, hospitals, traditional medicine

academies, and research and training centres in countries along the Belt and Road linked together by telemedicine, artificial intelligence, VR/AR, and big data.

The China-Pakistan Health Corridor has several cooperations established between Chinese and Pakistani universities, hospitals, and medical institutes. Cooperation with China Medical University, Fuwai Hospital, Weifang People's Hospital, The Lancet, Mayo International Clinic, Xian Jiaotong University, Sino-Pak Joint Research Lab, and Qingdao Binhai University are particularly worth mentioning.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=5886>

September 23, 2021

Business Recorder

Latest development in Afghanistan

Special envoys of China and Russia arrive

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: After holding talks with Taliban's interim Prime Minister Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund in Kabul, special envoys of China and Russia for Afghanistan arrived in Pakistan, on Wednesday, for holding consultations on the latest development in Afghanistan. Chinese special envoy for Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Russian special envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov along with their Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Sadiq on Wednesday held meeting with Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood here and exchanged views on Afghanistan situation as well as their interaction with Afghan interim prime minister and other Taliban leaders as well as Afghan leaders in their Tuesday trip to Kabul.

According to a statement of the Foreign Office, during the talks Sohail Mahmood reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for peaceful, stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. The foreign secretary also underscored importance of international engagement to address humanitarian challenges and stabilise economic situation in the war-ravaged Afghanistan. The special envoys for Afghanistan of the three countries – Pakistan, China, and Russia – Tuesday visited Kabul as part of the diplomatic efforts by key regional countries for an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

In Kabul, the special envoys of the three countries held talks with Taliban's interim Prime Minister Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund.

The top diplomats of Pakistan, Russia, and China also met former President Hamid Karzai and Afghan High Council on National Reconciliation Chairman Dr Abdullah Abdullah as part of engagement for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Separately, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq along with Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan also called on Afghan acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and

discussed mutual cooperation including facilitating movement of people between the two countries.

In their meeting with Afghan acting Minister for Information and Culture Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwah, the Pakistani diplomats discussed strengthening of cooperation in the field of culture, information, and people-to-people exchanges, according to a tweet by Ambassador Mansoor.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/23/2-page/901615-news.html>

LCCI, Rafi Group ink MoU on Gwadar development

LAHORE: “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer and Gwadar is an important part of it. The charm of this city is getting momentum with every passing day and it is Dubai of the future”.

These views were expressed by the Chairman Rafi Group Imtiaz Rafi Butt while speaking at the MoU signing ceremony between LCCI and GPHP at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Vice-President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry and Senator Kauda Babar also spoke on the occasion.

Imtiaz Rafi Butt said that Gwadar is going to play a significant role in the economy of Pakistan because of its strategic location. It destined as the economic hub that will not just cater the locals but will also come off as a key factor for the economic prosperity of Pakistan. He said that China is an emergent super power. Phase one of CPEC has been completed while the second phase is well on the way under which industrial zones will be established and special attention will be given to the agriculture production. He said that 140 countries have expressed their desire for being part of One Belt One Road Project.

Imtiaz Rafi Butt said change of regime in Kabul is a geopolitical earthquake and will initiate economic development in the region. He said that Pakistan is one hundred percent winner in this case. He said that earlier, entire focus of Pakistan was on security but now the focus is on economic development as the security situation is under control.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that the business community seems the development of Gwadar port city as an important milestone in the emerging economic profile of Pakistan. Pakistan stands to gain from its development in the long run. He said that in coming years, such individuals who make investment right now will be drawing good benefits.

The LCCI president praised the achievements made by Rafi Group in real estate sector across Pakistan. Since 1978, Rafi Group has been expanding as a market leader. He congratulated Imtiaz Rafi Butt for successfully completing and delivering various commercial and residential real estate projects all over the country.

He hoped that Green Palms Housing Project commenced in Gwadar would be the best architectural landscape equipped with modern infrastructure and a wide array of amenities. Imtiaz Rafi Butt said that Gwadar is a very important part of the CPEC and it will revolutionize

the economy of Pakistan. Given the global importance of Gwadar, Rafi Group is committed to providing affordable and quality accommodation to its customers in Gwadar. Green Palms Gwadar is undergoing rapid development.

“Our highly capable team will complete the project on time using all its capabilities,” he added. Earlier, the LCCI and Green Palms Housing Project (GPHP) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will not only facilitate the LCCI members but would also be helpful the development of Gwadar City.

The MoU was signed by the LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah and Chairman Green Palms Housing Project Imtiaz Rafi Butt.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, Green Palms Housing Project will offer special corporate rates to the members of LCCI for purchasing residential and commercial plots in the Overseas Block of the GPHP. However, the MoU places no financial or legal obligations on either of the parties.

Executive Committee Members Fiaz Haider, Uzma Shahid, Haji Muhammad Asif Sehar and Shahid Nazir were also present.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/23/11-page/901674-news.html>

Daily Times

Linking CPEC with Central Asia, EU part of PM’s economic narrative: Fawad

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Wednesday that connecting China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with Central Asia and European Union was part of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s global vision on economic narrative.

Speaking at a business conference, he said that inclusive dispensation in Afghanistan was vital to convert Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision into reality.

He said that India invested heavily in Afghanistan to destabilize Pakistan but its investment was wasted as Ashraf Ghani’s government collapsed. He said Ashraf Ghani escaped from Kabul and now he was an absconder. Similarly, a former three-time prime minister of Pakistan was also an absconder due to his dishonesty and corruption. Fawad said that honesty, luck and courage were prerequisites for becoming a leader.

He said many conspiracies had been hatched against Pakistan but by the grace of Allah Almighty Pakistan emerged stronger after every conspiracy. The minister said 20 years of efforts were made to destabilize Pakistan and the Ashraf Ghani regime’s only job was to weaken Pakistan. He said conspiracies on both eastern and western borders were hatched to weaken Pakistan. However, he said that those who hatched conspiracies were weeping while Pakistan has emerged even stronger. He said that now Pakistan was being consulted for the decision-making process in

the region. Pakistan's input was being taken for the formation of the inclusive government in Kabul, connecting South Asia with Central Asia and European Union, Fawad said.

The minister said that stable and inclusive dispensation in Kabul was vital and Prime Minister Imran Khan in his interview with BBC last night that the inclusion of Tajiks in the Afghan government was crucial. He said that Prime Minister during his visit to Tajikistan also asked Tajik President to play his role in this regard as he was revered by Tajiks all over the world. He said that an agreement between Pashtoons and Tajiks was vital for stability in Afghanistan. The minister said that the prime minister had also advised Ashraf Ghani to go for the inclusive government but he did not pay heed to his advice and was now an absconder.

“Pakistan has become a global player in the decision-making process in the region”, he said. Fawad Hussain said that Pakistan wanted friendly relations with India as well. He said Pakistan recently signed two agreements with Uzbekistan for building rail links between Karachi and Gwadar with Tashkent via Mazar Sharif and starting truck service to Central Asia.

He said linking CPEC with Central Asia and European Union was part of the prime minister's vision of global connectivity. He said with the realization of PM's vision, Pakistan's status in the region would change with the world's biggest market on one side and the second biggest market on the other side. He said presently hard-line Indian government following Hindutva ideology was the hurdle in good relations with India.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/820115/linking-cpec-with-central-asia-eu-part-of-pms-economic-narrative-fawad/>

Pakistan Observer

Book on 100 years of CPC launched CPC alive to address modern-day challenges, make China global leader: Speakers

Diplomats, experts on international politics and foreign policy Wednesday eulogized the role and vision of the Communist Party of China in transforming the country from a backward nation to a global leader.

They expressed these views while addressing at the launching ceremony of the book titled, “Hundred Years of the Communist Party of China – The best example of selfless service” authored by S. M. Hali.

Ambassador of China Nong Rong in his keynote address welcomed the book and termed it a gift to the CPC on its 100th anniversary.

He said, the book discusses great accomplishments of CPC, as CPC continuously strives for global peace, welfare and prosperity of the people of China and a win-win cooperation with the world.

Ambassador Nong Rong underlined that book by Hali covered major changes in the last century, the challenges in common security, it interprets CPC for better understanding of China, the

struggles and hardships of CPC in the last century, particularly it mentions the handling Covid-19 by the communist party.

While addressing the ceremony former Senator Nisar A. Memon lauded Hali for authoring, “yet another book,” which he termed as an essential reading for those wishing to understand China.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his remarks, said the author had produced an insightful literature on the CPC at a time when CPC is marking 100 years of its founding.

He noted that the book primarily focuses on the CPC, its establishment, its manifesto and its goal and analyses Chinese democracy under the rules of CPC.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador to China, also commended Hali for authoring a book which she believed would enhance understanding of Chinese political system and CPC in Pakistan.

S M Hali, the author of the book thanked ISSI for launching her book. In his remarks he highlighted key attributes of CPC.

He underlined that CPC is a progressive party, which is not mired in archaic traditions and rules which are outdated.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, congratulated author for producing a timely book.

<https://pakobserver.net/book-on-100-years-of-cpc-launched-cpc-alive-to-address-modern-day-challenges-make-china-global-leader-speakers/>

Pak-China Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise 2021 begins in Pabbi

RAWALPINDI – The opening ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE) 2021, was held at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi as part of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure.

Troops from the People’s Liberation Army of China and Pakistan Amry are taking part in the drill, said ISPR in a statement.

JATE is being conducted with a view to practice and master various drills and procedures involved in Counter Terrorism operations including Cordon & Search, Compound Clearance, Close Quarter Battle and medical evacuation.

Exercise is aimed at enhancing synergy and interoperability among Special Services and Law Enforcement Agencies of SCO member countries for combating international terrorism, practice mechanisms to respond to a crisis situation & capacity building of the forces.

Stage one of the exercises was conducted in respective countries from 26 to 31 July 2021, whereas two weeks long stage two is being conducted in Pakistan.

Major General Javed Dost Chandio was Chief Guest on the opening ceremony.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-joint-anti-terrorist-exercise-2021-begins-in-pabbi/>

Khyber Pass Economic Corridor

Adv Mujeeb-ur-Rehman

As Pakistan is waiting to benefit from the 60 Billion plus China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a silver jackpot has emerged for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the shape of (KPEC) Khyber Pass Economic Corridor which is funded by the World Bank.

The project was approved on 14 June 2018 and is scheduled to be completed by 28 June 2024. The main objective of this project is to expand economic ties with Afghanistan by improving regional connectivity and promoting private sector development.

Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to maintain an upward trajectory of trade during the last few years and have crossed US\$ 2 Billion mark during 2019-2020. Pakistan has remained the largest export market for Afghanistan.

In order to further boost up the economic ties, Pakistan decided to construct a four-lane expressway known as Khyber Pass Economic Corridor from Peshawar to Torkham.

Now as the situation in Afghanistan stands changed, Afghanistan is under the control of the Taliban led government.

It is hoped that the same project will be completed on time and economic ties between the two countries will be strong.

This project is very essential for the KP. However KP and newly merged tribal districts can only benefit from this project, if the Government is pursuing this project seriously.

And if the government pursued this seriously, this project will have a far-reaching impact on the economy of the region because it carries huge potential not only of improving economic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan but also of reviving the historic trade link between Central Asia and South Asia.

The aim of this project is to make a link with other projects to facilitate the development of marble and horticulture industries to maximize the benefits of Expressway. This project is divided into two components.

The first component of KPEC is the development of Expressway which includes the construction of a four-lane highway from Peshawar to Torkham expressway.

This component also includes the laying of fibre optic cables in trenches along PTEX, land acquisition and resettlement afforestation and technical and independent reviews and studies for the preparation of new related projects.

The second component is the development of Khyber Pass Economic Corridor which also has a sub component and it includes the anchor of Peshawar-Torkham Economic Corridor, a new

expressway which will provide a safe and easy travelling environment with higher travelling speed.

The KPEC component II investment seeks to facilitate improvement in the productivity of existing enterprises in tribal areas and encourage private investment in the area.

Two targeted sectors in development of Component II are Marble Production and in this sector, NMTD has 446 processing units which counts for 20 percent of Pakistan's total marble production and another sector is Horticulture.

Both sectors have great potential for export. The proposed project route starts from the end of Peshawar Northern Bypass at the Takhta Baig Bridge and it ends at the Torkham border.

The KPEC route passes through the mountainous areas with limited population settled there. This route will be built as a dual highway facility with a 7.3 meter wide carriage way.

It could be an extension of the Karachi-Lahore, Islamabad-Peshawar, Trans-Pakistan Expressway System as well as part of the Peshawar-Kabul motorway.

It will reduce transit time and cost for regional and international trade goods using Peshawar-Torkham Corridor.

KPEC has great importance because it passes through the ancient Khyber Pass, which is the main route to India for traders from Europe, Central Asia, Arabia and Afghanistan.

This project will fulfil the long-cherished dream of traders of the subcontinent, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the great Middle East.

KPEC will become more important once CPEC routes travelling Pakistan reach Peshawar. Although KPEC is not part of CPEC but as KPEC will become functional, it will give a huge boost to CPEC and China's BRI aiming to economically integrate the Afro-Eurasian landmass including nearly 60 countries.

KPEC is not only a route or expressway, but it is a project for the economic development in the region.

Peshawar and KPK will get the most benefit from this project. Once Peshawar was the hub of economy in the subcontinent. Now this project will show the true economic potential of this ancient city.

Given the KPEC's importance and its economic potential it will be a big mistake if we let go of this project and any laziness and red-tape must not be allowed.

Already KPEC got its fund worth of \$460 million from World Bank and there is no any hindrance in the swift implementation of the project.

—The writer is an Advocate, based in Karachi.

<https://pakobserver.net/khyber-pass-economic-corridor-by-adv-mujeeb-ur-rehman/>

The Nation

CPEC JCC meeting today

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - The 10th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be held today (Thursday). The JCC is likely to take up the framework agreement for Industrial Cooperation (IC) and the financial close of the 300MW coal fired power plant at Gwadar.

The one-day meeting, to be held via video link, will be co-chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Asad Umar and Vice Chairman National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) of China Ning Jizhe.

The JCC is the highest decision-making forum which periodically reviews progress on ongoing CPEC projects and give approval to new projects. Usually the JCC meeting is held once or twice a year.

The JCC was started in 2015 and so far nine JCC meetings had taken place. During PTI government only one JCC meeting was held in November 2019. During past 22 months the JCC meeting could not be convened.

There are nine joint working groups (JWGs) under the JCC including energy, transportation infrastructure, Gwadar Port, Planning, industrial cooperation, socio-economic development, agriculture, science and technology and international cooperation.

Secretary Planning would brief the meeting on Long Term Plan (2017-2030) for its evaluation and possible update, official source told The Nation. The source said that on Wednesday till late night both the sides were finalising the agenda of the 10th JCC meeting.

The source said that framework agreement for Industrial Cooperation (IC) between Pakistan and China is on the agenda of the JCC. Pakistan and China had already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation and now the 10th JCC is likely to give its nod to the framework agreement, the source said. Special Economic Zone Rashakai will also be discussed in the meeting.

In communication infrastructure the focus is on Chakdara to Chitral Expressway and Chitral to Shandur Road. Other proposed projects for the meeting are Peshawar-D.I. Khan Motorway, Swat Expressway Phase-II, Dir Expressway and CRBC.

In Gwadar the source said that main project is 300MW Gwadar coal-fired power plant. The meeting would try to announce the date for the financial close of the project. Similarly for Gwadar free zone policy would be discussed.

Progress on Gwadar Eastbay Expressway and new Gwadar international Airport will also be discussed in the meeting.

Under socio-economic, the source said, work on five projects has been completed while six are in progress. In the meeting LOE for two more projects will be signed, the source added.

Similarly in agriculture sector short, medium and long-term projects identified by the China-Pakistan JWG would be discussed in the meeting. Beside action plan for pest control may also come to the meeting.

The provision of security to the Chinese nationals working in Pakistan is also on the agenda of the JCC meeting. It is worth to mention that the JCC-10 meeting on CPEC which was earlier scheduled for July 16, 2021 but was postponed after nine Chinese and five Pakistani nationals were killed in an accident near Dasu project area.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-23/page-3/detail-10>

The News

As China rises

Atique Ur Rehman

The Covid-19 pandemic has jolted the world in many ways, halting the progress of the world's leading economies in the process. Reportedly 220 million people contracted the virus and 4.6 million lost their lives while fighting the disease.

The pandemic has no doubt brought great grief to humanity. Businesses have perished and millions have lost their jobs. The world economy is witnessing the worst recession since the Great Depression. Covid-19 has added immensely to public debt, stressed tensions among countries, and created vast disorder in global energy markets.

Meanwhile, the global power play also continues to enhance its influence in the areas of energy, communication, economics, military and information management. The competitiveness between the US and China was imminent due to the consistent and phenomenal growth of China. This unprecedented growth was being viewed by America as a threat to its hegemony in the world. The contest visibly surfaced in 2017, when the Trump administration declared China and Russia the US's leading contender in its national security policy.

China is a rising power and its unprecedented growth is a myth for global powers. The Belt and Road initiative (BRI) has added further agony for the US and its allies which view the project as a threat to their global influence. China has time and again reiterated its pledge that the BRI is not against any country and is rather a project of cooperation and shared prosperity.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a bilateral arrangement between two time-tested friends, is the flagship programme of the BRI which provides Pakistan an edge in the region due to its connectivity, improvement in communication infrastructure, enhancement in energy, industrial growth, job opportunities, development in agriculture and socio-economic initiatives. The BRI is a dynamic, purposeful and inclusive project for the benefit of not only

China but the entire world. So far 136 countries have announced their participation in the BRI. CPEC is already progressing smoothly.

Now the US has come up with a project in cooperation with its allies, the G7 countries, which they have termed 'Build Back Better World (B3W)'. The new developments in Afghanistan have further added pressure on the US for its policies in South Asia. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan has left it with no base in the region which is likely to be the focus of world economic activity in future.

India is already facing embarrassment for the complete failure of its policies in Afghanistan due to the elimination of the proxies it had nurtured over the years, at very high cost, to fuel terrorism in the region.

On June 20, 2021, US President Biden met with G7 leaders to start the new Build Back Better World (B3W). Through B3W, the G7 and other like-minded partners will coordinate in mobilising private-sector capital in four areas: climate, health , digital technology, and gender equality. As a lead partner in B3W, the US will seek to mobilise the full potential of development finance tools, including the Development Finance Corporation, USAID, EXIM and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

B3W is a retaliatory approach. The sectors mentioned in B3W mostly cover security areas not development. Gender equality is an extension of feminism, which is a movement for women's rights. Nobody denies the fact that women are equal partners in society. Climate change is a serious issue but then why did the US back off from the Paris accord. How will global cooperation resolve health security questions? It is beyond comprehension. The best way to overcome health issues is to make nations self-sustainable by strengthening their economies through export and development of industries and infrastructure. The WHO is already working to help overcome health issues in underdeveloped countries. Another arrangement may be contradictory to the global institution.

The BRI was conceived and launched about eight years ago. However, analysts are raising questions on whether the West can respond to the rise of China and its Belt and Road Initiative. B3W is US led and is supported by G-7 countries. The G7 is made up of wealthy, highly industrialised nations, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

B3W is just an announcement which will require sustained follow up by all but the key question is going to be not just follow-up but meaningful, sustainable follow-up, so that it's not a one-off but actually a priority. It is highly unlikely that the B3W programme will be able to operate with as few constraints as China can do.

The Belt and Road Initiative mostly involves bilateral funding agreements between Chinese banks and developing countries, with the infrastructure projects themselves serving as collateral for the loans. The US and its partners, operating in democracies with clear demarcations between the state and private businesses, won't be able to direct funding with that kind of precision. Will

the G7 countries be able to convince their public back home about this engagement? It looks difficult. The West has already lost trust in the US and is fed up with fighting wars for American interests. They have just finished a more than twenty-year-long war ending in near-defeat.

The BRI was announced by China in 2013. The US and G7 countries are lagging behind by eight years. Though they have IFI at their disposal, it requires will of the highest order by the leadership of B3W to carry forward an ambitious plan just to counter the rise of China.

The BRI is just not an announcement but a priority for China, and has been termed a programme of shared prosperity and poverty alleviation. It is evident that a war of narrative alongside global supremacy of economy has set in. It will be a cold-war like situation. Having Russia on its side, it will be easier for China to respond to the G7 initiative.

US forces' hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan also seems to be aimed at delinking itself from a mess of its own policies and gathering advanced industrial nations to push the American agenda to counter China and Russia. The cooperation between China, Russian, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics has diversified advantages for the region.

The Covid-19 pandemic has proved that the concept of power needs a change in its elaboration. Global cooperation is the solution to problems. The way the US is viewing the BRI is not productive for global peace and economic prosperity. The world is going through its worst economic crisis due to this pandemic and it cannot afford more shocks due to such global power rivalries. The US must understand the importance of cooperation and shared prosperity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=6141>

Jang News

چین پاکستان میں 4 نئے نیوکلیر پلانٹس لگائے گا، اسرائیلی میڈیا کا دعویٰ

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) اسرائیلی میڈیا نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جوہری تعاون کے حوالے سے ایک نیا معاہدہ ہوا ہے جس کے تحت چین پاکستان کو جوہری ٹیکنالوجی، یورینیم کی کان کنی اور اس کی پروسیسنگ کی ٹیکنالوجی فراہم کرے گا اور ساتھ ہی جوہری فیول سپلائی کریگا، نئے ریسرچ ری ایکٹرز تعمیر کرے گا۔

کراچی (کے فور اور کے فائیو) اور مظفر گڑھ (ایم ون اور ایم ٹو) کی تعمیر کے علاوہ چار نئے پلانٹس پاکستان میں تعمیر کیے جائیں گے۔

غیر مصدقہ رپورٹس کی بنیاد پر اسرائیلی اخبار نے دعویٰ کیا کہ معاہدے کا نام ”دی فریم ورک ایگریمنٹ آن ڈیپٹنگ نیوکلیر انرجی کو آپریشن“ ہے اور اس پر پاکستان ایٹمک انرجی کمیشن اور چین کے ذون گویان انجینئرنگ کو آپریشن نے 8 ستمبر 2021ء کو دستخط کیے تھے۔

معاہدے کو حتمی شکل 20 اگست 2021ء کو ہونے والے ایک اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس کے دوران دی گئی۔

درچونل موڈ (آن لائن) میں ہونے والے اس اجلاس میں طے پانے والا معاہدہ 10 سالہ ہے جس میں چین پاکستان کو جوہری ٹیکنالوجی منتقل کرے گا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/988380>

سی پیک پرو جیکٹس سے پاک چین تعلقات نئی بلندیوں کی طرف گامزن ہوں گے، عثمان بزدار

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب میں سی پیک پرو جیکٹس کی تکمیل سے پاک چین تعلقات نئی بلندیوں کی طرف گامزن ہوں گے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اتھارٹی کی مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے اجلاس سے ویڈیو لنک خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کا کہنا تھا کہ صوبے میں سی پیک پرو جیکٹس میں تعاون پر چینی دوستوں کے مشکور ہیں۔

عثمان بزدار نے کہا کہ پنجاب کا نیشنل جی ڈی پی میں شیئر سب سے زیادہ ہے، صوبے میں کاروبار کے لیے صورت حال انتہائی موزوں ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کا کہنا تھا کہ چینی دوستوں کو پنجاب کی انڈسٹری میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں انڈسٹریز کے قیام کے لیے تمام سہولتیں فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک کے تحت فیصل آباد میں اسپیشل اکنامک زون علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی آپریشنل ہو چکا۔ عثمان بزدار نے بتایا کہ سی پیک فیژ ٹو میں ایگریکلچر سیکٹر میں گروتھ کا خاصا پوٹینشل ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ کورونا کے باوجود حکومت پنجاب نے منصوبوں کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچانے میں پیشرفت کی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ زراعت، لائیو اسٹاک اور دیگر نئے منصوبوں کی تجاویز تیار کر لی گئی ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ 135 میگا واٹ کاتونسہ ہائیڈرو پاور پرو جیکٹ سی پیک کے انرجی پرو جیکٹس میں سرفہرست ہے۔ عثمان بزدار کا کہنا تھا کہ پنجاب میں سی پیک پرو جیکٹس کی تکمیل سے پاک چین تعلقات نئی بلندیوں کی طرف گامزن ہوں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/988732>

September 24, 2021

Business Recorder

CM vows full support to Chinese investors

LAHORE: The Punjab government is thankful to Chinese for extending cooperation on CPEC Projects in the province and it is sanguine that Pakistan-China relations are touching new heights in the tenure of PM Imran Khan.

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar stated this while addressing the joint cooperation committee meeting through video link under CPEC Authority on Thursday.

The CM thanked the Chinese government for cooperation with the Punjab government and stated that completion of CPEC projects in Punjab will give further impetus to Pakistan-China relations. Punjab has highest share in national GDP; he pointed out and invited the Chinese investors as conducive environment is provided in the province. The Chinese investors will be provided every facility for setting up industry and special incentives will be provided to them, he added.

While giving updates about CPEC related projects in the province, the CM informed the participants that Special Economic Zone Allama Iqbal Industrial City has been operational in

Faisalabad. About 1050 acres land is earmarked for China Zone in it while land lease policy is being given final shape for the benefit for Chinese investors, the CM disclosed. He announced to welcome Chinese assistance for establishing Pak zones free from foot and mouth disease of animals in Punjab and pointed out that agriculture sector has a lot of growth potential in CPEC phase-II.

He thanked the experts assisting in social economic projects which were shared with Chinese experts' team for their feedback. Though the last one and a half year's period has proved very tough for Pakistan and global economies, the Punjab government has made significant progress in completing ongoing CPEC related projects, the CM added and divulged that new project proposals relating to agriculture, livestock, water reserves and infrastructure development have been devised and were same would be presented before next joint working group meeting for approval.

The CM observed that agriculture would be promoted in Punjab by constructing dams and canals at different areas. It is planned to construct dams in Vohwa, Sanghar and Chachar hill-torrents, he stated and added that a new canal is being planned in Rahim Yar Khan to irrigate Cholistan desert. Similarly, 135-megawatt Taunsa Hydropower Project is leading CPEC energy projects and this would be a best decision to put it in the priority list of CPEC energy project, concluded the CM.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/24/11-page/901805-news.html>

MoU inked on new JWG on IT industry

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: China expressed serious concerns over security matters in the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while both sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for establishment of a new Joint Working Group (JWG) on information technology industry.

Addressing a news conference after the JCC meeting held on Thursday through a video conference, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said, while replying to a question from journalists that China expressed concern over the security arrangements for Chinese working on the CPEC projects.

Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs, was also present at the press conference.

The minister said that China emphasised boosting security arrangements with the enhancement in the scope of CPEC in the second phase.

He said that as the CPEC is expanding, and investments are expanding beyond industrial estates, simultaneously raising the need for security.

This is especially important keeping in mind the recent Dasu incident, he said.

The minister said that a specific cell has been made in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure the protection of foreigners working in the country, and a very thorough framework has been created to ensure the security of foreigners in Pakistan.

“Our neighboring country is not only attacking us physically but it is also attacking us through use of social media. But leadership of both China and Pakistan and the people will fight against it,” he said.

The minister said that the MOU for establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information Technology Industry was signed by both sides.

The Minister for Planning and Development reminded that Pakistan’s IT exports grew 47.4pc year-on-year, crossing \$2 billion, thus, it is another booming industry in Pakistan.

He said that it is worth mentioning that the IT exports reached \$2.12bn in 2020-21 as against \$1.44bn in the preceding year, according to the data released by Commerce Ministry in July 2021.

He said that the second MoU was between China’s Ningbo Port and Pakistan’s Gwadar Port for the CPEC.

Another MoU has been signed for Karachi Coastal Development Plan under the Maritime Ministry along with a Chinese company named, CRPC for the development of the Karachi Port facility, he said.

The minister said that eight different agreements were signed for the agriculture sector.

He said that the CPEC holds high importance in Chinese President Xi Jinping’s vision, thus, today both sides, China, and Pakistan have reiterated their commitment to the corridor.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/24/12-page/901811-news.html>

Daily Times

Govt to learn from Chinese experience of tropical agriculture: Fakhar

Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam said on Thursday that tropical agriculture was well developed in China and Pakistan could learn a lot from Chinese experience in order to promote and develop tropical fruits and agriculture in the country. He said there was a huge potential for bilateral cooperation in production, processing and value addition of tropical fruits such as banana, coconut, papaya and pineapple; tropical oil crops such as oil palm, and tropical biofuel crops such as King Grass.

He was optimistic about having enhanced G2G cooperation as well as joint ventures between private companies to enhance agricultural output and value addition of agricultural products for the mutual benefit of both countries. The minister addressed an online workshop on “Tropical Agricultural S&T Cooperation” organized by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) and the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, said a press release. The event was attended by VCs of numerous universities, senior officials from the Chinese Embassy in

Islamabad, scientists from universities, research organizations and representatives of chambers of commerce and industry. Fakhar Imam said that this workshop was focusing on a much important, but comparatively less focused area of tropical agriculture, specifically keeping in view the huge import bill of around \$3 billion of palm oil in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan and China enjoyed brotherly relations which were not only all-weather and time-tested, but are constantly moving on an ascending trajectory, and gaining strength with the passage of time. He said that the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences was the apex body for research and development on tropical crops.

He thanked the CATAS and Chinese government for sharing king grass germplasm and production technology, which was a promising technology for producing biomass fuel; and also, for executing the project on “Tropical Economic Palm Production Technology in Pakistan”.

Fakhar said that he believed that these initiatives would contribute to meet our food and energy requirements, and the overall development of tropical agriculture in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/820559/govt-to-learn-from-chinese-experience-of-tropical-agriculture-fakhar/>

Li Yiman calls for efforts to boost China-Pak cross border e-commerce

Cross-border e-commerce has emerged as a new star in global trade and with a huge young population, Pakistan is well-positioned to develop its cross-border e-commerce. “As a newly appointed Honourable Investment Counsellor, I want to make my own share of contribution and provide one-stop logistics services to boost cross-border e-commerce between China and Pakistan,” Ms Li Yiman, CEO of Zhejiang Eman Logistics said on Thursday. Starting its business in 2004 in China’s eastern city of Yiwu, Eman Logistics has devoted itself to China-Pakistan logistics and transporting aquatic products, mineral salt, ore, agricultural products, and handicrafts from Pakistan to China.

“We have also set up an office and an overseas warehouse in Karachi to facilitate China-Pak trade. Up to now, we have served over 1,500 Pakistani and Chinese enterprises,” said Li, who was recently appointed as one of the eight Honourable Investment Counsellors in China. Logistics stands out as a key node in cross-border e-commerce. In a recent webinar on the development of e-commerce in Pakistan, Dr Ghulam Samad, Research Economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, noted that logistics is one of the basic infrastructures to develop e-commerce in Pakistan. Similarly, a 2019 World Bank report on e-commerce in South Asia shows that inadequate cross-border e-commerce stands out as one of the major hurdles for Pakistani firms to conduct cross-border e-commerce.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/820556/li-yiman-calls-for-efforts-to-boost-china-pak-cross-border-e-commerce/>

Dawn News

Pakistan, China agree not to alter tariff on power deals

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Thursday agreed to keep unchanged the tariff and tax policies relating to power sector contracts and arrest and prosecute the attackers of July 14 Dasu bus tragedy at the earliest.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, it could not finalise arrangements for over \$6 billion Mainline Railway Track (ML-1) and a framework agreement on industrial cooperation pending for a long time.

The Chinese has been agitating build-up of power sector dues going beyond \$1.4bn (about Rs230bn), creation of a revolving fund for automatic payments and an increase in withholding tax rates after the agreements were signed.

Pakistan has been seeking changes in tariff structure for independent power producers to reduce financial burden in line with tariff discounts secured from other IPPs to address the circular debt pressure.

Beijing seeks security of workers, arrest and prosecution of Dasu attackers as JCC of CPEC meets after two years

Speaking at a news conference after the much-delayed JCC meeting, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, who co-chaired it, said the two sides had agreed to the need and importance of enhanced security not only for CPEC projects but also Chinese labourers working in Pakistan, following the Dasu incident. Both sides agreed to “arrest those guilty of heinous crime and get them sentenced by courts at the earliest”.

The JCC, which is required to meet twice a year, had not met since November 2019. Its earlier meeting due on July 16 was cancelled at the last moment and the rescheduled session held through video conference.

Ning Jizhe, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China co-chaired the meeting.

Asad Umar said the Chinese side raised the issue of security and the Pakistani side agreed that spectrum of economic cooperation was expanding, SIZs were coming up, investments were flowing in and Chinese workers were working in many areas, even outside the CPEC, and hence the need for security had also increased. He said work on the Dasu hydropower project had not resumed yet but that was not part of the CPEC.

The minister said Pakistan and China had an unprecedented and different type of relationship and all issues had to resolve in that special spirit of cooperation. He said China stood by Pakistan at every difficult time, including more than once on financial difficulties.

He said that on the directives of the prime minister, the ministries of finance and energy were to look into a clear path, whether it was through a revolving fund or some other method, to ensure payment of dues to Chinese IPPs. He said the dues stood at \$1.4bn or Rs230bn as of now.

Responding to question on ML-1, the minister agreed that there was more than one issue on finalising the financial arrangement for the multi-billion-dollar project, including the combination of foreign currencies and interest rates. He said the Chinese side wanted part financing in Renminbi and part in dollar, while Pakistan wanted it mostly in dollar being its currency of international trade.

In reply to a question about delay in signing a framework agreement on industrial cooperation being the key to second phase of the CPEC, the minister said events had taken over the need for framework agreement as three special industrial zones had been set up, hundreds of investments were flowing in and now was the time for more targeted sectoral approaches rather than a generalised framework agreement.

A statement by the Board of Investment (BoI), however, said it was mutually agreed by the Pakistani and Chinese sides at the JCC that “the Draft Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC will be finalised and signed before the next JCC meeting”. It said that “Framework Agreement was initiated by the Board of Investment and it was shared with the Chinese side after fulfilling all codal formalities in November 2020”.

Asad Umar said the framework agreement on cooperation was signed between Ningbo Port and Gwadar Port, besides lease deed of Gwadar Expo Centre, during the meeting.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) on the Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) project was also signed. The MoU will pave the way for resolution of infrastructure issues plaguing Karachi, besides fostering maritime development, and providing job opportunities through generation of sustainable economic activity based on transfer of technology to the country’s maritime industry.

Moreover, the minister said that a new joint working group on IT and science and technology was set up. He said that phase-2 of the CPEC was even more promising as it broadened the scope of cooperation and focused on industrial, scientific and technological and agricultural cooperation.

During the meeting, the conveners of joint working groups on energy, transport infrastructure, Gwadar, socioeconomic development, security, long-term planning of CPEC, industrial cooperation, international cooperation, science & technology, and agriculture cooperation made presentations highlighting the progress on their specific areas and future plans of actions.

The matters discussed during the JCC meeting included: 700MW Azad Pattan hydropower project, south-north gas pipeline, policy framework for Thar coal gasification, strategic underground gas storages, national seismic study of sedimentary area, joint prospecting,

exploration, development and marketing of metallic minerals, Dir motorway project, Peshawar-D. I. Khan motorway, clean and green Gwadar movement project, Karachi coastal comprehensive development zone, potential cooperation in copper-gold mine exploration, stone processing and other areas of mutual interest.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648054>

Dunya News

ECNEC approves construction of flyovers, underpasses for Karachi Circular Railway

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Executive Committee of the National Economic Council has approved a summary regarding construction of infrastructure for elimination of level crossings for the loop section of Karachi Circular Railway.

This approval was given during a meeting with Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin in the chair in Islamabad on Friday.

According to Finance Division, the project will be sponsored and executed by the Ministry of Railways.

The project envisages construction of flyovers and underpasses along the route of KCR for elimination of 22-level crossings. The rationalized cost of the project is 20,715.368 million rupees on cost sharing basis. The project will facilitate the free movement of the KCR train.

The ECNEC also approved a recommendation put forth by the Planning Commission that CDWP will be authorized to consider the projects where ECNEC gives decision to approve the project (in question) with the direction of rationalization of cost.

If the rationalization exercise results in downward revision in cost, such projects will be accorded approval by the CDWP and status report shall be submitted for perusal of the Chairman ECNEC.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/621242-ECNEC-approves-construction-flyover-underpasses-Karachi-Circular-Railway>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China friendship unbreakable: Jizhe

Alluding to various projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Vice Chairman of Chinese National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC) Ning Jizhe has said that Pakistan-China friendship is unbreakable.

Ning Jizhe said this while co-chairing the 10th Joint Coordination Committee on CPEC along with Planning Minister Asad Umar on Thursday.

He said that China wants improved security conditions for its workers in Pakistan who are working in different CPEC projects.

“Recently, we have seen an unfortunate increase in tragic incidents happening to Chinese people and Chinese companies in Pakistan,” Ning said.—TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-friendship-unbreakable-jizhe/>

Pak-China ties reach new heights under PTI: CM

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday said that the Punjab government is grateful to Chinese government for extending cooperation on CPEC projects in the province, saying that Pakistan-China relations are touching new heights in the tenure of PM Imran Khan.

Chief Minister Usman Buzdar was addressing the joint cooperation committee meeting through video link under CPEC Authority on Thursday.

The CM thanked the Chinese government for cooperation with the Punjab government and stated that completion of CPEC projects in Punjab will give further impetus to Pakistan-China relations.

“Punjab has highest share in national GDP”, he pointed out and invited the Chinese investors as conducive environment is provided in the province.

The Chinese investors will be provided every facility for setting up industry and special incentives will be provided to them”, he declared.

While giving updates about CPEC related projects in the province, the CM informed the participants that special economic zone Allama Iqbal Industrial City has been operationalised in Faisalabad.

“As many as 1,050 acres of land is earmarked for China zone at the economic zone while land lease policy is being given final shape for the benefit for Chinese investors,” the CM disclosed.

He announced to welcome Chinese assistance for establishing Pak zones free from foot and mouth disease of animals in Punjab and pointed out that agriculture sector has a lot of growth potential in CPEC phase-II.

He thanked the experts assisting in social economic projects which were shared with Chinese experts’ team for their feedback.

Though the last one and a half year’s period has proved very tough for Pakistan and global economies, the Punjab government has made significant progress in completing ongoing CPEC related projects, the CM claimed and divulged that new project proposals relating to agriculture, livestock, water reservoirs and infrastructure development have been devised and would be presented before next joint working group meeting for approval.

The CM observed that agriculture would be promoted in Punjab by constructing dams and canals at different areas.

It is planned to construct dams in Vohwa, Sanghar and Chachar hill-torrents, he stated and added that a new canal is being planned in Rahim Yar Khan to irrigate Cholistan desert. Similarly, 135-megawatt Taunsa Hydropower Project is leading CPEC energy projects and this would be a best decision to put it in the priority list of CPEC energy project, concluded the CM.

Meanwhile, CM Usman Buzdar felicitated the people and government of Saudi Arabia on the national day of the Kingdom.

In a message, the CM extended the heartiest congratulations to the Saudi King, Crown Prince and the royal family adding that Saudi Arabia has witnessed a spate of developments and prosperity under its leadership.

The strong Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations are an example for the world while KSA is the locus of Muslims' reverence and spiritual attachment.

On the other hand, CM Usman Buzdar said Pakhtuns are brave and strong people while the Pakhtuns culture enjoys the traits of diversity and individuality to give added blend of beauty to this culture.

In his message, the CM said the Pakhtun culture is ancient and very convincing. It also beautifully reflects multiple shades of Pakistani culture.

Meanwhile, CM Usman Buzdar directed the cabinet committee, as well as line departments, to effectively work for the eradication of the dengue virus and made it clear that field teams' performance will be constantly reviewed.

On the other hand, MPA Khurram Laghari called on CM Usman Buzdar and expressed his complete confidence in his leadership. Khurram Laghari said that the CM always gives respect to the people. He apprised the chief minister about the problem of his constituency on which Usman Buzdar assured him early redressal of his problems.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-ties-reach-new-heights-under-pti-cm/>

Youth to play bigger role in enhancing China-Pakistan friendship

Youth needed to play bigger role in enhancing China-Pakistan friendship, said Aamir Mahmood, a Pakistani student from Guangxi University of Science and Technology (GXUST).

Mahmood thought that young people are definitely a positive force in enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening friendly cooperation between the two sides.

Talking to China Economic Net, he said, as intellectual elites and young leaders, the young backbone's thoughts, words and deeds have an important impact on Pakistan-China relations and the deepening of strategic cooperation.

The two iron brothers should establish a China-Pakistan Youth Alliance for the young generations of the two countries to conduct more extensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions and exchanges.

To strengthen the publicity of China-Pakistan friendship, the power of new media should be made good use of. Not every young person has the opportunity to come to China and understand the real China. Most people's understanding of the world and China still comes from various media.

Mahmood added "I have an idea. I want to make a small movie about what I have seen and heard since I came to China. I will show many real and touching stories to more people in the form of small movies in a way that young people like, so that more people can understand the real China."

"I very much appreciate the School of Medical Science, my tutor and other people who helped me," Mahmood made the remarks after receiving a donation of RMB 25,000(about \$3,867.5) for his tuition fees.

Mahmood, 36 years old, just graduated from GXUST this summer and was admitted into Zhengzhou University, China to pursue his master degree.

After knowing this situation, Mahmood's tutor Wei Jiange, a director of the Emergency Department of the First Affiliated Hospital of GXUST, said that he would spare no efforts to help him. "Mahmood has a strong zeal for medical field.

It is a pity for him to drop out," said Wei. Wei shared Mahmood's situation in a communication group of the hospital.

Members of the group made donations one after another, with the messages reading "Be strong Mahmood. Be strong Batie. Long live China-Pakistan Friendship."

Mahmood said he was very grateful for that and moved by Chinese. He expressed that he hopes to help other students in need and hand on love to them in the future.

Actually, Mahmood has always been helping other students, which has been affirmed by Wei and other teachers in GXUST. While, there is something they didn't know. That is Mahmood has been donating blood at Liuzhou Blood Center since 2016.

"It is a very happy thing for me to donate blood to save people. My profession is to save the lives and heal the wounded," said Mahmood.

What's more, Mahmood's blood group is Rh-negative, which is known as "panda blood" in China, as it is found in just three in every 1,000 people.

According to Liuzhou Blood Center, Mahmood and another one working in Guangzhou China are the only two with "panda blood" that the center can get access to.

"Therefore, as long as I receive the emergency blood donation call, I will put down everything and rush to the blood center as I did in Pakistan.

I know the donated blood can save one's life, get one rebirth, or bring hope of life. This makes me happy," said Mahmood.

He added that “From the moment my blood flows into one’s heart, we are not only connected by ironclad friendship, but also by blood.” “I will continue to donate blood to help people in need in Zhengzhou (where Zhengzhou University based).

As long as there is a need, I will make blood donation as soon as possible,” Mahmood told China Economic Net.

For future plan, Mahmood said that he will study hard and devote to medical field, so as to help more people in need, especially women as he majors in reproductive medicine. This is the very original intention of his pursuing medical science.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/youth-to-play-bigger-role-in-enhancing-china-pakistan-friendship/>

The Nation

Light show held at Great Wall of China to celebrate Pakistan-China friendship

BEIJING - An exquisite and colourful light show was organised at the Badaling Section of the China’s iconic Great Wall as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The event was jointly organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and People’s Government of Beijing Municipality. The light show featured various formulations of laser lights and slogans to pay tribute to the seven decades of iron brotherhood between Pakistan and China.

A large section of the wall was specially lit in national colours of Pakistan and China. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque said that light show at the historic Great Wall of China demonstrated iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China.

Hailing the contributions of several generations of both countries to strengthen bilateral friendship, Ambassador Moin added that Pakistan and China were deepening bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges for bequeathing the finest traditions of friendly ties to the younger generations of the two countries. He said that as the token of special friendship to China, Pakistan made a humble contribution for the restoration of a section of the Great Wall in 1980s. “A plaque has been installed there is reminder of that small token of friendship which Pakistan presented to our brethren and sisters in China,” he added.

Ambassador Moin remarked that the Great Wall of China will remain etched forever in memories of the two people as the vivid symbol of special ties between Pakistan and China in the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. “May Pakistan-China friendship enjoy longevity, strength and grandeur like the Great Wall of China,” he said. Ambassador Moin appreciated the efforts of Yanqing District of Beijing Municipality and Beijing Foreign Affairs Office for organizing the event. The event was attended by the senior Chinese officials, citizens from all walks of life, Chinese students and representatives of media organizations.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-24/page-15/detail-2>

The News

CPEC a thorn in the enemy's side: Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar Thursday said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a thorn in the enemy's side, but it would not stop even if they make attempts on it.

He was addressing a news conference, along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, after concluding much-awaited virtual 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) under CPEC, here. He said CPEC was a target of some forces in the world "particularly our eastern neighbour whom it stings and there is no doubt about this".

He said the government was aware of threats to CPEC and had enhanced the security arrangements to deal with any untoward situation, in an effective manner.

The minister said Pakistan had assured China of providing enhanced security to all the projects, financed by it, through two special security divisions, dedicated to CPEC, and resolving the issue of outstanding payment of \$1.4 billion with the Chinese companies for producing electricity.

Asad Umar said the idea of a revolving fund already existed. Therefore, that idea or any other mechanism would be devised to ensure timely payment of outstanding amounts of \$1.4 billion or Rs230 billion to the Chinese companies for producing electricity.

He said that the pace of accumulation of circular debt had improved, and the outstanding amounts of Chinese companies in the range of \$1.4 billion would be paid.

The minister said the project of Mainline (ML-1) for up-gradation of rail link from Peshawar to Karachi came under discussion during the JCC meeting. The Chinese side is asking for combination of Chinese RMB currency and US dollar for execution of ML-1, while Pakistan wanted its financing only in dollar because our international trade is done in the US dollar. Both sides also discussed interest rate for charging multi-billion dollar ML-1, he added. Pakistan and China are negotiating financing agreement for ML-1 for the last three years, but so far both sides remained unable to achieve success.

"Now we are entering the second phase of CPEC, where the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial cooperation will become functional and Chinese companies will make substantial investments.

"In the first phase, the projects related to energy and infrastructure got implemented having worth of \$25 billion under which \$15 billion projects have been accomplished while \$12 billion were under implementation," Asad Umar said.

The minister said Dasu project was not part of CPEC, but the government assured Chinese side that all those involved in killing of Chinese engineers would be caught and produced before the court of law for giving them exemplary punishment over their heinous crimes.

He said that it was exciting development that Pakistan and China signed a memorandum of understanding for establishing Joint Working Group (JWG) for cooperation in the area of information technology (IT). He said that Pakistan and China enjoyed unique friendly relationship; therefore, the Chinese energy projects would get treatment in similar manner.

According to an official announcement, the 10th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC was held on Thursday through videoconference. The meeting was co-chaired by Asad Umar, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, and Ning Jizhe, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China.

Asad thanked the Chinese government for unprecedented support to Pakistan in its efforts to combat Covid-19.

He said Phase-2 of CPEC was even more promising as the prime minister had already issued directions for empowering SEZ Authorities and Management Companies to provide full facilitation to investors. It has also been decided to establish a dedicated Investor Facilitation Centre for Chinese investors.

During the meeting, the conveners of the JWGs on Energy, Transport Infrastructure, Gwadar, Socio-Economic Development, Security, Long-Term Planning of CPEC, Industrial Cooperation, International Cooperation, Science & Technology, and Agriculture Cooperation made a presentation highlighting the progress on their specific areas and the future plans of actions.

The matters discussed during the JCC included: 700-MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project; South-North Gas Pipeline; Policy Framework for Thar Coal Gasification; Strategic Underground Gas Storages; National Seismic Study of Sedimentary Area; Joint Prospecting, Exploration, Development, and Marketing of Metallic Minerals, Dir Motorway Project; Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway; Clean and Green Gwadar Movement Project; Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone; Potential Cooperation in the Copper-Gold mine exploration, Stone processing and other areas of mutual interest.

In Agriculture, the area of particular emphasis would be Germplasm resources; Capacity building; Agriculture Product Processing; Agriculture Technology extension;

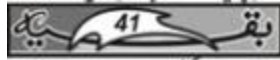
Fishery Sciences and Technology, Aquaculture and Aquatic Product Processing; Establishment of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free Zones in Pakistan among other things. An MoU was also signed for establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information Technology Industry. Letter of Exchange of Provision of Balochistan Solar Power Lighting Equipment and Provision of Medical Equipment and Material were also signed.

The JCC also announced signing of an MoU on Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) and Agreement of Cooperation Framework between Ningbo Port and Gwadar Port as well as Lease deed of Gwadar Expo Centre. The chief ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the projects and made suggestions for new projects.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers, chief ministers, AJK prime minister, federal secretaries and senior officials.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=6671>

K2 Daily



کامیاب بنانے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں اور اس حوالے سے وہ خود تمام معاملات کی مانیٹرنگ کرتے ہیں۔ آزاد کشمیر کو سی پی ٹی کے منصوبوں میں شامل کرنا عمران خان کا آزاد کشمیر کی تعمیر و ترقی میں دلچسپی لینے کا حکم ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International&Date=2021-09-24

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-09-24

September 25, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese deals

After a lot of foot dragging to the consternation of Chinese investors in the CPEC power projects the government has finally abandoned its plan to reopen these deals to seek lowering of agreed tariff in line with what it did with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This decision was taken in the 10th meeting of the joint cooperation committee, the apex decision-making forum of the CPEC that met after two years. The Chinese were not happy about a number of things and one of them is stuck-up payments to their firms that invested in IPPs and other projects under the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) programme. No company has issued default notices just yet, but the matter had become serious enough for the government to scramble for partial payments initially while negotiations went on. The problem was that Chinese firms that set up power plants under the CPEC were treated to the same tariff structures as other IPPs. Yet, while the government was able to revise those tariffs with other IPPs – by employing, among other

things, including MI (Military Intelligence) and ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) in the negotiations - Chinese companies refused to budge. So now, as negotiations were dragging along, and the Chinese were growing increasingly anxious with time, the government has decided to give up and abide by signed contracts with the Chinese companies. The Pakistani side liked to play down the issue, and indeed a few senior officials were (anonymously) quoted as implying just that by the press, but Chinese companies were clearly cross enough to take their concerns straight to Beijing, which seems to have put in an unpleasant phone call to Islamabad. So it would be wrong to test the Chinese habit of calmly sorting out such matters instead of issuing default notices, as is the norm pretty much everywhere in the world wherever financial transactions, especially this large, are concerned. Already there's some tension because Chinese contractors have refused to resume work at the Dasu Hydropower Project, which is not part of CPEC, even though two months have passed since the terrorist attack that brought the construction work to a halt. Apparently, they want some issues about compensation claims to be sorted out before committing again. The Pakistani government must also not have forgotten that Chinese contractors stopped working on the Mohmand Dam after a similar incident; and only high-level bilateral negotiations got them back after a week or so.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/25/4-page/901887-news.html>

Daily Times

China, Pakistan committed to success of CPEC

Farooq Awan

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong says the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), being a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, benefits Pakistan's national development and realises its transformation from geopolitics to geo-economics. In an interview with Daily Times, the ambassador spoke about the recent meeting of the JCC and achievements and challenges of the CPEC.

Q1: The 10th meeting of the JCC of the CPEC, which was highly anticipated by all walks of life, is finally successfully held. Could you please brief the JCC?

Nong Rong: Pursuant to the consensus reached by the leaders of China and Pakistan on promoting and developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the 10th meeting of the JCC was held via video link on September 23, 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Ning Jizhe, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The two sides reviewed and summarized the cooperation since the 9th JCC meeting and agreed that CPEC has achieved important early harvest targets and is entering a new development stage, reached important consensus on deepening cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, social economic, science and technology, and signed the minutes of this JCC. The JCC has played an important leading role in the high-quality development of the CPEC. The two sides will be committed to the smooth

operation of the completed projects, solidly promote the projects under construction, and actively carry out new cooperation.

In the 10th JCC meeting, both sides established Joint Working Group on Information Technology Industry and signed Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing Joint Working Group on Information Technology Industry between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This will vigorously promote the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the information technology industry and inject new momentum into the high-quality development of the CPEC.

In the 10th JCC meeting, Chief Minister of Balochistan province, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Chief Minister of Sindh province, Chief Minister of Punjab province, Prime Minister of Aj&K, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan were all present and each made a speech, which demonstrates that supporting CPEC construction is national consensus across Pakistan.

The two sides will continue to firmly advance the development of CPEC, ensure in-time completion of those projects under construction, focus on economic and social development, job creation and improvement of people's livelihood, and further strengthen cooperation in Specialized Economic Zones, infrastructure, science and technology, medical treatment and public health, agriculture, and human resources training, with the aim to continuously unleash the great potential of CPEC to make it a hub of regional connectivity. Both sides agreed on comprehensively building the health, industrial, trade, digital, and green corridors.

Q2: Gwadar Port is the leading project of the CPEC. How does the 10th meeting of the JCC evaluate the cooperation of Gwadar Port? What is the current progress of Gwadar Port?

Nong Rong: Gwadar Port is the pilot project of the CPEC and is known as the jewel in the crown of the CPEC. Since 2013, both China and Pakistan have worked hand in hand on port operations, free zone development, and transportation infrastructure, and completed a series of social and livelihood projects. The achievements made today can be recognized as the "Speed of Gwadar".

The 10th meeting of the JCC expressed satisfaction on the progress of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, and made plans for the next step in the construction of Gwadar Port. The current development situation of Gwadar Port is very gratifying. The port is getting busier and transit trade to Afghanistan is running smoothly. The government is actively considering arranging more cargo to arrive in and be processed through the Gwadar Port. The port operator COPHC is cooperating with China's Ningbo Zhoushan Port Group to improve the port operations. All investment promotion work in the starting zone of the Free Zone has been completed. More than 40 companies have invested and registered, and some of them have completed plant construction and started trial production. The Pak-China Products Exhibition Center is progressing smoothly. The main work of the East Bay Expressway project is expected to be completed this year, the New Gwadar International Airport and Pak-China Vocational and Technical Institute at Gwadar are progressing smoothly, the construction of North Free Zone, Chemical Fertilizer Factory,

Expo Building, Animal Vaccination Factory, Lubricant Factory has started, and the Tissue Plant Lab has been inaugurated. All these will help develop Gwadar's port industry and create a future regional trade hub, so that Gwadar can better play its economic radialization role in Balochistan, Pakistan and the region.

In terms of social-economic and people's livelihood projects, the Solar Generators Aid MoU for the 5,000 sets of solar generators aided by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and the implementation agreement of desalination plant with the capacity of 5,000 tons per day have been signed, which will promote the development of social-economic and people's livelihood in Gwadar.

Q3: What new developments of the JCC that is worth paying attention to in other fields?

Nong Rong: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has continuously enriched its connotations. Now it has established ten working groups including Long Term Plan, Gwadar Port, energy, transport infrastructure, industry, society and socio-economic, agriculture, science and technology, security cooperation, international cooperation and coordination. The progress of cooperation in various fields is gratifying. For example, in terms of energy, the two countries agreed to strengthen top-level design, promote exchanges and cooperation in energy planning, skills training, etc., formulate development plans for the Pakistani oil and gas industry, and accelerate construction of Kohala and Azad Pattan Hydropower projects, Thar Block-1, Thar Block-1 and other important projects. Pakistan expressed its commitment to maintaining policy stability and market regulation. In agriculture, the two sides have proposed a cooperative action plan covering eight aspects; in terms of science and technology, the two countries will continue to implement the science and technology innovation action plan and make continuous progress in the joint construction of joint laboratories, construct science and technology parks, and technology transfer. JCC has made positive statements about the ML-1 railway upgrading project and the N50(D.I.Khan-Zhob) highway project. I believe that more achievements under CPEC will be made in the future.

Q4: The CPEC has successfully entered its second phase of execution. In this particular phase, what opportunities the multi-billion-dollar initiative will bring for the prosperity of the common people of Pakistan, especially the downtrodden communities of the under-developed province of Balochistan.

Nong Rong: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative that covers the entire territory of Pakistan and serves regional connectivity. CPEC not only benefits Pakistan national development, but also benefits local provinces and local people, and help Pakistan realize its transformation from geopolitics to geoeconomics. CPEC is currently in a new stage of high-quality development, and the next step will focus on cooperation in the fields of industry, socio-economic, and agriculture. By advancing the construction of industrial parks such as the Gwadar Free Zone and Rashakai, it will deepen industrial cooperation to help Pakistan attract foreign investment, help Pakistan accelerate its industrialization process, enhance Pakistan's capacity to earn foreign exchange through exports, and create more job opportunities

for local people. Take the starting area of the Gwadar Free Zone as an example. The garment factory has already started production and a large number of female workers have been hired to work. The Gwadar Women Employment Development Center has also been put into operation. The North Free Zone, of which the construction is started, is 36 times larger in area than the starting area, and is already a good destination for investment, and will bring remarkable development opportunities and social benefits to Balochistan. In agriculture, China will jointly with Balochistan research and promote soil improvement, support the development of local livestock and fishery processing industries, and help local people improve labor productivity and increase their income. We will also make good use of the social economic cooperation mechanism to help Pakistani people improve their quality of life through projects in flexible education, agriculture, medical care, vocational training, etc. In mining cooperation, China and Pakistan have existing mineral cooperation projects in Balochistan, and there is potential to deepen mining cooperation in the future.

Q5: Industrialization is the main pillar of CPEC initiative under which multiple special economic zones will be set up along the corridor. With severe lack of education and skills among youth of Gwadar and Balochistan due to decades of deprivation, how would the illiterate and unskilled youth be able to benefit from the industrial revolution triggered by CPEC?

Nong Rong: Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with abundant human resources and large numbers of young people, which are conducive to promote industrialization for Pakistan. Nowadays, the urgent problem is how to transform demographic dividend into talent dividend.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is actively creating job opportunities to local people, employing 75,000 people at the peak. The projects of CPEC help Pakistan employees improve their vocational skills hand by hand through different methods including on-the-spot teaching and training.

Besides, a large number of Pakistan youths are recommended and arranged to study and get training in China, which helps Pakistan train a group of talents in the fields of infrastructure and energy. In 2020, 18 outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects were awarded.

In the next stage, the construction of CPEC will continue to advance simultaneously with the training of Pakistani talents, strengthen cooperation with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission of Pakistan, provide education facilities to all vocational education and training centers in Pakistan through social economic cooperation of CPEC. Pak-China Vocational and Technical Institute at Gwadar is under construction and has been capped. After completion, it will provide more skill training and employment opportunities for local youth. There are some training opportunities for China-Aid projects in Balochistan province. Even in the COVID-19 pandemic, these projects also provide online training opportunities to local people.

Q6: Agriculture is considered the backbone of Pakistan's economy and most of the rural population in the country relies on farming for their livelihood. How CPEC will help transform this sector to develop it on modern lines so that lives of a huge rural population of Pakistan could be changed.

Nong Rong: Agriculture and industry are currently the areas that Pakistan is most concerned about, and they are also the most promising areas for China-Pakistan cooperation. Rapid progress in agricultural cooperation has been made, mainly in three aspects: first, strengthening mechanisms. Last year, an agricultural working group under the framework of the CPEC joint Commission was set up. The first task of the working group was to help Pakistan fight against locust plague, which achieved remarkable results. Second, the process of exporting agricultural products to China has been accelerated. The inspection and quarantine procedures of Pakistani agricultural products exported to China, including Onions, potatoes, cherries and dairy products, have been stepped up. This year, a protocol on onion export to China will be signed. Pakistan has established a foot-and-mouth disease free zone. The third is to promote investment. This year, with efforts made by our Embassy, China and Pakistan established an information platform on agricultural and industrial cooperation to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation among government, industry, academia and research institutes. Chinese enterprises also plan to invest and cooperate with Pakistan in pepper planting, buffalo milk industry development, food processing and agricultural machinery.

Q7: Security has always been a matter of critical importance to the success of CPEC. How do you see the current security environment in Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces through which most of the corridor passes?

Nong Rong: Based on more than 40 years of experience in reform, opening-up and development, China always believes that a country's development cannot do without a secure and stable environment. China always supports Pakistan's efforts in safeguarding its national security and fighting against terrorism. We appreciate that Pakistani government and military have provided assured security to CPEC. The Dasu terrorist attack on July 14 and the Gwadar East Bay Expressway terrorist attack on August 20 caused casualties to both China and Pakistan. The leaders and governments of our two countries attach great importance to these incidents. We strongly condemn acts of terrorism and will not waver our resolution for closer China-Pakistan cooperation. Both China and Pakistan are victims of terrorist attacks. We should work closely together to bring the perpetrators to justice as soon as possible, give an answer to the peoples of the two countries, and effectively prevent similar incidents from happening again. China looks forward to working with Pakistan to promote enhanced full-process security measures and upgraded security cooperation mechanisms to ensure the security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and attract more Chinese and foreign investors to invest in Pakistan with safe and stable business environment.

Q8: In the face of complex international environment, the CPEC has been in the eye of international propaganda since its launch. How do you see Pakistani media's role in neutralizing

the negative propaganda being hatched by the enemies of Pakistan and China and what steps would you like to propose to effectively counter the propaganda launched by the vested interests?

Nong Rong: Ever since its inception, CPEC has attracted the wide attention of domestic media of Pakistan and foreign media. At the crucial time for Pakistan to face its development challenges, CPEC has brought to Pakistan \$25.4 billion investment with which 46 projects have been completed or are under construction. Consequently, we see in Pakistan an increase of 5200MW power, 886km national backbone transmission line and 510km expressway. All these are substantial investment and efforts. Those who are unwilling to invest money, manpower, time and emotion to the national development of Pakistan simply are not entitled to find faults with CPEC without any cost. Though China's cultural tradition advocates more deeds with less remarks, we firmly oppose arbitrary attacks and slanders against CPEC. We have no doubt that Pakistani friends will not be misguided and blinded by the false propaganda, because the Pakistani people are wise enough to tell those who are offering actual help, real investment and efforts from those who are driving wedges between China and Pakistan with idle hands. The International Cooperation and Coordination Working Group under the CPEC has successfully promoted several countries to hold seminars to have more people learn about the real CPEC and its great potential for cooperation. As CPEC is now advancing towards high quality development, it will surely bring more opportunities to Pakistan, better promote the sustainable development of its economy, and thus win firmer support from the Pakistani people and foreign friends.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/820891/china-pakistan-committed-to-success-of-cpec/>

The Nation

China's 50MW wind power plant provides clean energy in Sindh

ISLAMABAD - HYDROCHINA Master green 50MW wind power project is providing clean energy for Pakistan that would contribute a lot towards achieving Prime Minister Imran Khan's mission for green and clean Pakistan, CEN reported yesterday.

The project located in Jamshoro District and is executed by Hydro China International Engineering Co. Ltd, its availability during reliability running test reaches 99.86 percent, which was much higher than the 85 percent level required by the local power purchase agreement.

“Overall, the project will deliver 168 million kWh per year clean energy for Pakistan,” said Lv Guanghua, Deputy Director of the HDEC Renewable Energy Engineering Department EPC Management, while talking to CEN.

He underlined that during the 168-hour reliability running test of the wind farm, the availability rate of wind turbines and BOP equipment created a new record for the availability of PowerChina's wind power project in Pakistan during the trial operation period.

Since 2014, Power China has completed a total of 8 private-owned wind power projects in Pakistan. “So far, Power China has hired more than 300 Pakistani engineers,” Lv added.

He also said that the new batch of wind power projects has a total installed capacity of 610MW. Together with wind power projects completed before 2019, the company has undertaken wind power EPC projects in Sindh with an installed capacity of 1139.5MW, accounting for more than 60 percent of Pakistan’s market shares.

After the completion of all projects, 3.67 billion kWh of green electricity can be delivered to Pakistan’s power grid every year, making great contributions to Pakistan’s energy conservation, emission reduction and economic and social development.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-25/page-10/detail-7>

Bilawal meets British, Chinese, US envoys

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan People’s Party chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari yesterday held meetings with the British High Commissioner, the US Charge d’affaires and Chinese ambassador here.

A PPP statement said, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Christian Turner, called on Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the Zardari House, Islamabad. They discussed bilateral relations, it added.

“Chairman PPP and British High Commissioner Christian Turner discussed in detail the changing situation in Afghanistan. Bilawal was briefed by the British High Commissioner on his visit to Sindh,” the statement said.

Separately, the US Charge d’affaires Angela Aggeler also called on Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. They discussed bilateral issues with particular focus on the developing situation in Afghanistan.

Angela briefed the PPP Chairman of her plans to visit Sindh. Bilawal welcomed her visit, and assured that it would be a memorable visit, given the great hospitality of the people of Sindh.

Later, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Bilawal here. In the meeting the Ambassador discussed the long and lasting Pak-China friendship.

Both the leaders discussed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. They also discussed the situation in Afghanistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-25/page-12/detail-2>

The News

Promoting CPEC, building a closer China-Pakistan community

On May 21 this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged a congratulatory message with Pakistani President Arif Alvi to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations. The two heads of state reviewed how mutual trust and friendship between the two countries have withstood the test of the changing international landscape over

the past 70 years and always remained rock-solid, hailed the remarkable achievement attained by the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and expounded the significance of all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between the two nations. President Xi added, “I would like to work with you to deepen strategic communication and practical cooperation between the two countries, and promote the high-quality development of CPEC”. This has given direction and momentum to the CPEC construction in the new era, and boosted our confidence in building CPEC into a model for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and fostering a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

1. Mutual trust and friendship between the two sides are rock-solid.

In his message, President Xi pointed out that the two countries, as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, have extended each other steadfast support over issues concerning our core interests and major concerns; our mutual trust and friendship have always been rock solid despite changes in the international situation over the past seven decades. Over the past 70 years, the two countries have always trusted and supported each other with sincere sympathy, stood together through thick and thin, with bilateral bond and friendship growing ever deeper and stronger as time goes by.

China and Pakistan have forged a unique and ironclad amity throughout history. Over 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road became a bridge of friendship linking our two ancient civilizations. In ancient times, Zhang Qian, China’s emissary in the Han Dynasty, Faxian, the master monk in the Eastern Jin Dynasty, and Xuan Zang, the great monk in the Tang Dynasty all once visited Indus River. On May 21, 1951, China established diplomatic ties with Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the first countries to recognize the People’s Republic of China and the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC. On April 21, 2015, during his first visit to Pakistan, President Xi Jinping reviewed the bilateral history in his speech, “since the establishment of our diplomatic ties, thanks to the commitment of successive Chinese and Pakistani leaders and the concerted efforts of our two peoples, our two countries have forged an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and pursued all-round cooperation. Despite changes in the domestic and international environment, we have always extended sympathy to and genuinely supported each other on issues crucial to our respective core interests. Such friendship is truly unique.” Over the past 70 years, China and Pakistan have trusted, respected and supported each other through thick and thin, and together established an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The ironclad bond is vividly exemplified by actions of the governments and the peoples. President Arif Alvi expressed in his message that, “Under the strong leadership of President Xi, Pakistan-China relations are stronger, more solid and more vibrant than ever before.”

At present, CPEC, with significant progress, have elevated our ironclad bilateral relations. Launched in 2013, CPEC is now a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Six years ago, President Xi Jinping made it clear that “the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a focal point of our joint efforts to achieve common development, and we should use this economic corridor to drive our practical cooperation.” In 2015, the “1+4” cooperation structure was identified with the

economic corridor at the center and the Gwadar Port, Energy, Infrastructure and Industrial Cooperation being the four key areas. In the past eight years, CPEC has seen fruitful results. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years and its largest source of investment for seven consecutive years. CPEC has helped bring \$25.4 billion direct investment to Pakistan in accumulative terms and created almost 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. In particular, in face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties and further upgraded the ironclad friendship.

Moving forward, both sides will jointly build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future for the benefits to both countries and peoples. Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on sincere trust and mutual support through both good and hard times, an example of amicable relations between countries. The Pakistani people call China-Pakistan friendship as higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey. And we Chinese fondly refer to the Pakistani people as our good friends, good neighbors, good partners, and good brothers. To deepen China-Pakistan relations is a historic choice made by both countries to pull together in times of difficulty and to seek common development, when changes and the pandemic unseen in a century intertwined and brought the world into a phase of complex transitions. Following the trend of the times, President Xi farsightedly put forward the ambitious goal to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Under this vision, we will forge ahead in building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

2. The development of CPEC has achieved remarkable results.

President Xi Jinping stated in his message that in recent years, with joint efforts of both sides, the construction of CPEC has achieved remarkable results, bringing important benefits to the two peoples and adding strong impetus to regional prosperity. CPEC is a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Acting on the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the two sides formed a “1+4” cooperation structure within short time. Though many foreign investors halted their projects and pulled capital out of Pakistan due to severe shock from, CPEC has been proceeding uninterrupted, with no Pakistani jobs cut and no Chinese staff withdrawn. Such actions win the hearts of our Iron Brothers and make CPEC a demonstrative project for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The joint development of the Gwadar Port has made significant progress. Workers from both countries work dedicatedly and devotedly at the Gwadar Port, at Gwadar International Airport, at China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, at Professional Training Center and at East Bay Expressway. In 2017, Fraternity Emergency Care Centre was completed; in 2018, 300,000 gallons of desalinated water was provided to citizens in Gwadar every day; in 2019, Pak-China Faqeer Colony School was put into operation; in 2020, 80,000 square meters of green spaces were built. Today, the Gwadar Port is fully operative. The Gwadar Free Trade Zone, free of duty for 23 years according to the law, has been more attractive for investors and attracted a number of high-quality enterprises settling there. Its Afghanistan transit trade business has been

authorized and carried out in an orderly manner. All those efforts are making the Gwadar Port steadily become a logistics hub and an industrial base.

Energy projects have seen notable results. Power plants in Sahiwal and Port Qasim maintained normal production despite difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for one third of Pakistan's electricity generation, which has mitigated the country's power deficit and contributed to Pakistan's economic and social development. The 4000 MW HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line has been put into operation. The Karot Hydropower Project and Suki Kinari Hydropower Project are still under construction and making steady progress. Kohala, Patan and other hydropower projects have signed power purchase agreements.

Infrastructure is playing a crucial role. Karakoram Highway Phase II (Havelian-Thakot section), the “China-Pakistan Friendship Road”, was completed and opened to traffic by the end of July 2020, shortening the five-and-a-half-hour drive to less than two hours. Lahore Orange Line Metro, Pakistan's first urban rail transit, has been completed and open for commercial operation. The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Sukkur-Multan section), the largest transportation infrastructure project along the corridor, has also been completed and open to traffic. “Like the Karakorum Highway, the path of traditional friendship between China and Pakistan is bound to be broadened.” The completion of these three major transportation projects has won wide acclaim from all sectors of Pakistan.

The industrial cooperation witnesses a new breakthrough. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a landmark in the corridor's industrial cooperation, has held a launching ceremony, with steady works in infrastructure development and business attraction. The Chinese-funded enterprises in the Allama Iqbal (M-3) SEZ have been producing protective clothing and other supplies to give support to Pakistan in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project of China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cables has been completed and delivered for operation. Under the framework of the corridor's agricultural cooperation, China has provided a large number of supplies to help Pakistan control the infestation of locusts.

The excellent performance of CPEC during the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly boosted Pakistan's confidence in economic recovery and vividly interpreted the meaning of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation. CPEC has become a model of successful coordination of epidemic prevention and production among the BRI projects, and presented to the world the strong vitality of the BRI.

3. Promote the High-Quality Development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The 10th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting on CPEC was successfully held on September 23, 2021. The construction of CPEC has entered a new stage of development. To earnestly implement the important instructions of the two heads of state on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic, we will focus on the “1+4” cooperation structure to promote the high-quality operation of CPEC, build it into a model project for the high-quality BRI development, and create a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

We are committed to building a healthy corridor. In the ongoing fight against COVID-19, health is the foundation of the corridor. The two governments and their people have been helping each other to go through this difficult time in the face of the pandemic. In joint production of COVID-19 vaccines, the Pakistan National Institute of Health has successfully produced the vaccines with the help of China's CanSino Biologics Inc. We will continue to put people and their lives first, provide more assistance in vaccines and other epidemic prevention supplies, and expand cooperation in the fields of the prevention and control of infectious diseases, public health and traditional medicine. In this way, we can protect people's lives and health, and build a closer partnership for cooperation in the health sector.

We are committed to building an industrial corridor. Industrial cooperation is the top priority of the "1+4" cooperation structure, and is essential for enhancing the productivity of Pakistan. Industrialization is crucial for such a country with more than 200 million people. Pakistan, now at the early stage of industrialization, boasts a huge market with golden opportunities. We will encourage and support more Chinese enterprises, especially manufacturing enterprises, to make investments in Pakistan, boost employment, earn foreign exchange through exports, generate tax revenue and promote technological progress, in an effort to speed up building CPEC into an industrial corridor.

We are committed to building a trade corridor. Trade invigorates the corridor and sustains its prosperity. After the protocol of the second phase of the China-Pakistan FTA came into force on 1 January 2020, trade liberalization has been significantly promoted. According to the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC, China imported \$2.12 billion worth of goods from Pakistan in 2020, up by 17.5% year-on-year. We will follow through unimpeded trade and advance the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, by cutting the cost of trade and investment, and enlarging imports from Pakistan so as to advance a balanced international trade and build a closer trade partnership.

We are committed to building a digital corridor. Digitization is the trend of the times. We will seize the historical opportunities in a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, boost digital economy, and step up exchanges and cooperation on digital technologies. In addition, we will enhance new infrastructure, mobile payment, e-commerce networks, smart grids, smart factories and digital TV in order to build a digital corridor and make it a model of the Digital Silk Road.

We are committed to building a green corridor. We will jointly advocate the concept of "green mountains are golden mountains" by strengthening cooperation on green infrastructure, green energy, green finance, green agriculture, green forests, green investment, and international low-carbon recycling parks. In so doing, we will make green a defining feature of CPEC, enhance a closer partnership for green development, and build a low-carbon corridor between China and Pakistan.

(The writer is Vice-Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission, Chinese Chairman of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee)

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=7015>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین میں غربت کے خاتمے کے پیچھے دیہات اور شہر میں یکساں ترقی کا عمل کار فرما ہے: ایس ایم نوید

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چین جوائنٹ چیئیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر ایس ایم نوید نے کہا ہے کہ دیہی اور شہری علاقوں میں یکساں اور مربوط کاروباری ترقی کو ممکن بنانے بغیر حقیقی معاشی ترقی حاصل نہیں کی جاسکتی۔ ایس ایم نوید نے کہا کہ چین میں غربت کے خاتمے اور خوشحالی میں اضافے کے پیچھے دیہات اور شہروں میں یکساں معاشی ترقی کا عمل کار فرما ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-09-25/page-10/detail-11>

September 26, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China agree to include KCCDZ in CPEC

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi Saturday said Pakistan and China have agreed to include Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hoping that it would prove to be a game changer for Pakistan.

He said KCCDZ was an initiative of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs focused on providing Karachi with an ultra-modern urban infrastructure zone, which would place the city among top port cities of the world, said a press release here.

Ali Zaidi said the historic decision had been made during the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC held at Islamabad and Beijing.

He said the two countries agreed to include Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) under the CPEC framework. He said the planned multi-billion dollars mega KCCDZ project would be built with direct Chinese investment in partnership with Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The quantum of expected investment was approximately US \$ 3.5 billion. KCCDZ would be a flagship project for not only Pakistan but also the entire region. He said KCCDZ would also provide residential resettlement to more than 20,000 families living in the surrounding slums.

The environment friendly mega KCCDZ envisaged four new berths for KPT. It would also house a state-of-the-art fishing port with a world class fisheries export processing zone to boost Pakistan's trade potential.

It would also improve marine ecosystem and reduce pollution. KCCDZ would connect rest of Karachi through a majestic harbour bridge rising from behind Pakistan's Deep water Port with exit ramps for Manora Island and Sandspit Beach.

The KCCDZ had also enormous potential for global investors. It would unlock Pakistan's unexplored Blue Economy and significantly enhance development and industrial cooperation between the two countries.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/26/1-page/901948-news.html>

Dawn News

Modi raises concerns about Pakistan, China at UN

UNITED NATIONS: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his speech at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Saturday to highlight his concerns about Pakistan and China, although he did not name either.

“We need to ensure that no country tries to take advantage of the delicate situation in Afghanistan and use it for its own selfish interests,” he said, without naming the country he was worried about. But both Indian and US media reported his statement as “an apparent reference to Pakistan”.

Hundreds of Kashmiris and Sikhs protested outside the UN headquarters in New York as Mr Modi spoke inside the building.

Mr Modi, who was in Washington for meetings with US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, travelled to New York to address the UNGA, instead of doing it electronically like some other world leaders.

Hundreds of Kashmiris and Sikhs protest outside UN headquarters in New York as Indian PM speaks inside building

The Indian leader then underlined the need to protect oceans from “the race for expansion and exclusion” and again he did not say which country was expanding its influence over the oceans.

The media, however, noted that “India and China have long competed for influence in the Indian Ocean”.

The Times of India called this “a sharp dig at both Pakistan and China” and the US media noted that Mr Modi “targets neighbours at the UN, but not by name”.

In seeking to contain Pakistan's growing influence in Afghanistan, Mr Modi echoed at least part of the message that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi shared with world leaders during his week-long stay in New York.

“At this time, people of Afghanistan — women, children and minorities — need help. We must fulfill our duties by providing them with assistance,” he said.

In his engagements with world leaders, Mr Qureshi also emphasised this point, besides asking for political and economic engagement with Kabul's new, Taliban rulers.

“Oceans are a shared heritage — and the lifeline of international trade,” Mr Modi said in his indirect reference to China. “We must protect them from the race of expansion. The international community must speak in once voice to strengthen a rule-based world order.”

As Mr Modi championed the rights of Afghan women and children, the Sikhs and Kashmiris protesting outside the building reminded him that his own government was committing worse human right violations in the occupied Kashmir and other areas.

Mr Modi also sought the United Nations’ support to contain China, saying that the UN must act now if it wants to protect its credibility.

“The UN faces many tough questions today, (including) the proxy war in several parts of the world and the Afghan crisis” that “have deepened these challenges,” he said.

But as he sought UN indulgence in containing China, Kashmiris protesting outside reminded him of UN resolutions on Kashmir that have remained unimplemented for seven decades. “Implement UN resolutions on Kashmir first,” they chanted.

On Friday, the US vice president also spoke about these concerns in remarks at her office before a close-door meeting with the Indian prime minister.

Ms Harris, America’s first vice president of Indian origin, told Mr Modi that as democracies around the world were under threat “it is imperative that we defend democratic principles and institutions within our respective countries”.

“I know from personal experience and from my family of the commitment of the Indian people to democracy,” she said, “and the work that needs to be done [so that] we can begin to imagine, and then actually achieve, our vision for democratic principles and institutions.”

“The remarks marked a subtle change from the Trump administration’s unquestioned fidelity to the populist Modi, who has presided over an increase in religious polarisation in his country, with more laws targeting religious minorities, including its large Muslim population, as well as attacks on non-Hindus,” The Los Angeles Times noted in a report on her remarks.

Mr Modi also raised in his speech the Trump administration’s claim that the Covid-19 virus had originated in China. “With regard to the origin of Covid-19, ... institutions of global governance have damaged their (own) credibility” by not holding someone responsible for the spread, he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648438>

CPEC panel okays ambitious Karachi coastline plan

Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Calling it a “game-changer”, the federal government on Satur-day unveiled an ambitious plan to rebuild Karachi’s coastline under the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-dor (CPEC) with \$3.5 billion “direct Chinese investment” that aims to overhaul city’s seaboard with

new berths for the port, a new fishery port and a ‘majestic harbour bridge’ connecting it with Manora islands and Sandspit beach.

The Karachi Coastal Co-m-prehensive Develop-ment Zone (KCCDZ) — spread over 640 hectares or 1,581 acres on the western backwaters marsh land of the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) leading to revamp one of the oldest city slums Machhar Colony relocating its more than half a million population — is an initiative of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

The KCCDZ is the latest addition to CPEC projects aimed at providing Karachi with an ultra modern urban infrastructure zone, placing it among the top port cities of the world.

The announcement came from the top when a key member of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s cabinet sha-red some details of the project and claimed it carried “enormous potential for global investors as well”.

“And the best thing of this project is that it’s solely based on foreign [Chinese] investment without any loan,” said Minister for Mar-i-time Affairs Syed Ali Zaidi while speaking to Dawn.

“The Chinese work so fast and I guess that it would not take more than five or six years to complete the project. Under the agreed plan, we would relocate some 20,000 to 25,000 families from Machhar Colony and relocate them. Believe me it’s a huge thing for Pakistan. It’s something massive. It would bring multifold advantages to Pakistan’s maritime economy and further strengthen our coastal development.”

He said after assuming the office as the minister for maritime affairs he vigorously looked for the opportunity for the KCCDZ and made all-out efforts to include it in the CPEC projects. For this purpose, he added, he consulted a number of Chinese companies, investors and officials of the neighbouring country and his efforts finally yielded results.

Earlier, the federal minister shared the “monumental decision” on a social me-dia platform, coming up with ske-tchy details of the KCCDZ. He, however, did not explain terms and conditions that convinced the Chinese investors to pour in \$3.5 billion (around Rs592 billion).

“A monumental decision was taken during the 10th Joint Cooperation Commi-ttee (JCC) on CPEC, held on 23rd September 2021 at Islamabad and Beijing,” Mr Zaidi tweeted while sharing a formal statement of the announcement.

“The two countries agreed to include KCCDZ under the CPEC framework. KCCDZ, an initiative of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs focuses on providing Karachi with an ultra modern urban infrastructure zone, placing Karachi amongst the top port cities of the world.”

The minister also shared animated and picturesque images of a developed KCCDZ, showing a huge developed coastline dotted with multiple buildings, concrete structures and planned neighbourhoods without mentioning their utilities. He claimed all the developments would take place over “reclaimed area of the KPT” spanning over huge 640 hectares or 1581.474 acres.

“Developed on reclaimed area of approximately 640 hectares on the Western back waters marsh land of KPT, KCCDZ will be a flagship project for not only Pakistan but the entire region,” the statement claimed.

“In accordance with PM Imran Khan’s vision for promoting low-cost housing, KCCDZ will also provide residential resettlement to more than 20,000 families living in the surrounding slums. The environment-friendly mega KCCDZ envisages four new berths for KPT, adding depth to Pakistan’s expanding maritime sector.”

The project, the statement added, would also house a state-of-the-art fishing port, with a world-class fisheries export processing zone to boost Pakistan’s trade potential. It would also drastically improve the marine ecosystem and reduce pollution by establishing a water treatment plant at the mouth of the Lyari River, it said.

“The KCCDZ will connect with the rest of Karachi through a majestic harbour bridge rising from behind Pakistan’s Deepwater Port, with exit ramps for Manora Islands and Sandspit beach,” it elaborated.

The statement claimed KCCDZ would unlock “Pakistan’s unexplored Blue Economy and significantly enhance development and industrial cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The KCCDZ is a game-changer for Pakistan”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648433>

Three suspects held for Gwadar suicide attack

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Three suspects allegedly involved in last month’s suicide attack in Gwadar were arrested in an intelligence-based operation conducted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) along with another law enforcement agency in Turbat town of Kech district.

A spokesperson for the CTD said on Saturday that security personnel raided a house in the Turbat Bazaar area and arrested a man identified as Shoaib. On information provided by Shoaib, the personnel raided another place in the town and took two more men into custody. From this place the personnel also seized some weapons, including explosive material and hand grenades, he added.

The spokesperson said all the three arrested men belonged to the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA).

He said the arrested men facilitated the suicide attack in Gwadar, claiming that they were planning more attacks against personnel of security agencies and the general public.

During the interrogation, the three men admitted that they were members of a facilitation network for the terrorists who carried out the Gwadar suicide attack.

Four children were killed in the Gwadar suicide attack which targeted a vehicle carrying some Chinese nationals. A suicide bomber blew himself up near the vehicle.

The children died in the attack were playing on the road. A Chinese national and the driver of the vehicle were injured in the attack.

The spokesperson said that one of the arrested men, Arif, told interrogators that his brother, Ahmed, transported the suicide bomber from Ramin area of Iran to Gwadar. He said he received the suicide bomber on his arrival in Gwadar on the night between August 10 and 11 and provided a place to him near Customs Warehouse.

Arif disclosed that Rasool Bux, a resident of Sheeran Chabahar area of Iran, was the mastermind of the attack. He disclosed that Rasool Bux had also used his late father for transporting the terrorists who had carried out the attack on PC Hotel Gwadar in 2019.

The spokesperson said more raids were being planned to arrest other members of the network.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648426/three-suspects-held-for-gwadar-suicide-attack>

Pakistan Observer

PM to perform groundbreaking of KCR

Prime Minister Imran Khan will arrive in Karachi tomorrow (Monday) on a day-long visit where he will perform the groundbreaking of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project.

All arrangements related to the groundbreaking of the modern Karachi Circular Railway have been finalized at the Karachi Cantonment railway station.

The prime minister will be accompanied by Railways Minister Azam Swati and other federal ministers.

During his day-long stay in the metropolis, the prime minister will chair several meetings at Governor House, Karachi, to get a briefing on ongoing development projects in the port city, party matters, and overall political situation of the province.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday approved a summary regarding the construction of infrastructure for the elimination of level crossings for the loop section of Karachi Circular Railway.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-to-perform-groundbreaking-of-kcr/>

The Nation

How CPEC has impacted Pakistan's economy and future prospects?

Pir Hafeezullah

The \$62 billion investment under CPEC promised tremendous dividends for the Pakistani economy, jobs for Pakistani youth, development infrastructure and a “game-changer” for Pakistan and the entire region.

After approximately six years of CPEC, the question arises of how much this project has delivered in its objectives. CPEC is an amalgamation of transportation infrastructure, energy projects and industrial zones. In simple words, the impact of CPEC is dependent on the completion of all projects, particularly the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). SEZs are a source to attract foreign investors, boost the country's exports, open new industries in the country.

CPEC's energy projects are critical to meet Pakistan's energy demands, boost and bust cycle of energy production, fuel industrialization and minimize dependence on expensive electricity exports, while the transport infrastructure projects are expected to indirectly benefit Pakistan's economy through connectivity. China made CPEC the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and owing to the rhetoric advanced by both the Chinese and Pakistani governments, CPEC took the position of a case study for BRI partners.

An analysis of CPEC's overall performance is not the most promising first owing to a slowdown in CPEC projects after 2019 and major structural flaws in the Pakistani economy that resulted in a huge balance of payment crises in 2018. Out of 122 projects designed for CPEC, only 32 projects worth \$20 billion had been completed by 2020. Most of the completed projects include transport infrastructure and energy generation endeavors. In terms of energy generation, forty percent of the projects are coal-fired power plants, raising serious concerns about the toll on the country's environmental and health hazards. Moreover, a number of energy projects have also been shelved owing to multiple reasons.

However, the country's overbearing energy crises have been mitigated successfully. The second phase of CPEC was planned to address industrialization and make uplift Pakistan's manufacturing sector in order to make the country an export-driven economy. SEZs are the main instrument to propel the country towards industrialization. However, out of the eleven SEZs planned, only the one in Gwadar has been completed so far.

Improvement of the industrial sector and the success of SEZs can transform the Pakistani economy, firstly by attracting foreign investment and secondly through manufacturing activity which in turn would increase the country's exports. China's investments under CPEC are in the form of debt which the Pakistani government must payback. Most of the projects completed can cut public spending but are not an active source of generating revenue or exports. SEZs are crucial for generating revenues for Pakistani's economy but also to pay back the looming Chinese debts. In case the progress on SEZs remains as it is, Pakistan could face repayment crises of the Chinese debt.

Pakistan's transport and energy sector undoubtedly improved under CPEC, though not without shortfalls. The development of Gwadar Port and the city was expected to transform the country into a regional hub. The local communities in Gwadar claim that the advantages of CPEC have not trickled down. Though in terms of Gwadar port operation, the promise of Pakistan becoming a route for regional trade has also not been fully realized. Pakistan still deals with the balance of payment crises, IMF bailouts, unemployment and inflation.

Pakistan's official position on CPEC overinflated its potential while ignoring the structural flaws, planning and governance issues that confront the country's economy. The political issues between China and Pakistan after the formation of a new government in Islamabad effectively stalled progress since 2018. This coincides with the country's balance of payment crises that stood in stark contrast to the miraculous advantages of CPEC cited by the authorities.

Though putting the entire onus for economic growth on CPEC is unfair, the rhetoric advanced by both governments did create an impression of a miracle. Another issue now facing CPEC are the consistent security concerns arising out of Balochistan, particularly in light of recent high profile attacks on Chinese citizens. Both security and political concerns have emerged as major bottlenecks towards the success of CPEC.

China and Pakistan cannot afford more delays in the planned projects. Though CPEC witnessed some revitalization in energy projects in 2020, the status of SEZs remains the same. Along with completing major CPEC projects, both China and Pakistan need to pay attention to SEZs and ICT projects. The stabilization of the Pakistani economy depends on industrialization and growth in the export sector. The growth of the industrial sector would be the true game-changer for Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-26/page-9/detail-0>

September 27, 2021

Business Recorder

‘Chinese contractors, sugar millers withdrew huge cash from banks during my tenure’: ex-FBR chief

ISLAMABAD: Former chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Shabbar Zaidi said that during his tenure as the board's chairman, the highest amount of cash withdrawals from bank accounts have been made by the Chinese contractors and sugar mills.

Speaking as a guest in “Paisa Bolta Hai” of Aaj News with Anjum Ibrahim on Sunday, he said that the withholding tax on cash withdrawal from banks by non-filers was imposed with the purpose of identifying persons involved in big banking transactions and payments

However, the FBR has used it as revenue measure and not used for identifying persons behind big transactions.

During his tenure as the FBR chairman, he checked data of big transactions of cash withdrawals from bank accounts.

The data revealed that the major withdrawals were related to the sugar mills and the Chinese contractors.

Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Revenue Haroon Akhtar endorsed the viewpoint of Shabbar Zaidi that the FBR was unable to use this provision for the documentation of the

economy.

Zaidi said that there is nothing wrong in the Tax Laws (3rd Amendment) Ordinance, 2021. First, the major amendment is related to the digital payment, which has two parts: First, digital payment and second, disallowance of expenditure from the bank account, which has not been declared with the FBR.

The amendment now proposed is the continuation of an earlier one introduced by the Finance Act, 2021. In the earlier amendment all entities are required to declare the bank account that is used for business purposes.

Presently, there are around four Crore bank accounts, but only 80,000 are declared as business accounts. There is a substantial number of undeclared bank accounts through which huge business transactions are undertaken without reflection in the taxation system.

The digital payment should be defined so that the payer and payee trail must be available. The procedural aspects of the digital payment need to be corrected.

Moreover, there are 4.5 Lakh electricity - industrial and commercial consumers but only one Lakh are registered with the sales tax department. Now, the remaining 3.5 Lakh are required to be registered with the tax department.

Explaining reasons for his resignation as chairman FBR, Zaidi said that he had full support of the prime minister and he had access to all relevant organisations. The prime minister never refused any of my proposals, he said.

However, Pakistan is working under all kinds of mafias and anyone who is fighting against the mafias, including the prime minister, needs a lot of force and commitment, he said.

He termed the traders and retailers as a 'blackmailer mafia', which needs to be fixed. The tax advisers should also work with these mafias.

"Being FBR chairman, I had two major fears. I was very much afraid of the Press. The Press has pressurized me and my views were wrongly presented," he said.

Zaidi said: "I was required to sign a very big contract for an IT project worth \$400 million for upgradation of the IT system of the FBR".

He said that, "I categorically informed the prime minister that I am not ready to give approval of the IT contract worth \$400 million because I have seen issues in the implementation of the track and trace system". I firmly believe that anyone who wants to do something in good faith for the country, he would be standing in front of the courts after his retirement/career, he said. He strongly pleaded that the government must bring the Pakistan Revenue Service (PRS) to correct the tax system of the country. Without the PRS, reforms cannot be implemented in the FBR.

In October 2019, the prime minister approved a plan for restructuring of the FBR, which was strongly resisted by the bureaucracy and other systems. The bureaucracy did not want to approve this plan of restructuring, Shabbar Zaidi added.

Haroon Akhtar stated that new provision to enforce payments by the companies through a digital mode would take some time.

The medium and large companies might be able to do it but a number of small and big suppliers are presently not ready for this.

The FBR has to give extension for implementation of the payments through the digital mode. Akhtar stated the Tax Laws (3rd Amendment) Ordinance, 2021, is a bold step of the government, especially its promulgation two years ahead of the elections. When you cut the electricity or gas connection of the general public, it would erode the vote bank of the political government. As compared to harsh steps of arrest, discontinuation of electricity and gas connections are comparatively soft steps.

The existing taxpayers cannot be further squeezed and action under the Ordinance must be taken against the non-filers and those not appearing on the Active Taxpayer List (ATL). Haroon apprehended that the increase in the discretionary powers of the tax officials under the new Ordinance may result in harassment and corruption in the field formations. About the NADRA's powers to calculate tax through artificial intelligence, Akhtar said that the FBR cannot win cases in courts on the basis of tax perceived on the basis of artificial intelligence. The court needs hardcore evidence like data of utilities consumed and property/banking transactions of non-filers. The job was supposed to be carried out by the FBR, which now NADRA has been assigned to do.

However, a Tax lawyer Waheed Shahzad Butt stated that the government must ensure to fix the tenure of the head of the revenue authority. During the last three years, six FBR Chairman have been changed and Dr Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed is the seventh chairperson of the FBR. He said that the documentation measures introduced through the Ordinance would force the non-filers to file returns to avoid extra penalty.

Waheed Shahzad Butt added that despite all kinds of IT tools and data available with the FBR, the mindset of the tax collector needs to be changed. The FBR must do accountability of the tax officials involved in wrong assessments of the taxpayers.—SOHAIL SARFRAZ

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/27/4-page/902077-news.html>

Daily Times

China will continue to propel CPEC forward: acting consul general

On celebrating 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China known as China National Day set to be marked on October 1, China's Acting Consul General Lahore Peng Zhengwu has said that keeping in view daunting challenges to world especially Cold War thinking, Covid-19, rising unilateralism, there is an urgent need for human society to seek out a new philosophy and make the international system and order fairer and more reasonable.

He said that over the past 72 years weathering all odds and getting over multiple crisis, China has witnessed profound and transformative change and it is the Communist Party of China (CCP) that has made this change possible.

He expressed these views on a seminar titled the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and President Xi's governance" organised by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) in Lahore. Chinese diplomats, scholars, academicians, analysts and others attended the seminar.

Peng said that CCP has led the Chinese people to win a complete victory in eradicating absolute poverty. It has raised China's per capita GDP from less than US\$200 at the start of the reform and opening-up to today over US\$10,000. "China has met the poverty eradication target set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development 10 years ahead of schedule, and according to the World Bank's international poverty line, the number of Chinese people lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years accounts for more than 70 percent of the global total," he added.

Citing President Xi Jinping visit to Pakistan in 2015 when he addressed at National Assembly Pakistan, saying whenever Pakistan needs help, China will always support Pakistan, Peng heralded that China will continue to propel the CPEC forward and termed 10th JCC as precursor of good fortune. Since 70 years of China-Pak diplomatic relations, he said that no matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan have always joined hands to forge ahead. He said that President Xi's governance not only contributes to China's development, but also brings benefits to the world. "President Xi put forward a concept — building a global community of shared future since 2012," he added.

IIRMR Chairman Muhammad Mehdi has dubbed CPEC as a golden opportunity that should never be missed, saying it is pity that using selected propagandists, those who are at the helm of affairs are demonising CPEC power projects installed during previous regime just to quench the thirst of their political vendetta. Interdependency of business and energy is way forward to stamp out poverty, he added. "Chinese President Xi Jinping put into play both factors successfully and uplifted more than 770 million people out of poverty 10 years before UN poverty eradication target 2030. Pakistan can also do the wonder provided China strategy is studied and practiced," he explained. IIRMR President Yasir Habib Khan said that 72 years of China National Day is a name of journey that unite leadership and people in one fold, breaking new grounds for sustainable successes. Seeking inspiration to Chinese spirit, he said that Pakistan leadership must meet public demands, otherwise, misfortunes may spiral out of control.

Additional foreign secretary (retd) Nazir Hussain said that Pakistan needs to harvest the benefits arising from the CPEC phase-ii, especially the special economic zones and to exercise fiscal discipline.

PU Dean Faculty of Law Professor Dr Aman Ullah praised China for investing in its human resource seriously with sustainable economic policies. While PU Ex head of Deptt Economic Dr

Qais Alam snubbed qualms that China wants hegemony or a Cold War with the West. He asserted, “Instead of blaming America as ungrateful, we should keep a balance between China and the West, working with both powers for common human destiny.”

PU Pakistan Study Centre Associate Professor Dr Amjad Abbas Khan Magzi underscored the need to work on agro-based economy to tackle poverty as more than 20 percent of Pakistan’s GDP is contributed from Agriculture seeking inspiration from China poverty alleviation program.

Forman Christian College University (Department of Economics) Assistant Professor, Dr. Salah Ud Din Ayubi, said the prospects of this Pak-China bilateral relationship depends on growing connectivity between the leadership, businesses and peoples in the two countries in the years to come.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/821714/china-will-continue-to-propel-cpec-forward-acting-consul-general/>

Pak-China cooperation to revive cotton fields in Pakistan

Pak-China cooperation to revive cotton fields in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Last season, Pakistan harvested 5.6 million bales of cotton, which is the lowest point in the past 30 years.

Meanwhile, Pak-China cotton-related cooperation is in full swing. “We are mixing the advantages of China cotton and Pakistan cotton to create new cotton varieties,” said Shahid Iqbal, PhD scholar of Cotton Research Institute in Henan, China, who has been working for a Pak-China cottonseed program in Henan for 4 years.

This is one of the microcosms of the ongoing China-Pakistan cotton collaboration.

“Last year, we had to import more than 50% of cotton,” said Muhammad Abdullah, executive director of Sapphire Fiber, one of the largest textile companies in Pakistan.

He complained that low production and quality force the local industry to choose imports. “Presently, the domestic consumption of cotton is 14 million bales. However, Pakistan harvested 5.6 million bales of cotton in the last season only.” He added.

Cotton production in Pakistan is in a vicious circle. According to the research of Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), low production of cotton lead to the low profitability of cotton planting. Cotton farmers turn to grow sugarcane in cotton-growing areas for better income. Sugarcane plants robbed water from cotton plants and humidified the whole area.

The high humidity leads to more insects which are deadly to the cotton plants and farmers have no technology to deal with them.

What makes it worse is the climate change in the past few years, which is also weakening cotton's strength and staple elongation. Another quality problem is the impurity which is caused by 100% manual picking.

As pickers picked the cotton, stored and transported it, contamination is entering in the cotton, which may causes spots on the final product. Kamran Razaq, cotton field supervisor of Sapphire Fiber pointed out that the impurity content of imported cotton is 4.5%, while the counterpart in Pakistan cotton is 8-9%, which is below the criteria of the textile mills.

To break the vicious circle of low cotton production, higher quality seed is the top demand, which can also help in quality improvement.

“The heat resistance of Pakistani cotton is excellent. The high-yield and high-quality traits of Chinese cotton are also what Pakistan seeds need. The germplasm resources of China and Pakistan are complementary,” said Shahid Iqbal, the guy who appeared at the beginning of the article, who used to be a scientific officer of Cotton Research Institute in Multan. ” We have a plan to send new cotton seeds to Pakistan next year for adaptability test and select the best ones and use them for production..”

Xinjiang Agricultural University and University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have also been cooperating in cotton cultivation for a few years. They have experimental fields in Faisalabad and plans to test mechanical picking in Pakistan.

“In North Xinjiang, one of the biggest cotton areas in China, the mechanization is 90%. We use machine picking everywhere,” said Chen Quanjia, deputy dean of Xinjiang Agricultural University, adding that drought-resistant and water-saving technologies in Xinjiang including drip irrigation and mulching are also leading the world.

“Such technologies and equipment can be transferred to Pakistan to assist them coping with the current dilemma. China and Pakistan need to assist each other to improve our cotton production together.”

Dr Muhammad Ali Talpur, vice president of Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC), revealed that a modern biotechnology center of excellence laboratory is about to be set up at CCRI to promote cotton research activities. ”China Pakistan Economic Corridor(CPEC) is opening new avenues for cotton research and development to solidify PCCC on modern scientific lines,” he said.

“Under CPEC, CCRI in Multan had declared a cottonseed cooperation collaborating with Fauji Fertilizer Company,” added Dr Zahid Mehmood, director of CCRI. “We plan to cultivate related talent, introduce related technology and arrange areas for mechanical cotton picking. Our collaboration with China is going on. Hope we have stories of success in the future.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/821662/pak-china-cooperation-to-revive-cotton-fields-in-pakistan/>

‘Ministers’ remarks discourage Chinese investment’

LAHORE: ‘Irresponsible’ statements by federal ministers are deterring Chinese investors and pushing them away from Pakistan, says foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi.

Speaking at a seminar on Chinese success in poverty alleviation held here on Sunday to mark 72nd China National Day falling on Oct 1, he chided Federal Minister Asad Umar for saying Dasu dam project did not fall under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and thus security for those working on it was not as tight as promised for attached to the CPEC.

Mr Mehdi said due to such attitude of the ministers, a large number of Chinese businessmen, who had visited Pakistan during the last couple of years, never returned to invest here. Likewise, he said, no direct foreign investment was coming in the country from the West.

He lamented the incumbent government’s lukewarm response to various CPEC projects, adding that work on the railways ML-1, the main project of the CPEC, could not be executed yet while its cost had gone up by 50 percent.

He regretted that the government was yet to give a national policy on special economic zones (SEZs).

Chinese diplomat Peng Zhengwu called for a new philosophy and a fairer and more reasonable world order to check the threats to global and regional security in the post-cold war scenario, rising unilateralism and Covid-19 pandemic.

The acting consul general of China at Lahore said that his country witnessed a transformative change under the Communist Party leadership over the past 72 years weathering all odds.

He said that Beijing would continue to propel the CPEC forward and that irrespective of the changes in the international scenario, China and Pakistan had always joined hands to move ahead.

Mr Peng said he found Lahore a city of knowledge and thinkers, hoping that events would be organised to harvest this talent of the Punjab’s capital.

Former additional foreign secretary Nazir Hussain said that unlike China, which had assigned 40 universities the task to work on various aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan had not engaged its varsities for the CPEC.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648689/ministers-remarks-discourage-chinese-investment>

Pakistan Observer

Coastline plan for Karachi

REGARDLESS of conspiracies being hatched against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, Pakistan and China are appearing resolute in their commitments to take it

forward with speed and addition of more projects in its domain becoming more rewarding for both the countries.

In yet another game-changer project, the federal government on Saturday unveiled an ambitious plan to rebuild Karachi's coastline under the CPEC with \$3.5b direct Chinese investment that aims to overhaul the city's seaboard with new berths for the port, a new fishery port and a majestic harbour bridge, connecting it with Manora island and Sandspit beach.

By all means, it is a massive Chinese investment in an important area that will bring manifold advantages to Pakistan's maritime economy and further strengthen its coastal development.

The decision to this effect was taken at the recently held meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC).

Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Zaidi deserves appreciation for efforts he put in to include it in the CPEC projects.

As the project envisages a state of the art fishing port with a world-class fisheries export processing zone, it will immensely boost our trade potential.

It would also improve the marine ecosystem and reduce pollution by establishing a water treatment plant at the mouth of Lyari River.

This coastline project will change the entire landscape of Karachi, placing it amongst the top port cities of the world. Given its immense importance, there should not be any delay in execution of this project.

Chinese have proven capability to complete projects under the CPEC on fast track basis in a timely manner be it related to road infrastructure or energy sector.

Our authorities concerned must extend full facilitation to them to embark on Karachi coastline plan at the earliest.

Our coastal areas are rich in bio-productivity and bio-diversity as they provide huge breeding grounds for commercially important fisheries including crabs and shrimps with a potential resource worth of more than \$2b annually. Our coastal tourism also holds great promise.

A beginning has been made with the Chinese cooperation to exploit huge potential of blue economy and with the right kind of focus and interventions in future, we can really exploit it for the benefit of the country's overall economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/coastline-plan-for-karachi/>

KCCDZ inclusion in CPEC a game changer: Imran

Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan on Sunday said that inclusion of Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) in CPEC is game changer.

Taking to the twitter, the prime minister said that will clean up our marine habitat for fishermen, develop 20k low income housing units and present opportunities for investors.

“We will put Karachi at par with developed port cities,” Imran Khan said while acknowledging the work done by Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

“Inclusion of Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone in CPEC is game changer. Will cleanup our marine habitat for fishermen, develop 20k low income housing units & present opportunities for investors. Will put Karachi at par with developed port cities,” the prime minister tweeted.

Earlier a day, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi had said Pakistan and China had agreed to include Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hoping that it would prove to be a game changer for Pakistan.

He said KCCDZ was an initiative of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs focused on providing Karachi with an ultra-modern urban infrastructure zone, which would place the city among top port cities of the world, said a press release here on Saturday.

Ali Zaidi said the historic decision had been made during the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC held at Islamabad and Beijing.

He said the two countries agreed to include Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) under the CPEC framework.

He said the planned multi-billion dollars mega KCCDZ project would be built with direct Chinese investment in partnership with Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The quantum of expected investment was approximately US \$ 3.5 billion. KCCDZ would be a flagship project for not only Pakistan but also the entire region.

He said KCCDZ would also provide residential resettlement to more than 20,000 families living in the surrounding slums.

The environment friendly mega KCCDZ envisaged four new berths for KPT. It would also house a state-of-the-art fishing port with a world class fisheries export processing zone to boost Pakistan’s trade potential.

It would also improve marine ecosystem and reduce pollution. KCCDZ would connect rest of Karachi through a majestic harbour bridge rising from behind Pakistan’s Deepwater Port with exit ramps for Manora Island and Sandspit Beach.

KCCDZ had also enormous potential for global investors. It would unlock Pakistan’s unexplored Blue Economy and significantly enhance development and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Mean while, Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Karachi today to perform groundbreaking of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project, officials said.

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, while speaking to the media in Karachi on Sunday had said the ceremony will be held at Cantt Railway Station.

He said that the Rs250 billion mega project will be completed in three years, adding that 16 stations would be built along the 43kilometre-long track.

The governor said that Green Line Bus Service will also be operationalised next month and the K-4 water supply project will be completed by the end of 2023.

The premier during his day-long visit to the port city will also meet several party leaders and lawmakers.

He will be briefed over the ongoing development projects in Sindh, and would also meet with the religious scholars representing different schools of thought.

<https://pakobserver.net/kccdz-inclusion-in-cpec-a-game-changer-imran/>

Promote the high-quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

On May 21 this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged a congratulatory message with Pakistani President Arif Alvi to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations.

The two heads of state reviewed how mutual trust and friendship between the two countries have withstood the test of the changing international landscape over the past 70 years and always remained rock-solid, hailed the remarkable achievement attained by the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and expounded the significance of all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between the two nations.

President Xi added, “I would like to work with you to deepen strategic communication and practical cooperation between the two countries, and promote the high-quality development of CPEC”.

This has given direction and momentum to the CPEC construction in the new era, and boosted our confidence in building CPEC into a model for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and fostering a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

1. Mutual trust and friendship between the two sides are rock-solid. In his message, President Xi pointed out that the two countries, as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, have extended each other steadfast support over issues concerning our core interests and major concerns; our mutual trust and friendship have always been rock solid despite changes in the international situation over the past seven decades.

Over the past 70 years, the two countries have always trusted and supported each other with sincere sympathy, stood together through thick and thin, with bilateral bond and friendship growing ever deeper and stronger as time goes by.

China and Pakistan have forged a unique and ironclad amity throughout history. Over 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road became a bridge of friendship linking our two ancient civilizations.

In ancient times, Zhang Qian, China's emissary in the Han Dynasty, Faxian, the master monk in the Eastern Jin Dynasty, and Xuan Zang, the great monk in the Tang Dynasty all once visited Indus River.

On May 21, 1951, China established diplomatic ties with Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China and the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC.

On April 21, 2015, during his first visit to Pakistan, President Xi Jinping reviewed the bilateral history in his speech, "since the establishment of our diplomatic ties, thanks to the commitment of successive Chinese and Pakistani leaders and the concerted efforts of our two peoples, our two countries have forged an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and pursued all-round cooperation.

Despite changes in the domestic and international environment, we have always extended sympathy to and genuinely supported each other on issues crucial to our respective core interests. Such friendship is truly unique."

Over the past 70 years, China and Pakistan have trusted, respected and supported each other through thick and thin, and together established an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The ironclad bond is vividly exemplified by actions of the governments and the peoples.

President Arif Alvi expressed in his message that, "Under the strong leadership of President Xi, Pakistan-China relations are stronger, more solid and more vibrant than ever before." At present, CPEC, with significant progress, has elevated our ironclad bilateral relations.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is now a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Six years ago, President Xi Jinping made it clear that "the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a focal point of our joint efforts to achieve common development, and we should use this economic corridor to drive our practical cooperation." In 2015, the "1+4" cooperation structure was identified with the economic corridor at the center and the Gwadar Port, Energy, Infrastructure and Industrial Cooperation being the four key areas. In the past eight years, CPEC has seen fruitful results.

China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years and its largest source of investment for seven consecutive years. CPEC has helped bring \$25.4 billion direct investment to Pakistan in accumulative terms and created almost 75,000 jobs in Pakistan

. In particular, in face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties and further upgraded the ironclad friendship.

Moving forward, both sides will jointly build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future for the benefits to both countries and peoples. Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on sincere trust and mutual support through both good and hard times, an example of amicable relations between countries.

The Pakistani people call China-Pakistan friendship as higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey. And we Chinese fondly refer to the Pakistani people as our good friends, good neighbors, good partners, and good brothers.

To deepen China-Pakistan relations is a historic choice made by both countries to pull together in times of difficulty and to seek common development, when changes and the pandemic unseen in a century intertwined and brought the world into a phase of complex transitions.

Following the trend of the times, President Xi farsightedly put forward the ambitious goal to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Under this vision, we will forge ahead in building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

2. The development of CPEC has achieved remarkable results. President Xi Jinping stated in his message that in recent years, with joint efforts of both sides, the construction of CPEC has achieved remarkable results, bringing important benefits to the two peoples and adding strong impetus to regional prosperity.

CPEC is a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Acting on the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the two sides formed a “1+4” cooperation structure within short time.

Though many foreign investors halted their projects and pulled capital out of Pakistan due to severe shock from COVID-19 pandemic, CPEC has been proceeding uninterrupted, with no Pakistani jobs cut and no Chinese staff withdrawn.

Such actions win the hearts of our Iron Brothers and make CPEC a demonstrative project for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The joint development of the Gwadar Port has made significant progress. Workers from both countries work dedicatedly and devotedly at the Gwadar Port, at Gwadar International Airport, at China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, at Professional Training Center and at East Bay Expressway.

In 2017, Fraternity Emergency Care Centre was completed; in 2018, 300,000 gallons of desalinated water was provided to citizens in Gwadar every day; in 2019, Pak-China Faqeer Colony School was put into operation; in 2020, 80,000 square meters of green spaces were built.

Today, the Gwadar Port is fully operative. The Gwadar Free Trade Zone, free of duty for 23 years according to the law, has been more attractive for investors and attracted a number of high-quality enterprises settling there.

Its Afghanistan transit trade business has been authorized and carried out in an orderly manner. All those efforts are making the Gwadar Port steadily become a logistics hub and an industrial base.

Energy projects have seen notable results. Power plants in Sahiwal and Port Qasim maintained normal production despite difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for one third

of Pakistan's electricity generation, which has mitigated the country's power deficit and contributed to Pakistan's economic and social development. The 4000 MW HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line has been put into operation.

The Karot Hydropower Project and Suki Kinari Hydropower Project are still under construction and making steady progress. Kohala, Patan and other hydropower projects have signed power purchase agreements.

Infrastructure is playing a crucial role. Karakoram Highway Phase II (Havelian-Thakot section), the "China-Pakistan Friendship Road", was completed and opened to traffic by the end of July 2020, shortening the five-and-a-half-hour drive to less than two hours.

Lahore Orange Line Metro, Pakistan's first urban rail transit, has been completed and open for commercial operation.

The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Sukkur-Multan section), the largest transportation infrastructure project along the corridor, has also been completed and open to traffic.

"Like the Karakoram Highway, the path of traditional friendship between China and Pakistan is bound to be broadened." The completion of these three major transportation projects has won wide acclaim from all sectors of Pakistan.

The industrial cooperation witnesses a new breakthrough. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a landmark in the corridor's industrial cooperation, has held a launching ceremony, with steady works in infrastructure development and business attraction.

The Chinese-funded enterprises in the Allama Iqbal (M-3) SEZ have been producing protective clothing and other supplies to give support to Pakistan in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project of China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cables has been completed and delivered for operation.

Under the framework of the corridor's agricultural cooperation, China has provided a large number of supplies to help Pakistan control the infestation of locusts.

The excellent performance of CPEC during the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly boosted Pakistan's confidence in economic recovery and vividly interpreted the meaning of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation.

CPEC has become a model of successful coordination of epidemic prevention and production among the BRI projects, and presented to the world the strong vitality of the BRI.

3. Promote the High-Quality Development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting on CPEC was successfully held on September 23, 2021. The construction of CPEC has entered a new stage of development.

To earnestly implement the important instructions of the two heads of state on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic, we will focus on the "1+4" cooperation structure to promote the high-quality operation of CPEC, build it into a model project for the high-quality

BRI development, and create a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

We are committed to building a healthy corridor. In the ongoing fight against COVID-19, health is the foundation of the corridor.

The two governments and their people have been helping each other to go through this difficult time in the face of the pandemic.

In joint production of COVID-19 vaccines, the Pakistan National Institute of Health has successfully produced the vaccines with the help of China's CanSino Biologics Inc.

We will continue to put people and their lives first, provide more assistance in vaccines and other epidemic prevention supplies, and expand cooperation in the fields of the prevention and control of infectious diseases, public health and traditional medicine.

In this way, we can protect people's lives and health, and build a closer partnership for cooperation in the health sector.

We are committed to building an industrial corridor. Industrial cooperation is the top priority of the "1+4" cooperation structure, and is essential for enhancing the productivity of Pakistan.

Industrialization is crucial for such a country with more than 200 million people. Pakistan, now at the early stage of industrialization, has a huge market with golden opportunities.

We will encourage and support more Chinese enterprises, especially manufacturing enterprises, to make investments in Pakistan, boost employment, earn foreign exchange through exports, generate tax revenue and promote technological progress, in an effort to speed up building CPEC into an industrial corridor.

We are committed to building a trade corridor. Trade invigorates the corridor and sustains its prosperity. After the protocol of the second phase of the China-Pakistan FTA came into force on 1 January 2020, trade liberalization has been significantly promoted.

According to the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC, China imported \$2.12 billion worth of goods from Pakistan in 2020, up by 17.5% year-on-year

. We will follow through unimpeded trade and advance the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, by cutting the cost of trade and investment, and enlarging imports from Pakistan so as to advance a balanced international trade and build a closer trade partnership.

We are committed to building a digital corridor. Digitization is the trend of the times. We will seize the historical opportunities in a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, boost digital economy, and step up exchanges and cooperation on digital technologies.

In addition, we will enhance new infrastructure, mobile payment, e-commerce networks, smart grids, smart factories and digital TV in order to build a digital corridor and make it a model of the Digital Silk Road.

We are committed to building a green corridor. We will jointly advocate the concept of “green mountains are golden mountains” by strengthening cooperation on green infrastructure, green energy, green finance, green agriculture, green forests, green investment, and international low-carbon recycling parks.

In so doing, we will make green a defining feature of CPEC, enhance a closer partnership for green development, and build a low-carbon corridor between China and Pakistan.

The Writer is Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission, Chinese Chairman of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee.

<https://pakobserver.net/promote-the-high-quality-development-of-china-pakistan-economic-corridor/>

The Express Tribune

KCR in spotlight

Karachi Circular Railway has been in doldrums for long. It is primarily a victim of ill-planning and a jurisdictional feud between various organs of the state. The dilapidated infrastructure of railways in the port city, as well as wayward encroachments, makes it even more cumbersome to realise the transit network. It is a good sign, nonetheless, that the metropolitan for quite some time is in the spotlight and the gigantic Karachi Transformation Package is gradually seeing the light of the day. As a curtain raiser before Prime Minister Imran Khan is scheduled to inaugurate the infrastructure project of KCR, the ECNEC has approved of Rs20.7 billion for flyovers and underpasses on 22 crossings of the 29km route.

What is, however, needed while implementing the KCR dream is a doubling of efforts! While the executing arm is Pakistan Railways, other associated financiers such as the PSDP and the Public-Private Partnership should come in promptly with a professional plan of action. It is common knowledge that removal of encroachments from the erstwhile defunct circular railway lanes took more than two decades. To be built at a cost of Rs300 billion, the BOT mode project of 43km long mass transit, using electric trains, is in need of stringent state-centric ownership.

This mass transit to be built under the Rs736 billion Karachi Package was earlier a CPEC initiative. The Japanese too took interest in it, only to shy away for reasons not known. With time, it snowballed as an irritant between federal and provincial governments, and landed in jurisdiction with the Supreme Court. The apex court in an earnest attempt to realise it for the convenience of Karachiites has now awarded the contract to the FWO, under the explicit instructions to lay out the infrastructure in six months. With the entire scheme still on papers and a lot of authoritative crisscrossing in the wings, one can only hope for a miracle of sorts to see Karachi get a viable circular railway. In fact, lack of consensus on the fundamentals among the stakeholder has rendered KCR a white elephant status.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2322077/kcr-in-spotlight>

The Nation

Pakistan to enhance barter trade with China

ISLAMABAD - In a milestone move to boost barter trade with more countries, Pakistani enterprises have joined the cross-border Barter Trade Alliance.

This development was made at the inaugural ceremony of cross-border Barter Trade Alliance (CBTA) and the cross-border Barter Trade Platform held at China's coastal city of Qingdao, CEN reported yesterday.

According to the International Reciprocal Trade Association (IRTA), a global organisation for barter trade, an estimated 65 per cent to 80 per cent of Fortune 500 enterprises have been reported to engage in some form of bartering, and 65% of corporations listed on the NYSE are involved in bartering.

Pakistan has exported the surplus wheat and rice to Iran in exchange for sought-after fertilizer and iron ore. Barter trade between Pakistan and China also holds great promises. "Pakistan is rich in natural resources such as minerals. The country can trade marbles for other goods with China," said Shao Liying, who conducted business operations in Pakistan for four years before setting up an O2O barter platform in China.

Wang Hui, Secretary-General of CBTA, says that the Cross-border Barter Trade Platform will tackle the ingrained problems of mismatched information, inadequate laws and regulations, and unregulated evaluation of goods and services and further grow barter trade among its current 92 member enterprises from 11 countries and regions including China, Pakistan, Germany, India and Nigeria.

"The platform will provide a full range of services including information sharing, business matching, legal consultation, quality control management, goods and service evaluation, supply chain services," said Wang.

The platform is also set to explore and promote new patterns of barter trade with new technologies, he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-27/page-3/detail-1>

Expanding CPEC

The federal government has announced the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project under the umbrella of CPEC where direct Chinese investment worth \$3.5 billion has been promised to urbanise the area entirely. The economic potential for this is immense, just like the promise of our maritime trade taking off after its completion. For the benefits to materialise, the government must ensure the process is smooth all the while ensuring security, meeting deadlines and taking charge of the humanitarian implications of revamping the coastline.

Karachi may become an even larger port that has the ability to cater to international needs through KCCDZ's diversified facilities—strengthening our blue economy as a result. A water treatment plant aimed at reducing pollution and improving the quality of marine life near and around Karachi will be made. The port will also become accessible to the main city through a connecting bridge, further linking it to the economic center of the province. All this is bound to open up an array of opportunities for Pakistan.

However, before absorbing ourselves with visions of success, there are a few problems that must be addressed. Half a million people would have to be relocated into a suitable area that is fully equipped for everyday life before the project begins. These people must be informed about this reality well before time, given a comprehensive plan as to where they will be resettled, whether a housing scheme will be built and how affordability will be ensured.

Secondly, any incident like the Dasu attack is unacceptable especially if China is still open to diversifying CPEC projects. The government must go above and beyond to prevent jeopardising our partnership with China through ensuring the security of all those involved.

Lastly, we must remain diligent with our payables to investors because otherwise, delays become inevitable as investors lose confidence and discourage progress on the project as we observed while paying partial payables of \$1.4 billion last week.

These are just a few concerns that are well within the capacity of our government to resolve. Taking a proactive approach now will lead to a smoother process for the well-needed initiative to urbanise Karachi.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-27/page-6/detail-2>

The News

Quaid-i-Azam statue damaged in Gwadar attack

QUETTA: Unknown miscreants destroyed the statue of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in a hand grenade attack in Gwadar on Sunday.

According to Levies Control room in Gwadar, the statue of Quaid-i-Azam was installed at Marine Drive which was attacked by miscreants on Sunday morning. The statue was damaged in the blast. However, no casualty was reported in the incident.

The security forces cordoned off the entire area and initiated a search operation after the incident. No terror group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Senator from Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti termed the incident an attack on Ideology of Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=7705>

September 28, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan discussing expansion of CPEC to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has discussed Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project, the Pakistani ambassador to the country said on Monday.

“Regional connectivity is an important element of our discussion with Afghan leadership and our way forward for our economic interaction with Afghanistan,” said Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan’s envoy to Kabul, in an interview with Reuters.

“This important project -China Pakistan Economic Corridor ... provides good opportunities, good potential for providing infrastructure and energy connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan ... (and) also connecting South Asia to the Central Asian region.”

CPEC is a central part of the Belt and Road Initiative, under which Beijing has pledged over \$60 billion for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, much of it in the form of loans.

Khan said that discussions had been held with the Taliban-led administration on this and other ways to develop the country’s economy.

“I think there has been deep interest in terms of developing economic connectivity of Afghanistan with Pakistan through CPEC and with other neighbouring countries including Iran, China, Central Asian countries.”

In recent days representatives from Pakistan, China and Russia have held meetings with Taliban officials. Khan said security and economic development were the two main topics under discussion and that these countries expected to continue to consult as a group and meet with the Taliban going forward.

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan on Aug. 15, the country has been plunged into economic crisis as the nation’s international assistance has been largely cut off. Billions of dollars in central bank assets held abroad have also been frozen, which has put pressure on the banking system and prevented most transactions involving U.S. dollars, which Khan said was also hampering trade.

Khan said that Pakistan was also trying to work with the international community to ease international restrictions on the banking system and several executives from Pakistani financial institutions with a presence in Afghanistan had visited Kabul in recent days to see if the situation could be improved should international limits end.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/28/10-page/902251-news.html>

Daily Times

Senate body for resolution of issues faced by Chinese investors

The Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on Monday directed concerned authorities to address all the issues faced by the Chinese investors working especially under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting held under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, discussed in detail the issues being faced by the Chinese Investors in Pakistan and the measures taken in this regard.

The Chairman Committee as in its previous meeting inquired about the forum on which the issue of the Chinese investors should be taken.

“There should be a remedy at the Government level” he said. The Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives informed the committee that a Pak-China Committee has been constituted with the objective to remove the hurdles of finalization and execution of the Projects.

The constituency of the CPEC authority, headed by a Chairman, is also an apt authority to redress issues faced by the Chinese Investors, he emphasized.

The chairman of the committee was dismayed by the fact that it is a general observation that the committees are non- effective and do not produce results in yes or no.

“There should be a focal person to communicate the issues between the concerned authorities and the investors” Mandviwalla added.

The Secretary Committee said that Chairman CPEC authority is the right person to bring in the concerns of the Chinese investors to further address the issues through the committee.

A comprehensive briefing by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on their roles, functions and performance was also received by the committee.

The PIDE officials briefed the committee that PIDE is the 1st Asian Think Tank since 1957 initiated by the US AID for long-term planning.

PIDE aims for Research, Projects and Surveys, Academic Programs and Executive Training through active and continuous debate on key issues, extensive engagements with policymakers, practitioners, professionals, academia and development partners.

The officials informed the committee that the mode of communication of PIDE is through Webinars/ Seminars, Research Videos and Newspaper Articles etc. There are a number of PIDE’s Research Agendas including Climate Change, Social Protection, Health and Education.

The officials of the PIDE commented that 16pc of the uneducated population is unemployed while amongst the educated population (twenty-four) 24pc of graduates are jobless out of which (forty) 40pc are females.

It was noted that these figures are in contrast to the figures given by the Government.

The officials of PIDE further elaborated that there are also hidden numbers such as those who only take admission in MPhil and PHD Programs because they do not have employment opportunities.

“Some 80pc of students are enrolling themselves because of unemployment and this number doesn’t come in any count” informed the PIDE officials.

“Our aim is to provide employment opportunities to 120 million youth/graduates of the country”.

The chairman committee sought a report on the factual statistics regarding the number of youths, unemployment etc, which the committee can actually rely upon in order to make concrete decisions.

The PIDE in their research has proposed laws for hawkers and to also grant them licenses which will meet 20 to 30 million employment opportunities in the country.

The PIDE in their recent publications also proposed reform for the civil services, on their incentives and costs.

According to the publication the total cost of a civil servant is Rs11 lakh.

The PIDE also made research on the Economic Cost of Tobacco-Induced Diseases in Pakistan stating that the cost of cigarettes is the least in Pakistan as compared globally and the health cost is three-times the revenue generated by it.

The PIDE officials also debated on the criteria through which universities are registered in Pakistan.

It was informed that unlike world- wide practice of enlisting of universities through charters, Pakistan approves universities through a Bill introduced by the HEC which has lacunas such as a university can only be approved if it has Thirteen 13 acre land, which does not justify a requirement of establishing a university at international level.

The PIDE officials apprised the committee that in Islamabad there are Forty (40) training institutes and Forty (40) universities.

The PIDE officials during their briefing informed the committee that the total budget for the PIDE is 300 million out of which more than 90pc goes into the salaries of the employees. The Chairman Committee sought a report on the so far implementation of the research being conducted by PIDE along with its outcome.

The chairman committee also sought proposed reform of the PIDE for a way forward, to be discussed in the next meeting. The meeting was attended by Senators Dost Muhammad Khan, Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen and Senator Hidayat Ullah.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/822200/senate-body-for-resolution-of-issues-faced-by-chinese-investors/>

Dawn News

Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry members invited to invest in Gwadar

Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani has invited members of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) to take advantage of golden opportunities for investment in the port city.

Speaking at a meeting with the QCCI members here on Monday, he said the government had already announced plans to extend maximum facilities and incentives to those businessmen who intended to make investment in Gwadar. He assured them of giving priority to their proposals about investment and trade.

Mr Kashani said 92 per cent of work on Eastbay Expre-ssway had been completed, while the Pakistan-China Vocational Center was made ready three months ago and the pace of work had been accelerated on other projects launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Gwadar city and other areas of the coastal district.

The QCCI patrons, Chief Ghulam Farooq Khliji, Senior Vice President Abdullah Achakzai, Vice President Akh-tar Kakar, Yahya Khan Nasir, Fujan Bareech, Ayub and others, welcomed Mr Kashani on his arrival at the Chamber.

They said a delegation of the Chamber had recently visited Gwadar Port to review the situation and progress on the ground.

They said the exporters and importers of Balochistan should also get tax exemption at Gwadar port in the style of SRO 492 and assured the GPA chairman that the QCCI would extend all possible cooperation to the government in connection with Gwadar Port.

He said that more and more people were benefiting from the golden opportunity of working in Gwadar. He said the people involved in the industry and trade would have to make a quick and timely decision on the investment in Gwadar Port.

The GPA chairman said more trade-friendly measures were being taken. He said that steps would be taken for tax exemption and other incentives. “We will be able to build 31 berths in Gwadar by 2050.”

He said the project was in the eyes of the enemies and they were trying to derail it, but “we all have to work together to complete it successfully”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1648859/qcci-members-invited-to-invest-in-gwadar>

Dunya News

Qadri lauds China for providing religious freedom to Chinese Muslims

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Tuesday lauded Chinese government for ensuring liberty to the Muslims in performing religious rituals such as Hajj, and observing sacred months like Ramazan and other festivals.

Addressing a webinar titled “Xinjiang is a Beautiful and Unique Area” Hosted by Chinese ambassador, he said China guaranteed protection of religious freedom to Muslims residing there through its laws.

He said the peoples of Pakistan have a religious and cultural connection with the people of the Xinjiang. There were some 24,000 beautiful mosques in the area that currently represent religious and ethnic harmony.

He lauded Chinese government for felicitating standard translations of Quran Pak, Sahih Bukhari in different Chinese languages for the benefit of Muslims and establishing Islamic School in Xinjiang.

He expressed the hope that these facilities would help promoting religious education and Islamic principles. The people of Pakistan have a lot of love and devotion for China and the Chinese people. Pakistan has religious and cultural affiliation with the people of China.

The importance of Chinese province of Xinjiang has increased manifold due to its close proximity with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The economic and social development of Xinjiang, a beautiful blend of Central Asian and Middle Eastern culture, has improved the living standards of its residents.

Top Xinjiang officials gave a detailed briefing on the socio-economic development of the local population.

National Assembly, Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri and Senator Faisal Javed also spoke.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/621811-Qadri-lauds-China-for-providing-religious-freedom-to-Chinese-Muslims>

The Nation

Senate adopts CPEC Authority Act-2021

ISLAMABAD - The Senate of Pakistan on Monday unanimously adopted 10 different bills of public and national importance including the amendment in CPEC Authority Act-2021.

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani referred to the standing committees concerned for further debate, whereas the House pended three other bills for discussion and evolving consensus on their different aspects. Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the

lawmakers for ensuring conducive environment in the House and running the legislative business in a smooth manner.

Senator Sherry Rehman moved the bill to amend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Act-2021, seeking representation of provinces in the authority for better coordination and yielding the required results of the game-changer project.

Senator Saadia Abbasi and Mushahid Hussain Sayed moved the bill to further amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021, related to national food security. Senator Shahadat Awan moved the bill to further amend the Code of Criminal Procedures, 1898 [The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2021] (Amendment of Section 195). Senators Seeme Ezdi and Sana Jamali moved the bill to amend the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 2010 [The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2021, suggesting to further streamline the existing donation system with involvement of National Database and Registration Authority through Computerized National Identity Cards. Senator Shahadat Awan introduced the bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 [The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (Amendment of Section 510).

Senator Kauda Babar moved the bill to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Senator Fawzia Arshad moved a bill to amend the Trade Organizations Act, 2013 [The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2021].

Senator Shahadat Awan introduced a bill to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021] aimed at declaring the suicide as a ‘sickness’ not an ‘offense.’

Senators Saadia Abbasi and Walid Iqbal moved the bill to make provisions for prohibition of corporal punishment against children [the Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2021].

Senator Shahadat Awan introduced a bill to amend the Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997 [The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021] for a more effective working to curb this social evil.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-28/page-2/detail-3>

PM to open Hakla-DIK Motorway next month

MUHAMMAD ASAD CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD - After missing a number of deadlines, the Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway is now going to be made operational in the middle of next month and most probably Prime Minister Imran Khan would inaugurate the project on October 25.

Arbab Ali Dhakan, member engineering National Highway Authority (NHA), has confirmed that remaining work on the motorway would be completed before October 15 2021 and then motorway would be formally opened for the commuters.

According to the original schedule, the 293km-long motorway, started in 2016, was to be completed by the end of 2018.

However, after the general elections, the present government of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf put the project on backburner and resultantly it could not be completed on time besides announcing one after another deadline.

It is pertinent to mention here that the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) directed to award motorway project to multiple contractors by dividing it into four packages to make it operational as earliest.

The five packages include 54.6km-long package-I from Yarik to Rahmani Khail, 71.2km-long package-II from Rahmani Khail to Kot Balian, 52.5km-long package-III from Kot Balian to Tarap, 51km-long package-IV from Tarap to Pindi Gheb and 63km-long package-V from Pindi Gheb to Hakla.

The package-I was awarded to National Logistic Cell (NLC), package II was further divided into four packages and awarded to SKB Engineering Construction, SMD Bloch, Khalid Rauf and Company respectively.

Package III was awarded to Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) while package IV and V was awarded to ZKB Private Limited.

At present, the package I, II and III has been completed by the aforementioned contractors but package IV and V that is awarded to ZKB is still pending and work progress on it is 97 percent.

The work on a railway diversion at the junction of Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway and N80 is underway and it is the last bottleneck in the project.

The construction of Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway project is part of the western alignment of CPEC and this four-lane north-south motorway starts from the Hakla on Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway (M-1), near Fateh Jang Interchange and ends at Yarik near Dera Ismail Khan.

The motorway once completed will reduce travel time between Dera Ismail Khan and Islamabad to two-and-a-half hours from the present five hours or more.

The second part of the western corridor, Yarak-Zhob-Quetta, is 540km-long and will bring down the distance from Islamabad to Quetta to only 830km and reduce travel time to eight hours.

The motorway is not part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) though it is often wrongly included in it. The project was conceived by the previous government and is financed by the Pakistan government and not China as part of CPEC. In 2016, the then prime minister had convened an all-parties' conference on the demand and had announced this western corridor.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-28/page-4/detail-2>

The News

Chinese man's Pakistani wife 'recovered'

LAHORE: The wife of a Chinese national, who was reportedly abducted by unidentified persons from Factory Area, was recovered from the house of her parents on Monday.

A Chinese citizen, Leu Keng Sheng, living with his wife on Walton Road, had told the police that unidentified persons had abducted his wife Ayesha Akhtar. IGP Punjab Rao Sardar Ali took notice of the incident and the police registered a case.

However, later on she was recovered from her parents' home. Ayesha told police she got angry with her husband and left him.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=8119>

September 29, 2021

Business Recorder

China says ready to work on Karachi project implementation

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying Tuesday said China was willing to work with Pakistan to implement the outcomes of the recently held 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including the Karachi project.

“In the recently held 10th meeting of the joint cooperation committee of CPEC, China and Pakistan agreed to include the Karachi project in the CPEC framework and listed as an outcome of the meeting,” she said during her regular briefing while commenting on inclusion of \$3.5 billion Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the CPEC framework. In a tweet, Prime Minister Imran Khan termed the inclusion of Karachi coastal zone in the CPEC as game changer and expressed the hope that it would help in cleaning up marine habitat for fishermen, develop low income housing units and creating investment opportunities. It would put Karachi at par with the developed port cities.

Hua Chunying said China and Pakistan were all weather strategic cooperation partners and the CPEC was a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the common understanding of the two leaders and also outcome of the JCC meeting,” she added.

She said Chinese side would ensure smooth operation and construction of existing projects and highlight the cooperation in health, green economy and digital areas.

“We will work on other fronts in our cooperation, improve the quality of the joint building of CPEC and provide new impetus to the development and the people's livelihood,” she added.

According to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Dr Khalid Mansoor, the inclusion of KCCDZ in CPEC in the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee for CPEC would expand the horizon of development for the country.

Mansoor pointed out that it was an opportunity for international investors to invest in Pakistan. “The multi-billion dollars CPEC project has entered into its second phase.

The establishment of Special Economic Zones and the involvement of private sectors would make Pakistan a manufacturing hub,” he added.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/09/29/1-page/902303-news.html>

Daily Times

China, Pakistan media pledge to counter false propaganda

The Chinese and Pakistani Media Tuesday pledged together to counter propaganda through enhanced communications and building stronger linkages by creating the “China-Pakistan Media Corridor”.

This was discussed during the First China-Pakistan Media Forum held with the thematic objective of “strengthening China Pakistan relations through informed dialogue”. The forum was organised by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in Islamabad.

It was urged that the China-Pakistan Media should work together for a lasting and unified response to false information. It was decided that the media forum should be organised regularly to deal with the challenges and build opportunities for working together. Distinguished speakers from both countries aimed at strengthening the ties between China and Pakistan and to boost relations through enhanced channels of communications.

Founder China-Pakistan Media Forum and Institute of Peace and Development Studies Farhat Asif, in her opening remarks, said that this platform has been established to build stronger ties amongst the media groups from both sides. She further added the China Pakistan Media Forum strengthens the bond not only in the news but other important ways of communications, including films, drama, TV, travel guides, translations, and other services.

Speaking on the occasion Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Faisal Javed Khan said that there are continuous attempts to jeopardise the Pak-China relationship and damaging the CPEC through fake news and propaganda. But media from both sides will counter these negative narratives that are artificially generated to damage the Pak-China relationship and reframe them with more efficiency for better building of relations. He was of the view that such a forum was necessary, timely, and should continue the process to build lasting partnerships with the media outlets of both sides.

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Nong Rong said that China and Pakistan are facing strong media propaganda and disinformation. Some external forces are hostile and trying to undermine the development of China and Pakistan systematically. Both sides of the media

should work to promote truth, justice, and fairness and become a positive force for regional peace and stability. In order to promote the understanding of Chinese and Urdu languages, China has launched an Urdu media service to counter the negative public opinions and strengthen mutual collaboration. Ambassador Nong also proposed ways to further strengthen collaboration in the media.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin-ul-Haque said that in this digital age, media is not just the source of information but it influences public opinions and inter-state relations. China Pakistan Media collaboration can deepen the relations and help understand each other's points of view. As well as the technological evolution and developments in the geopolitical arena have rendered the role of media very important in shaping narratives.

Sultana Siddiqui, President of Hum Network Limited said that collaboration between media helps to promote cultural ties and build people-to-people ties to the next level. She has also urged the need to work on the challenges that may hamper the collaboration from both sides.

Wang Qianting, Senior journalist, Urdu Service of China Media Group, gave a speech in Urdu and said that friendship between China and Pakistan has a special place that will remain evergreen. Prof. Zhou Rong, Senior Fellow of Chongyang Institute for Financial Study of Renmin University said that Chinese media needs to showcase what Pakistan has been doing against terrorism and for peace and stability in Afghanistan and also China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project should be advertised by media groups of both countries.

A large number of Chinese and Pakistan media representatives, journalists, students, faculty members, and civil society leaders joined this hybrid event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/822682/china-pakistan-media-pledge-to-counter-false-propaganda/>

China to work with Pakistan to implement Karachi project

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has said that China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the outcomes of the recently held 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including the Karachi project.

“In the recently held 10th meeting of the joint cooperation committee of CPEC, China and Pakistan agreed to include the Karachi project in the CPEC framework and listed as an outcome of the meeting,” she said during her regular briefing while commenting on the inclusion of \$3.5 billion Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the CPEC framework on Tuesday.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Imran Khan termed the inclusion of the Karachi coastal zone in CPEC as a game-changer and expressed the hope that it would help in cleaning up marine habitat for fishermen, develop low-income housing units and creating investment opportunities. It would put Karachi at par with the developed port cities.

Hua Chunying said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperation partners and CPEC is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). “China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the common understanding of the two leaders and also the outcome of the JCC meeting.” She said the Chinese side would ensure smooth operation and construction of existing projects and highlight the cooperation in health, green economy and digital areas.

“We will work on other fronts in our cooperation, improve the quality of the joint building of CPEC and provide new impetus to the development and the people’s livelihood,” she added. According to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Dr Khalid Mansoor, the inclusion of KCCDZ in CPEC in the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee for CPEC would expand the horizon of development for the country.

Mansoor pointed out that it is an opportunity for international investors to invest in Pakistan. “The multibillion-dollar CPEC project has entered into its second phase. The establishment of Special Economic Zones and the involvement of private sectors would make Pakistan a manufacturing hub.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/822657/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-implement-karachi-project/>

Pak-China experts to build a better digital payment system

The Pakistan government is focusing on the development of e-commerce. China is leading the world in the field of e-commerce. Last year, its e-commerce transaction was \$2 trillion, which is more than the added-up figure of e-commerce trades done in the US and Europe,” said Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

“We would like to promote our e-commerce infrastructure to benefit from this huge market, and to upgrade our telecommunication sector and modernize the e-payment system,” he said during a dialogue themed by Digital Belt and Road on the 4th Belt and Road Service Trade Cooperation Forum held in Beijing.

“As a payment infrastructure builder, our payment services cover Belt and Road countries with 50 supported currencies. As Pakistan’s e-commerce is developing fast, many of our customers, especially e-commerce customers, have frequent economic exchanges with Pakistan,” said Wu Kai, Airwallex Greater China CEO, who also joined the dialogue and discussed digital payment development with Moinul Haque.

“We can make payment more efficiently with lower cost, and we can help customers control their financial risks.”

The COVID-19 is accelerating the digital economy development of belt and road countries and there are more and more international trades, which provide a big demand for digital payment services, China Economic Net reported. Wu Kai also stressed the importance of the banking system during the development of the digital economy. Currently, some belt and road countries don’t have adequate financial infrastructures. The premise of our service is that payers and receivers both have bank accounts.

“What we can do is to build a solid foundation based on which other participants can develop their own payment applications or software,” Wu Kai said, adding that the company is looking forward to cooperating with Pakistan and more belt and road countries, making full use of each other’s complementary resources and advantages.

“We can also share our experience to help other participants to take fewer detours. We hope to work with all Belt and Road countries to make our entire payment system more efficient,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/822599/pak-china-experts-to-build-a-better-digital-payment-system-2/>

Pakistan Observer

China to work with Pakistan to ‘implement Karachi project’

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has said that China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the outcomes of the recently held 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including the Karachi project.

“In the recently held 10th meeting of the joint cooperation committee of CPEC, China and Pakistan agreed to include the Karachi project in the CPEC framework and listed as an outcome of the meeting,” she said during her regular briefing while commenting on the inclusion of \$3.5 billion Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ) in the CPEC framework on Tuesday.

Hua Chunying said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperation partners and CPEC is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). “China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the common understanding of the two leaders and also the outcome of the JCC meeting.”

She said the Chinese side would ensure smooth operation and construction of existing projects and highlight the cooperation in health, green economy and digital areas.

“We will work on other fronts in our cooperation, improve the quality of the joint building of CPEC and provide new impetus to the development and the people’s livelihood,” she added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-implement-karachi-project/>

CPEC: Regional Security Powers & Paradoxes

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

IT seems that the “abrupt” fall of Kabul has “flustered” the regional as well as international power politics due to which there are some symbolic re-arrangements of security meetings, pacts and alliances now going around the world.

Chess-board of “power politics” is going to have new set-up to “topple” and “contain” Chinese socio-economic commitments towards greater regional connectivity, socio-economic integration

and eradication of poverty through its “One Belt One Road Initiative” (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Thus self-defined “China Threat Theory (CTT)” of the West & US is being intentionally disseminated its own military race in the region.

The ongoing QUAD (United States, India, Japan and Australia) Security dialogue in Washington and newly formed security pact AUKUS (Australia, UK & USA) are the prime examples of their undue and unjust military race and enmity against China in the region.

Despite Western propaganda the CPEC has been termed as the economic “jugular vein” of Pakistan. Moreover, CPEC is “oxygen” to the ailing economy of Pakistan.

CPEC is an open and transparent mega project of socio-economic prosperity and a giant step towards economic self-reliance. Thus it should be used in the best interest of Pakistan.

There are some “misleading” media news, commentaries, articles and interviews about utility, capacity and efficacy of CPEC. It seems that ongoing internal propagation against CPEC in the mass media of the country is not based on true facts.

Rather it tried to malign China not to start CPEC Phase-II and not obliging Pakistan to pay back its due instalments even on deferred terms.

In this connection, capacity payments of CPEC energy projects are being projected as a financial burden or inflexibility of Chinese companies towards Pakistan.

It is totally untrue, un-factual, fabricated and self-inserted conclusions of some of the media houses and newspapers in the country which needs to be ratified as soon as possible.

According to various published reports of SBP, SECP and Finance Ministry that Pakistan has received only US\$42 billion investment in the first 65 years of Pakistan’s history, but under CPEC since 2015, 51 agreements/MOUs have been signed, worth 46 billion which has now been further increased to US\$ 62 billion.

But unfortunately, to “capacity building” flaws & fallacies only 25 billion has yet been utilized.

In this regard, China does not have any restriction to invest in Pakistan, and it can be substantial if Pakistan can streamline and enhance its capacity.

The CPEC provides a wide range of opportunities to Pakistan but strong political will for good governance and diplomacy should be the way forward. Appropriate security has been one of the serious concerns of the Chinese government.

Fall of Kabul and Chinese strategic understanding towards Taliban has once again put its projects and workers in the line of fire in the country which must be protected on an urgent basis.

Anti-CPEC lobbies and secret agencies are specifically targeting the CPEC project to sabotage the project.

In this context, the newly formed AUKUS military alliance may harm the future utility of Gwadar seaport and the blue economy of China too. CPEC has the potential and threshold to connect with Central Asia and beyond.

The vast region bordering China, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia is landlocked and dependent on the seaports of Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran and Turkey. Thus the ideal combination of BRI & CPEC is the need of the hour.

Most recently, the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of CPEC was held via video link.

While addressing it, Deputy Head of China's National Development and Reform Commission, Ning Jizhe termed the CPEC as the flagship project under the BRI which has provided dividends over the past eight years, bringing a direct investment of US\$ 25.4 billion to Pakistan and creating numerous jobs in Pakistan.

He urged both countries to focus on CPEC construction through the construction of Gwadar Port, energy and infrastructure, and industrial cooperation while fully tapping the existing infrastructure.

On the eve of 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations, he chalked out comprehensive road-map for further development and was of the opinion that both countries should promote the healthy, qualitative development of CPEC by forming the Health Corridor (HC), the Industrial Corridor (IC), Knowledge Corridor (KC) the Trade Corridor (TC) the Digital Corridor (DC) and the Green Corridor (GC) and work together to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Addressing a news conference after the JCC meeting, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said that China expressed concern over the security arrangements for Chinese working on the CPEC projects.

The Minister said that China emphasised boosting security arrangements with the enhancement in the scope of CPEC in the second phase.

He defused the domestic and international propaganda by saying that despite numerous challenges CPEC projects are sailing smoothly and meeting deadlines. He confirmed the expansion of CPEC which has attracted more and more investment beyond industrial estates.

The MoU was between China's Ningbo Port and Pakistan's Gwadar Port for the CPEC. Another MoU has been signed for the Karachi Coastal Development Plan under the Maritime Ministry along with a Chinese Company, named CRPC, for the development of the Karachi Port facility. The Minister said that eight different agreements were signed for the agriculture sector.

During the meeting both sides signed five documents for cooperation and announced three cooperation agreements between enterprises. However, both sides exchanged views on security measures for Chinese projects and nationals in Pakistan.

The 10th JCC meeting was held on the work studies of various working groups including security, energy, industrial cooperation, agriculture, science and technology.

The meeting also announced the establishment of a joint working group in the information technology industry.

About 200 representatives from the governments, financial institutions, enterprises and public institutions of both sides attended the meeting. Being a prominent regional expert of China, CPEC & BRI, this scribe suggests that innovative commercial diplomacy is the need of the hour to resolve any emerging financial deadlock/burden between the two sides.

Request for deferment of payments, restructuring of loans through future profit sharing, change of management, issuance of IPOs, export of surplus energy and last but not the least, good governance should be followed and implemented. Any sponsored media campaign in the country should not be encouraged.

CPEC has been in the line of fire since its inception from hostile regional countries and international power brokers.

90 percent of Chinese trade with the West and US is being carried out through waters and most recently-held QUAD security meeting and formation of AUKUS have definitely anti-China aims.

Thus CPEC Phase-II is the need of the hour in which more long-term projects for the expansion and development of Gwadar seaport may be mutually beneficial for the two countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-regional-security-powers-paradoxes-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC and Pakistan's vibrant blue economy

Muhammad Ammar Alam

THE coming week from the 23rd of this month till the 30th is being celebrated as World Maritime week.

The purpose is to spread awareness and insight not only among the populace but policy makers as well.

In this context and particularly with respect to Pakistan it is imperative to highlight how important is the blue economy to overcome Pakistan's persistent economic predicaments.

Moreover, another thing that is not highlighted enough is the role that maritime security plays in the uplift of the maritime economy, particularly in the domain of CPEC.

In this backdrop, it is pertinent to highlight how conventional security paradigms have changed into non-conventional ones.

This in turn has led to the inclusion of the blue economy into its realm. Today the world is viewed through the lens of a strong economy of any country and the biggest proponent of a strong economy for a country is its blue economy.

In this particular context Pakistan is developing its blue economy through the lens of CPEC which is a harbinger of its strong maritime security.

Thus, to reap the benefits of the Maritime economy, it is imperative to have a secure and vibrant environment through robust maritime security policies. In this realm it is important to have better international cooperation and global ocean governance.

Maritime security talks about protecting the maritime domain from various threats be it; piracy, inter-state conflicts or transnational crimes. It is only then that the blue economy can reap benefits from its various sectors and accrue maximum benefits from the ocean.

Thus the blue economy is not only about growth but sustained economic output which in turn is only possible with a robust mechanism of maritime security.

Hence, it is suffice to point out that the progress Pakistan is making particularly in its blue economy domain via CPEC is only due to the strong maritime security provided by our defence forces across the board.

Over the years, Pakistan's economy has been facing multiple perennial dilemmas now for many decades.

The major bone of contention has been its ever rising twin deficits; fiscal and current account deficits. Both of these have all but crippled its economy to its core.

The results have been low saving which ultimately lead to low investment and subsequently low levels of growth. To top this off, due to low exports, as Pakistan has been a consumption led economy and not one where production takes a lead hence; it inflates our imports resulting in high levels of current account deficit.

Both the Current Account deficit and the fiscal deficit have been to the tune of 6% to 7% respectively over the course of the last decade in Pakistan.

However, one major silver lining to many of these problems is CPEC. Blue growth in Pakistan can only gain currency on the back of CPEC, which is evident from the start of this mega multi billion project.

CPEC has become a force to gear a massive process of industrialization in the country and is cultivating its exports in the process.

Furthermore, it has not only strengthened the blue economy but has played an integral part in encouraging regional connectivity.

In this realm, the second phase of CPEC is absolutely key. The second phase of CPEC has started off with the development of Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ).

This free zone is expected to be 35 times bigger than the first one, thus reflecting how much interest Chinese and other investors are showing in this region.

Moreover, the second phase of the GFZ comprises 2200 acres of land, while the first one comprised only 60 acres of land.

This has also subsequently led to an increase in the water traffic for Pakistan, as 60,000 metric tons of cargo was transported this fiscal year, while the previous fiscal year was stagnant at 1300 metric tons.

All of these developments point towards Pakistan reaching its maritime potential of around \$16 to \$17 billion.

However, currently Pakistan's Gross Marine Product (GMP) is an abysmal \$1.5 billion. If we just look at our neighbours, Bangladesh and India are respectively accruing \$5.6 billion and \$6 billion respectively from their maritime economies.

Hence, it can be aptly observed that CPEC is revolutionizing our economy and elevating socio-economic crisis from Pakistan along with addressing our ever persistent economic ailments in the form of increased exports and revenue generation.

However, this is only possible due to the strong maritime security that is provided which is helping Pakistan to turn its economic fortunes around.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-pakistans-vibrant-blue-economy-by-muhammad-ammar-alam/>

KCR's groundbreaking

PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Monday performed the groundbreaking of much awaited Rs 20.7 billion Karachi Circular Railway project to provide modern transportation services to the people of the provincial capital.

The credit of the revival of this important project really goes to no other than the Supreme Court of Pakistan and one expects that the timeline of two-year given to its completion will also be met.

Karachi is amongst the biggest cities in the world with a steadily growing population. People from other districts also turn to this city for livelihood opportunities.

This generates the need for an efficient mass transportation system. As regards the KCR is concerned, it began operations in 1964 under the administration of Pakistan Railways. Its instant success made Pakistan Railways a significant profit in its first year of operation.

However, then during the 1990s, cost of operations increased while revenues dropped due to a deteriorating commuter service and increasing culture of fare dodging.

Private transporters during this period also contracted KCR staff and by 1994 the KCR was incurring major losses due to mismanagement.

Unable to withstand the pressure of a growing transport mafia, Pakistan Railways abandoned the KCR in 1999.

This is a lesson that the authorities concerned should learn in order to ensure efficient operationalization of the KCR in future.

As the project is not only being revived but further expanded and modernized, it will undoubtedly attract a good number of commuters and also contribute significantly to the revenue of Pakistan Railways provided matters are dealt with sheer professionalism.

And as very rightly stated by Prime Minister Imran Khan, both the federal and provincial governments will have to work in tandem whilst setting aside their differences not only to ensure timely completion of the KCR but also implement the city's transformation program launched last year to address its chronic issues including those of water, sanitation and sewerage.

Such is the contribution of Karachi to the country's economy that it should be made a model in terms of development.

<https://pakobserver.net/kcrs-groundbreaking/>

The Nation

CPEC and Afghanistan

On Monday, Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan revealed that Islamabad has discussed the inclusion of Afghanistan in the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project. He further revealed that regional connectivity has been an important element of Pakistan's discussions with the new Afghan leadership, and that CPEC provides good opportunities for providing infrastructure and energy connectivity between the two countries, and also when it comes to connecting South Asia to the Central Asian region.

These are encouraging discussions as Afghanistan does a lot to offer when it comes to laying down a connectivity framework for the region. However, this is going to be a long-term endeavour which will require a lot of planning. At the moment however, the more pressing concern is the humanitarian crisis and economic collapse that could become a very real possibility given the ongoing situation in Afghanistan. While the US Treasury Department has issued licenses to facilitate humanitarian aid and financial assistance to Afghanistan, a lot more still needs to be done considering how the country's assets and reserves remain frozen.

Another prerequisite to be achieved before grand visions of connectivity can be realised is that of security and stability. Given the presence of militant groups like the TTP and ISIS on Afghan soil, it is imperative that safe havens for such outfits are eliminated at the earliest as they will continue to imperil the stability of Afghanistan, Pakistan and other neighbouring countries.

A conducive environment for investment will be key if Afghanistan is to be integrated within the connectivity enterprise. Restoring some semblance of stability in Afghanistan will have far reaching positive implications for the region and its connectivity infrastructure. There are several

stalled projects like the CASA-1000 power project and TAPI pipeline that could be resumed once the security situation improves. Until then, it will be important to remain engaged with Afghanistan to avert a humanitarian crisis from unfolding, and to ensure that the new government fulfils its commitments in the realm of human rights and fighting terror outfits.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-29/page-6/detail-3>

Express News

افغانستان میں پاکستان اور چین کے مفادات یکساں ہیں، بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفیر معین الحق

افغانستان کی تازہ ترین صورت حال کے حوالے چین میں تعینات پاکستان کے سفیر جناب معین الحق نے چائنا گلوبل ٹیلی ویژن نیٹ ورک (سی جی ٹی این) کو دیئے گئے ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں کہا کہ افغانستان سے امریکی افواج کا انخلا ذمہ دارانہ ہونا چاہیے تھا لیکن بد قسمتی سے ایسا نہیں ہوا۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق، جناب معین الحق کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم پر امید تھی کہ افغانستان سے امریکی فوجیوں کا انخلا زیادہ ذمہ دارانہ اور منظم انداز میں ہو گا جبکہ یہ سیاسی عمل اور جاری امن مذاکرات کے ساتھ ہم آہنگ بھی ہو گا۔ بد قسمتی سے ایسا نہیں ہوا۔

ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ افغان مسئلہ سیاسی عمل سے حل ہونا چاہیے، ایک ایسا سیاسی تصفیہ ہونا چاہیے جو افغان عوام کی خواہشات کے مطابق ہو۔

ایک پرامن افغانستان خطے اور پاکستان کے بہترین مفاد میں ہے۔ گزشتہ دو دہائیوں سے افغانستان میں جاری انتشار کی وجہ سے سب سے زیادہ نقصان پاکستان کو ہوا ہے۔

چنانچہ پاکستان اس طویل تنازعے کے پرامن حل کا خواہاں ہے اور ہم امید کرتے ہیں کہ افغانستان کی تمام جماعتیں، عوام اور سیاسی دھڑے اس تاریخی موقع سے فائدہ اٹھا کر مستقبل کے لیے بہترین لائحہ عمل اختیار کریں گے۔

ان کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ افغانستان کے پڑوسی ممالک کی حیثیت سے چین اور پاکستان کے مفادات آپس میں ملتے ہیں۔ افغانستان کے مستقبل کے بارے میں ہمارے خیالات ایک جیسے ہیں۔

حال ہی میں، جھنگدو میں ہمارے وزرائے خارجہ کا اجلاس، اسٹریٹجک ڈائلاگ کا تیسرا سیشن ہوا جہاں افغانستان کے مسئلے پر تفصیلی گفتگو ہوئی۔

اُس وقت افغانستان میں جاری پیش رفت، موجودہ کیفیت تک نہیں پہنچی تھی لیکن تب بھی ہم نے ایک بہت مضبوط پیغام دیا تھا کہ دونوں ممالک افغانستان کا امن اور استحکام چاہتے ہیں اور ایسی حکومت جو افغانستان میں تمام نسلی گروہوں کے مفاد کو مد نظر رکھے۔

آگے بڑھتے ہوئے، دونوں ممالک افغانستان کی تعمیر نو میں مدد کر سکتے ہیں۔ جیسا کہ آپ جانتے ہیں، ہم نے اس بات پر بھی اتفاق کیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کو افغانستان تک بڑھایا جاسکتا ہے،“ جناب معین الحق نے کہا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2222725/10/>

چین نے خلا میں بھیجے جانے والا سبز ہلالی پرچم پاکستان کو تحفہ دیدیا

چین نے خلا میں بھیجا گیا پاکستانی پرچم بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کے حوالے کر دیا۔

خبر رساں ادارے 'اے پی پی' کے مطابق چین کی اکیڈمی آف اسپیس ٹیکنالوجی نے ایک خصوصی تقریب میں خلا میں بھیجا گیا سبز ہلالی پرچم پاکستانی عوام کے لیے تحفہً بیچنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کے حوالے کر دیا۔

اس موقع پر پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے سی ایم ایس اے، س اے ایس ٹی اور دیگر چینی تحقیقی اداروں کو کامیاب خلائی مشن پر مبارک دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ دو ممالک کے قومی پرچموں کا خلائی سفر پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان منفرد دوستی کا خاص مظاہرہ تھا۔

پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے مزید کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی اور سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ منانے کا ایک مناسب طریقہ تھا۔

اس تقریب میں چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق، چائنا اکیڈمی آف اسپیس ٹیکنالوجی کے سیکریٹری ژاؤ ژاؤ جن، چائنا مینڈ سپیس ایجنسی کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ہاؤ چون، یانگ لی وے، ڈپٹی چیف ڈیزائنر چائنا مینڈ اور دیگر سائنس دانوں اور ماہرین نے شرکت کی۔

یاد رہے کہ رواں برس 17 جون کو پاک چین دوستی کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر یہ پرچم خلائی جہاز شینزہو 12 کے ذریعے خلا میں بھیجا گیا تھا جس میں تین خلا نورد بھی موجود تھے۔

چینی خلائی جہاز سے 3 گنا زیادہ بلندی پر ریکارڈ قائم کیا تھا خلائی جہاز شینزہو 17 ستمبر کو زمین پر واپس لوٹا تھا۔ اس خلائی جہاز نے کسی بھی سابق

<https://www.express.pk/story/2230221/10/>

September 30, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC's KKH phase-II wins ENR's best bridge award

At the 9th annual Engineering News-Record (ENR)'s Global Best Projects competition, Karakoram Highway Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot), a major connecting project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has been awarded bridge/tunnel award for its outstanding design and quality construction, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

Among the 30 winning projects, Chinese companies with their qualified engineers and architects executed five projects located in China, Pakistan, Ghana, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, in a Twitter message, while congratulating KKH phase-II on winning the best annual bridge/tunnel Award said, "CPEC boasts of the best bridges and tunnels in the world. Hard efforts paid off with honor".

Thakot-Havelian, a 118 kilometers connectivity project falls in the early harvest project category.

The commercial contract was signed on December 22, 2015, between National Highway Authority and China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC). China Communications Construction Company Ltd. has executed the \$1315 million worth project.

The project includes 105 bridges (including 60 large, 42 medium, and three small bridges) and six tunnels with two on the expressway and four are in the Class-II highway.

Besides Bridge/Tunnel awards, Chinese engineers have won awards in the categories of Retail/Mixed-Use Development, Road/Highway, and Airport/Port.

The Retail/Mixed-Use Development Award went to Guangzhou Yayue Landscape Engineering Co. Ltd for the Guangzhou Jianhua Center, located in Guangzhou, China.

The best Airport/Port award went to AECOM and China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd for the Tema Port Expansion Project – Phase 1, located in Tema, Ghana.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/822890/cpecs-kkh-phase-ii-wins-enrs-best-bridge-award/>

Chinese company to establish milk farming units in Pakistan

Royal Group of China, a Chinese company, is set to establish buffalo milk farming units across Pakistan to produce high quality fresh milk, milk powder, cheese, and other dairy products in the country.

Chief Executive Royal Group of China informed Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar during a meeting held to discuss the establishment of buffalo milk farming units in Pakistan.

Member Food Security and Climate Change Ministry of Planning Dr Hamid Jalil and senior officials attended the meeting.

Chief Executive Royal Group of China briefed the minister about the investment in Pakistan in the buffalo business.

He informed that they will establish 6 labs in different cities of Pakistan for the production of buffalo's embryos through high quality genetic In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) process.

He also informed that this company is going to establish a big buffalo farm that will be FMD free, and from there, they will produce high-quality buffalo milk, then process it into powdered milk and mozzarella cheese.

They will also establish Semen Production Unit (SPU) for buffalo where they will care for and manage the breeding of bulls.

Asad Umar welcomed the group and assured them of all possible facilities, saying that the government of Pakistan has no bureaucratic red-tapism and the Ministry of Planning and CEPC Authority are committed to promoting investment from China.

Asad Umar shared with the Royal CE of China that the Investor Facilitation Center under the CPEC Authority will soon be operational which will help in resolving all the issues faced by the investors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/823053/chinese-company-to-establish-milk-farming-units-in-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Most loans under CPEC at commercial rates: report

KARACHI: A substantial chunk of Chinese development financing under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of loans that are at or near commercial rates as opposed to grants, according to a report released on Wednesday by AidData, a US-based international development research lab.

Shedding light on Beijing's global development programme, the report said Chinese loans under CPEC constitute 95.2 per cent and 73pc of total commitments in energy and transport sectors, respectively.

China committed \$34.4 billion in development finance to Pakistan between 2000 and 2017. Islamabad is the seventh largest recipient of Chinese overseas development financing with 71 projects worth \$27.3bn currently under way. The interest rate is 3.76pc for an average loan with 13.2 years' maturity (when full repayment with interest is due) and 4.3 years of grace period, it said.

PM's aide claims all corridor projects transparent, involve zero hidden loans

In addition, the report claimed Pakistan received about half of all Chinese development finance in the form of "export buyer's credit" i.e. money lent by Chinese institutions to Pakistan in order to facilitate the purchase of equipment and goods to be bought by Chinese implementation partners.

As much as 40pc of China's lending to Pakistan is now directed to state-owned companies, state-owned banks, special purpose vehicles, joint ventures and private sector institutions. These Chinese loans do not appear on the government's books "for the most part", the report claimed.

"However, they often benefit from an explicit or implicit form of government liability protection, which blurs the distinction between private and public debt," it said, noting that the government has issued sovereign guarantees in some cases. This means the national exchequer will repay the loans if non-government borrowers fail to generate sufficient revenue to meet their financial obligations.

"In other cases... the government has provided a so-called guaranteed return on equity to borrowers. This type of guarantee is effectively a form of hidden debt to China... These financial arrangements are attractive to the government because they need not be disclosed as public debts," the report said, adding that the economy is already in the "danger zone" based on the public debt-to-GDP ratio of 92.8pc.

Responding to the criticism that Chinese investments constitute a hidden debt for the government, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor said all CPEC projects are fully transparent and involve zero hidden loans.

“All projects are Nepra (National Electric Power Regulatory Authority) approved. Everything is in the open. Nepra and NHA (National Highway Authority) websites show capital costs of all projects, including Chinese financing. There’s no hidden debt,” he said.

China outspending US

Post-CPEC, China is outspending the United States in Pakistan by 8.4 times as opposed to only 0.68 times in 2002, the report said. While Chinese financing has mostly been in hard infrastructure sectors like energy and transport, US assistance in the same period has focused more on civil society, social infrastructure, education, etc. “Even at the height of Pakistan’s crippling energy crisis during the mid-2010s, only around 10pc of US development assistance to Pakistan was in the energy sector,” the report said.

Mr Mansoor said the country is “leveraging China’s expertise in agriculture and IT sectors” after the recently held 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. “We’re setting up new research centres for agriculture. We’re going to improve our yields and seed quality with the help of Chinese. We are about to start work in a focused manner in many different areas,” the SAPM said.

Focus on Balochistan

The report noted Chinese investments were concentrated in Punjab until 2013. But they became more balanced across the four provinces mainly because of “fresh spending in Sindh during the Sharif years”. Almost 59pc of energy spending went to Sindh versus 10.6pc to Punjab between 2014 and 2017. “Balochistan has received only a small proportion of CPEC projects,” it said.

“Their information is not up to date. Our maximum focus is on Balochistan. The western route being developed under CPEC will benefit the most impoverished and far-flung areas of the province. Gwadar is witnessing huge development and a marketing plan is being devised to further develop the Gwadar Port,” Mr Mansoor said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1649227>

Dunya News

PM Imran Khan vows to accelerate pace of work on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has vowed to accelerate pace of work on projects being executed under the umbrella of multi billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

He was addressing a ceremony in connection with the inauguration of Matiari to Lahore 600 KV transmission line completed under the CPEC, in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the breakout of Covid-19 created some hurdles including disruption of supply chains which increased prices of essential commodities. But as the situation is improving, he said, progress will again be visible on the CPEC related projects as well as bringing down the inflation.

Imran Khan said the scope of the corridor project is now being expanded from power generation and road infrastructure projects to cooperation in the areas of industries and agriculture. He said cooperation in these two important sectors will help Pakistan reduce the debt burden through wealth creation.

Regarding Matiari-Lahore transmission line, the Prime Minister said this 886 kilometer long state of the art transmission line will help reduce power losses. He said more investment will be made in the transmission line projects to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the consumers.

In his remarks, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar said the present government started construction work on this landmark project.

He said the project is now ready for electricity transmission after testing phase of six months. He said other projects under the CPEC will also be completed on time. He expressed the resolve to address the country's power related issues.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said Matiari-Lahore transmission line will realize the safety and reliability of the grid system, optimize energy distribution of the entire country and lower the electricity cost.

The Chinese Ambassador said the CPEC up to now has brought investment of 25.4 billion dollars and created seventy five thousand job opportunities. He said the project has made significant contribution to the socio economic development of Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/622062-PM-Imran-Khan-inaugurate-Matiari-Lahore-600KV-transmission-line>

The Nation

Fragile peace in region demands extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan:

Masood

ISLAMABAD - Former AJK president Sardar Masood Khan on Wednesday said that withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and fragile peace in the region demand extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan. Addressing an launching ceremony of a book 'Bagh-O-Bahar' written by Chinese students and translated in Urdu by Pak-China Global Cultural Link "On eradication of coronavirus" in National Library Islamabad, Masood Khan said that the book represents the message of hope, strength and determination in youth how to defeat the deadly epidemic and other disasters. He said Pakistan with the help of China has worked with full determination to control the unexpected catastrophe like corona. He said the Chinese efforts regarding eradication of coronavirus are appreciable at World level.

Masood Khan said that Chinese role is vital to establish peace in Afghanistan after withdrawal of US troops and establishing peace in the entire region.

Head of Tehreek-e-Nojawan, Abdullah Hameed Gul, in his address said that China is pursuing the peaceful policy towards development in a different way which also conveys the message of

hope to the world how to overcome difficult situation. He said due to coronavirus, the education system, business and industries had been closed suddenly, but restored with the concerted efforts.

Since independence, Pakistan faced worst kind of situation after the death of our two top leaders Quaid-e-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan, whereas the Chinese leadership remained for the next 30 years and paved way for the development of China.

He said the current leader of China President Xi Jinping has strengthened bilateral relations with Pakistan, extended full cooperation in every field and stood with Pakistan shoulder to shoulder and helped not only in trade, business and development but at diplomatic level. He said we have to follow the policy of China in the field of technological development.

Member of Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed Abu Ahmed Akif said during COVID epidemic, China has once again proved a true friend of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan appreciates Chinese help in providing vaccine in the need of hour.

Deputy Director Chinese Studies Centre at NUST University Zamir Awan said that the book ‘Bagh-O-Bahar’ represents love and affection and the Chinese language is spreading fast in the United States and stressed the need that we should also learn Chinese language. He said Pak-China friendship would be strengthened further to thwart nefarious designs of the enemy forces. He said with the joint efforts of the two countries we can overcome the difficulties.

Director General National Library while welcoming the guests said that efforts of children would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

Director Roots Millennium Sabina Zakir said that Roots School plays vital role in strengthening the friendship not at the students’ level but also at the national level. She said the Pakistani children would also write a similar book. He said that three ex-Chinese Premiers had also visited the Chinese Language Centre established in Roots School.

Earlier, Chief Executive Pak-China Global Culture Link Dr. Li said that his institution is making concerted efforts to further boost up Pak-China cultural relations. He said more than 200 China language books have been translated in Urdu. Similarly the poems of Allama Iqbal, biography of Quaid-e-Azam and other books based on stories are also translated in Chinese.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-09-30/page-10/detail-1>

The News

‘Pakistan looks towards China for regional linkages’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: Dr Moeed Yusuf, National Security Advisor, has said that Pakistan's geostrategic location provides it with opportunities of connectivity through CPEC, development partnerships with other countries and peace within Pakistan, and good relations with neighbours.

Dr Moeed in a special message at a webinar on ‘China-Pakistan relations in changing Geopolitical environment and its role in regional security and stability’ jointly organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), Islamabad, and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), remarked that Pakistan looks towards China for realising goal of regional connectivity.

Asim Iftikhar, Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that there is strong support and clarity at the leadership level between Pakistan and China on major issues of mutual interest and regional and international organisations.

Prof Chen Dongxiao, President of SIIS, said that the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations offer both countries an opportunity to deepen people-to-people connectivity, enhance economic ties and jointly advocate for regional stability.

Liu Jinsong, Director-General, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing, called for building a community of shared future and abandoning small circles. He said that Pakistan and China developed deep mutual trust and need to further strengthen China-Pakistan strategic cooperation by ensuring safe and smooth construction of CPEC at full stretch.

Earlier, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG, ISS, said that despite changes in global politics, Pakistan and China firmly stood with each other and their cooperation is deepening on daily basis.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=8680>

BRI losing momentum as opposition, debt mount: study

SHANGHAI: China’s vast Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is in danger of losing momentum as opposition in the targeted countries rises and debts also mount, paving the way for rival schemes to squeeze Beijing out, a new study showed on Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping launched BRI in 2013, aiming to harness China’s strengths in financing and infrastructure construction to “build a broad community of shared interests” throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, a British wire service reported. But Xi’s “project of the century” is now facing major challenges and significant backlashes abroad, according to a study by AidData, a research lab at the College of William and Mary in the United States.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=8839>