



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

March 16-31, 2024

Table of Contents

01: March 16, 2024.....	03
02: March 17, 2024.....	07
03: March 18, 2024.....	10
04: March 19, 2024.....	17
05: March 20, 2024.....	22
06: March 21, 2024.....	28
07: March 22, 2024.....	31
08: March 23, 2024.....	33
09: March 24, 2024.....	38
10: March 25, 2024.....	40
11: March 26, 2024.....	45
12: March 27, 2024.....	53
13: March 28, 2024.....	58
14: March 29, 2024.....	62
15: March 30, 2024.....	69
16: March 31, 2024.....	74

Chinese Newspapers

01: March 16, 2024.....	77
02: March 18, 2024.....	78
03: March 20, 2024.....	84
04: March 21, 2024.....	84
05: March 22, 2024.....	85
06: March 24, 2024.....	87
07: March 27, 2024.....	87
08: March 30, 2024.....	88

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March 16, 2024

Pakistan Observer

Chinese Army to join Pakistan Day Parade in show of ‘iron-clad friendship’

Pakistani armed forces are set to hold joint military parade on Pakistan Day, the annual event held in the capital, and this year several foreign armies including Chinese armed forces will also take part in the annual military parade. Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) will also take part in the Pakistan Day Parade, Chinese Defense Spokesperson Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang told the media. Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) will send a contingent to participate in the Pakistan Day Parade at invitation of the Pakistani Army. For the unversed, this is not the first time Chinese troops have taken part, having also participated in 2017. Furthermore, military contingents from other nations, including Riyadh, have previously joined parade. Preparations for the Pakistan Day parade started last month, with the Ministry of Defense requesting lists of invitees. The event is slated to be attended by high-ranking government and military officials, as well as foreign dignitaries, and is also popular among the general public. Pakistan Day Parade commemorates Lahore Resolution of 1940, which called for a separate nation for Muslims in British India and led to the creation of a Muslim nation. The parade features march-past of military, displays of weaponry, cultural performances, and floats representing different provinces. The day is a patriotic event that celebrates Pakistan’s history, achievements, and national unity.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-army-to-join-pakistan-day-parade-in-show-of-iron-clad-friendship/>

The Express Tribune

China reciprocates Zardari’s gratitude

President Asif Ali Zardari’s positive statement is commendable and his gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping also shows that relations between Pakistan and China are now at a high level, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Friday. In his letter, President Zardari thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending warm congratulations on his re-election as the President of Pakistan. President Zardari also expressed his commitment to working closely with the Chinese President to deepen practical cooperation, strengthen the all-weather partnership, and foster a shared community for the benefit of the two countries. “We commend President Zardari’s positive statement,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in response a question raised by APP. The spokesperson said that after President Zardari’s election, President Xi Jinping expressed congratulations pointing out that the two countries are good neighbors, friends, partners and brothers. “The ironclad friendship is a historical choice and the treasures for the two peoples,” he added. Wang Wenbin said that President Zardari’s gratitude also shows that the countries’ relations are now at a high level. “We are ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward our traditional friendship and build a China Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era,” he added. While replying to President Xi’s letter, President Zardari expressed his commitment to

working closely with the Chinese President to deepen practical cooperation, strengthen the all-weather partnership, and foster a shared community for the benefit of the two countries. In his congratulatory message to President Zardari on his election as President of Pakistan, Xi expressed his readiness to work with President Zardari to carry forward the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, advance practical cooperation in various fields, push for greater development of China-Pakistan all weather cooperative partnership, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, so as to better benefit the two peoples.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459501/china-reciprocates-zardaris-gratitude>

The News

Can China help Pakistan?

Dr Hassan Daud Butt

With the new governments ready to assume duties both at the federal and provincial levels, all eyes are on significant challenges and immediate risks, which necessitate comprehensive scrutiny. These challenges include societal divisions, economic volatility, climate change, unemployment, inflation, and security threats, all of which prominently shape the current risk landscape. Furthermore, we see new struggles including the pervasive spread of misinformation, exacerbating these challenges as highlighted in the WEF Global Risk Report for 2024. We also observe the emergence of new geopolitical tensions, prompting a reassessment of our approach to external diplomacy. The new government will face immediate risks. Looking at the difficult combination of risks and their mitigation, it is safe to assume that a lot of collaboration will be required to tackle the situation as traditional governance and diplomatic mechanisms prove inadequate in navigating the complexities of our volatile scenario. Amid this critical period, the country's leadership must proactively evaluate vulnerabilities, stay attuned to evolving dynamics, and strengthen its frameworks and strategies for risk mitigation. Cultivating a culture of creativity and collaboration is essential to collectively enhance resilience in the face of these multifaceted challenges and meet the expectations of the young population who feel that their voices are not adequately represented in the political process, leading to feelings of disenfranchisement and disconnection from mainstream politics. High unemployment rates and limited economic opportunities contribute to apathy towards the political system as young people prioritize immediate economic concerns over political participation. Addressing these challenges requires efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within the political system. It also requires initiatives to empower and encourage young people to actively participate in shaping the future of our country. The help that Pakistan needs expands beyond financial aid and loans and perhaps towards more foreign direct investment (FDI), green infrastructure and industrial development, and a technology-led secure environment. For all this to happen, the new government will have to look towards its friends and partners abroad, and at this time, China stands out to be a partner on which Pakistan can rely. In a recent statement on the post-election scenario, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson stated that "China stands ready to engage with the new government, working hand in hand towards

mutual prosperity and development. It is imperative that all stakeholders prioritize political cohesion to pave the way for progress.” But while we chart our ways and list the avenues for cooperation, we should be clear on how and where China can help us and craft our diplomacy accordingly. Encouraging investment in a country despite security concerns requires a strategic and multifaceted approach for which a whole-of-government strategy can only work. On the Chinese part, it may have to adjust to the evolving situation in Pakistan. In the past 10 years, China’s involvement in Pakistan through the CPEC initiative has yielded significant benefits. This initiative has generated over 200,000 employment opportunities, facilitated the development of 6000MW of electricity, and constructed over 500 kilometers of roads, fostering rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity. The forthcoming commissioning of the Gwadar airport, funded by a Chinese grant of \$230 million, set to be operational this year, will further bolster regional connectivity. However, a recurring issue has been the failure to attract Chinese private businesses, apparently due to the absence of a conducive business environment for foreign private-sector enterprises and the prevailing capacity and security issues. One clear example is the non-utilization of the complete \$1 billion Chinese grant in the social sector development – a joint working group (JWG) was established to carry out the related work – and the below-par development of the SEZs launched under CPEC. Similarly, there has been limited interaction by the CPEC Business Council, which was established with a lot of expectations. Thus, despite possessing significant resources, Chinese enterprises have encountered challenges in relocating to Pakistan and have preferred Bangladesh, Laos and Vietnam. Addressing these challenges requires effective collaboration among various stakeholders, including federal and provincial governments, as well as business chambers for collectively addressing these issues to facilitate smoother integration and investment from Chinese enterprises into Pakistan’s economy. While some argue IMF-related matters may further slow the progress of CPEC, there are several sectors in which Chinese support may be sought immediately despite the debt-related narrative, starting with the support in the immediate development of the prioritized SEZs (including the Karachi Steel Mills area and Islamabad zone) where profit expectations, policy continuity, and utilities-related risk mitigation are the primary concerns for investment mobilization. This can be initiated by maintaining open lines of communication with existing Chinese investors and providing regular updates on market conditions, regulatory changes, and any developments that may affect their investments facilitating people-to-people exchanges and commercial ties (starting with interaction with the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association). Implementing strategies marked by flexibility, moderation, precision, and effectiveness is essential to achieve this goal. Enhancing marketing efforts in China regarding Pakistan’s economic potential and guiding investor perceptions towards confidence in its bright prospects is equally important. Despite the current economic challenges, Pakistan offers significant potential as a profitable investment destination. Promoting the ‘Invest in Pakistan’ slogan is vital in attracting Chinese investment. Building the confidence of existing investors and turning them into champions for attracting more investors requires a strategic approach focused on relationship-building, transparency, and showcasing success stories. The prime minister and the planning minister should request the convening of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in Beijing and show their commitment to the completion of existing projects and also present projects in

specific sectors like agriculture and livestock, telecommunications, renewable energy, labor-intensive industries including textile while urging for support in SEZ development. However, before this, it is imperative to strengthen the CPEC cell/authority at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPDR) and enhance the capacity of the provincial investment nodes. While the attention on mining projects may be deferred to a later phase, immediate action may be taken to establish marine, fruit and food processing zones and pharma industries in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan within the industrial cooperation framework of CPEC and transmission and distribution projects in the energy sector. The new government could introduce special exemptions for Chinese tourists, aimed at bolstering general opinion and confidence. This can be further accelerated by encouraging Pakistan's private sector to modernize its business processes, invest in joint research and development, improve human capital, seek international certifications, and meet quality standards. This requires an approach that entails regular, meaningful and timely engagements with Chinese political and business leaders, showcasing projects and investment incentives, essential for addressing political, economic, and social uncertainties. Despite the hurdles, whether financial or security-related, the core principles of attracting investments remain the same for all and we need to focus on them. Regarding the question of whether China can provide industrial cooperation and sectoral development support to Pakistan in the short and long term, the resounding answer is 'yes'. However, for this to materialize, it is a fact that Pakistan must first take steps to strengthen its position by establishing competitive advantages and leveraging the natural endowment through complete top-down synergy and political will. For the Chinese, it does not matter whether we have a CPEC authority or a cell at the MoPDR and in provincial secretariats, as long as it is an efficient one-window for investment support and grievance redressal, similar to that in other partner countries. Building trust and efficiency will be key for immediate results.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1168533-can-china-help-pakistan>

Nawaiwaqt News

زرداری کے مثبت بیان کو سراہتے، سٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ کا فروغ چاہتے ہیں: چین

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان وانگ وین بین نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین سدا بہار تعلقات کے فروغ کے حوالے سے چین صدر زرداری کے مثبت بیان کو سراہتا ہے۔ جمعہ کو ترجمان نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا کہ صدر زرداری کے منتخب ہونے کے بعد صدر شی نے انہیں مبارکباد کا پیغام بھیجا جس میں نشانہ ہی کی گئی کہ چین اور پاکستان اچھے ہمسائے، اچھے دوست، شراکت دار اور اچھے بھائی ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان آہنی دوستی ایک تاریخی انتخاب اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کا قیمتی سرمایہ ہے۔ صدر زرداری کا جواب ایک بار پھر اعلیٰ سطح کے پاک چین تعلقات کی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ چین، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان روایتی دوستی، مختلف شعبوں میں عملی تعاون اور سدا بہار سٹریٹیجک کوآپریٹو پارٹنرشپ کی زیادہ سے زیادہ ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور نئے دور میں چین پاکستان ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تشکیل کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-16/page-1/detail-13>

March 17, 2024

Dawn News

Chinese diplomat says work on CPEC phase-II being accelerated

LAHORE: China is expediting work on CPEC phase-II to materialize the dream of a shared future in the new era for the benefit of the two nations, says Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren.

“Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and Beijing hopes to work with Islamabad to reach new heights of iron-clad friendship,” Mr. Zhao said at an Iftar dinner hosted by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) Chairman Muhammad Mehdi on Saturday.

Iranian Consul General in Lahore Mehra Movahed said his country stood fully prepared to expand and deepen its all-out ties with Pakistan. Turkish Consul General in Lahore Durmus Bastug felicitated the PML-N-led coalition government, saying fraternal relations between Islamabad and Ankara would deepen and expand in the new era. He said that following in the footsteps of glorious congeniality between the two countries, Turkey would always stand by Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1821988/chinese-diplomat-says-work-on-cpec-phase-ii-being-accelerated>

Dunya News

China's UN envoy pays farewell call on Ambassador Munir Akram

Ambassador Zhang Jun, the permanent representative of China and a top Chinese diplomat, paid a farewell call on Ambassador Munir Akram at the Pakistan Mission in New York. Ambassador Zhang has been a key player at the UN for the past five years, especially in the deliberations at the Security Council.

A press release of the Pakistani Mission said both ambassadors discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, and expressed their satisfaction on the current level of engagement at the UN. They vowed to keep playing their role in further strengthening the bilateral cooperation.

Ambassador Akram appreciated Ambassador Zhang for his leadership and splendid services in strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and China. He said he worked very closely with his Chinese counterpart on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues during his term in office. Ambassador Akram expressed his best wishes and prayers for the future of the outgoing Chinese Ambassador. On his part, the Chinese envoy thanked Ambassador Akram and the Pakistan Mission.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/798780-China-s-UN-envoy-pays-farewell-call-on-Ambassador-Munir-Akram>

The Express Tribune

IMF assured: No more funds for CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has assured the International Monetary Fund that it does not plan to allocate additional budget to settle the Rs493 billion dues of Chinese power plants. The global lender is also questioning the efficacy of the power sector's anti-theft campaign. The government also faced questions about a record Rs7 per unit increase in electricity prices in March due to the energy ministry's faulty policy of using expensive imported fuels, according to sources. The Fund is skeptical about the government's claim of restricting losses due to non-recovery of bills to Rs263 billion in this fiscal year, as the amount has already almost reached Rs200 billion in just seven months. This has serious implications for restricting the overall circular debt to Rs2.31 trillion by June this year. The IMF inquired about the government's decision on the allocation of funds for the Chinese power plants over and above the budgeted amount of Rs48 billion for this fiscal year, said officials of the Ministry of Energy. They added that the IMF was informed there was no plan to approve additional funds for retiring the outstanding debt of the Chinese power plants. The outstanding dues of power projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) alarmingly increased to a record Rs493 billion or \$1.8 billion as of end January. The amount was Rs214 billion or 77% higher than June last year.

The build-up of Chinese debt violates the 2015 Energy Framework Agreement, which binds Pakistan to allocate sufficient money in a special fund to keep Chinese investors immune from the circular debt. However, the government is allocating only Rs48 billion annually with a condition to withdraw a maximum of Rs4 billion per month. Sources said the IMF appeared skeptical about the long-term success of the government's anti-theft campaign and the military's involvement in monitoring the performance of power distribution companies.

Energy ministry officials said the IMF believes the anti-theft campaign can work only in the short term and the government needs to focus on digital monitoring of the power distribution network. The government claimed it has recovered Rs82 billion in this fiscal year because of its anti-theft campaign, although there is no publicly available breakup about recoveries from private and public sector consumers. Sources said the IMF's view was that such measures can only be beneficial in the short term. The IMF also did not appear satisfied with the involvement of third parties in monitoring the anti-theft campaign, said the sources. For the global lender, as such interventions could diminish the role of power distribution company management and their boards.

The low recovery of bills and high line losses contribute annually to Rs589 billion in the circular debt build-up – a sum that the government recovers either through further price increases or budget subsidies. For this fiscal year, the government estimates Rs263 billion in losses due to lower bill recovery by power distribution companies. Despite the anti-theft campaign, in seven months, there has already been an increase of Rs200 billion under this head. Energy ministry officials claimed before the IMF that recoveries have increased to 92% of the billed amount, marginally better than last year.

They further said recoveries would improve once billing increases during the summer period. The energy ministry officials said the finance ministry would release over Rs250 billion in subsidies this month to keep the circular debt flow at the agreed level for this fiscal year. The IMF was informed that circular debt increased by Rs378 billion during the first half, jumping to Rs545 billion by end March. However, the government has agreed to keep the overall debt stock at Rs2.310 trillion by settling the addition through the budget by June this year. The government also faced IMF questions over a sharp monthly increase of Rs7 per unit due to monthly fuel cost adjustment in electricity bills. The sharp increase highlighted mismanagement by the energy ministry, which failed to implement planned use of various fuels to keep prices low. Sources said the IMF argued there was no justification for the Rs7 per unit increase when the exchange rate was stable and global commodity prices did not change. The energy ministry explained the government had to seek the price increase due to using expensive fuels during winter for electricity generation. High-speed diesel, furnace oil, and imported gas were used due to a faulty policy of allocating cheaper local gas to other sources. Sources said the IMF has also sought a fresh timeline for ending agriculture tube-well subsidies in Balochistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459564/imf-assured-no-more-funds-for-cpec>

K2 Daily News

بقیہ 14

ہیں۔ ان اقدام کی وکالت کرتے ہوئے جی سی آئی نے عالمی سطح پر اتحاد، انہام و تنظیم اور پراسن بنانے کا بھی ایک نئے دور کو تحریک دی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جتنی طاقت بذات خود بہت متنوع ہے، اس لیے جی سی آئی بہت ہی بجا طور پر ہم آہنگی کو فروغ دینے والا خیال ہے کیونکہ اپنے ملک کے وسیع ثقافتی منظر نامے کے تجربے کے ذریعے سے معلوم ہے کہ تنوع میں اتحاد سب سے خوبصورت چیز ہے جو دوسرے لوگوں کی ثقافت کا احترام کرنے کا جذبہ پیدا کر سکتا ہے اور یہی عالمی امن کے لیے آگے بڑھنے کا واحد راستہ ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ثقافتی رابطوں کے حوالے سے سابق وزیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان بھر پر ثقافتی ورثہ کا حامل ملک ہے اور اسے گنہگار اور بدھ مت دور کے نمونوں کے تحفظ کے لیے چین کی مدد کی ضرورت ہے۔

چین کا جی سی آئی اقدام ہم آہنگ دنیا کی تشکیل کریگا، جمال شاہ

ثقافتی روابط باہمی احترام اور انہام و تنظیم کو فروغ دیکر جارحیت کو روکتے ہیں

اسلام آباد (شہوا) قومی ورثہ اور ثقافت کے سابق نگران وزیر معروف اداکار اور فنکار سید جمال شاہ نے کہا ہے کہ چین کا مجوزہ عالمی تہذیبی اقدام (جی سی آئی) ثقافتی رابطوں، وسیع تعاون اور انفرادی اور باہمی احترام اور انہام و تنظیم کو فروغ دے گا اور اس کے ذریعے ایک ہم آہنگ دنیا کی تشکیل کے لیے بے پناہ صلاحیت کا حامل ہے۔ شہوا کو دیے گئے ایک انٹرویو میں جمال شاہ نے کہا کہ ثقافتی روابط بنانے کا ہی حوصلہ افزائی اور باہمی احترام اور انہام و تنظیم کو فروغ دے گا اور اس کے ذریعے ایک ہم آہنگ دنیا کی تشکیل کے لیے بے پناہ صلاحیت کا حامل ہے۔ شہوا کو دیے گئے ایک انٹرویو میں جمال شاہ نے کہا کہ ثقافتی روابط بنانے کا ہی حوصلہ

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2024-03-17

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-03-17

March 18, 2024

Dawn News

Removal of untrained guards from Chinese installations in Rawalpindi ordered

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Home Department has directed the city police officer and the deputy commissioner to send notices to the managements of Chinese installations (non-CPEC) to disengage self-recruited security guards forthwith or get them trained by government-approved institutions. The project managements of non-CPEC installations were to be issued a deadline of one week to get their security guards trained from notified training institutions/schools or other law enforcement agencies or remove them, failure of which would lead to cancellation of the NOCs and sealing/closure of the project sites.

The move came about after a joint audit report conducted by the Special Branch Punjab found security loopholes, self-recruited guards and some Chinese installations (non-CPEC) even without security guards. Following the Home Department's directives, the deputy commissioner Rawalpindi has directed the city police officer (CPO), the senior superintendent (SSP) Special Branch, district officer of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), director Intelligence Bureau (IB) Rawalpindi and other relevant authorities to submit a report regarding the deployment of private security guards at identified Chinese projects after removal of observations within the shortest time for submission to the Home Department.

The joint security audit report conducted early this year by the Special Branch showed self-recruited guards in the installations with some of them even having no security guards at all. The Home Department sought clearance of the pendency of verification cases of security guards from notified institutions and schools within a week otherwise their NOCs would be cancelled and the project sites sealed.

The audit report shared by the Special Branch contained details of self-recruited guards and Chinese installations in different districts. The Home Department directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the decisions taken at a meeting held in December 2023 and furnish the detailed updated compliance status. The police and district administration were also directed to ensure the verification of security guards from Special Branch. Hiring of security guards from a registered private security company for the installations without security guards was also mentioned in the audit report. It added that warning notices may be issued to the project managements to forthwith disengage the self-recruited security guards.

The police and district administration were also directed to ensure security measures in all CPEC/non-CPEC projects/ installations. They were also directed to furnish a compliance report on the issue within the shortest possible time for the perusal of the home department.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1822241/removal-of-untrained-guards-from-chinese-installations-in-rawalpindi-ordered>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China vow to further strengthen bilateral cooperation at UN

Ambassador Zhang Jun, the permanent representative of China and a top Chinese diplomat, paid a farewell call on Ambassador Munir Akram at the Pakistan Mission in New York. Ambassador Zhang has been a key player at the UN for the past five years, especially in the deliberations at the Security Council.

A press release of the Pakistani Mission said both ambassadors discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, and expressed their satisfaction on the current level of engagement at the UN.

They vowed to keep playing their role in further strengthening the bilateral cooperation. Ambassador Akram appreciated Ambassador Zhang for his leadership and splendid services in strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and China.

He said he worked very closely with his Chinese counterpart on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues during his term in office. Ambassador Akram expressed his best wishes and prayers for the future of the outgoing Chinese Ambassador. On his part, the Chinese envoy thanked Ambassador Akram and the Pakistan Mission.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-vow-to-further-strengthen-bilateral-cooperation-at-un/>

Pakistan Embassy Beijing celebrates National Day with Grand Reception

BEIJING – Pakistan Embassy, Beijing hosted a reception today to commemorate the 84th National Day of Pakistan, in which several senior Chinese officials, resident Ambassadors, diplomats,

Pakistan community members, representatives of Chinese state owned and private enterprises, intelligentsia and leading media persons participated. Sun Weidong,

Vice Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China graced the reception as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, paid rich tribute to the Nation’s Founding Fathers, especially Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah for his vision and for pursuing democratic struggle for the creation of Pakistan.

Underscoring the significant strides the country has made over the decades across multiple fields, the Ambassador highlighted the resilience and ability of Pakistan to bounce back stronger in the face of challenges.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-embassy-in-beijing-celebrates-national-day-with-grand-reception/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese ambassador calls on FM Dar

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong met Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday and reaffirmed the indispensable strategic cooperative partnership for the progress and prosperity of both countries. In a statement released by the foreign affairs ministry, Dar maintained that the partnership between the two countries was "an anchor of regional peace and stability". The foreign minister "reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to making joint endeavors for further deepening bilateral relations and to advance phase-II of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as envisaged by the leadership of two countries". Ambassador Jiang echoed the sentiments, underscoring the special importance China accords to Pakistan and its firm support for Pakistan's socioeconomic development, and industrial and agriculture cooperation. He also agreed with the foreign minister on high-quality development of CPEC Phase-II. Last week, a Chinese foreign minister spokesperson stated that China attaches high importance to promoting its relations with Pakistan and stands ready to jointly work to carry forward traditional friendship and advance practical cooperation between the two countries. "We send our warm congratulations to Mr. Zardari on assumption as president," Wang Wenbin said in his regular briefing while commenting on the oath-taking of Asif Ali Zardari as President of Pakistan. He emphasized the significance Beijing attaches to upgrading the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to build an even closer community with a shared future in the new era.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459728/chinese-ambassador-calls-on-fm-dar>

Renewable energy sources: Pakistan should turn to China

Shahid Javed Burki

Pakistan has a serious shortage of reasonably priced energy which is affecting the rate of growth of the economy and causing hardship to the people across the country. At the same time, the country is short of foreign funds with which to buy oil and gas from the outside. It has abundant reserves of low-quality coal buried in the deserts of Sindh. Using this resource for producing electricity would go against the developing global consensus which is setting targets for reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. This reduction is needed to reduce the amount of global-warming gases that mankind throws into the atmosphere. Global warming is hurting Pakistan by increasing the melting of ice from the mountain tops from which most Pakistani rivers draw water. A time will come when sharply reduced water in the Pakistani rivers would lead to the desertification of the country. In a study done by the World Bank decades ago, it was suggested that Pakistan should give a high priority to the construction of a cascade of dams on its rivers to store the water that for the moment flows in large quantities as a result of the melting ice. The stored water could be used later when the amount of ice in the mountains is reduced. However, different governments that came in power since the completion of the Bank's work paid little attention to the programme on which the institution was placing emphasis. Given these circumstances, Pakistan must rely on such renewable sources of energy as water, nuclear, sun and wind. Some of this is happening. Much, but not all, of the energy Pakistan uses is produced by the public sector and almost all of it is carried

on government-owned transmission system. There are 42 independent power producers (IPPs) that generate power from coal-fired plants. The energy they produce is carried mostly by the Pakistani Electric Power Company. Currently there are 11 distribution companies and one National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) — all in the public sector. Karachi is served by the company named Karachi Electric. The system of production is changing in ways that are visible to those who care to look. Driving back and forth on the motorway between Lahore and Islamabad, I noticed that the farming community was using solar panels to power their tube wells. For them the cost of buying power from the government system had become very expensive. Installed panels were also visible in the villages that dot the landscape on either side of the road. This is an indication that the people in the rural areas have turned to solar energy in a significant way for providing irrigation water and also for bringing electricity into their homes. Walking and driving in the streets of Lahore, one also notices solar panels on the roofs of houses and small businesses. This is the way to go but the progress in this direction must be rapid to avoid damage inflicted by the increasingly high prices of conventional sources of energy. Given Pakistan's close economic relations with China and given the attention that Beijing has begun to give to developing new sources of energy, Pakistan could turn to Beijing for help for developing some of these resources. Pakistan could make the development of renewable sources of energy an important component of the ongoing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme of investment. Development of energy sources has been an important part of this programme. This was the result of the emphasis put by the previous Sharif administrations in both Islamabad and Lahore to save the country and its people the cost and discomfort of frequent load-shedding when supply of electricity to residences and business was cut for hours every day. However, most of the investment went into building coal-fired plants. Some of these were pulled out from China and brought to Pakistan as Beijing was beginning to place emphasis on renewable sources of energy. But Pakistan has abundant sources on which an economy relying on renewable could be built. What are needed are sun, wind and cheap land. At the annual session of China's legislature in early March, Premier Li Qiang announced that the country would accelerate the construction of solar panel farms as well as wind and hydroelectric projects. This emphasis on renewables is part of Beijing's effort to reignite its faltering economy. China's leadership says that it has decided to focus on a "new trio" of industries — solar panels, electric cars and lithium batteries — replacing the old trio of clothing, furniture and electric appliances. The old trio took advantage of the presence of a large, relatively cheap and disciplined work force. It powered China's impressive growth of the economy in the three decades after 1980 when the country decided to open itself to the world and invite foreign investment and technology. However, with declining population and increasing wages, the country no longer has those advantages. It is now turning to activities based on high technology. Focus on the "new trio" activities have resulted in China becoming the major supplier to the world of electric cars and solar panels. The United States feels threatened by China's technological rise which has reduced American domination in some of these high-tech fields. It has adopted several policies to reduce the access of China to some of the high-tech industries in which it is still dominant. Pakistan's demand for electric power far exceeds the amount it produces from various sources. The total amount generated is estimated at 41,557 megawatts while the demand is over 50,000 MW. Fossil fuels account for

59 per cent of total production. Hydroelectricity produced by the large dams built as parts of the Indus Water Replacement Works in the 1960s account for 25 per cent of the total electric production while 9 per cent comes from the nuclear stations and 5 per cent from wind and a bit more than one per cent from solar. Of the fossil fuels, 32 per cent is from natural gas, and 14 per cent from coal. With appropriate public policies that include incentives for private enterprise, the amount produced by the sun and wind could be increased significantly. As China's experience shows, development of solar fields needs a lot of land that can't be used for agriculture and urban development. China has developed solar farms in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region which is mostly made up of deserts and mountains. The deserts of Sindh and Balochistan could host such farms.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459667/renewable-energy-sources-pakistan-should-turn-to-china>

The News

China agriculture modernisation and rural revitalisation-II

However, China is cognizant without investing in R&D, the dream of agricultural modernisation cannot be realized. Thus, it has enhanced its focus on R&D investment. According to the USDA report in 2015, China outpaced all major countries and was spending \$10 billion on an annual basis. Since 2018, China has further enhanced the focus of agriculture-related R&D under the programme of rural revitalisation. Simultaneously, China is promoting green agriculture and the green food industry.

The government's continuous efforts are making green and organic practices the new normal. The data shows between 2009 and 2018, China reduced nitrogen fertilizer, pesticide use and GHG emissions. These efforts contributed to environmental betterment, and the added value of ecosystem services was calculated at RMB 3.2 trillion. The generous investment in R&D helped China enhance grain production. In 2023, China produced 695MT of grain, well above the 650MT required. The per capita production of grain is 480kg, which is above the global level of 400kg. China has enhanced its storage capacity by many folds to face the emergency, and now it can store 700MT of food.

These policies and strategies have contributed to eliminating poverty in rural areas and ensuring food security. Since the 19th National People's Congress, China has further accelerated efforts to modernise agriculture under the rural revitalisation programme. It has pinned agriculture as the bedrock of building a modern socialist country. The rural revitalisation plan emphasises achievement of 22 objectives (3 mandatory and 19 anticipatory).

It will strive to build a modern agriculture system and turn the country into an agricultural powerhouse. In addition to rural revitalisation plan, China has also launched Modern Protected Agriculture Development Plan 2023-2030. China will be endeavoring to revolutionise the agriculture, fishery and livestock sectors under this plan. For that purpose, China will be building modern infrastructure, excelling in the production of machinery, and leading the investment for agriculture R&D. A report highlighted China is already leading the

investment in innovation in the agriculture sector. According to a report, China invested almost \$20 billion in 2021.

Moreover, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) plans to focus on seed research and development, agricultural machinery, and green agriculture. The government is also introducing robots and UAVs to manage agricultural practices. At the same time, under the green development initiative in the New Era, China is accelerating efforts to promote green and sustainable agriculture practices.

For many years, it has also invested in climate-smart agriculture, as China is vulnerable to climate change-related impacts and disasters. IFPRI study shows production of three major grain crops, corn, wheat and rice will lose production due to climate change impacts in China by 2030. For example, the yield of corn will drop by 1/5th, followed by wheat and rice.

Climate change will further complicate the situation by impacting water availability. Further, distribution of water resources among different regions of China will complicate the situation. The statistics show per capita availability of water is 2200 cm³, which is above the stress level.

However, distribution of water between the northern and southern parts of the country is highly unequal in favour of Southern region. The Northern area holds a major chunk of population and arable land. Thus, climate change will pose severe challenges for agriculture and food security.

China has started serious and multi-dimensional reforms to combat the challenges.

It is working to develop climate-resistant varieties and new irrigation techniques to save water, infrastructure to facilitate water diversion from south to north, hybrid seeds, new technologies to promote climate-compatible agriculture, and comprehensive protection of ecological systems.

On the other hand, China has to control the emissions of GHG from the agriculture sector.

China envisions science and technology will drive innovation, green, protected and climate-smart agriculture. China has set science and technology contribution target at 70pc and mechanisation at 60pc.

It will encourage investment in R&D, innovation and technology development.

It is hoped the process of modernisation will accelerate in the coming years, and China will achieve the objectives of rural revitalisation and modernisation of agriculture.

In conclusion, through smart and wise policy, Pakistan can benefit from agricultural modernisation and rural revitalisation at multiple levels.

First, Pakistan can benefit from agricultural reforms. Right now, the country faces three challenges in the agriculture sector: input process, output prices, and land ownership system. Input prices are high, and farmers do not get the just price of their output.

It is hampering the farming community and also causes poverty. Land ownership is skewed in a few hands, and almost 90pc of farmers are small farmers. Majority of them owns less than five acres.

China has successfully reformed these areas without compromising food security and farmers' welfare objectives. Pakistan can work with Chinese officials to learn the process of reforms. Second, the modernisation drive, especially focusing on innovation and technology development, can bring new opportunities for Pakistan.

Under the CPEC, Pakistan and China have decided to accelerate agricultural cooperation, and R&D is one of the areas for cooperation.

It has been decided that China will help Pakistan build nine research centres. Pakistan can ask China to tag the R&D cooperation with its agriculture modernisation programmes.

It will pave the way for modernisation of agriculture in Pakistan. Third, China is making huge progress in the fields of smart and protected agriculture, and its contribution is showing a rising trend. The use of modern technology, like artificial intelligence, drones, etc., is also increasing.

It is helping China increase the production and quality of agricultural products. Pakistan can also learn from these interventions. Fourth, green agriculture is one of the major emerging areas under agriculture modernisation.

China has heavily invested in green agriculture. It has started to reap the benefits of lower use of fertilizers and pesticides and the betterment of the environment.

Pakistan can build cooperation with China to strengthen the development of green agriculture in the country. It will help Pakistan meet international obligations to lower GHG emissions from the agriculture sector.

Fifth, climate-smart agriculture is another area where Pakistan can seek cooperation from China.

It is critical for our country being highly vulnerable to climate change and climate-related disasters. Lastly, China is pouring enormous resources into modernising agriculture in the Xinjiang region.

China is prioritising investment and bringing all companies to work in this region. This offers Pakistan a huge opportunity to benefit from the modernisation drive and build close collaboration with companies and institutes working in Xinjiang.

The good thing is that the government of China is encouraging the Xinjiang region to build cooperation with Pakistan

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1169463-china-agriculture-modernisation-and-rural-revitalisation-ii>

March 19, 2024

Business Recorder

Coal shortage period

Chinese may be allowed to declare OFME

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

The government is likely to allow Chinese coal power plants to declare coal shortage period as Other Force Majeure Event (OFME) in line with settlement done in the past with other IPPs facing fuel shortages, well-informed sources in PPIB told Business Recorder.

This understanding, sources said, will be part of minutes of next Energy Planning Expert Panel (EPEP) of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to review progress and ensure smooth and timely implementation of energy projects initiated under CPEC. Both sides will observe that 17 power generation projects of 8020 MW based on imported coal, Thar coal, wind, solar and hydropower had been commissioned besides a flag-ship HVDC transmission line project (1000 MW) accruing investment of about \$ 18.94 billion (including the coal mine). One project, Suki Kinari 884 MW hydropower project, of \$ 1.707 billion was under construction.

Three generation projects of 2124.7 MW (Gwadar, Kohala, Azad Pattan) based on coal and hydropower with an investment of about \$ 4.157 billion are at an advance stage to achieve financial closing, whereas, four generation projects of 2020 MW (Oracle TharVI-1320 MW, Cacho Wind-50 MW, Western Wind-50 MW, Quaid-e-Azam Solar-600 MW) are at LoI stage.

Pakistan side gave briefing on opening of Revolving Account, as required under the provisions of Article-V of CPEC Agreement. It was apprised that to improve payments to CPEC IPPs, Government of Pakistan has opened and operationalized the Pakistan Energy Revolving Account (PERA) with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for all commissioned IPPs.

The PERA has been adequately funded by Government of Pakistan. Recently, China side put queries about: (i) how does Ministry of Finance provide security? (ii) what are the specific operational procedures in the case of PERA; (iii) regarding PERA, how to deal with the revision with the CPEC agreement? And (iv) what are the opinions of lender banks upon such amendments?

According to sources, Pakistan explained that: (i) Ministry of Finance will create budget allocation every year for payment to CPEC IPPs in addition to what CPPA-G is paying from its collection from Distribution Companies; (ii) without any demand from Banks or calling upon any Letter of Credit (LC), CPEC IPPs get funds directly to their accounts on monthly basis, through direct credit from State Bank of Pakistan; (iii) the procedure is better as through this procedure additional cash flow is generated for the CPEC IPPs.

If lending banks accept this procedure, Pakistan side is ready to make required amendments in the Agreements; and (iv) China side should facilitate in getting recognition of PERA by

lenders. Pakistan side further stated that opening of PERA will take care of the expected monthly shortfall which presently is much less than 22%.

Therefore, the requirement for opening of Revolving Account is considered to be satisfied. China side highly appreciated Pakistani side efforts in improving the tariff payments, however, current foreign exchange situation has led to severe difficulties regarding coal procurement.

China side noted that in case power projects are unable to procure coal due to foreign exchange non-availability issues, no capacity payment be deducted for these projects by CPPA-G.

Pakistan side appreciated the concern of CPEC IPPs and as an amicable solution, proposed that these IPPs may declare such period as Other Force Majeure Event (OFME) in line with settlement done in the past with other IPPs having fuel shortage issues.

This option will require contractual modifications and approvals from appropriate forum for treatment of such event as OFME. China side appreciated the proposal and ensured to resolve the issue in consultation with CPEC IPPs.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/19/1-page/988132-news.html>

TDAP facilitates visit of Chinese delegation to Pakistan

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is proud to announce the successful facilitation of the visit by a distinguished Chinese delegation to Pakistan from March 15th to March 18th, 2024. Led by Pang Chi, Chairman, and Hu Yu, Legal Representative of Hunan Yuzhen Food Co. Ltd, China, the delegation's visit aims to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and China. The delegation engaged in constructive meetings and discussions with key stakeholders in Pakistan's agricultural sector. TDAP played a pivotal role in organizing these meetings, ensuring that the delegation had the opportunity to interact with leading exporters and industry players. The highlight of the visit included productive sessions with prominent entities such as The Fauji Meat Limited and members of The Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan. These meetings provided valuable insights into the quality and variety of meat and rice products available in Pakistan, aligning perfectly with the delegation's interests in importing these commodities. Furthermore, the delegation expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities and forming joint ventures (JVs) with Pakistani companies. TDAP facilitated these discussions, fostering an environment conducive to collaboration and mutual benefit. Pang Chi, Chairman of the delegation, commended the efforts of TDAP in orchestrating a seamless and productive visit. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in strengthening trade ties between the two nations and expressed optimism about the future prospects of bilateral cooperation. Hu Yu, Legal Representative of Hunan Yuzhen Food Co. Ltd, lauded the hospitality extended by Pakistani counterparts and expressed confidence in the potential for fruitful partnerships in the fields of agriculture and trade. TDAP remains committed to fostering closer economic relations between Pakistan and China, and endeavors to continue facilitating such meaningful exchanges in the future. <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/19/4-page/988162-news.html>

The Nation

China, Pakistan to deepen coop in realms of culture, media

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashimi embarked on a significant visit to the School of Journalism at Tsinghua University, marking the inauguration of the new Pakistan Culture and Communication Studies office and agreeing to boost cooperation between the two neighborly countries. This pivotal moment aimed to deepen the ties between China and Pakistan, particularly in the realms of media and culture. During the visit, Ambassador Hashimi engaged in discussions about potential initiatives to bolster cooperation between the School of Journalism and the Pakistan Embassy, Gwadar Pro reported. These initiatives are envisioned to solidify the already strong bond between the two nations. A notable outcome of these discussions was the announcement of a collaborative effort between the School of Journalism at Tsinghua University, the Pakistan Center for Culture and Communication Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and Communication University of China. Together, they will organize a transformative “China-Pakistan Cultural Corridor Caravan Class” set to take place over three weeks during the upcoming summer. This innovative caravan class will traverse the landscapes of the Karakoram and Hindu Kush Mountains. Participants will engage in research, teaching, and writing activities inspired by the ancient journeys of Chinese monks in the mountains of northern Pakistan, as well as the historical route of Gao Xianzhi’s expedition across the Hindukush. Ten esteemed professors from both China and Pakistan will deliver enlightening lectures to students from both countries, fostering cross-cultural understanding and academic collaboration. Before the unveiling ceremony of the new office, Ambassador Hashimi had a significant meeting with Peng Gang, the Vice President of Tsinghua University. During this meeting, Ambassador Hashimi commended the University for its Exceptional Educational Standards, recognizing its prestigious rankings in Asia and the global academic landscape. In an official statement issued following the meeting, it was highlighted that Ambassador Hashimi expressed gratitude to Vice President Peng Gang for Tsinghua University’s consistent efforts in enhancing China-Pakistan relations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Mar-2024/china-pakistan-to-deepen-coop-in-realms-of-culture-media>

The News

Murad discusses investment prospects, educational development with foreign diplomats

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong on Monday agreed to revive the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CM also held separate meetings on Monday with Japanese Consul General Hattori Masaru, Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu and Russian Consul General Andrey Fedorov at the Chief Minister House.

He told the foreign diplomats that the Sindh government was working to boost the industrial and agricultural sectors by bringing in foreign investment and offering different incentives to investors.

The consuls general congratulated Shah on his election as the Sindh chief minister for the third time and wished him success. Apart from discussing matters of mutual interest, they discussed investment and exchange of trade delegations to promote trade and commerce.

The CM and the Chinese consul general discussed CPEC projects, KCR and the agriculture sector. Shah informed the Chinese envoy that two Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems were already operational in Karachi while another two BRT corridors were under construction.

“The KCR would be the feeder of the BRT lines and with its construction, the transport issue would be resolved in this megalopolis city,” he said.

Yundong said the KCR was a priority project of the CPEC and it would be approved shortly. Shah said that during the last tenure of President Asif Ali Zardari, memorandums of understanding were signed for various agricultural projects. He added that the time had arrived to implement those agriculture projects under which scientific methods of agriculture would be adopted to improve the yield.

The CM and the Japanese consul general discussed investment in different sectors, including electronics and automobiles.

In their meeting, it was decided that a meeting between the Sindh investment department and the Japanese consulate’s top officers would be organised shortly to select sectors for investment.

The Turkish consul general told the CM that Turkey wanted to expand its education system in the rural areas of Sindh.

Currently, Turkish schools are operating in Karachi, Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas. The CM said he would arrange a meeting of the Sindh education minister with the Turkish consul general to establish Turkish schools in rural areas.

He added that President Zardari was interested in establishing a Sufi university at Bhit Shah and as Turkey had a strong Sufi culture, Turkish scholars could provide help in setting up Sufi universities.

To this, the Turkish diplomat assured the CM that he would arrange a delegation of Sufi scholars who would visit Sindh and discuss modalities of the Sufi university to mature the project.

The Russian consul general in his meeting with the CM also discussed matters of mutual interest.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1169779-murad-discusses-investment-prospects-educational-development-with-foreign-diplomats>

Express News

ڈار، چینی سفیر ملاقات، سی بی کے فیئر ٹو کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی پر اتفاق

دونوں ممالک کی خوشحالی علاقائی امن کیلئے ناگزیر، وزیر خارجہ سے امریکی سفیر بھی ملے میڈیا اور ثقافت میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق، پاکستانی سفیر خلیل ہاشمی نے نئے دفتر کا افتتاح کیا اسلام آباد (اے پی پی، آن لائن) وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار سے چین کے سفیر جیانگ زیڈ ونگ نے پیر کو ملاقات کی جس کے دوران وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پاک چین ہمہ موسمی اسٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو پارٹنرشپ دونوں ممالک کی ترقی اور خوشحالی اور علاقائی امن و استحکام کے لیے ناگزیر ہے، دونوں ممالک کی قیادت کی تصور کے مطابق دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید گہرا کرنے اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے فیئر ٹو کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے مشترکہ کوششوں کے لیے پاکستان کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا، چین کے سفیر جیانگ زیڈ ونگ نے چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کو دی جانے والی خصوصی اہمیت اور پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی، صنعتی اور زرعی تعاون کے لیے اس کی بھرپور حمایت پر زور دیا، انہوں نے وزیر خارجہ سے سی بی کے فیئر ٹو کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی پر بھی اتفاق کیا، مزید برآں اسحاق ڈار سے امریکی سفیر ڈونلڈ بلوم نے ملاقات کی، انہوں نے وزیر خارجہ کو عہدہ سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد دی اور دو طرفہ تعلقات مضبوط بنانے کا یقین دلایا، وزیر خارجہ آج پہلے غیرے پر برطانیہ روانہ ہوں گے، وہ لندن میں ایک روزہ قیام اور سرکاری مصروفیات کے بعد برسلز میں نیو کلیئر سیکورٹی سربرائی کانفرنس میں شرکت کریں گے، متحدہ عرب امارات کے سفیر حماد عبید ابراہیم سالم الزبانی نے مبارکباد دی اور مل کر کام کرنے کی خواہش کا اعادہ کیا، علاوہ ازیں چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان میڈیا اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہو گیا، دونوں مل کر موسم گرما کے دوران "چین پاکستان کلچرل کوریڈور کاروان کلاس" کا اہتمام کریں گے۔

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110871228&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20240319

K2 Daily

46

کی کہیں پاکستان میں شراکت دار نہیں ہیں اسے خوشحال بنانے کے لیے آج درست لگاؤ ہے۔ ہمیں شراکت کو جنگلات کے ماحولیاتی دن کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں بھی دنیا کے دیگر ممالک کی طرح جنگلات کا ماحولیاتی دن منایا جا رہا ہے۔ دریاں سالانہ دن کا موضوع "جنگلات اور اخراج ایک بھروسہ کے لیے نئے عمل" ہے جو جنگلات کو بچھڑنے والے خطرے سے نپٹنے کے لیے پختگی اختراعات کو بروئے کار لانے کی ضرورت کو اجاگر کرتا ہے۔

اختراعات کے ذریعے جنگلات کو بچھڑنے سے محفوظ اور پائیدار بنانے پر زور رکھا اور جنگلات کی کٹائی، ان میں کام ماسک کی چھٹی اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلی کے خطرے کو کم کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے کل رقبے کے 5 فیصد سے بھی کم پر جنگلات ہیں اور ہر سال ان جنگلات کا تقریباً 1.5 فیصد رقبہ کم ہو رہا ہے۔ اس کے پاکستان کے ماحولیاتی ترقی، ماحولیاتی اور زراعت پر گہرے اثرات مرتب ہو رہے ہیں۔ دنیا کے ماحولیاتی سے سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہونے والے ایک ملک کی حیثیت سے پاکستان میں ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کے باعث روزانہ لگنے والے واقعات میں

پاک چین کا میڈیا اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق

دونوں ممالک مل کر موسم گرما کے دوران "چین پاکستان کلچرل کوریڈور کاروان کلاس" کا اہتمام کریں گے

پاکستانی سفیر خلیل ہاشمی کا سگھوا یونیورسٹی کے اسکول آف جرنلزم کا دورہ، باہمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان پہلے سے مضبوط تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانا کریں گے اور ہر دو ممالک میں پاکستان کے درمیان میڈیا اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون ہے۔ دونوں مل کر موسم گرما کے دوران "چین پاکستان کلچرل کوریڈور کاروان کلاس" کا اہتمام کریں گے اور ہر دو ممالک میں پاکستان کے درمیان میڈیا اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون ہے۔ دونوں مل کر موسم گرما کے دوران "چین پاکستان کلچرل کوریڈور کاروان کلاس" کا اہتمام کریں گے اور ہر دو ممالک میں پاکستان کے درمیان میڈیا اور ثقافت کے شعبوں میں تعاون ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-03-19

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24219

China's unwavering support: A strengthening friendship

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

CHINA responded most positively to Pakistan's recent 2024 elections. Amidst a flurry of harsh and negative statements from various powers regarding the election, China chose to congratulate the successful and peaceful election process. This gesture serves as a robust response to those forces seeking instability in Pakistan. Once again, China has demonstrated itself as Pakistan's benefactor and friend in times of adversity. After completing all phases and processes of Pakistan's government formation, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang congratulated Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as Prime Minister of Pakistan on March 3 of this month. President Xi expressed confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan's new government, and through the united efforts of all sectors of Pakistan, the country would be able to chart a new course of development and progress. Xi stressed that China and Pakistan should continue their traditional friendship, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, jointly build an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, continue to deepen their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and create more wellbeing for the two peoples.

China also warmly welcomed the caretaker prime minister on 19 October 2023 in Beijing when he went there to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. During the visit, President Xi met with former Caretaker Premier, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and pointed out that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends. A few days before the elections, on January 24, 2024, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore paid a goodwill visit to the Lahore Press Club, where Mr. Zhao Shiren expressed his opinion in "Meet the Press" that "China believes Pakistan can hold a peaceful, transparent, fair and timely election. The general election is an internal matter of Pakistan. We cannot interfere in it, but we will welcome whoever forms government after the February 8 elections and move forward together."

On 19 February 2024, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson congratulated Pakistan on the smooth and successful holding of the general election. Spokesperson Mao Ning said that as a close and friendly neighbor, China fully respects the choice made by the Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that all parties concerned in Pakistan will work together to maintain political unity and social stability after the elections and make unflinching efforts to create the future of national development.

From the President to the diplomatic staff, there is no difference in China's warm feelings towards Pakistan.

Before the 2024 polls, apprehensions reigned supreme about the holding of elections. International community was also in conundrum.

In this paradoxical situation, China had unwavering faith and confidence on democratic system of Pakistan. Moreover, China also clarified that the elections was an internal matter of Pakistan.

China's role in Pakistan's recent elections was much better than other countries. China is the only friendly country that cares about Pakistan's interests in all circumstances.

No diplomatic officer of China met the Election Commission. Beijing deemed such meetings as interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

China maintains its neutrality in all its statements before or after the elections. China is the only country that has invested more than the rest of the world for the development and prosperity of Pakistan and China respects the sovereignty of Pakistan the most.

If compared to China's investment in Pakistan, US investment is like salt in flour. Be it energy, infrastructure or transport and other avenues of trade and commerce, China has been injecting investment in Pakistan without any string.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-unwavering-support-a-strengthening-friendship/>

China stands ready to develop five corridors to build upgraded CPEC: Lin Jian

China on Tuesday commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's positive remarks on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that it was ready to work with Pakistan to building a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor to create an upgraded version of the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to deliver greater benefits to the two people. China commends Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif's positive remarks and stands ready to work with Pakistan to build an upgraded version of CPEC, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP. The prime minister, talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidon in Islamabad last week, stressed that Pakistan was keen to move to the next phase of CPEC, including operationalization of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to facilitate Chinese investment in Pakistan. In an interview with Xinhua, China's state-run news agency, the prime minister said, Pakistan was now ready to move toward the second phase of CPEC to promote technological development and agriculture through the corridor. While commending PM Shehbaz Sharif's positive remarks, the spokesperson said that the CPEC is an important flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. "A batch of early harvests of cooperation have been achieved in areas of transportation, infrastructure, energy and industry," he added. Lin Jian pointed out that last year, the two sides held a grand celebration event to mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC and added, Leaders of the two countries reached a new important common understanding on high quality developments of CPEC. He said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to follow the guidance of important common understandings reached by the leaders of two countries, build a growth corridor, a livelihood enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor continue to deepen cooperation in various areas, foster new growth and build an upgraded version of CPEC to deliver greater benefits to the two peoples. Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-sponsored Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation. <https://pakobserver.net/china-stands-ready-to-develop-five-corridors-to-build-upgraded-cpec-lin-jian/>

The Nation

Pak, Chinese vocational institutions sign collaboration accord

ISLAMABAD - The collaboration between China and Pakistan would further increase in the days to come as China's Yantai Vocational College (YOC), Chinese logistics firm Sino Mall (Pvt) Ltd., and Government Monotechnique Institute, Mehrabpur, Sindh have signed a framework agreement to co-construct BanMo College in Pakistan. In this connection, the Ban Mo College signing, unveiling and opening ceremony of the first phase training course was held at the YOC, which was attended online by officials of Pakistan's Embassy, Beijing and Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA), Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The agreement aims to deepen international exchanges and cooperation in vocational education, particularly in line with the 'Belt and Road' initiative, according to TANG Int'l Education Group. As per the agreement, the YOC will provide pre-job training for Sino Mall's Chinese employees in overseas logistics management, as well as Chinese + Professional skills training for its local employees in Pakistan. Development of logistics, Chinese teaching resources and vocational education courses, facilitating international academic education and exchange visits for Pakistani students, and responding to Sino Mall's language and skill training needs in other specialties are also part of the agreement. Utilizing the YOC's teaching resources and online platforms for education services in Pakistan, developing professional standards and course standards recognized by Pakistani education authorities, conducting community activities, volunteer services, and vocational training for Pakistani residents are also included in the scope of the agreement. The three parties will jointly develop the logistics Chinese teaching resource base and construct characteristic vocational education courses and co-construct a high-level logistics industry-college-research training base, integrating practical teaching, enterprise production, social technology services.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Mar-2024/pak-chinese-vocational-institutions-sign-collaboration-accord>

Shared commitment of China, Pakistan to improve wheat seed productivity

ISLAMABAD - A delegation of five wheat experts from Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) participated in the "2nd China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding Conference" at Quaid-i-Azam University, and visited wheat research institutes in Islamabad and Faisalabad. Wheat researchers from Pakistan and China discussed the opportunities to improve wheat seed productivity in Pakistan. They recommended to use the specialized facultative wheat in the resource-poor areas of KP and Balochistan to increase the wheat production. Dr. Zhonghu He, Director of the National Improvement Center at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and Distinguished Scientist and Country Representative for the China Office of CIMMYT said that the primary goal is to establish an internationally renowned laboratory that will serve as a collaborative platform for researchers and experts from both China and Pakistan to work together on advancing wheat molecular breeding techniques and technologies

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Mar-2024/shared-commitment-of-china-pakistan-to-improve-wheat-seed-productivity>

The News

China lauds Pakistan's desire to move towards CPEC's next phase

KARACHI: China has commended the statement of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who recently expressed Pakistan's desire to move towards the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Lin Jian, at the ministry's regular press conference on Tuesday, was asked to comment on PM Sharif's meeting with the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan and his interview with the Xinhua News Agency. In the interview, the PM had said that Pakistan is keen to move towards the next phase of the CPEC regime. The spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China commended PM Sharif's positive remarks. He said that the CPEC is an important flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. "A batch of early harvests of cooperation has been achieved in areas such as ports, TPT (Teradata Parallel Transporter) infrastructure, energy and industry." He recalled that last year, the two sides held a grand celebration event to mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC. Leaders of the two countries reached new important common understandings on the high-quality development of the CPEC, he said. "China stands ready to work with Pakistan to follow the guidance of the important common understandings reached by leaders of our two countries, build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor that continues to deepen cooperation in various areas, foster new growth projects and impetus, and build an upgraded CPEC to pass on greater benefits to the peoples of two countries," he said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1170234-china-lauds-pakistan-s-desire-to-move-towards-cpec-s-next-phase>

Pakistan seeks to boost ties with US, China amid IMF deal hop

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday struck a consensus on the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP), making the early release of \$1.1 billion last tranche of the Standby Arrangement (SBA) programme a strong likelihood. A formal announcement from the IMF is expected today (Wednesday). Pakistan is also interested in a new four-year programme from the IMF, in which the loan value may be seven and a half billion dollars. Under the broader consensus, Pakistan and the IMF agreed that the retailer's scheme would be announced during the current fiscal. The registration for the simplified retailer's scheme will kick-start after seeking a formal approval from the minister for finance but tax collection from retailers will commence in the next fiscal year 2024-25, starting from July 1, 2024. Just ahead of concluding parleys for striking a staff-level agreement with the IMF, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb held separate meetings with the US and Chinese ambassadors in a bid to secure Washington's support for the Fund programme and running the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects simultaneously. The sources pointed out that the Pakistani authorities were facing issues as the IMF was putting conditions, creating stumbling blocks in the way of running CPEC projects with ease. For instance, the Chinese independent power producers (IPPs) are struggling to secure their outstanding dues on account of circular debt that had accumulated

to the tune of Rs500 billion. The government has allocated just Rs48 billion, and under the IMF programme, there is a ban on supplementary grants. Now there are two options, either to wait for a cushion after the expiry of IMF's SBA programme or arrange financing from Chinese banks and then provide money to the Chinese IPPs. The circular debt of the energy sector has become a major problematic area, including the non-resolution of AJK tariff due to which the circular debt accumulated to the tune of Rs58 billion. The total circular debt stood at Rs2.3 trillion till June 2023 and it further went up by Rs378 billion till the end of December 2023. According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of Finance, US Ambassador Donald Blome paid a courtesy visit to Minister Aurangzeb to discuss important matters related to bilateral cooperation and mutual interests between Pakistan and the United States. Blome extended felicitations to Aurangzeb upon his appointment as the minister for finance and revenue and conveyed confidence towards further strengthening of economic ties between the two countries. The minister also warmly welcomed the ambassador and underscored the significance of Pakistan-US bilateral relations, highlighting their importance at political, economic, and security levels. Aurangzeb shared that the new government is fully prepared to tackle the economic challenges and is determined to bring about macroeconomic stability in the country. He reiterated the government's commitment to completing the ongoing IMF programme and continuing the economic reform process initiated under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) 2019 and SBA 2023, with a focus on achieving fiscal and debt sustainability, social protection and rebuilding foreign exchange reserves. Highlighting the priority areas for reforms, he outlined the government's foremost priority of bringing reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to prevent revenue leakages through end-to-end digitisation, enhancing the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms, strengthening social protection measures, improving public financial management, implementing energy sector reforms, removing distortionary subsidies and fostering private sector-led economic growth. Recognizing the US as one of Pakistan's largest trading partners and a significant source of foreign direct investment, Aurangzeb expressed appreciation for the economic ties between the two nations. Ambassador Blome congratulated the government on the positive steps taken so far that resulted in visibly positive signs in the economy and hoped that it would help further stabilize the economy. Concluding the meeting, both sides acknowledged the critical nature of the relationship between Pakistan and the US and expressed the desire to continue enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, in a short press release, the US Embassy said that Ambassador Blome met Minister Aurangzeb to discuss further US cooperation and support for Pakistan's efforts to meet its reform targets, including improvement of the country's tax administration and investment climate. Ambassador Blome noted the US government's support for Pakistan's work with the IMF to complete its current SBA. He underscored his commitment to expanding further US-Pakistan economic cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In a separate meeting, Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong called on the minister for finance to discuss key matters about economic cooperation and bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. Zaidong also felicitated Aurangzeb upon his appointment as the federal minister for finance and revenue and expressed confidence towards further strengthening of economic ties between the two countries. The minister expressed gratitude towards the Chinese leadership for their invaluable support to Pakistan in various sectors, particularly highlighting the rollover of safe deposits and the refinancing of

commercial loans, which have significantly contributed to Pakistan's economic stability. He further emphasized the paramount importance of CPEC in Pakistan's growth strategy and overall economic recovery. Both sides agreed to advance their collaboration in various sectors, including industrial zones, agriculture, mineral and mining as well as renewable energy. It was discussed that the next phase of CPEC would focus on the monetization of gains made during the first phase. Concluding the meeting, the two sides reiterated the desire to collaborate closely to further deepen and enhance the economic relationship between the two countries, reflecting the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between Pakistan and China. Meanwhile, local media reported that Minister of Finance Aurangzeb would visit the United States next month. He would stay there from April 15 to April 20. He would lead the Pakistani delegation at the annual ministerial meeting of the IMF and World Bank scheduled for April 17 to April 19. The State Bank of Pakistan governor, FBR chairman and his economic team would be accompanying the minister.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1170049-pakistan-imf-successfully-conclude-talks>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان سے ملکر کام کرنے کیلئے تیار "چین سی پیک پر وزیر اعظم کے ریماکس کا خیر مقدم

چین نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے سی پیک پر مثبت ریماکس کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ ترجمان چینی دفتر خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ ملکر کام کرنے کیلئے تیار ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھایا جائے۔ تعاون بڑھانے سے پاک چین عوام تک سی پیک کے ثمرات پہنچ سکیں گے

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-20/page-1/detail-2>

March 21, 2024

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar attack reignites CPEC Security debate in Pakistan

A major terror attack by Baloch Liberation Army in Gwadar, the main feature of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, triggered a fresh debate on the security of the multi-billion project that involves massive Chinese investment. Pakistan's Iron friend pumped billions of dollars into the region to support Islamabad's deteriorating infrastructure, linking the port city of Gwadar to western China. Pakistan's sparsely populated region continues to be hit by terror attacks and fresh ambush on the Gwadar Port Authority Complex reignited debate on better security in the region. The province has witnessed a number of terrorist attacks in the last two years, some of which were directed against the Chinese installations. The targeted attacks on CPEC by Baloch armed groups are part of a broader propaganda peddled by foreign backed characters who misled youth by justify these attacks citing injustice and deprivation. Balochistan is considered risky for this massive investment, but for Beijing, it appear to have had no qualms so far as Chinese funneling money into the province, and even reiterated to boost the second phase of the development project.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-attack-reignites-cpec-security-debate-in-pakistan/>

Attaullah hails establishment of CPIC to combat fake news about CPEC

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said the establishment of China-Pakistan Information Corridor will be an important strategic step towards preventing fake news about CPEC. Talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in Islamabad today, he said the information corridor is aimed at harnessing the power of digital connectivity and information exchange. He assured the Ministry of Information will continue its work in this regard. The Information Minister emphasized the need to devise a mechanism at the government-to-government and media-to-media level to counter fake news regarding CPEC. Recognizing the support extended to Pakistan by China at various international forums, Attaullah Tarar said a close and sustainable partnership between the two countries in the form of CPEC is in the wider interest of the region. The CPEC is a framework for regional connectivity that will not only benefit China and Pakistan, but will also have positive effects on Iran, Afghanistan, India, Central Asian Republics and the region. On the occasion, both the sides agreed to expand cooperation in the field of film and culture. Alluding to the country's rich cultural heritage, the Information Minister said many spiritual and cultural movements emerged from the Indus Valley of Pakistan that shaped Asian culture. He said the ancient Gandhara civilization of Pakistan introduced Buddhism to much of East Asia, including China. Attaullah Tarar said a film production agreement is under process between the two countries alongside a MoU between APP and Xinhua News Agency. They also discussed the MoU between Associated Press of Pakistan and China Media Group (CMG) for the third Belt and Road Forum as well as cooperation for joint production of travel documentary between China Global Television Network and PTV.

<https://pakobserver.net/attaullah-hails-establishment-of-cpic-to-combat-fake-news-about-cpec/>

The Nation

LTBA vows to strengthen collaboration with China

LAHORE - The newly elected President of Lahore Tax Bar Association (LTBA), Shahbaz Siddique pledged to implement a series of initiatives aimed at promoting strong and mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and China in the taxation field. Recognising the importance of collaboration between the two countries, he aims to leverage this partnership to drive economic growth and development. With the acceleration of the second phase of the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there is a growing need for effective tax policies and regulations that support these investments. In an exclusive interview with China Economic Net, Shahbaz highlighted the significance of a robust tax framework to ensure transparency, fairness and ease of doing business for both Pakistani and Chinese companies. He noted that the collaboration between Pakistan and China in taxation holds great potential, including exchange of expertise, investment and trade, double taxation avoidance and digital taxation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Mar-2024/ltba-vows-to-strengthen-collaboration-with-china>

CPEC pivotal for development in Balochistan: PCJCCI

LAHORE - Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Wednesday that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would bring enormous opportunities to Balochistan and ensure modern development there. Speaking in a think-tank session here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he added that the regional countries, especially Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, would use the corridor for exports and trade through Gwadar port. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that the minerals and fishery sectors of Balochistan have immense potential and the federal government is taking serious steps to utilize it for the benefit of the people of Pakistan. He emphasized that Gwadar port and various projects under CPEC will change a lot for the people of Balochistan and the Government of Pakistan is especially focusing on road infrastructure, development of industrial and agriculture sector, provision of employment, and availability of basic facilities in Balochistan. He added that there is a dire need to include transport, construction of basic infrastructure, provision of clean drinking water and its better utilization, agriculture and livestock, information technology, energy, industry and commerce, manpower and education and other schemes for the revolutionary development in such neglected province of Pakistan. While the joint Chamber's Vice President Hamza Khalid said that the new government is focusing on the social and economic uplift of Balochistan to bring it at par with other provinces of the country. Pakistan, Uzbekistan and China have agreed to allocate dedicated spaces in Gwadar and Tashkent for establishing warehouses to help each other in the transportation of goods to other countries in the region. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, said that CPEC is a source of new avenues of opportunities for Balochistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Mar-2024/cpec-pivotal-for-development-in-balochistan-pcjcci>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 32

انفرا اسٹرکچر، توانائی اور صنعت جیسے شعبوں میں تعاون کے ابتدائی نتائج سامنے آچکے ہیں۔ ترجمان کے مطابق گزشتہ برس دونوں فریقین نے سی پیک کے آغاز کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر ایک شاندار تقریب کا انعقاد کیا تھا، دونوں ممالک کے رہنماں نے سی پیک کے حوالے سے نئی مشترکہ معاہدے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔ چینی ترجمان نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے تاکہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام تک سی پیک کے فرائد پہنچ سکیں۔

سی پیک بارے وزیراعظم پاکستان کا بیان خوش آئند، چین منصوبے کے بندرگاہوں، انفراسٹرکچر کے شعبوں میں تعاون کے نتائج سامنے آچکے

چین پاکستان کے ساتھ تمام شعبوں میں مل کر کام کرنے پر تیار ہے، ترجمان دفتر خارجہ

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین نے وزیراعظم ہے۔ ترجمان چینی دفتر خارجہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک اہم شہباز شریف کی جانب سے پاک-چین اقتصادی منصوبہ ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان راہداری کے بارے میں مثبت رویہ رکھ کر کو سراہا بندرگاہوں، انفراسٹرکچر (باقی صفحہ 7 بجیہ نمبر 32)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24197

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24196

March 22, 2024

Pakistan Observer

China to assist Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation: Zhang Guoqing

BRUSSELS – Chinese vice Premier Zhang Guoqing has said his country would assist Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation. He gave the assurance during his meeting with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Brussels on the sidelines of the First Nuclear Energy Summit. The Vice Premier expressed Chinese readiness to upgrade CPEC and to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields including Industry, Mining, and Information Technology. Vice Premier Zhang and Foreign Minister Dar noted with appreciation the traditional ‘Pakistan- China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ and iron-clad friendship as an exemplary and unique relationship. They agreed on the importance of the longstanding cooperation between Pakistan and China in civil nuclear technology. Ishaq Dar reiterated Pakistan’s longstanding support for One-China policy. He underscored there is an absolute consensus in Pakistan on relations with China and Pakistan’s strong commitment to phase-2 of CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-assist-pakistan-in-stabilizing-its-financial-situation-zhang-guoqing/>

The News

Pakistan eyes \$300m by selling Panda Bonds to Chinese investors

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed eagerness to tap Chinese investors by selling as much as \$300 million in Panda Bonds for the first time ever this year. Panda Bonds are yuan-denominated instruments sold in China by offshore issuers, including companies, multilateral agencies and governments. The market has drawn issuers including Egypt and Hungary, thanks to its lower cost of borrowing. Growth in Panda bond issuance could easily double in 2024, from about 103.35 billion yuan (\$14.3 billion) last year, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. The remarks came Friday during an interview with Bloomberg, the minister said, selling Yuan-denominated debt would allow Pakistan to diversify its funding sources and reach investors in a new market, Muhammad Aurangzeb. It’s something “we should have looked at quite frankly some time back,” he said. China has the “second-largest and deepest bond market in the world” and it is the “right thing to do for the country” to tap the market, given Pakistan has already sold dollar and Eurobonds, he said. Aurangzeb said the initial Panda bond sale would be about \$250 million to \$300 million, which would be followed by further issuances. The finance minister said the government’s cash balances are strong enough that it’s able to pay its debts on time. The payments are unlikely to put pressure on the currency, and he expects the rupee to remain stable, he said. “I don’t really see a huge pressure on the rupee at this point in time,” he said. “As we go forward, I think it’s going to remain range bound around these levels.” The “wildcard” is oil prices, he added, which remain uncertain given the Red Sea attacks. Pakistan’s rupee is up 1.3% this year, according to local pricing compiled by Bloomberg, among the best-performing currencies in Asia. According to Bloomberg report, Aurangzeb’s

most pressing challenge is negotiating new loans with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help bolster the country's reserves right after the current bailout program ends in April. The publication quoted IMF as having said earlier this week that Pakistan has expressed interest in a new medium-term program to improve its fiscal and external weaknesses and strengthen its economic recovery. Aurrangzeb said Pakistan will seek a new loan program from the IMF of at least three years, as the country's standby \$3 billion arrangement with the global lender expires on April 11. While addressing a media briefing, the finmin said that Pakistan will discuss an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with IMF next month "We have expressed our strong interests in an EFF with the IMF, but the quantum is not clear yet," Aurrangzeb said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1171162-pakistan-eyes-300m-by-selling-panda-bonds-to-chinese-investors>

Express News

چین سی پیک کے 5 کوریڈور بنانے کے لیے تیار

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ چین سی پیک کے اپ گریڈ ورژن کی تعمیر کے لیے 5 کوریڈور بنانے کو تیار ہے۔ ترجمان لین جیان - نے سی پیک بارے میں وزیر اوزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے مثبت رویہ کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ وہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو زیادہ سے زیادہ فوائد پہنچانے کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ ترقی، روزگار کے فروغ کی راہداری، جدت پسندی کے لیے کام کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ چین پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے مثبت رویہ کو سراہتا ہے اور سی پیک کے اپ گریڈ ورژن کی تعمیر کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110874893&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20240321

K2 Daily

بقیہ 41

میں تعمیرات عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفیر جیا تک لئی ڈونگ سے گفتگو کر رہے تھے۔ چینی سفیر نے عطاء اللہ تارڑ کو وزارت اطلاعات کا وفد سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ ملاقات میں سی پیک، پاک چین اسٹریٹجک تعلقات، میڈیا اور فلم کے شعبے میں جاری تعاون اور سی پیک کے بارے میں چینی خبروں کی روک تھام کے لئے چین پاکستان انفارمیشن کوریڈور کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال ہوا۔

پاک چین انفارمیشن کوریڈور بنانے کا فیصلہ؟

سی پیک سے متعلق چھوٹی خبروں کی روک تھام کیلئے حکومت اور میڈیا کی سطح پر میکنزم بنانے کی ضرورت ہے

پاکستان کو سرمایہ کار دوست ملک بنانا وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا وژن ہے، عطاء تارڑ کی چینی سفیر سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (این آئی کوفاقی ڈیز) نئی خبریں: سی پیک کے بارے میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سی پیک کی صورت میں چینی اور پاکستانی شریف کا وژن ہے۔ وہ ہجرات کو یہاں ملاقات پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کے فروغ کے لئے اہم نکتہ شریعت داری نئے کے وسیع تر مفاد میں ہے، کے لئے آئے پاکستان (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 41)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24221

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24219

بقیہ 37

کے ایک وفد نے پنجاب بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ (پی بی آئی ٹی) کا دورہ کیا اور ڈائریکٹر جنرل انویسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ ڈاکٹر سہیل سلیم اور ڈپٹی سیکریٹری طارق سے ملاقات کی۔ گواہ پرو کے مطابق ان کے دورے کا مقصد 2019 کے قریب موبائل ڈیجیٹل، لیپ ٹاپ اور ٹیبلٹ میڈیٹیکل کی محصولات قائم کرنے کے لیے سرمایہ کاری کے نئے مواقع تلاش کرنا تھا۔ گواہ پرو کے مطابق اہلاس کا اہتمام ٹیبلٹ ٹوٹ پر ہوا کہ چینی گروپ ہانگ کانگ نے اس وقت تک کوئی کرے گا جبکہ پی بی آئی ٹی نے پورے عمل کے دوران ضروری مدد اور سہولت فراہم کرنے کا عہد کیا۔

چینی کمپنی مینوفیکچرنگ شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کی خواہاں

موبائل، لیپ ٹاپس اور ٹیبلٹس کی مینوفیکچرنگ میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار

چینی کمپنی کے وفد کا پنجاب بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ کا دورہ، ڈی جی سے ملاقات

2019 (آئی این پی) پلان سے تعلق رکھنے والی کمپنیوں نے مینوفیکچرنگ محصولات کے قیام میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ گواہ پرو کے مطابق چینی کمپنی (باقی صفحہ 7 بجے نمبر 37)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24221

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=24220

March 23, 2024

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China agree to expedite CPEC Phase-2

Pakistan and China agreed to expedite phase-2 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while deciding to establish a working group on five new economic corridors, including 'Corridor of Job Creation, Corridor of Innovation, Corridor of Green Energy, and Inclusive Regional Development'. Pakistan and China intensified efforts to establish a Working Group on five new economic corridors under Phase II of the CPEC, aligning with the 5Es framework already prepared by the Planning Ministry.

This was discussed during a meeting between the Federal Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and the Chinese envoy, Jiang Zaidong, on Friday, which lasted over one hour at the Planning Ministry.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated Ahsan Iqbal on assuming the role of Planning Minister for the fourth time. Both sides have agreed to expedite phase 2 of the CPEC, while deciding to establish a working group on five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Corridor of Innovation, Corridor of Green Energy, and Inclusive Regional Development. Both the Planning Ministry and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China will prepare separate concept papers on the new economic corridors, which will provide a clear roadmap for each sector in the future.

These concept papers will be consolidated before presentation at the upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting expected in 2024, stated the Planning Ministry. The Planning Ministry has already initiated the implementation of the 5Es framework, which includes Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and Environment. During the meeting, the

Planning Minister outlined a strategic approach to maximize the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within Pakistan.

He proposed a “one plus Four” model, wherein each SEZ in Pakistan would be partnered with one province from China, one industry group to develop specialized clusters within the SEZs, one SEZ from China to provide technical expertise, and a state-owned enterprise to spearhead SEZ development.

Minister Iqbal emphasized that this collaborative framework would expedite the establishment and growth of SEZs in Pakistan, enhancing their competitiveness and attractiveness to investors. The Chinese envoy appreciated Pakistan’s efforts to implement the CPEC, particularly the initiation of phase 2. Addressing Pakistan’s need to boost the efficiency of SEZs to increase foreign exchange, the Chinese envoy suggested that officers in charge of SEZs must visit Chinese industrial parks to observe firsthand the efficiency measures practiced by Chinese authorities.

The Ambassador further highlighted Pakistan’s commendable transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that the success of SEZs depends on their ability to become clusters of specific industries, fostering economies of scale, and creating a vibrant ecosystem conducive to innovation and growth. The discussions also focused on enhancing regional connectivity, with a special emphasis on critical infrastructure projects like the Gwadar Port and the M-8 motorway, which will strengthen trade links and facilitate regional integration.

The planning minister emphasized China’s industrial progress as exemplary and a motivational force for Pakistan to follow suit.

The minister appreciated Chinese assistance in helping Pakistan develop its exports. He stated that Pakistan’s current challenge is to determine how quickly it can build its exports through earned foreign exchange, not borrowed money.

The minister assured the ambassador that security is a prerequisite for development, and Pakistan acknowledges the full recognition of CPEC construction and security risks. However, these risks will not disrupt work on CPEC projects. Pakistan has made significant efforts to safeguard the security of Chinese workers and will further implement top-level security measures for Chinese personnel.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/23/1-page/988543-news.html>

Dawn News

Security pledges for workers as CPEC set to expand

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday assured Chinese workers of top-level security as it pushed for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through the launch of five special industrial zones. At a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal assured the Chinese side that Pakistan had made significant efforts to safeguard the security of Chinese workers and would further implement top-level security measures for Chinese personnel. He said security was a

prerequisite for development, and Pakistan acknowledged the full recognition of CPEC construction and security risks. However, these risks would not disrupt work on CPEC projects, he added. The two sides agreed to intensify efforts to establish a new working group on five new economic corridors under the second phase, aligning with the Five Es framework — export, energy, equity, environment and e-Pakistan — already prepared by the planning ministry. The Chinese ambassador congratulated Mr. Iqbal on assuming the role of planning minister for the fourth time. “Both sides have agreed to expedite Phase 2 of the CPEC, while deciding to establish a working group on five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Corridor of Innovation, Corridor of Green Energy, and Inclusive Regional Development,” an official statement said. Both the planning ministry and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China will prepare separate concept papers on the new economic corridors, which will provide a clear roadmap for each sector in the future. These concept papers will be consolidated before presentation at the upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting, which is expected later this year, the statement said. The planning ministry has already initiated the implementation of the Five Es framework. This framework will be aligned with the five new economic corridors to advance Pakistan’s prosperity in each sector under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Mr. Iqbal told the meeting, highlighting the importance of accelerating Pakistan’s export capabilities through enterprise development and job creation. During the meeting, Mr. Iqbal outlined a strategic approach to maximize the success of special economic zones (SEZs) within Pakistan. He proposed a “One plus Four” model, wherein each SEZ in Pakistan would be partnered with one province from China, one industry group to develop specialized clusters within these zones, one zone from China to provide technical expertise, and a state-owned enterprise to spearhead SEZ development. Mr. Iqbal said this collaborative framework would speed up establishing and growing special economic zones in Pakistan, enhancing their competitiveness and attractiveness to investors.

“The Chinese envoy appreciated Pakistan’s efforts to implement the CPEC, particularly the initiation of Phase 2,” the statement said. Addressing Pakistan’s need to boost the efficiency of special economic zones to increase foreign exchange, the Chinese envoy suggested that officers in charge of the zones must visit Chinese industrial parks to observe firsthand the efficiency measures practiced by Chinese authorities. The minister noted that the success of special economic zones was dependent on their ability to become clusters of specific industries, fostering economies of scale and creating a vibrant ecosystem conducive to innovation and growth.

The discussions also focused on enhancing regional connectivity, emphasizing critical infrastructure projects like the Gwadar Port and the M-8 motorway, which will strengthen trade links and facilitate regional integration. Mr. Iqbal also appreciated Chinese assistance in helping Pakistan develop its exports and conceded that Pakistan’s current challenge was to determine how quickly it could build its exports through earned foreign exchange, not borrowed money.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1823228/security-pledges-for-workers-as-cpec-set-to-expand>

The Express Tribune

Phase 2 of CPEC accelerated with new economic corridors

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China intensified efforts on Friday to establish a Working Group on five new economic corridors under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aligning with the 5Es framework prepared by the Planning Ministry. During a meeting between the Federal Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and the Chinese envoy, Jiang Zaidong, both sides agreed to expedite the second phase of CPEC and establish a working group on five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Corridor of Innovation, Corridor of Green Energy, and Inclusive Regional Development. Both the Planning Ministry and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China will prepare separate concept papers on the new economic corridors, providing a clear roadmap for each sector in the future. These concept papers will be consolidated for presentation at the upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting expected in 2024, stated the Planning Ministry. The Planning Ministry has already initiated the implementation of the 5Es framework, which includes Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and Environment. This framework will align with the five new economic corridors to advance Pakistan's prosperity in each sector under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, emphasized the minister, highlighting the importance of accelerating Pakistan's export capabilities through enterprise development and job creation. During the meeting, the planning minister outlined a strategic approach to maximize the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within Pakistan. He proposed a "one plus four" model, wherein each SEZ in Pakistan would be partnered with one province from China, one industry group to develop specialized clusters within the SEZs, one SEZ from China to provide technical expertise, and a state-owned enterprise to spearhead SEZ development. Iqbal highlighted that this collaborative framework would expedite the establishment and growth of SEZs in Pakistan, enhancing their competitiveness and attractiveness to investors. The Chinese envoy appreciated Pakistan's efforts to implement the CPEC, particularly the initiation of phase 2. Addressing Pakistan's need to boost the efficiency of SEZs to increase foreign exchange, the Chinese envoy suggested that officers in charge of SEZs must visit Chinese industrial parks to observe firsthand the efficiency measures practiced by Chinese authorities. The ambassador further highlighted Pakistan's commendable transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy. Iqbal stressed that the success of SEZs depends on their ability to become clusters of specific industries, fostering economies of scale, and creating a vibrant ecosystem conducive to innovation and growth. The discussions also focused on enhancing regional connectivity, with a special emphasis on critical infrastructure projects like the Gwadar Port and the M-8 motorway, which will strengthen trade links and facilitate regional integration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2460230/phase-2-of-cpec-accelerated-with-new-economic-corridors>

The Nation

PM forms CCoE to ensure smooth implementation of energy projects

ISLAMABAD - The Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) with an aim to ensure the smooth implementation of energy projects currently underway or in the pipeline, particularly the schemes falling under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Prime Minister is pleased to constitute the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) to identify the flaws and deficiencies of the existing legal and institutional framework governing the energy sector and formulate reform initiatives, says a notification issued by Cabinet Division. The CCoE will be headed by the Prime Minister as its chairman, while Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister for Finance, Minister for Petroleum, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, and Minister for Power will be its members. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Committee will be to ensure the smooth implementation of energy projects currently underway or in the pipeline, in particular projects falling under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, well within timelines stipulated for these projects, identify and remove bottlenecks in the expeditious implementation of these projects, identify the flaws and deficiencies of the existing legal and institutional framework governing the energy sector and formulate reform initiatives, review the current energy policy and remove its weaknesses; formulation of policies/plans on energy conservation and regular/ periodical monitoring of such policies/plans; conduct inter-ministerial coordination whenever required, but at least once every fortnight; ensure adequate stocks of POL products in the country through policy/administrative measures, develop efficient energy markets through deregulation within limits allowed by regulators; and, reduce theft losses in energy sector and to pass on benefits to consumers. Besides, there will be six members of the CCoE special invitation/co-opted, which includes, Secretary, Finance Division, Secretary, Power Division, Secretary, Petroleum Division, Secretary, Law & Justice Division, Chairman, NEPRA and Chairman, OGRA.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Mar-2024/pm-forms-cco-e-to-ensure-smooth-implementation-of-energy-projects>

Express News

چین کی مدد سے چشمہ فائینو کلیئر پاور منصوبہ لگائیں گے: ڈار

برسلز (خبر ایجنسیاں) وزیر خارجہ اسحق ڈار نے کہا ہے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے متبادل توانائی کے ذرائع وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہیں۔ چین کی مدد سے چشمہ فائینو کلیئر پاور پراجیکٹ لگانے جارہے ہیں۔ مالیاتی اداروں کی مدد سے ترقی پذیر ممالک کو بھی اس توانائی سے فائدہ اٹھانے کا موقع ملنا چاہیے، برسلز میں منعقدہ جوہری توانائی کے سربراہی اجلاس اور دورہ کے موقع پر وزیر خارجہ اسحق ڈار نے اپنا ویڈیو پیغام جاری کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سمٹ میں جوہری توانائی کے استعمال سے متعلق مختلف آئیڈیاز آئے ہیں جو خوش آئند ہیں۔ چین کی مدد سے چشمہ فائینو کلیئر پاور پراجیکٹ لگانے جارہے ہیں۔ جمعہ کو دفتر خارجہ کی جانب سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ نے برسلز میں چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ڈانگ گوچنگ سے ملاقات کی۔ سول نیوکلیئر ٹیکنالوجی میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیرہ بینہ تعاون کی اہمیت پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے متحدہ عرب امارات کے توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے وزیر سمیل بن محمد المزروعی سے ملاقات کی۔

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110878084&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20240323

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-03-23

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-03-23

March 24, 2024

Daily Times

Govt to persue 'OnePlusFour' strategy to accelerate work on SEZs

Federal Government will persue "OnePlusFour" strategy to accelerate work on SEZs, under China Economic Net (CEN). This was stated by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) during his meeting here with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The Minister presented the "OnePlusFour" strategy for accelerating Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the CPEC framework.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1179907/govt-to-persue-oneplusfour-strategy-to-accelerate-work-on-sezs/>

Express News

پاکستان نے مختلف خطرات و چیلنجز پر قابو پایا، چینی صدر، یوم پاکستان پر پیغام

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے یوم پاکستان پر مبارکباد کے پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ حالیہ برسوں میں پاکستان نے مختلف خطرات اور چیلنجز پر قابو پایا، قومی تعمیر میں نئی پیش رفت کی، بین الاقوامی امور میں اہم کردار ادا کیا، چینی میڈیا کے مطابق یوم پاکستان پر صدر آصف زرداری کے نام پیغام میں انہوں نے کہا کہ عالمی تبدیلیوں کے تناظر میں چین اور پاکستان نے مل کر ایک دوسرے سے تعاون کیا، آہنی دوستی کو فروغ دیا، چین پاکستان کیساتھ تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے، سٹریٹجک روابط کو مضبوط بنانے، تمام شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون کو فروغ دینے، تزویراتی شراکت داری کو مزید گہرا کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ اور

وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے بھی پاکستانی ہم منصب شہباز شریف اور اسحاق ڈار کے نام یوم پاکستان پر مبارکباد کے علیحدہ علیحدہ پیغامات بھیجے۔

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110879594&Issue=NP_K_HI&Date=20240324

Jang News

پاکستان نے مختلف خطرات اور چیلنجز پر قابو پایا ہے، چینی صدر

چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان نے مختلف خطرات اور چیلنجز پر قابو پایا ہے، انہوں نے پاکستانی صدر آصف علی زرداری کو یوم پاکستان پر مبارکباد کا پیغام بھیجا ہے۔ ہفتہ کے روز چینی میڈیا گروپ کے مطابق شی جن پنگ نے نشاندہی کی کہ حالیہ برسوں میں پاکستان نے مختلف خطرات اور چیلنجز پر قابو پایا ہے، قومی تعمیر میں نئی پیش رفت کی ہے اور بین الاقوامی امور میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا، زمانے اور تاریخ کی تبدیلیوں کے تناظر میں، چین اور پاکستان نے مل کر ایک دوسرے کی مدد کی ہے، اور "آہنی" دوستی کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ صدر شی نے کہا کہ وہ چین پاکستان تعلقات کی ترقی کو بہت اہمیت دیتے ہیں اور صدر زرداری کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک رابطوں کو مضبوط بنانے، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تمام شعبوں میں تبادلوں اور تعاون کو فروغ دینے اور چین اور پاکستان کے مابین چاروں موسموں کی تزویراتی شراکت داری کو مزید گہرا کرنے کے لیے تیار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نئے دور میں مزید قربت کے حامل چین پاکستان ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تعمیر کو تیز کیا جائے گا۔ اسی دن چین کے وزیر اعظم لی چھیانگ اور سی پی سی کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے سیاسی بیورو کے رکن اور چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے بالترتیب پاکستانی وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اور وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار کے نام یوم پاکستان پر مبارکباد کے پیغامات بھیجے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/654279%22>

Nawaiwaqt News

یورپ کے مقابلے میں کم شرح سود، چینی مارکیٹ میں داخل ہونے کا بہترین موقع

پاکستان نے چین کی سرمائے کی مارکیٹ میں جانے کا فیصلہ یورپ سمیت دوسرے ممالک میں بلند شرح سود کی وجہ سے کیا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا کہ حکومت کو توقع ہے کہ چین کی سرمایہ کی مارکیٹ سے یورپ کے مقابلے میں کم شرح سود قرضہ مل سکے گا۔ واضح رہے کہ وزیر خزانہ نے مارکیٹ کے لیے پانڈا بانڈ جاری کرنے کا اعلان کیا جس کا حجم 300 بلین ڈالر ہو گا۔ بانڈ کا اجراء ایک پیچیدہ اور طویل عمل ہے، جس میں پاکستانی قوانین کے ساتھ ساتھ اس مارکیٹ کے قوانین کی پاسداری کرنا پڑتی ہے جہاں کے سرمایہ کار ایسے خریدیں گے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان کی طرف سے سٹینڈ بائی آرینجمنٹ کو کامیابی سے مکمل کرنے، نئے پروگرام کے لیے بات چیت کے اعلان سے پاکستان کے لیے بہت سے بہتر مواقع پیدا کر دیئے ہیں۔ اس وقت کرنٹ اکاؤنٹ 128 بلین مثبت ہے، جس کی روشنی میں کرنٹ اکاؤنٹ خسارہ کا متوقع ہدف چھ بلین ڈالر سے کم کر کے دو بلین ڈالر کیا گیا ہے۔ پاکستان کے لیے غیر ملکی فنانسنگ کا گپ جو تخمینہ پہلے 17 ارب ڈالر لگا یا گیا تھا اب 11 بلین ڈالر تک گر گیا ہے۔ پاکستان کے آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ معاہدے کی اطلاعات کی وجہ سے پاکستان کے ساورن بانڈ کوئی تقویت ملی، تجزیہ نگاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ چائنا کی مارکیٹ میں داخل ہونے کا یہ بہترین موقع ہے۔ ترکی نے اپنے شرح سود میں اضافہ کیا ہے۔ جاپان نے اپنے منفی شرح سود کو مثبت کیا ہے۔ انگلینڈ اور روس نے اپنی شرح سود میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں کی ہے۔ اس میں پاکستان کو توقعات کے یورپ بانڈ کے مقابلے میں پانڈا بانڈ میں پاکستان کو مناسب ریٹ پر مل سکتا ہے اور چائنا کی مارکیٹ پر مسلسل توجہ رکھی جائے گی۔ ملکی بجٹ دستاویز بھی بتا رہی ہے رواں مالی سال میں 2724 ارب روپے کی نیٹ ایکسٹرٹل فنانسنگ کی ضرورت ہے، دوطرفہ اور کثیر القومی ذرائع سے 1586 ارب روپے جمع ہونا ہے جب کہ کمرشل اور یورپ بانڈ کا شیئر 1138 ارب روپے ہے، اس لئے سکوک اور دیگر بانڈز کا اجرا بھی مناسب وقت پر ہو سکتا ہے۔ تاہم اسن کے ساتھ پانڈا بانڈ کے اجراء کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ فنانسنگ کو پورا کرنے کے لیے جو وسائل رکھے گئے ہیں ان میں نجکاری سے صرف 15 ارب روپے وصولی کا ہدف ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-24/page-1/detail-4>

March 25, 2024

The Express Tribune

China adopts quality growth model

Salman Siddiqui

China – the second-largest global economy – has officially launched “new quality productive forces” early this month to pursue high-quality development, aimed at further accelerating its economic output through deploying latest innovations and technologies where quality will take center stage in all fields of life. The tech advancement is expected to help introduce new industries and foster the global economy, as the share of Beijing in the world economy stood at 30% in 2023. It has been connected with around 150 nations through its aggressive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The quality productive forces are expected to further expand the influence of China, enabling it to challenge and change the world order, and give a tough time to competitors such as the US and India. Also, it has a lot to offer to its friends like Pakistan to spur growth. Talking to The Express Tribune, China International Press Communication Centre Research and Media Fellow Muhammad Zamir Assadi said the new quality productive forces comprised cloud computing, Big Data, 5G advance internet, robotics, Internet of Things, high-end manufacturing and artificial intelligence. Beijing is going to increasingly deploy innovative techniques and advanced technology, as it believes that conventional and traditional productive models have become obsolete with partial failure to perform during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said such productive forces had already become the driving force in the Chinese economy, but “this time around the focus is on quality along with quantity”. The adoption of the new model will gradually accelerate instead of coming into force overnight. He elaborated that China had set an ambitious agenda through presenting the “Government Work Report 2024” at the annual legislators’ meeting of its two houses (parliament) held in the early days of March. Every year, the annual meeting reviews progress on plans presented last year and sets new-year agenda. The week-long meeting takes up all sectors one by one including the economy, foreign policy and social areas like healthcare and education. This year, President Xi Jinping has launched the new quality productive forces in pursuance of high-quality development. Assadi said China achieved economic growth of 5.2% (worth 126 trillion yuan) in 2023 compared to average 7% growth in years before the pandemic and lockdowns in late 2019. The Government Work Report has set the GDP growth target at 5% for the current year. Average growth will remain around 5% over the next four to five years, as the world is still recovering from shocks of the pandemic including high inflation. He dismissed fears that the introduction of high-quality forces would increase the cost of production and the rate of unemployment in China. Assadi contended that the government of President Xi had remained cautious that the cost of production should not go up while applying new forces and the job market continued to flourish. The inflation measured by the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained moderate at 3% in 2023 and it is estimated to stand at low levels this year and in the future. He said the Chinese government had targeted to create 12 million new urban jobs in 2024, indicating that the new forces would provide employment opportunities instead of rendering

people jobless. In addition, the unemployment rate has got better at 5.5%, which is lower than those in Europe and the US. Chinadaily.com reported that the concept of new quality productive forces, first coined by Xi in 2023 during an inspection in the northeast Heilongjiang province, was highlighted at a key meeting last December and became the subject of a group study session of the Communist Party of China leadership earlier this year. In this year's top legislature meeting, the concept dominated policy discussions in many areas and was placed as a top priority in the Government Work Report.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reports that the term refers to new productive forces that emerge from continuous advances in science and technology, driving strategic future and emerging industries that could introduce breakthrough technological advancements in the era of intelligent information. Xi underscored the importance of leveraging new technologies to upgrade traditional industries and promote the high-end, intelligent and green transformation of industrial units, it said. Assadi emphasized that the new forces of quality productivity would benefit the entire world, particularly those connected with Beijing through BRI like Pakistan, and revolutionize global growth, which had remained sluggish since the pandemic. "When China grows, the world grows and when the Chinese economy moves, the world economy moves," he remarked.

The research and media fellow defended China, saying that it never claimed it was going to challenge the world order and had ambitions to become the superpower by achieving the title of largest economy. However, it has kept on modernizing its industries and productive forces and has continued to grow since the introduction of reforms and opening up of the economy in 1978.

The high quantitative productive model (now high-quality productive model) has improved lives of 800 million people in China, bringing them above the poverty line over the past 40 years. It aggressively increased the per capita income and the purchasing power of people. Such developments have divided the US public and private sector companies, encouraging the latter to set up businesses in China in search for the right market and right customers for their products. World's largest tech company Apple, based in the US, has very recently opened mega outlets in Shanghai as it believes the country, having 1.4 billion population, has the right consumers with a high purchasing power. He was of the view that the Indian economy would never supersede China's as a large part of population of the former still lives below the poverty line, sleeps at the roadside and many have no access to toilets. He, however, stressed that Pakistan could learn a lot from the Chinese growth models and experiences, and lift its economy to new highs, as Beijing has always remained supportive of Islamabad. China can assist Pakistan at length to fix the agriculture sector in line with its own efforts that lifted millions of people from below the poverty line in the recent past. Pakistan may also welcome the ageing industries of China to ramp up exports. China has already invested around \$30 billion in the past 10 years under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by setting up 8,000 megawatts of electricity generation plants, which helped address load-shedding and brought production activities back to normal in industries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2460410/china-adopts-quality-growth-model>

The Nation

Chinese Consulate holds send-off event for 3-year diploma students

KARACHI - Chinese Consulate General in Karachi has held a farewell party for students from Gwadar Institute of Technology in Balochistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. China's Consul General in Pakistan Yang Yundong attended the party held at the Consulate General in Karachi. The students hailing from various areas of Makran, completed their 3 years diploma in Civil Technology from Gwadar Institute of Technology (GIT). Chinese Consulate General encouraged the graduating students which will further be given opportunities to attain higher education at technical institutes in China. In addition to GIT, Pakistan-China Vocational Training Institute in Gwadar is also imparting technical and vocational skills to the local youth of Gwadar.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Mar-2024/chinese-consulate-holds-send-off-event-for-3-year-diploma-students>

Govt making strategy to accelerate work on SEZs, says Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD - Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Ahsan Iqbal has said that the federal government will pursue "OnePlusFour" strategy to accelerate work on special economic zones (SEZs) under the China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He announced this during his meeting here with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Gwadar Pro reported. The Minister presented the "OnePlusFour" strategy for accelerating Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the CPEC framework.

He informed the Chinese Ambassador that the government of Pakistan aimed to align the 5Es Framework with the future developments under CPEC in Phase II. The 5Es framework comprises five key areas including export-led growth: emphasizing the need to harness Pakistan's potential in agriculture, industry, IT, mining, and manpower export to achieve export-led growth and address trade deficits.

The minister stated that under the OnePlusFour model, each SEZ in Pakistan would be partnered with one province from China; one industry group to develop specialized clusters within the SEZs; one SEZ from China to provide technical expertise, and a state-owned enterprise to spearhead SEZ development.

This collaborative framework would expedite the establishment and growth of SEZs in Pakistan, enhancing their competitiveness and attractiveness to investors.

Discussions also centred on enhancing regional connectivity, with a special emphasis on critical infrastructure projects like the Gwadar Port and the M-8 Motorway, which will enhance trade links and facilitate regional integration.

They re-affirmed their commitment to the strategic vision of CPEC, recognizing it as a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Mar-2024/govt-making-strategy-to-accelerate-work-on-sezs-says-ahsan-iqbal>

The News

Gwadar attack, CPEC and big picture

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

After the withdrawal of US and Allied Forces from Afghanistan, it was expected peace would have a chance. It was assumed they had learned peace has no alternative.

War cannot serve humanity; it can only be a source of destruction. Thus, the US and its allies will become partners in peace and sustainable development. It was presumed the region would benefit from the dividend of peace. Stability will open doors to economic opportunities and sustainable development. Unfortunately, the expectations and sentiments could not last for long. Terrorist groups like ISIS started reemerging.

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai was pointing towards the ISIS presence in Afghanistan for many years. After the withdrawal, the ISIS and other terrorist groups started targeting countries—Pakistan was the first one. They attacked Pakistani forces, installations and innocent citizens. The analysis of terrorist attacks highlights terrorists have a special interest in the China-Pakistan relationship and the CPEC. They are continuously attacking CPEC-related projects and the employees working, especially in Balochistan. The latest episode is the Gwadar attack. Terrorists tried to target Gwadar Port area — the most valuable project, jewel of CPEC and future hub of connectivity. Fortunately, Pakistani forces were vigilant and they killed all of them. The initial assessment shows the attack has roots in foreign countries, and terrorists had the support of geopolitical players. The assessment can be supported by activities of terrorist groups in regional and extra-regional countries. For example, ISIS conducted a major terrorist attack in Russia. It attacked the innocent people that claimed many lives. Chinese initiatives, interests and investments are prime targets with the purpose of checking China's peaceful rise. Therefore, they are targeting CPEC and Chinese citizens in Pakistan. They perceive it is necessary to break China-Pakistan partnership so that it can flourish in the region and beyond. They assume if they are successful in damaging CPEC and creating differences between the two countries, they can easily target Chinese interest in other countries and create a web of chaos in China's surroundings. They have been working for many years to convince Pakistan to rethink its relationship with China. They launched warlord public diplomacy against Pakistan and the CPEC. They started numerous malicious campaigns, such as the debt trap etc. They are trying to blame CPEC for Pakistan's current economic crisis. They have deployed 5th generation warfare tools. They play with people's emotions by manipulating facts. They are trying to create differences between the provinces and the people of Pakistan. Fourth, they are putting all efforts to undermine China-Pakistan relationship. Against this backdrop, Pakistan has to redefine its security apparatus and devise a two-pronged security policy for national irritants and geopolitical players. On the domestic front, Pakistan must understand the second phase of CPEC is different from the first one. It revolves around industrial and agricultural cooperation. The infrastructure and personnel attached to the industry and agriculture will be widespread, and hundreds and thousands of workers will be working in the industry and agriculture programmes. Pakistan will not be able to deploy security personnel with

everyone. There is a need to revise the security structure and divide it into two segments. First, the police should be the leading force on the ground and deal with people because they have the required expertise to interact with people. The Army should only be deployed to protect critical infrastructure like Gwadar Port. Second, to counter FGW, Pakistan needs to apply the DIMEC (Diplomacy, Information, Military, Economy and Culture) framework. The core of FGW is that no single institution can ensure country's development, security and peace. All the pillars of DIMEC must work hand in hand. Concentrate on creation of a national narrative and avoid going for counter-narrative only. Draw specific programmes to protect people against emotional exploitation. Pakistan will have to erect institutions and mechanisms that can ensure equal job and economic opportunities, especially for common citizens, and elite capture must be avoided. On the geopolitical front, Pakistan will have to devise a proficient, multidimensional and smart policy. It should conduct a security audit, specifically of CPEC. The audit should focus not only on Pakistan's enemies but also its friends and competitors. It is common knowledge some of the friends of Pakistan are working with its enemies to maximize their economic interests. It is suggested the Army should take the lead, as ISI is well-trained, has resources, and most importantly, has the experience to protect the interests of Pakistan at the global level. The Foreign Office will have to fight the narrative war. All ministries and departments should support it, as narrative war is quite complex. Simultaneously, China and Pakistan should join hands to devise and deploy the security policy according to new realities. The terrorists have a global agenda beyond Pakistan. Moscow terrorist attack is the most relevant example. Moreover, geopolitical players have also launched 5th generation warfare, trade war, tech war and sanctions against China. They are not only attacking CPEC but also Chinese investments in Africa and other parts of the world.

However, CPEC, being a flagship project and a symbol of China-Pakistan iron brotherhood, is the prime target. In addition, US and its allies have also deployed financial institutions like the IMF etc. to pressure Pakistan to compromise on CPEC and its relations with China. Thus, both the nations must join hands to counter threats and minimize the risks.

China and Pakistan can start the work by launching innovative programmes to counter 5th generation warfare and malicious propaganda. For example, at the 3rd BRI Forum, President Xi introduced his vision of small programmes. Under this initiative, both the countries can jointly launch a pilot project for local fishermen and other communities in Gwadar. It will revolutionize the economy of region and curb the propaganda against CPEC. Pakistan and China can also enhance cooperation under the Global Security Initiative (GSI).

The GSI has all the ingredients to ensure people's security and prosperity, as it promotes partnership-building, coordinated policy and sustainable security for everyone. Moreover, through GSI, China and Pakistan can also engage with other friends and competitors to lower the risk. It will be a win-win formula for everyone. In conclusion, the new government in Balochistan must be supported to tackle security, livelihood and development issues. Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti seems to have the vigor to deliver.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1172070-gwadar-attack-cpec-and-big-picture>

March 26, 2024

Daily Times

PLA participation in Pak Day parade displays unique bonds: China

The Guard of Honor of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) participation in the Pakistan Day military parade in Islamabad fully demonstrated the unique bonds between the two countries and contributed a colorful chapter of military-to-military relationship, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday. At the invitation Pakistani military, a delegation of PLA Guard of Honor participated in the military parade in Islamabad, celebrating the 84th Pakistan Day, Lin Jian said during his regular briefing in response to a question raised by APP. The participation of PLA contingent fully demonstrated the unique bonds between the two countries and contributed a colorful chapter of mil-to-mil relationship, he added. During the event, the 36-member PLA Guard of Honor escorted Chinese national flag while marching across the avenue and shouted long live Pakistan-China friendship in Urdu in response to the audience warm applause. The spokesperson said that as all-weather strategic cooperative partners and the iron clad friends, China sincerely wishes Pakistan greater accomplishments and advance its national developments.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1180427/pla-participation-in-pak-day-parade-displays-unique-bonds-china/>

Dunya News

ISPR terms Besham attack 'a conscious effort' to damage Pak-China ties

RAWALPINDI – The Inter Services Public Relations on Tuesday condemned the Besham terrorist attack that claimed six lives including five Chinese nationals, saying a “conscious effort” is being made to sow discord between Pakistan and strategic allies and partners, most notably China. The military's media wing issued the statement after a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a convoy of engineers which was on its way from Islamabad to their camp in Dasu.

Five Chinese nationals and one Pakistani driver were killed in the attack. ISPR said the recent incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, notably in Gwadar, Turbat, and Besham, are dastardly acts aimed at destabilizing the internal security situation. “While the first two attempts were successfully thwarted by the armed forces, the latest incident at Besham led to the loss of 6 innocent civilians including 5 Chinese nationals.

The whole nation stands in solidarity with our Chinese brothers and unequivocally condemn this cowardly act,” read the official statement. Strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan's economic progress and the well-being of its people are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard our progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China, it said.

“Certain foreign elements are complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests. Despite the veneer of innocence, these elements are being continuously exposed as sponsors of terror,” it added.

Such heinous acts of violence against innocent civilians, foreigners and the armed forces will not deter the resolve of the Pakistani people, its security forces and our partners to root out the menace terrorism from our country.

“Pakistan, as the frontline state against terror, remains perhaps the only nation directly confronting the international terrorist enterprise with absolute steadfastness and full resolve of the state.”

“With the unwavering support of the resilient nation and our iron-clad ally China, we will ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance. Together we will prevail over adversity and evil.”

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/801038-ISPR-terms-Besham-attack-a-conscious-effort-to-damage-Pak-China-ties>

The Express Tribune

PM Shehbaz likely to visit China amid renewed terror threat

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to undertake an official visit to China next month as part of efforts to give a renewed push to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship programme of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but the latest terrorist attack is likely to overshadow the economic agenda.

As the dates were being finalized for Shehbaz’s maiden trip since he returned to the Prime Minister Office following the elections, another terrorist attack struck Chinese nationals in Basham on Tuesday.

An explosive laden vehicle hit the convey of Chinese engineers working on the Dasu Hydroelectric power project, leaving six dead including five Chinese nationals.

The attack was the latest in a series of attacks that targeted Chinese nationals and interests over the past few years. This was the third attack in a week that directly or indirectly seems to have targeted the Chinese interests.

The attacks on Gwadar Port Authority Complex, Naval airbase and now Bisham assault all were apparently aimed at undermining the China-Pakistan cooperation.

Following this spate of attacks, the security of Chinese projects and Chinese nationals would remain high on the agenda when Shehbaz travels to Beijing next month, according to the sources. Pakistan at the time accused the Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies of being behind the attack, though no group publicly took responsibility.

However, the fact that terrorists managed to strike again in the same area raised questions about the security measures. Pakistan created a separate army division headed by a major general to provide security to CPEC projects and the people working on them. Given that China would not take the latest attack lightly, Pakistan’s civil and military leadership were swift in condemning the Bisham attack. Prime Minister Shehbaz went to the Chinese Embassy to express his condolences. The prime minister assured the Chinese ambassador that his government would investigate the incident at the highest level and bring to justice all those responsible for it. A statement issued by the foreign office said the government of

Pakistan strongly condemned the heinous act of terrorism. "We will take all necessary measures to bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. Such dastardly acts cannot dent the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism," it said. "Today's attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship. We will resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them."

It said the people and government of Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Chinese friends in this difficult time and extend sincere condolences to the families of the Chinese nationals killed in the attack. "Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. The life and safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is of paramount importance. Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan," the statement further said. China has been increasingly concerned over the security of CPEC and its nationals in view of the repeated attacks. In July 2021, at least nine engineers working on the Dasu project were killed in a suicide attack in the Kohistan region. The Chinese suspended the work for months before Pakistan introduced new measures to tighten security.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2460594/pm-shehbaz-likely-to-visit-china-amid-renewed-terror-threat>

The Nation

China's CG calls on Sindh CS

KARACHI - The Consul General (CG) of China Yang Yundong called on the Sindh Chief Secretary (CS) Syed Asif Hyder Shah at the Sindh Secretariat here on Monday.

They discussed issues of mutual interest including the promotion of bilateral relations. On the occasion, the Sindh chief secretary assured the Chinese Consul General of the Sindh government's support and said that the provincial government and the people of Sindh valued their brotherly relations with China.

He further said that there were very good investment opportunities for Chinese companies and businessmen in energy and waste-water treatment plants as well as agriculture sectors in the Sindh province.

Syed Asif Hyder Shah said that he appreciated the cooperation of the Chinese government during the flood and COP conference.

They agreed to work in the agriculture and technology sectors in Sindh. Later on, the Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong thanked the provincial government for its support and cooperation.

The Chief Secretary Sindh presented a traditional Sindhi cap and Ajrak to the Chinese Consul General. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah presided over an important meeting regarding the Kisan Card at the Sindh Secretariat on Monday.

The attendees included Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Ahmed Buriro, Senior Member Board of Revenue Baqaullah Unnar, CEO Sindh People's Housing Foundation Khalid Mahmood

Sheikh, and other officials. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah stated that the decision to launch the Kisan card was taken in the Sindh cabinet meeting.

Kisan Card will be issued to smallholders owning up to 12.5 acres of land. The Kisan Card offers several benefits to participating farmers. Cardholders will receive priority when purchasing wheat and the Kisan Card will also provide assistance in the event of natural disasters.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Mar-2024/china-s-cg-calls-on-sindh-cs>

China urges Pakistan to 'severely punish perpetrators' of Shangla attack

Strongly condemning the suicide attack on the Dasu Hydropower Project staff, Chian on Tuesday urged Pakistan to “severely punish” perpetrators' of the terrorist attack. At least six people including five Chinese nationals were killed after their vehicle was attacked in Shangla's Besham city. According to the Malakand's deputy inspector general of police (DIG), a suicide bomber crashed his vehicle full of explosives into the car in which the Chinese nationals were travelling.

In a statement, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said: “At around 1pm on 26th March local time, a Chinese company’s bus carrying staff on the Dasu Hydropower Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province was hit by terrorist attack. 5 Chinese citizens and 1 Pakistani citizen were unfortunately deceased.”

The embassy and Consulates General in Pakistan expressed deep condolences to the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families. It further said that they were making every effort to handle the aftermath together with the Pakistani side. The embassy further said that it has launched an emergency plan immediately, requesting the Pakistani side to “thoroughly investigate the attack and severely punish the perpetrators”. All necessary measures were being taken to protect the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Pakistan, and to ensure such incidents will not happen again, it added.

In addition to this, the embassy reminded Chinese citizens, enterprises in Pakistan to pay close attention to the security situation, enhance security alerts, strengthen security measures, and make every effort to take safety precautions. It was not the first time that Chinese nationals came under attack in Dasu, the site of a major dam, as 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals, were killed in an explosion in 2021. Chinese engineers are currently working on a number of projects in Pakistan with Beijing investing over \$65 billion in infrastructure works as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under Beijing's wider Belt and Road initiative. No one claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack, nor was there a claim for the 2021 attack. "Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan," it said in a statement.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Mar-2024/china-urges-pakistan-to-severely-punish-perpetrators-of-shangla-attack>

The Nation

China, the neighbour: ‘In a way’

Musharraf Zaidi

What did Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar mean when, during a press conference in London, he clearly listed Pakistan’s immediate neighboring countries as Afghanistan, Iran and India, but then said that China was a neighbour “in a way”? The explanation he would likely provide is that one is reading too much into the flubbing of a simple description of Pakistan’s sovereign territory – that he spoke in the ‘flow’ and that he is a responsible and senior leader and doesn’t need naysayers nit-picking his every word as the foreign minister. All of this may be true. He may have distinguished China being a neighbour “in a way” that is different from Afghanistan, Iran and India just as one may cough or clear one’s throat, or touch one’s beard, during the utterance of an important sentence, with no deeper meaning or intent. The timing and the specific implications of this distinction however are not so easy to ignore. I will explain why the implications matter, but to do so, we need to step back and understand how India conducts its relationship with Pakistan. Since before taking office as India’s prime minister, Narendra Modi has been slicing and dicing clumsy foreigners desperate for a piece of the India action. His approach to India’s standing in the world is concerted, highly disciplined, consistent, purpose-driven and visionary. Prime Minister Modi knew who his key people and key ministers would be, years before he had an opportunity to assign them their roles. He stands alone today among living Indian leaders, and in part this is because he does not act alone or in isolation. He is part of a mission-driven organization (the RSS) that has exercised Karmic discipline in its quest to ‘cleanse’ India and restore it to the RSS’s conception of the greatness and goodness of a Hindu Rashtra. This mission enjoys the support of nearly every segment of society because the mission has been engineered to cater to those segments. PM Modi’s approach to India’s standing in the world includes within it a wholesale transformation in the Pakistan-India relationship. The driver for this is not merely the RSS-driven ideological superiority that India asserts in nearly every public (and mostly oblique) reference to Pakistan. It is also part of a larger picture that Indian diplomats and leaders have been painting about India. Modi’s wider Pakistan logic is quite simple. Pakistan is too small for India to be seen as paying it any more attention than any other relatively minor relationship. In this way, Modi is the leader many Indian strategists (including those of a secular persuasion) in South Block have been waiting for their entire lives. Combined, India’s thought leaders and diplomats have convinced themselves and most of the rest of the world that India is too big to be hyphenated with Pakistan. They feel that if third parties (be they countries, or multilateral organizations, or the wider international media) continue to see India through the lens of its difficult relationship with Pakistan – they will continue to see a side of India that they don’t want anyone (including Pakistanis) to see. All this has converged nicely with an incredible run of pure GDP growth that has elevated millions out of stark poverty and into lives of hopefulness and optimism about their economic future. In the decade since PM Modi became prime minister, India has graduated from being a middle power that just couldn’t ever get it right to being a global power that can do no wrong. It has gone from being an uncertain nagging neighbour to Pakistan (and to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

and Nepal) to being an assertive and confident presence in the Quad with Japan, Australia and the United States, and an aggressive (even if for show) adversary to China. In short, India has put on its big-boy pants, and it doesn't want to splash around in the kiddie pool anymore. Now to understand how this transformation was executed with respect to Pakistan, it is important to remember the enduring facet of PM Modi's leadership of India on the international stage: patient, well-prepared and mission-driven. PM Modi began engagement with Pakistan before he became PM. The year was 2013, Manmohan Singh was still prime minister of India, and the US had yet to undo the sanctions imposed on then chief minister Modi – for his presiding role in the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat. In the summer of 2013, newly elected to office, then-PM Nawaz Sharif continued a steady stream of public overtures for normalization. Back then, PM Sharif had not yet been ambushed by his subordinates through their sponsorship of the 2014 dharna. Not knowing how things would go in the Indian election anticipated for 2014, then-PM Sharif tasked his cabinet to move quickly to establish a template for cross-border trade. The business case for opening up trade had been prepared by academics and scholars and had enjoyed broad political support across all parties – even the still patriotic PTI. Big businesses in Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad and Karachi could all see the obvious convergences that would enable access to India's exciting consumer market for their products. Real-estate mafiosos could see Sikh families investing in hotel, retail and residential properties to enable and deepen the possibilities of spending more time near Nankana Sahib and Hassanabdal. Many of these commercial opportunities predated the 2013 government and several had been worked on intensively during the Musharraf regime. By December 2013, in keeping with his track record of doing things fast, Nawaz Sharif had moved beyond rhetoric and had sent then-chief-minister Punjab Shehbaz Sharif to meet with Manmohan Singh's commerce minister, Anand Sharma. India's highly skilled hawks in South Block, fearing the speed at which Nawaz Sharif wanted to go, objected to dialogue between Anand Sharma (equivalent of a full federal minister) with Pakistan's then-state minister for commerce, Khurram Dastgir, because of Indian delegation protocols. As a result, on January 16, 2014, a day before scheduled talks between the commerce ministries, Dastgir Khan was elevated to full federal minister. A trade deal that included MFN reciprocity was agreed upon at those talks (in continuance of the work that had been done by former foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar with her then counterpart SM Krishna in 2012). Excitement was high on both sides of the Radcliffe Line. An 'India Show' trade exhibition was organized jointly by the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and scheduled, unironically, on February 14, 2014. Alas, Valentine's Day never came. The show was cancelled hours before it was to begin. The rapid pace of talks between Sharma and Dastgir ground to a halt and suddenly all momentum dissipated into the thick, smog of East and West Punjab. Legend has it that seeing the rapid pace of the commerce minister talks in January 2014, Narendra Modi assigned a key confidante to reach out to Nawaz Sharif and ask him to slow down the pace so that this trade deal could be engineered anew by a strong government with a fresh mandate than by the lame duck government of Manmohan Singh. A lot has happened since then, but this history is instructive because it is the tone that it set that continued to inform how India under Modi seeks to conduct relations with Pakistan. India will set the terms (do this, say this, don't do this, don't say this) and Pakistan (a struggling middle power) will be afforded dialogue with

India (an unstoppable global power). Before Modi's election, Nawaz Sharif was asked to delay his own commerce ministers' deal. At Modi's inauguration in 2014 Nawaz Sharif was asked not to meet with the Hurriyet. At Ufa in 2015, Nawaz Sharif was asked to exclude Kashmir from the Pakistan-India joint statement. There is a pattern here and it doesn't take rocket science to figure out what it is. Pakistan's agreeability was robust and innovative then. The world has changed. It would be lazy and dangerous today. One way to try to understand what Ishaq Dar meant when he distinguished Pakistan's shared borders with China, from the other three immediate neighbours is to remember that India under Modi has gone from testing the nerve of Pakistani elites to outright running over it. Could the long-standing backchannel have asked Nawaz Sharif to indicate Pakistan's willingness to demonstrate openness to accommodating India's insistence on equating Azad Jammu and Kashmir (and more crucially Gilgit-Baltistan) with Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir? Hence the 'in a way' border with China? Could Ishaq Dar's little fumble in London be a deliberate effort to signal Pakistan's seriousness in continuing to seek dialogue with India? Recent history, both from Nawaz Sharif circa 2014 to 2017 and Qamar Javed Bajwa circa 2019 to 2022. Would indicate no hesitation among the Pakistani elite to engage in such dangerous and foolhardy 'diplomacy'. Of course, it could just have been nothing.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1172273-china-the-neighbour-in-a-way>

Army vows action against perpetrators of Shangla attack as Chinese engineers among 6 killed

After a dastardly terrorist attack that killed six including five Chinese nationals in Shangla on Tuesday, the military pledged to ensure accountability of all the elements involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, with the help of Pakistan's long-standing ally China, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. As the country witnessed rise in terrorism, another militant attack sent shock waves across the country when an explosives-laden vehicle crashed into a car carrying five Chinese engineers in Shangla's Besham city while they rode to Dasu camp, Kohistan from Islamabad, killing all passengers including a woman and Pakistani national driver. "Certain foreign elements are complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests. Despite the veneer of innocence, these elements are being continuously exposed as sponsors of terror," the military's media wing said in a statement condemning the attack. It said that the recent incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, notably in Gwadar, Turbat, and Besham, are dastardly acts aimed at destabilizing the internal security situation. While the first two attempts were successfully thwarted by the armed forces, the latest incident in Besham led to the loss of six innocent civilians including five Chinese nationals. The whole nation stands in solidarity with our Chinese brothers and unequivocally condemned this cowardly act, the ISPR added. "Strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan's economic progress and the well-being of its people are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard our progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China," it said. "Pakistan, as the frontline state against terror, remains perhaps the only nation directly confronting the international terrorist enterprise with absolute steadfastness and full resolve of the state. "With the unwavering support of the resilient nation and our iron-clad ally China,

we will ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance. Together we will prevail over adversity and evil,” it added... The attack-Confirming attack on Chinese nationals, Malakand deputy inspector general of police (DIG) said that a Pakistani citizen who was driving the targeted car was injured in the attack and was shifted to a local hospital. Later, the driver succumbed to his wounds during treatment. After the attack, a heavy contingent of security personnel arrived at the incident’s site and cordoned off the area. Security forces have launched a search operation in the area for the suspects. Taking notice of the incident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the Chinese embassy in Islamabad and extended condolences to the Chinese ambassador over the unfortunate incident. Earlier, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also visited the embassy informed the Chinese ambassador about the details of the attack and deaths of Chinese engineers. Reacting to the incident, President Asif Ali Zardari, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulber Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Punjab, KP and Sindh chief ministers and others strongly condemned the attack, saying that such efforts to harm Pakistan’s ties with China will never get successful. A fierce terrorist attack on a security forces' check post in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan, KP on March 16, resulted in martyrdom of seven Pakistan Army soldiers — including a lieutenant colonel and captain. The military has said that the continuous use of Afghan soil is behind the “growing terrorism in Pakistan”, saying that the rise in terror attacks is a result of supply of modern weapons into the country “with the help of Afghan Taliban”.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1172553-army-vows-action-against-perpetrators-of-shangla-attack-as-chinese-engineers-among-6-killed>

Express News

پاکستانی برآمدات میں امریکا، چین اور برطانیہ سرفہرست

ماہ میں امریکا کو پاکستانی برآمدات کا حجم 626 ارب ڈالر ریکارڈ کیا گیا ٹرکوں کی فروخت میں ماہانہ بنیادوں پر اضافہ، بسوں کی فروخت میں کمی 8

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) امریکا، چین اور برطانیہ جاری مالی سال کے دوران برآمدات کے حوالے سے سرفہرست ممالک رہے، پاکستان پوروربرائے شہاریات اور اسٹیٹ بینک کی جانب سے جاری کردہ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق جاری مالی سال کے پہلے 8 ماہ میں امریکا کو پاکستانی برآمدات کا حجم 3 اعشاریہ 626 ارب ڈالر ریکارڈ کیا گیا جو گزشتہ مالی سال کی مدت کے مقابلے میں 10.38 فیصد کم ہے، گزشتہ مالی سال کی اسی مدت میں امریکا کو 4.04 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات ریکارڈ کی گئی تھی۔ مالی سال کے پہلے 8 ماہ میں چین کو ایک اعشاریہ 89 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات ریکارڈ کی گئی جو گزشتہ مالی سال کی اسی مدت کے مقابلے میں 42 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔ برطانیہ کو ایک اعشاریہ 35 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات ریکارڈ کی گئی جو گزشتہ مالی سال کی اسی مدت کے مقابلے میں معمولی زیادہ ہیں۔ دوسری جانب ملک میں ٹرکوں کی فروخت میں فروری کے دوران ماہانہ بنیادوں پر اضافہ ہوا جبکہ بسوں کی فروخت میں کمی ریکارڈ کی گئی آل پاکستان آٹو مینوفیکچررز ایسوسی ایشن کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق فروری میں ملک میں ٹرکوں کے 290 یونٹس کی فروخت ریکارڈ کی گئی جو جنوری کے مقابلے میں 65 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق فروری 2024 کے دوران ملک میں بسوں کے 63 یونٹس کی فروخت ریکارڈ کی گئی جو جنوری کے مقابلے میں 5 فیصد کم ہے۔

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110883410&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20240326

March 27, 2024

Business Recorder

Early completion of Gwadar power plant ordered

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal directed the authorities concerned to expedite the construction of the Gwadar Power Plant.

The minister made these directions while chairing a meeting to review the progress of Gwadar Power Plant. The meeting was attended by the officials of the ministry, the managing director Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), the Minister Counsellor from the Chinese Embassy Yang Guangyuan, and other relevant stakeholders.

It was noted that the PPIB is processing the 300MW coal power project at Gwadar, being developed by M/s CIHC Pak Power Company (Pvt) Limited (CPPCL). The project is on the “priority list” of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and holds paramount importance for the energy infrastructure and economic development of the region.

“The supply of electricity is essential in Gwadar and no delay will be accepted,” said the minister while directing the concerned stakeholders to remove all the bottlenecks and start the construction work immediately.

Terming Gwadar “the gateway of CPEC”, the minister said that the incumbent government has expedited the implementation of phase 2 of the CPEC while integrating it with five new economic corridors.

The development of Gwadar Port City, New Gwadar International Airport, and East Bay Expressway is going to transform the city of Gwadar into a maritime trade hub and a new smart port for the region.

It will also lead to industrialization in Balochistan, he said.

It was noted that all major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, distribution of 2,000 boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connects Makran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

During PDM’s tenure, several projects were completed by the then government in Gwadar particularly related to water and electricity that were neglected by the previous government deliberately. Besides, in budget 2023-24, the allocation of development funds for Balochistan had been doubled.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/27/1-page/988840-news.html>

Dawn News

Accord on CPEC's second phase soon, says PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday revealed that an agreement on the second phase of CPEC would soon be signed with China under which the ML-I rail project would be started and economic zones established across the country to boost economic activities. The premier made the announcement while addressing the 'Tax Excellence Awards' ceremony, shortly before a suicide attack in Shangla claimed six lives, including five Chinese workers. He said Pakistan enjoyed excellent ties with China and the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would expedite economic development. He said the government has no other option but to go for another IMF programme, adding that the programme didn't stop "us from increasing our growth and exports and expanding the tax net. We will ensure no more inflation due to the next IMF programme." He termed another IMF programme a requirement for the country's economic stability. The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was accelerating investment prospects by removing hurdles. He said the government was outsourcing airports, besides expediting the privatization of PIA, and regretted that state-owned enterprises were making billions of rupees of losses annually. Terming the highest tax-payers heroes of the nation, PM Shehbaz announced significant incentives for them, including issuance of blue passport and conferring of Pakistan Honour Cards and honorary title of ambassadors of the country upon them. He said about Rs65 billion refunds had been issued to exporters upon his directive and he had also ordered making it a routine matter without any leniency. He stressed that the government and private sector had to work closely to overcome economic issues and challenges being faced by the country. He said the federal government with the support of provincial governments would address the issues faced by the private sector and end red tape by providing them enabling circumstances so that they could tread upon the development path. He reiterated the nation should get rid of costly oil-churning power units to provide competitive power supply to industries, adding that he had directed the authorities concerned to do away with such junk. About the Federal Board of Revenue, PM Shehbaz said the government was taking measures for its complete restructuring and a consultant would be appointed next month for that purpose. He said that about Rs27bn was under litigation whereas the revenue target was set at Rs9 trillion. He underscored the need for appointment of competent tribunal heads to expeditiously dispose of the pending litigation, adding that he had also appealed to the chief justice of Pakistan for speedy disposal of such cases at the upper tiers. He said the country's tax collection stood at around 9pc of GDP which was the lowest in the region while a huge chunk of tax was siphoned off. If this massive leakage is not plugged, further imposition of taxes would not yield results, he said. The premier appreciated the tax collectors and relevant departments who, he said, would also be given public recognition. He emphasized upon an exports-led growth, boosting of IT and agriculture development.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1823968/accord-on-cpecs-second-phase-soon-says-pm-shehbaz>

Dunya News

Shehbaz ponders upon protecting Chinese in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News/Web Desk) – As China pressed Pakistan for severely punish those involved in Shangla terror attack, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif convened an emergency meeting on Wednesday (today) to discuss the matters related to the security of Chinese working in the country on different projects. With Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir and the heads of different spy agencies among the participants, as the country’s leadership is analysing the latest situation developing after the rise in terrorism acts, with a special focus on how to the secure the Chinese citizens in the country. Five Chinese engineers and a local driver were killed when a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into their convoy on Tuesday, as they headed back to their base camp near Dasu – the headquarters of Upper Kohistan district – from Islamabad. Reacting to the barbaric attack, the Chinese embassy in a statement strongly condemned the terrorist attack and said they were making every effort to handle the aftermath together with the Pakistani side. And emergency plan had been launched immediately, the statement read which also mentioned a request to Islamabad to thoroughly investigate the attack and severely punish the perpetrators. The Chinese mission in Pakistan was taking all necessary measures to protect its citizens, institutions and projects in Pakistan, it added.

ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE CPEC

Also on Tuesday, the prime minister rushed to the Chinese embassy in Islamabad soon after the terror attack and promised blanket security for the Chinese nationals as well as a comprehensive probe into the suicide bombing. He said the government would not the nefarious attempts to undermine the relations between the two countries and sabotage the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

DESTABILISING PAKISTAN AND TARGETING CHINA

Separately, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the series of incidents over the past few days, including the Gwadar and Turbat attacks, were aimed at destabilizing the country and cited the role of foreign elements in fueling terrorism in Pakistan. An ISPR statement read, “Strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan’s economic progress and the well-being of its people are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard our progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China.” “With the unwavering support of the resilient nation and our iron-clad ally China, we will ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance. Together we will prevail over adversity and evil,” the ISPR said.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/801154-Shehbaz-to-ponder-upon-protecting-Chinese-in-Pakistan>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pak youth celebrate National Day

In a heartwarming gesture of friendship and solidarity, the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, in collaboration with the Beijing One Sphere Charity Foundation and the Zhixinxing Charity Team, made a generous donation to the local elderly orphans and orphans here at Dar-us-Salaam School. The event took place on 24 March, a day after the Pakistan National Day. Aiming to foster stronger ties and cultural exchanges between the youth of both countries, Chinese and Pakistani volunteers worked together with the school staff to pack and distribute supplies. A total of 200 families in the area received love packages, which include beans, flour, sugar, cooking oil and other daily necessities. They were warmly welcomed by the staff and students of Dar-us-Salaam School, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie. Malamazan, representing private businesses and volunteers, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the local community.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-youth-celebrate-national-day/>

The Nation

'Bid to sabotage China-Pakistan bonding will never succeed', says Beijing after Bisham suicide attack

After a deadly attack on Chinese engineers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian said Wednesday that attempt to sabotage China-Pakistan cooperation would ever succeed, and "Beijing remains firm in its commitment to working with Islamabad in various fields". Jian made the statement while addressing a regular press conference today after a fierce terrorist attack in Shangla district targeting a vehicle, resulting in killing of a woman among five Chinese nationals, and a Pakistani driver on Tuesday. China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to make the terrorists pay the price, the official said, adding: "Our two countries are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Our iron-clad friendship is deeply rooted in the two peoples." "We strongly condemn this act of terrorism. We express deep condolences over the lives lost and extend sincere sympathies to the bereaved families. We have previously stated our position on this incident," Jian reacted to the Shangla attack in which a suicide bomber crashed his explosives-laden car into the vehicle carrying the victims. He elaborated that Chinese foreign ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan activated the emergency response mechanism and swiftly engaged in emergency response and close communication with Pakistan both in Beijing and Islamabad. "We asked Pakistan to speed up the hunt for the perpetrators, punish them by law, let justice be done for the victims, and take effective steps to protect the safety and security of Chinese personnel in Pakistan." "Pakistan promised to thoroughly investigate the incident, provide timely updates on the progress of the investigation, strengthen security measures for Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and ensure the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Relevant work is proceeding in an orderly way." The official appreciated response from some countries which condemned the terrorist attack and extended condolences over the Chinese victims. "We reiterate that terrorism is a common enemy of humanity. It's the shared responsibility of the global community to fight terrorism and stop

such tragedies from happening again,” he added. Reiterating Beijing’s response, Jian said: “China firmly supports Pakistan in fighting terrorism. We are solid in our commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects overseas.” It was not the first time that Chinese nationals came under attack in Dasu, the site of a major dam, as 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals, were killed in an explosion in 2021. Chinese engineers are currently working on a number of projects in Pakistan with Beijing investing over \$65 billion in infrastructure works as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under Beijing’s wider Belt and Road initiative. No one claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s attack, nor was there a claim for the 2021 attack.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Mar-2024/bid-to-sabotage-china-pakistan-bonding-will-never-succeed-says-beijing-after-bisham-suicide-attack>

K2 Daily

تعلقات پر حملہ ناقابل برداشت ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ مسن انٹری ٹائلڈ خوش دھماکے کے فوری بعد جتنی سلاطت تانے بچے گئے جہاں انہوں نے جتنی سطر سے ملاقات کی۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ مسن انٹری نے جتنی سطر کو دھماکے کی تمام تھیلیات اور ہاتھوں کے بارے آگاہ کیا۔ مسن انٹری نے جانے دہرہ پر جاری رہنے کے آ رہے ہیں سے بھی جتنی سطر کو تھیلیات سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیر داخلہ نے ٹائلڈ میں دہشت گرد ملنے میں جتنی شہریوں کی اسات پر گہرے دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دھماکے اس گزری میں پوری پاکستانی قوم اپنے جتنی بھائیوں کے غم میں ہر ایک کی شریک ہے۔ دہشت گردی جہاں تھیلیات کو جتنی دہا کر اس میں ملوث عناصر سے اپنی ہاتھوں سے نہیں گے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان برادرانہ تعلقات پر حملہ ناقابل برداشت ہے۔ ان عظیم دو طرفہ تعلقات کو متاثر نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ نیشنل ایئر لائنز میں وفاقی وزیر داخلہ نے تربت نیشنل میں پروڈیٹ کر دیں کا سلسلہ کام بنانے پر سیکورٹی فورسز کو نراج حسین ٹائی کیا ہے۔ مسن انٹری نے کہا کہ سیکورٹی فورسز نے بہادری سے دھمکروں کے مضموم ہر ذمہ کو خاک میں ملایا اور دھمکروں کو جنم دہا کر نیشنل فورسز نے بروقت کارروائی کر کے ایک سال سے پہلے انہوں نے کہا کہ میں اپنی سیکورٹی فورسز کے بہادر جوانوں پر فخر ہے۔ شہید سیاسی نمان فریڈ کی قربانی کو نراج حقیقت میں جتنی کرتے ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کا سر یہ کہنا تھا کہ دھمکروں کے خلاف جنگ میں پوری قوم مسلح افواج کے ساتھ شانہ بستانہ کوزی ہے۔ دھمکروں کے دہا کو کوزے غم کے مہم میں گے۔

شاہد گلاؤ واقعہ پاک چین تعلقاً پر حملہ داخلہ؟
چینی سفیر سے ملاقات

واقعہ کی جامع تحقیقات کی جائیگی، ملوث عناصر کے ساتھ آہنی ہاتھوں سے نہیں گے، سفیر سے گفتگو

سیکورٹی فورسز نے تربت نیشنل میں پروقت کارروائی سے سانحہ کو روکنا ہونے سے روکا، بیان

اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) وزیر داخلہ مسن انٹری نے کہا ہے کہ دھماکے اس گزری میں کر اس میں ملوث عناصر سے اپنی ہاتھوں سے نہیں انٹری نے ٹائلڈ میں دہشت گرد ملنے میں جتنی پوری پاکستانی قوم اپنے جتنی بھائیوں کے غم میں گے، نیشنل فورسز کو نراج حسین ٹائی کیا ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان برادرانہ (جتنی سطر 6 بجے نمبر 41)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-03-27

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-03-27

Express News

گواڈر سی پیک گیٹ دے، پاور پلانٹ جلد تعمیر کریں: احسن اقبال

گواڈر میں بجلی کی فراہمی ضروری ہے، کوئی تاخیر قبول نہیں کی جائیگی

متعلقہ حکام اسلام آباد (اے پی پی، وقائع نگار) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات پروفیسر احسن اقبال نے متعلقہ حکام کو گواڈر پاور پلانٹ کی تعمیر میں تیزی لانے کی ہدایت جاری کی ہیں جبکہ گواڈر میں بجلی کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے حکومت کے بھرپور اقدامات کا اعادہ بھی کیا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے یہ ہدایات گواڈر پاور پلانٹ کی پیشرفت کا جائزہ لینے کے لئے منعقدہ اجلاس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے دیں۔ اجلاس میں وزارت کے مینجنگ ڈائریکٹر، پرائیویٹ پاور، انفراسٹرکچر بورڈ (پی پی آئی بی)، چینی سفارتخانے کے کمرشل منسٹر کونسولر، یانگ گوانگ یوان اور دیگر متعلقہ سٹیک ہولڈرز نے شرکت کی۔ وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال نے گواڈر کو سی پیک کا گیٹ دے قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت نے سی پیک کے فیئر 2 پر عملدرآمد کو تیز کیا ہے جبکہ اسے پانچ نئے اقتصادی راہداریوں کے ساتھ مربوط کیا ہے۔ گواڈر پورٹ سٹی، نیو گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ اور ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے کی ترقی گواڈر شہر کو ایک سمندری تجارتی مرکز اور خطے کے لئے ایک نئی سمارٹ بندرگاہ میں تبدیل واضح رہے کہ پی پی آئی بی گواڈر می 300 کرنے جا رہی ہے۔ اس سے بلوچستان میں صنعت کاری بھی ہوگی۔ میگاواٹ کول پاور پراجیکٹ پر کام کر رہا ہے

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110886743&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20240327

March 28, 2023

Business Recorder

Govt steps up security for Chinese

Government ramped up security guarding Chinese engineers building Beijing-linked projects in the nation's northwest, an official said Wednesday, a day after five workers were killed in a suicide bombing. Beijing is Islamabad's closest regional ally and Pakistan has benefitted from billions of dollars of investment in recent years but has struggled to guarantee the safety of Chinese migrant workers. The five Chinese engineers — plus their Pakistani driver — were killed while traveling between Islamabad and a hydroelectric dam construction site in Dasu, in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A high-ranking official from the provincial interior ministry told AFP on Wednesday that at the more than two dozen sites hosting Chinese engineers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa security was stepped up. "Directives have been issued to all law enforcement agencies to enhance security for Chinese nationals and all other foreigners," he said on condition of anonymity. "Instructions have also been given to foreign nationals to restrict their movements." Information minister Attaullah Tarar told a press conference in Islamabad that security procedures would be reviewed "with a focus on identifying and addressing any gaps". Meanwhile, further details emerged about the attack, which has yet to be claimed by any militant group. Local police officer Bakht Zahir said the five engineers killed near the city of Besham included four men and a woman, and that the bomber targeted the middle vehicle in a convoy of 12. "The suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into the convoy in the middle, detonating himself, causing the Chinese engineers' vehicle to fall into a 180-foot-deep (55-metre) ravine and catch fire," he said. —AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/28/1-page/989068-news.html>

Chinese investment: CCP to ink MoU with SAMR

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) to facilitate Chinese investment in Pakistan. According to the details released by the CCP, China has made significant investments in Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and various Chinese companies operating in the country. This investment is expected to increase manifold after the second stage of CPEC. To facilitate these expanding business activities, the CCP is preparing to put in place a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework. The CCP is poised to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), marking a significant milestone in bilateral cooperation. The MoU, which has received the final approval from the last Federal Cabinet, aims to enhance information sharing and technical capacity between the two countries. SAMR is a ministerial-level agency under China's State Council responsible for enforcing anti-monopoly laws and regulating markets. The signing of the MoU is expected to usher in a new era of collaboration between China and Pakistan regarding anti-trust matters. On October 19, 2023, a high-profile Chinese delegation led by Dr Gan Lin, Vice Minister of SAMR visited the CCP. Discussions between CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Vice Minister Gan Lin highlighted the strategic importance of a partnership focusing on enhancing market regulations, providing training and capacity building, sharing expertise in cartel detection, and collaborating on research projects to improve regulatory efficiency. The MoU will solidify the partnership between CCP and SAMR by establishing a framework for enhanced cooperation through bilateral meetings, training programs, workshops, research collaborations, experience sharing, exchange of information, and cooperation in the field of competition law and policy, CCP added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/28/72-page/989060-news.html>

Dawn News

GB Assembly sees plot to hurt Pak-China ties

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on Wednesday condemned the suicide attack on Chinese nationals and termed it a conspiracy to sabotage the Pakistan-China friendship.

Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the lawmakers vowed to protect the CPEC and Chinese nationals.

During the session chaired by Deputy Speaker Sadia Danish, opposition leader Kazim Mesum and Javed Ali Manwa and Wazir Saleem from the opposition benches tabled the resolution.

The resolution condemned the suicide attack on Chinese citizens in Bisham and the terrorist assault on a navy base at Turbat in Balochistan and said that attacks at the beginning and end of the CPEC route are alarming.

It paid great respect to all those who sacrificed their lives in the war on terrorism. Speaking on the issue, GB Minister for Law Sohail Abbas Shah suggested the resolution be declared unanimous.

Opposition member Manwa said the attack on Chinese nationals amid talks for IMF loan seems to be aimed at discouraging investment in Pakistan. Mr. Mesum called for preventive measures to avoid such incidents in future.

Later, the chair announced the resolution to have been passed unanimously. Meanwhile, Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, lawmakers, and political and religious leaders of GB condemned the terrorist attack on Chinese nationals. According to a statement, the CM said anti-national elements were trying to spoil the development and peace of Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1824171>

Dunya News

Pakistan to provide all possible security to Chinese citizens: Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The Foreign Office said on Thursday that the government will ensure all possible security of Chinese citizens residents in Pakistan. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said during the weekly briefing that Pakistan condemns all types of terrorism. The Pakistan government was in touch with Chinese counterpart, she said and added that Pakistan and China are neighbors and have strong brotherly relations. She assured Beijing that a thorough investigation of Bisham incident was being conducted and the perpetrators would not go unpunished. Regarding Kashmir and Palestine situation, she said that the ongoing Indian atrocities in its occupied valley should end. Pakistan would continue to support Kashmiris until they get right to self-determination, MS Baloch added. The spokesperson said the ongoing Israeli barbarism on unarmed Palestinian people must also end.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/801459-Pakistan-to-provide-all-possible-security-to-Chinese-citizens:-Foreign-O>

The News

2nd phase of CPEC: Pakistan team to visit China in May: minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday that a high-powered Pakistan delegation was expected to visit China probably in the first week of May 2024 for promotion of ties and accelerate implementation of second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In a brief chat with journalists after attending a prize distribution ceremony of Intelligent Project Automation System (IPAS) here on Wednesday, the minister said the government has decided to form a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe the highly condemnable killing of Chinese nationals at Dasu project. Earlier in his address, the minister said that all those who were spreading political instability were the worst enemies of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was passing through an economic crisis where debt servicing consumed all resources and even it had to borrow to pay back whopping debt repayments of Rs8,000 billion. He said the government had to borrow more to meet all other expenditure heads including defence, development, salaries, pensions and running of the government. He said Pakistan would have to abandon import substitution strategy with export led growth. If Pakistan's economy achieves growth of 5 percent till 2047, then the size of the economy

could go up to \$1.2 trillion, if growth clinched 7 percent, then it could go up to \$2 trillion and if achieved 9 percent, then the size of the economy could be jacked up to \$3 trillion till 2047. Stressing on the importance of digital upgrade of public sector organizations, Ahsan Iqbal shared that the digital revolution currently under process in the global arena will completely revolutionize the world in the next 10 years. "The way we live, work and learn will be fully automated in near future," the minister stated. Intelligent automation systems have eased everyday processes in all public sector organizations across the developed world. Therefore, there is a pressing need for Pakistan government to automate its processes on priority.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1173119-2nd-phase-of-cpec-pakistan-team-to-visit-china-in-may-minister>

Express News

چیز مین واپڈا کا چینی سفیر کے ہمراہ واسوپراجیکٹ کا دورہ

سائٹ پر چینی ورکرز کے ساتھ وقت گزارا، قیمتی جانوں کے ضیاع پر تعزیت کا اظہار

ادارے واقعہ کی تحقیقات کر رہے، سکیورٹی انتظامات کو مزید بہتر کیا جا رہا ہے، سجاد غنی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چیز مین واپڈا انجینئر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل سجاد غنی (ریٹائرڈ) نے گزشتہ روز چینی انجینئرز اور کارکنوں کے ساتھ پیش آئے دہشت گردی کے واقعہ کے پس منظر میں واسو ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کا دورہ کیا۔ ان کے دورے کا مقصد واسو ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر کام کرنے والے چینی انجینئرز اور دیگر کارکنوں کے ساتھ واپڈا کی جانب سے یکجہتی کا اظہار کرنا تھا۔

پاکستان میں متعین چینی سفیر جیانگ رائی ڈونگ نے چیز مین واپڈا کے ہمراہ پراجیکٹ سائٹ پر چینی ورکرز کے ساتھ وقت بھی گزارا۔ چیز مین واپڈا نے واسوپراجیکٹ کے کنٹریکٹرز چین سے تعلق رکھنے والی تعمیراتی کمپنی "چائے گزوبہ گروپ کمپنی" کے کنسٹرکشن ٹیمپ کا دورہ کیا۔

دہشت گردی کے مذکورہ افسوس ناک واقعہ کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے قیمتی انسانی جانوں کے ضیاع پر واسوپراجیکٹ پر کام کرنے والے چینی انجینئرز اور کارکنوں کے ساتھ دکھ اور تعزیت کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس مشکل وقت میں ہماری ہمدردیاں سوگوار خاندانوں کے ساتھ ہیں۔

قانون نافذ کرنے والے ادارے دہشت گردی کے اس واقعہ کی تحقیقات کر رہے ہیں، امید ہے اس گھناؤنے واقعہ میں ملوث افراد اور ان کے سہولت کاروں کو بہت جلد انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لایا جائے گا۔

چیز مین نے کہا کہ واسو سمیت واپڈا کے تمام منصوبوں پر سکیورٹی کے انتظامات کو تمام متعلقہ فریقین کی مشاورت سے مزید بہتر کیا جا رہا ہے تاکہ مستقبل میں اس نوعیت کے واقعات سے بچا جاسکے چیز مین واپڈا نے پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے ناگزیر پانی اور پن بجلی کے منصوبوں سمیت پاکستان کے دیگر تمام منصوبوں کی تعمیر میں چین کی تعمیراتی کمپنیوں کے کردار کی تعریف کی۔ انہوں نے اس یقین کا بھی اظہار کیا کہ پاک چین دوستی کے دشمنوں کی جانب سے دہشت گردی کی بزدلانہ کارروائیاں ہمارے باہمی تعاون میں دراڑ ڈالنے میں قطعی ناکام رہیں گی

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110888552&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20240328

Jang News

صدر کا چینی سفارتخانے کا دورہ، چینی انجینئرز کی ہلاکتوں پر تعزیت

صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے چین کے سفارتخانے کا دورہ کیا اور بٹام میں ہونے والے دہشت گردی کے واقعے میں چینی شہریوں کی ہلاکت پر حکومت و قوم کی جانب سے تعزیت کا اظہار کیا، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دشمن یہ قبول نہیں کر سکتے کہ پاک-چین دو طرفہ تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں، بہیمانہ فعل میں ملوث مجرموں کو پکڑ کر انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لایا جائے گا۔ چینی سفیر چیانگ زئے دونگ نے سفارت خانے آمد پر صدر آصف علی زرداری کا استقبال کیا۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ پاکستانی قوم دکھ کی اس گھڑی میں چینی عوام کے غم میں برابر کی شریک اور ان کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑے ہیں۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/656537>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے پہلے سی پیک مشترکہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس بلانے کیلئے کوششیں

وزیر اعظم کے اپریل کے آخر میں مکہ دورہ چین سے قبل سی پیک کی مشترکہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس بلانے کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے تاکہ پانچ کوریڈورز بنانے کے حوالے سے ایم او یوز کو حتمی شکل دی جاسکے۔ ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال عمرہ کی ادائیگی کے لیے سعودی عرب جا رہے ہیں، وطن واپسی پر اسلام آباد میں سی پیک کی مشترکہ کمیٹی کے اجلاس کے انعقاد کو حتمی شکل دیں گے۔ چین سے پہلے ہی کہہ دیا گیا ہے کہ سی پیک کی مشترکہ کمیٹی کے اسلام آباد اجلاس کے انعقاد کے لیے تاریخ سے آگاہ کرے۔ اس کے لیے ایک ورکنگ گروپ پہلے ہی کام کر رہا ہے۔ ان کوریڈور میں روزگار کی فراہمی، انوویشن، گرین انرجی، انکلیو سیو علاقائی ترقی کے کوریڈورز شامل ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم کا مکہ دورہ چین اپریل کا آخر میں متوقع ہے جس کی تاریخ کا تعین کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس دورے کے آغاز سے قبل جے سی سی کی میٹنگ میں ان پانچ کوریڈورز کو بنانے کے لیے ایم او یوز کو حتمی شکل دینے کی کوشش کی جائے گی۔ ایم او یوز پر اگر اتفاق رائے ہو گیا تو وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین میں ان پر باضابطہ دستخط ہو جائیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-28/page-1/detail-12>

March 29, 2024

Daily Times

Punjab CM orders policy formulation to export buffalo meat and milk to China

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz ordered policy formulation to export buffalo meat and milk to China. China imports US \$17 billion worth of meat and US \$2 billion worth of milk annually, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. In a meeting on the Livestock Department, the CM reviewed the livestock related measures. The CM stressed that only vaccinated and tagged cattle would be brought to cattle markets and slaughterhouses, adding that authentic data of cattle should be prepared and regularly updated. She directed the authorities concerned to pay special attention to research and development. Maryam Nawaz was briefed on the export potential of livestock sector. She said more work was needed for disease control and breed improvement. She ordered to create disease control department in Punjab. She said the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control programme should be made more effective, adding that vaccination for the disease should be produced locally in large quantities. An

advanced mechanism must be created to increase the export of dairy products, she ordered. The authorities concerned apprised the CM that up-gradation of vaccine production labs would cost Pakistani Rs 360 million, and up-gradation of zoonosis centre would cost Rs 299 million. It was also briefed that the breed improvement could increase yield by up to 15-25 percent. Earlier, the Chief Minister was apprised that livestock accounts for 14.36 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Punjab produces country's 62 percent milk, 43 percent meat, 33 percent mutton, and 65 percent poultry meat. The CM was also briefed that China imports US \$17 billion worth of meat and US \$2 billion worth of milk. The CM ordered to present a report on volume of poultry trade with Gulf countries and China. The CM agreed to a proposal to provide motorbikes for veterinary doctors, and vans for mobile dispensaries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1181430/punjab-cm-orders-policy-formulation-to-export-buffalo-meat-and-milk-to-china/>

Dawn News

Bisham terror attack won't impact CPEC, says FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday said that the recent Bisham attack would not impact the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other aspects of bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan. Re-emphasizing both countries' commitment to their strategic partnership and ongoing projects and highlighting the resilience of their collaboration, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at the weekly media briefing said: "Pakistan and China are close friends and brothers and we will continue to work together to develop CPEC and to promote our cooperation." Six people, including five Chinese workers, were killed in a suicide attack on their van in Bisham on Tuesday, renewing concerns about the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. Notably, this attack was part of a series of assaults in a span of a few days specifically targeting Chinese interests, including previous incidents at the Gwadar Port Authority Complex and the Turbat naval base, both of which are integral to CPEC. These consecutive attacks underlined the escalating security challenges facing Chinese projects and personnel in Pakistan. Spokesperson confirms proposal for revival of trade with India being reviewed The subsequent suspension of work on Tarbela Hydropower Extension project and the advisory from the Chinese embassy to Chinese businesses in Pakistan to "closely follow the local security situation and take extra safety precautions" further prompted fears that the Chinese companies could halt their activities on the pretext of security threat. Pakistani optimism about CPEC not being affected comes from the assurances received from Beijing after the attack. "Our two countries are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Our iron-clad friendship is deeply rooted in the two peoples. No attempt to sabotage China-Pakistan cooperation will ever succeed," Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Lin Jian had earlier said in his comments on Bisham incident. China, Jian had further said, "will continue supporting Pakistan's socioeconomic development and efforts to make lives better for its people, and we remain firm in our commitment to working with Pakistan in various fields and delivering more benefit to the two peoples". Noting the Chinese statement, Ms Baloch said Beijing's reaction highlights the strong bond and mutual understanding between the two countries, while acknowledging the

efforts of malevolent forces to undermine CPEC and attack the symbols of China-Pakistani collaboration. The spokesperson indicated that discussions regarding the safety and security of Chinese nationals, as well as the investigations into the Bisham attack, were being conducted at a “senior level” between the two countries.

Resumption of trade with India

Ms Baloch confirmed that the FO was reviewing a proposal for resumption of trade with India. Recalling a statement by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar about the business community expressing interest in review of restrictions on trade with India, the spokesperson said: “Examination of such proposals is a regular exercise in the government of Pakistan, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where we continue to consider all such requests and assess our policy.”

Trade between the two countries was suspended after India in 2019 illegally annexed occupied Kashmir. The spokesperson emphasized that so far there was no change in Pakistan’s position on the issue.

Trade with Afghanistan

The spokesperson expressed optimism over the progress achieved in trade discussions with Afghanistan. These talks, held from March 24 to 27, 2024 were led by Commerce Secretary Khurram Agha, who visited Afghanistan to engage with his counterpart, Minister for Commerce of Afghanistan Nooruddin Azizi.

The agenda of these crucial discussions encompassed a range of trade-related issues, including the potential establishment of a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement, the implementation of the Temporary Admission Document (TAD) for trade vehicle drivers, enhancements in multimodal air transit, and addressing the existing challenges in transit trade.

This progress in trade talks comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions between the two countries, primarily over concerns related to terrorist sanctuaries within Afghanistan. Islamabad recently took assertive measures, including the deployment of air force jets to target these sanctuaries, prompting retaliatory shelling of border areas by Taliban.

Israeli war on Gaza

Ms Baloch urged Israel’s international supporters to press Israel to adhere to the recently adopted UN Security Council resolution that demands an immediate ceasefire in Palestine.

Despite the resolution, the spokesperson pointed out, the conflict in Gaza was persisting, with the Israeli offensive continuing unabated. She highlighted the dire situation faced by the Palestinian people, including genocide and starvation. Her statement underscored the critical need for international intervention to halt the suffering of the Palestinians and emphasized the necessity for an end to the violence, the lifting of inhumane siege, and the permission for humanitarian aid to reach all areas of Gaza

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1824377>

China joins probe into Bisham suicide attack on its nationals

Chinese investigators arrived in Pakistan on Friday to join a probe into Tuesday's suicide attack in Bisham which claimed the lives of six people, including five Chinese nationals, according to the interior ministry. The five Chinese engineers — and their Pakistani driver — were killed in the suicide bombing on Tuesday while travelling between Islamabad and a hydroelectric dam construction site in Dasu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The bus was attacked in the Bisham city of KP's Shangla district. The attack prompted China to demand a thorough probe into the deadly blast and security for its citizens. In response, Islamabad announced a swift probe to hold the "perpetrators and accomplices" accountable. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met a Chinese team of investigators at Beijing's embassy in Islamabad today and briefed them on the investigation so far, Reuters quoted a ministry statement as saying. According to state-run Radio Pakistan, Naqvi assured the special investigation team that had come from China that the real culprits of the attack would be brought to justice. Measures pertaining to the protection of Chinese nationals and overall security were also discussed on the occasion. The interior minister also met with the Chinese ambassador and updated him on the probe into the incident. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said China's inter-departmental working group carried out comprehensive emergency response work with the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and the relevant enterprises. He said the head of the working group, Director Bai Tian of the Department of Foreign Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi, Naqvi and other officials. Director Bai Tian asked Pakistan to "thoroughly investigate the incident as soon as possible, properly handle the aftermath, effectively strengthen security measures, completely eliminate security risks, and make every effort to ensure the absolute safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan", Jian added.

"Pakistan said that it has fully carried out investigation and follow-up work on the incident, and taken all measures to further strengthen the security protection of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions," he further said.

The spokesperson said that the working group would also carry out related work during its stay in Pakistan. On Wednesday, the government had reiterated its resolve to comprehensively combat terrorism by employing all resources available to the state and bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly.

In response to the Chinese government's demand to promptly investigate the incident and act against those involved, the government had also decided to form a joint investigation team to probe the attack. A day ago, the Foreign Office had said there was no doubt that the attack was "orchestrated by the enemies of Pak-China friendship".

It had asserted that the incident would not impact the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other aspects of bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Army to take all measures for security of Chinese personnel: CJCSC Meanwhile, a statement from the Chinese embassy said that Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza paid a visit to extend his condolences for the attack.

“On behalf of the Pakistani army, I would like to express my deep condolences to the victims and extend my sincere condolences to their relatives. “It is Pakistan’s responsibility to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan. We will take all measures to strengthen the security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects. Any conspiracy to undermine the iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China will not succeed,” the statement quoted him as saying. Chinese ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong thanked the CJCS and urged Pakistan to “expeditiously advance the follow-up and handling of the incident to ensure that investigations and arrests of criminals are fruitful, counter-terrorism actions are taken, security measures are strengthened, terrorists are effectively punished and China-Pakistan friendship is maintained”. He said that China attached great importance to bilateral relations with Pakistan and was willing to continue to promote comprehensive strategic cooperation.

Rise in terror attacks

The Bisham attack was part of a series of assaults in a span of a few days specifically targeting Chinese interests, including previous incidents at the Gwadar Port Authority Complex and the Turbat naval base, both of which are integral to CPEC.

These consecutive attacks underlined the escalating security challenges facing Chinese projects and personnel in Pakistan.

The subsequent suspension of work on the Tarbela Hydropower Extension project and the advisory from the Chinese embassy to Chinese businesses in Pakistan to “closely follow the local security situation and take extra safety precautions” further prompted fears that the Chinese companies could halt their activities on the pretext of security threat.

Pakistani optimism about CPEC not being affected comes from the assurances received from Beijing after the attack. “Our two countries are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Our iron-clad friendship is deeply rooted in the two peoples.

No attempt to sabotage China-Pakistan cooperation will ever succeed,” Jian had earlier said in his comments on the Bisham incident.

Jian had further said, “Will continue supporting Pakistan’s socioeconomic development and efforts to make lives better for its people, and we remain firm in our commitment to working with Pakistan in various fields and delivering more benefit to the two peoples”. In July 2021, 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals, were killed when a coach carrying them to an under-construction tunnel site of the 4,300-megawatt Dasu hydropower project fell into a ravine in the Upper Kohistan area after an explosion.

Pakistan has set up a dedicated force of police and military to ensure security for Chinese activities, officials say. In late 2022, the two allied countries started a joint investigation into the killing of three Chinese teachers in Karachi along with their local driver.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1824468>

Dunya News

Pak-China cooperation won't affect after Shangla attack: Chinese embassy

BEIJING (Dunya News) - The Chinese embassy reaffirmed its pledge to Pakistan-China cooperation, stating that any effort to sabotage their ties will go in vain. The Chinese embassy emphasized its ongoing support for Pakistan's social and economic development works and reiterated its commitment to collaborating closely with Pakistan. The statement further stressed the continued efforts to enhance the well-being of the people of Pakistan. Earlier, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also visited the Chinese embassy. He updated the Chinese ambassador and the investigative team on the progress of the investigation into the Shangla attack that killed five Chinese nationals.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/801756-Chinese-Embassy-reaffirmed-its-pledge-to-Pakistan-China-cooperation>

The Nation

We believe Pakistan will bring murderer to justice: China

BEIJING - Pakistan is intensively carrying out incident investigation and follow-up handling work, and has taken practical measures to strengthen the safety protection of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Lin Jina said on Thursday.

“We believe that Pakistan will be able to find out the truth as soon as possible and bring the murderer to justice,” he told media during his regular briefing in response to a question about the last progress in the investigation and handling of the Dasu terrorist attack.

He informed that the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan are actively carrying out emergency response and aftermath work. On March 27, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong went to the project camp where the incident occurred to visit and express condolences to the Chinese employees.

President Asif Ali Zardari came to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to express his condolences to the Chinese citizens who were killed in the incident, and promised to take resolute measures to bring the murderers to justice as soon as possible, he said. Lin Jian said that on the same day, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued a presidential press statement, strongly condemning the terrorist attack and expressing its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the governments of China and Pakistan.

“We are willing to strengthen cooperation with the international community to combat all forms of terrorism and safeguard world peace and tranquility,” he added. On March 26, five Chinese and one Pakistani nationals were killed in a terrorist attack on the vehicle of the Dasu Hydropower Project undertaken by a Chinese company in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Mar-2024/we-believe-pakistan-will-bring-murderer-to-justice-china>

China keen to launch uplift projects for Gwadar's local population: Senator

QUETTA - The Standing Committee on Petroleum Chairman Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir stated on Thursday that the Chinese government is eager to start uplift projects that will help the locals in the port city of Gwadar. He told media that "it is the government's responsibility to identify the areas where Chinese could launch uplift projects for the local people of Gwadar". Declaring his optimism for the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a part of the Road and Belt Initiative, he said the government's will to finish the project—which has seen excessive delays since its inception—is apparent.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Mar-2024/china-keen-to-launch-uplift-projects-for-gwadar-s-local-population-senator>

Pakistan-China friendship is eternal, enemy's attack will fail: Shaukat Virk

Lahore - Founder and General Secretary of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust Dr. Shaukat Babar Virk has said that Pak-China friendship is eternal, every attack of the enemy will fail.

No power in the world can weaken the mutual cooperation between the two friendly and neighboring countries, he said.

He said: With the election of Mian Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister, a new era of Pakistan-China friendship has begun. Like their compatriots, the Chinese people are also admirers of Mian Shehbaz Sharif's good governance and speed.

The tragedy of Basham made the people of Pakistan and China sad. Revenge will definitely be taken from the evil elements involved in this heartbreaking incident.

In one of his statements, Dr. Shaukat Babar Virk further said that the political and defense leadership of Pakistan is united and willing to protect the country's integrity. The holding of a high-level security meeting to consider the motives behind the Basham attack is satisfactory, he said.

He said that as a result of priceless martyrdoms and enviable sacrifices, Pakistan Army had wiped out the evil presence of terrorists from the land of Pakistan, their remains will soon become a thing of the past.

Terrorists and their facilitators cannot intimidate Pakistanis by depriving them of peace while paying for their criminal and cowardly actions. The elected political and professional defense leadership of Pakistan will never compromise on the internal sovereignty and integrity of the motherland, he said.

He said that the Pakistan Army under the leadership of Syed Asim Munir, the professional commander of the Pakistan Army, will annihilate the enemies of the country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Mar-2024/pakistan-china-friendship-is-eternal-enemy-s-attack-will-fail-shaukat-virk>

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<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Mar-2024/pak-china-cooperation-won-t-affect-after-shangla-attack-chinese-embassy>

March 30, 2024

Daily Times

Chinese investigators arrive to join Besham probe

Chinese investigators arrived in Pakistan on Friday to join a probe into the killing of five Chinese nationals in a suicide attack, the interior ministry said, seeking to stem assaults threatening Islamabad's drive to modernize the economy. Tuesday's incident was the third major attack in little over a week on China's interests in Pakistan, where Beijing has invested more than \$65 billion in infrastructure projects as part of its wider Belt and Road initiative. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met the Chinese team of investigators at Beijing's embassy and briefed them on the investigation so far, said a statement issued by the government. Two days earlier, officials shared with the Chinese embassy the preliminary findings of their investigation into the attack. In late 2022, the two allied countries started a joint investigation into an attack that year on China's nationals and its interests, which have seen a rise in recent months.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1181860/chinese-investigators-arrive-to-join-besham-probe/>

Dunya News

No discussion on China-Pakistan deals in negotiations: IMF

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that there was no discussion regarding Pakistan's agreements with China. The IMF sources revealed inside story of the meetings held with political parties in July 2023. They said the IMF did not discuss bilateral agreements of member countries. During the meeting, the stand-by arrangement agreement was discussed and it was suggested to freeze development budget to reduce the deficit. If the circular debt was not controlled, Pakistan would have to increase rates of utilities, the sources added. They said the IMF termed Pakistan's economic progress "encouraging," but pointed out the challenges it was still facing. It urged Pakistan to deal with political instability for sustainable growth. The donor expressed satisfaction at implementation of its recommendations in the stand-by agreement. The sources said on-going stand-by arrangement agreement will expire in April after which new programme will be

discussed. It is too early to say anything about the new loan programme, they added. The IMF sources said that widening of tax revenues and tax base was necessary. The donor stressed on betterment in the energy sector. There is a need to improve the transmission and distribution system, while prices have to be increased systematically so that inflation does not increase. The sources said the donor left it up to Pakistan seek financial support from financial institutions and friendly countries.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/801731-No-discussion-on-China-Pakistan-deals-in-negotiations--IMF>

The Express Tribune

Sino-Pak interests and proxy terrorism

Imtiaz Gul

The deadly terror strike in Bisham on March 26 that claimed the lives of five Chinese citizens delivered yet another reminder on the grim circumstances that Pakistan faces. It took the number of direct attacks involving Chinese targets to at least 33 since the launch of CPEC. A similar attack on a bust carrying workers of Dasu Hydropower Project in the same region in July 2021 had killed nine Chinese nationals. This alarming situation calls for deep introspection here at home. On March 17 President Asif Ali Zardari vowed to make the terrorists accountable for the blood of each martyred jawan after attending the funeral of Lt-Col Syed Kashif Ali and Capt Muhammad Ahmed Bader, who were among five other martyrs of an attack in Mir Ali in North Waziristan the same day. “The blood of the sons of the soil would not go in vain,” he said. The President followed this up with another resolve on March 23. “We will not tolerate any efforts by terrorists or any group to destabilize our country,” he said in his speech at the main Pakistan Day ceremony in Islamabad. Pakistan Army’s top brass also issues such statements, often after corps commanders’ meetings to underscore its determination against terrorist threats. Does such rhetoric fend off terrorist threat? Has it helped in any way at all? Certainly not. Four brazen attacks within 10 days – on March 17 in North Waziristan, March 20 Gwadar, March 25 Turbat, March 26 Bisham – underline the ever-evolving nature of the terrorist threat. These are among the 236 attacks this year until March 25 this year, causing at least 413 fatalities, mostly in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. This carnage has been going on for several years, even though the Frontier Corps now has four majors general in both provinces i.e. IG FC South Balochistan, IG FC North Balochistan, IG FC South KP and IG FC North KP. Despite the expansion of security forces, the incidence of terrorism has been on the rise since late 2022. What is the clear lesson to be drawn? Firstly, it is proxy terrorism, and no quest for sharia. Nor are any adjectives like ‘coward’, ‘insensitive’, ‘infidels’ used for terrorists of any value because of the proxy nature of the challenge. Geopolitically-driven actors just move by the agenda, regardless of who comes their way. Some of the instruments of this cold-blooded proxy terrorism include the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), Ahrarul-Hind, Ansarul Jihad (AuJ), Majlis-e-Askari, Jaish-e-Fursan-e-Muhammad, Jabhat al-Junud al-Mahdi (headed by Amir Sufiyan)

and Hafiz Gul Bahadur's Jabhat Ansar al-Mahdi Khorasan (JAMK), besides Jundullah, Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and the Sindhudesh People's Army.

They all claim to be vying for a caliphate, using Islam/sharia as a justification for their violent actions. But in reality they are agents of terrorism, instability and uncertainty. Franchises with different names on the same mission – of destabilising the region – threaten Pakistani interests, demoralize the security apparatus by pricking it here and there and scare Chinese economic engagement away from the region. Any religious currency to these outfits amounts to naivety.

The Bisham incident and the brazen attack on the Gwadar Port Authority Complex on March 20 leave little doubt on the intensions of this terror campaign. Secondly, this proxy terrorism draws its oxygen from our neighborhood and the border regions, where most of the terrorists associated with the aforementioned outfits had been sheltering. While Pakistan hunted out the proponents of the Haqqani Network and their Pakistani protégés such as TTP from North Waziristan, the Afghan Taliban still appear to be reluctant in a head-on collision with TTP and its associates. By implication – even if the Afghan Taliban claim not to be supporting terrorist outfits – they do serve as the umbrella for many of the outfits based there including the TTP, ISKP, ETIM (ITP) and IMU remnants. Thirdly, terrorist forces also draw legitimacy from our own clouded thinking about the phenomenon.

Our state institutions still talk of terrorism and apparently refrain from openly talking of externally-driven proxy terrorism. All visiting foreign dignitaries do talk of TTP or ISKP as the biggest security threat to the region and their countries.

But our leaders appear to have failed in convincingly asking them one simple question: what is their assessment of the terrorist campaign? Why would members of these rag-tag armed groups kill innocent unarmed Pakistanis and Chinese, and systematically attack security forces? What is their interest in spreading fear and a sense of instability?

Fourth, will our bigwigs introspect as to whether – despite the omnipresent proxy terrorist threat – lapses and shortcomings in the management of security, particularly for the Chinese nationals, have facilitated the continuous terrorist campaign? No surprise that the Chinese demanded a thorough investigation into the attack, punishment for the perpetrators and effective measures to protect the safety of Chinese citizens.

Lastly, is the Pakistani leadership ready to finally realize and openly admit the proxy nature of the challenge both Pakistan and China are facing? A major step towards neutralizing the challenge could perhaps be separating religion from politics.

Strong messaging is required on the management of terrorism. Zero tolerance for any religious or religio-political group supportive of terrorist/militant outfits must be declared as the cardinal principle of new security policy. Ambiguity around militant outfits must make way for clarity on all those who represent a threat to the interests of Pakistan and its neighbours.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2461007/sino-pak-interests-and-proxy-terrorism>

The Nation

Chinese agro machines changing lives of farmers in Pakistan

Chinese agro-machines are easing the lives of farmers in Pakistan due to their low electricity consumption and safety measures. Sarris Ahmed, a farmer who recently visited a distribution centre selling Chinese products, told WealthPK that growers had to adopt modern technologies to enhance their yields.

He said innovations were playing an active role in the development of agricultural sectors of various countries, but Pakistan lagged behind. He said smart fodder machines developed by Chinese manufacturers were a blessing for farmers in Pakistan.

“Traditional fodder machines with heavy electric motors consumed a lot of electricity, inflating farmers’ monthly bills. Chinese fodder machines are energy-efficient, providing financial benefits to farmers,” he said.

Yasir Sheikh, who imports Chinese machinery based on market demand, said he shared images and videos of the new machinery with potential buyers before importing them.

However, he said farmers needed to be trained on how to operate these modern machines. He said the fodder machine was user-friendly, compact, energy-efficient and affordable. Sheikh said maintenance of these fodder machines was easy.

“Chinese agricultural machinery is progressively gaining ground in Pakistan due to its efficiency and effectiveness,” he said. Dr Ahmed, a faculty member at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, told WealthPK that without introducing modern technology for the farming community, Pakistan could not tackle the emerging challenges in agriculture. He said Chinese entrepreneurs were focusing on the agriculture patterns of the entire world and producing machines to suit their needs.

“Pakistan must embrace modern agriculture technology to transform the sector.”

“We have to shun traditional farming practices and embrace advancements to ease farmers’ lives and bring significant improvements in fodder production.

“Our farmers are still relying on traditional methods due to lack of knowledge and funds as the unbridled inflation is badly impacting their entire financial cycle,” Dr Ahmed said. He said some farmers had installed Chinese fodder machines and were satisfied with their high performance.

“These machines save time, labour and electricity costs,” he said. Sarfraz Ahmed said he had ordered a fodder machine after observing how it operates during a demonstration. He said the machine features an automatic chain conveyor, self-suction and automatic feeding. “Unlike traditional fodder machines, the blades of the Chinese machine are completely covered, eliminating any risk of accidental cuts to hands.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Mar-2024/chinese-agri-machines-changing-lives-of-farmers-in-pakistan>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کیساتھ تعاون کو سبوتاژ کرنے کی کوئی کوشش کبھی کامیاب نہیں ہوگی: چین

چینی سفارت خانے کی جانب سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاک چین تعاون کو سبوتاژ کرنے کی کوئی کوشش کبھی کامیاب نہیں ہوگی۔ اب چینی سفارت خانے کی جانب سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کی سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کی کوششوں کی حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔ دوست ملک کے سفارتخانے کے بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ کام کرنے اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو مزید فوائد پہنچانے کے لیے پرعزم ہیں۔ اُدھر دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں ہفتہ وار بریفنگ میں ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ لی جیان نے کہا ہے کہ دہشت گرد حملے کے بعد چین نے انٹرا ایجنسی ورکنگ گروپ پاکستان بھیجا اور 28 مارچ کو ورکنگ گروپ پاکستان پہنچا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے شعبہ خارجہ سلامتی کے ڈی جی ہائی تیان ورکنگ گروپ کے سربراہ ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ورکنگ گروپ نے پاکستان میں سفارتخانے اور متعلقہ کمپنیوں کے ساتھ ایمر جنسی رسپانس شروع کر دیا۔ ترجمان کے مطابق ہائی تیان نے پاکستانی وزیر مملکت خارجہ، وزیر خارجہ اور وزیر داخلہ سے ملاقات کی اور پاکستان سے کہا کہ وہ جلد اور مکمل کارروائی کرے۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے بتایا کہ ہائی تیان نے واضح کیا کہ دہشت گرد حملے کی تحقیقات اور سیورٹی رسک مکمل ختم کریں اور چینی عملے کے اداروں اور منصوبوں کی حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے ہر ممکن کوشش کریں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-30/page-1/detail-30>

March 31, 2024

Dawn News

Targeting Chinese nationals

Muhammad Amir Rana

THE Shangla terrorist attack on the Chinese engineers' vehicle is having consequences. Chinese companies have suspended work on at least three critical hydropower projects: the Dasu dam, the Diamer-Basha dam, and the Tarbela 5th Extension. The attack has caused significant alarm. Apart from disrupting these vital infrastructure projects, it has shaken the confidence of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. Reports indicate some are considering leaving the country due to safety concerns. The Pakistani government has repeatedly pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, the recent incident has eroded trust. Chinese social media reflects growing anxiety, with calls for stricter security measures to protect Chinese lives. Whenever a major terrorist incident occurs in the country, the media, security experts, and even state institutions start to make sweeping generalizations about the event, the culprits, their motives, and the terrorist groups that could have been involved in such incidents. The first and most well-known excuse cited is foreign involvement in the attacks, especially those targeting Chinese nationals or CPEC-related projects. Three names of terrorist groups spring to mind: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Balochistan Liberation Army, and the Islamic State-Khorasan. They guess a specific group's involvement depends on the region; these three groups have specific operational bases. The same is the case for the recent Shangla attack. The names of all three groups popped up immediately after the attack. The TTP has been projected as the prime suspect, as one of its commanders was declared the mastermind behind a similar attack on the Chinese in Kohistan in 2021. The names of a few TTP commanders who may have orchestrated the attack are circulating in the media. Quickly

jumping to conclusions distracts investigation and impacts the state's ability to tackle the security situation comprehensively. The state's history of compromise with militant groups has emboldened them. Pakistan's militant landscape may not be too complex but is diverse. Ideologies, sociopolitical factors, and group dynamics all work within local contexts. In any counterterrorism inquiry, local context and dynamics are more important than broader ideological and political motivations. Shangla, upper and lower Kohistan, and Battagram districts of the Hazara region in KP and the adjoining Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan share religious, social, tribal, ethnic, and cultural codes. The region has been frequently in the news due to 'honour' killings, burning of girls' schools, and the killing of Shia travelers. Recently, it has gained notoriety for attacks on Chinese workers involved in development projects in the area. The Deobandi School is dominant in the region and blends with conservative social traditions, particularly the honour code. The resultant insularity has led to frequent interactions between the locals and Deobandi madressahs, as well as sectarian and militant outfits in the country. The locals support these religious organizations, giving them financial and human resources, and weapons. Before receiving large compensation sums for the Dasu and Basha dams, the region thrived on timber smuggling. Extremist tendencies in the region are stronger than those in the neighboring areas. Anti-Shia sentiment, blood feuds in the community, and a sense of ethnic superiority are ingrained. The region has always been difficult to govern. Security institutions, bureaucracy, and the area's political leadership have tried to run the administration — while compromising on laws and rules. Even in cases of major disputes, the administration tries to resolve them through local jirgas and by involving religious scholars. This can result in leniency towards criminals, with many extremist elements taking the law into their own hands. The Mujahideen Gilgit-Baltistan and Kohistan (MGB) are a prime example. The group claimed responsibility for several incidents in Kohistan and Diamer districts. In October 2022, it held a GB minister hostage. They demanded the release of terrorists — some of them had been involved in the 2013 terrorist attack on the Nanga Parbat base camp targeting foreign climbers — and an end to women's sporting activities in GB for the minister's release. They claimed they blocked the road because the state failed to honour a 2019 agreement, and issued a 10-day ultimatum for the government to meet their demands. Although a prominent violent actor, it is not the only one in the region. The MGB and other local militant groups reportedly maintain close links with the TTP and sectarian outfits based in Punjab. These external groups appear to support local militants, as evidenced by the TTP's involvement in the 2022 Babusar Pass blockade. The state's history of compromise with militant groups has emboldened them. For instance, in the kidnapping incident, the administration agreed to ban girls' sports in the region. Similarly, a 2019 agreement had reportedly allowed for implementation of some Islamic laws the militants had demanded. The state's reliance on religious scholars for mediation in crises can be problematic. Local accounts suggest that some scholars may be sympathetic to the militants' demands, leading to partial concessions that create a perception of a 'win-win' scenario for militants and religious figures. But the question is: why are an increasing number of Chinese nationals being targeted in these areas, which are seemingly benefiting from the development projects? While anti-development sentiments are not that high in the area, many believe that dams and wider roads will trigger urbanization, women's emancipation, and modernization, which they perceive as threats to their religion and culture. The dominant

trend suggests that most people are happy with the compensation money and employment prospects. However, this doesn't diminish the level of religious extremism present. Some residents may sympathize with the Uighur community in Xinjiang, and others may dislike the presence of foreigners on their land. These factors could be nurturing negative perceptions about Chinese nationals in the region. One possible example of the local dynamics is seen in the blasphemy accusation against a Chinese official at the Dasu dam site last year. The incident highlighted that tensions could erupt. While local groups may lack the capability to carry out large-scale attacks independently, past events like the killing of Shia passengers and the attack on tourists at Nanga Parbat demonstrate their capacity for violence. Their ability is amplified by support from like-minded groups within Pakistan and Afghanistan. The government's strategy of outsourcing the maintenance of order to local and external religious figures needs to be revised to address these sentiments. A more comprehensive approach is needed to calm tensions.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1824814/targeting-chinese-nationals>

The Nation

FCCI condemns suicide attack on Chinese engineers' bus

FAISALABAD - President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr Khurram Tariq has condemned the suicide attack on a bus carrying Chinese engineers in Bisham and urged the government to take stringent measures to eradicate terrorism from the country forever. Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the death of Chinese engineers, he said such conspiracies were being hatched to harm the friendly and brotherly relations between Pakistan and China. He expressed sympathy with the Chinese nation on behalf of the business community of Faisalabad and hoped that despite the tragedy, work on various projects would continue without any interruption. Meanwhile, Senior Vice President FCCI Dr Sajjad Arshad and Vice President Hajji Muhammad Islam Bhali also shared grief with the Chinese government, people and the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan over the death of the Chinese engineers. FCCI TO REMAIN OPEN ON SUNDAY FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP Renewal of membership campaign of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) for the year 2024-25 is going on and the chamber office would remain open on Sunday, March 31, as well which is the last date for renewal of membership. According to an FCCI spokesman, the chamber had made the best possible arrangements to facilitate its members and in this connection, the offices of FCCI would remain open from 9 a.m. till midnight 12 a.m. on Sunday. The members failing to renew their membership could not cast their vote in the coming election of the FCCI, he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/31-Mar-2024/fcci-condemns-suicide-attack-on-chinese-engineers-bus>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia

Chinese Newspapers

March 16, 2024

People Daily News

China's GCI to shape harmonious world by connecting cultures, says former Pakistani minister

Pakistani children sing songs "Happy New Year" and "Long Live Pakistan-China Friendship" in two languages at a Chinese Lunar New Year gala in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, Jan. 21, 2024. Shah said that frequent cultural exchanges between Pakistan and China have strengthened people-to-people contacts between the two countries and the people of his country are fond of Chinese cultural performances because they give them a better understanding of Chinese people and culture.

The China-proposed Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) holds immense potential to shape a harmonious world through cultural connectivity, greater cooperation and mutual respect among nations, a former Pakistani minister said.

Cultural connectivity encourages inclusive coexistence and deter aggression by promoting mutual respect and understanding. By advocating these values, the GCI has inspired a new era of unity, understanding and peaceful coexistence on a global scale, Syed Jamal Shah, former Pakistan Minister for National Heritage and Culture, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Chinese culture itself is very diverse, so the "GCI is a very rightly promoted idea because, through the experience of its country's vast cultural landscape, it knows that unity in diversity is the most beautiful thing, and can inculcate the spirit of respecting other people's cultures, which is the only way forward for the world peace," he added.

Talking about cultural connectivity between Pakistan and China, Shah, who is also an expert on culture and a renowned actor and artist, said that his country also has a very rich cultural heritage and needs China's assistance in preserving Gandhara and Buddhist artifacts. "I

recently visited China and met cultural experts, heritage experts, and archaeologists to encourage them to help us preserve, digitalize, and 3D scan rock carvings in the northern part of the country bordering China, and we are planning something together about it," he added.

He added that he is also planning to hold exhibitions of Pakistani culture and heritage in China because Gandhara and Buddhist civilizations are very relevant for both countries and people from both sides take a keen interest in them.

Shah said that frequent cultural exchanges between Pakistan and China have strengthened people-to-people contacts between the two countries and the people of his country are fond of Chinese cultural performances because they give them a better understanding of Chinese people and culture. "We are looking forward to having more and more Chinese delegations, artists, dancers, musicians, visual artists, theater people, and cinema people, come here," said Shah. "I think creating aesthetic bridges is the best way to strengthen friendships because they are very strong, elastic and resilient, and can witness the test of time," he added.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0316/c90000-20145769.html>

March 18, 2024

People's Daily

New bright spots shine in pressured trade scene

Ouyang Shijia

As Chinese New Year dawned on Feb 10 sparking the Spring Festival celebrations, a freight train bound for Madrid, Spain, departed from Yiwu in East China's Zhejiang province, carrying not just valuable cargo, but also hopes for better transcontinental trade cooperation that could potentially transform the global economy. As for its material contents, the train was loaded with 110 twenty-foot equivalent unit's containers of various goods, including industrial products, electronic devices and clothing. It was one among many such China-Europe freight trains on the Yiwu-Xinjiang-Europe route, known as Yixin'ou in Chinese. The route spans over 13,000 kilometers and saw its maiden trip back in 2014. Official data showed as many as 68 Yixin'ou trips were made during the eight-day Spring Festival holiday. "After years of development, the Yixin'ou freight trains are now running on over 20 routes reaching over 160 cities in more than 50 countries," said Chen Jinghua, general manager of Yiwu Land Railway Port Development. Chen highlighted a notable shift in export products from traditional small commodities to high-tech products, saying the trains are supplying more high-value products like solar photovoltaic panels, spare parts for automobiles and electronic devices than others these days. Official data reflect the marked shift in China's exports with the high-tech "new three" experiencing substantial growth. Exports of the "new three" — passenger EVs, lithium-ion batteries and solar cells — were worth 1.06 trillion yuan (\$147.4 billion) in 2023, up nearly 30 percent year-on-year, according to the General Administration of Customs. Citing the 2023 export data, Zou Yunhan, deputy director of the macroeconomic research office at the State Information Center's Department of Economic Forecasting, said: "Although foreign trade may continue to face pressure, there are still new bright spots worth noting. "Foreign trade with countries involved in the Belt and Road

Initiative is expanding from traditional export markets to broader regions. And exports of the high-tech 'new three' will continue to support stable growth in foreign trade." Bai Ming, a researcher at the Beijing-based Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, underscored the importance of the "new three" in driving high-quality development, contrasting them with the more traditional "old three" industries of furniture, clothing and home appliances. Citing the case of Yiwu, home to the world's largest wholesale market for small manufactured goods, he said it needs to seek new growth opportunities and speed up the upgrade and transformation of manufacturing and foreign trade, offering more high-quality and high-value products for the target markets. "Regardless of whether engaging in foreign trade or domestic sales, lacking a distinct brand makes survival in this fiercely competitive market a challenge. Branding is the way forward," said toys exporter Chen Meijun, who moved into Yiwu International Trade Market to start her business in 2002. As of today, Chen said her team has forged partnerships with over 500 domestic manufacturers, supplying various types of toys across the globe, mainly to emerging markets such as the Middle East and South America. "When I moved into the Yiwu market over 20 years ago, only 5 percent of the market's businesses engaged in foreign trade. After years of development, over 80 percent of the business operators here are doing foreign trade business," she said. Bai from the CAITEC said it is advisable for exporters to embrace digital technologies to better tap into the target markets and then offer new quality products in demand. "We need to build new advantages in foreign trade with more efforts to promote technologies, improve the product quality and services, and build our own brands," he said. China has adopted policies and measures for improving the structure of foreign trade while keeping its scale stable. China's foreign trade reached a record high of 6.61 trillion yuan in the first two months of the year, up 8.7 percent year-on-year and signaling a strong start for 2024, according to the General Administration of Customs. During the period, China's foreign trade continued the positive trend that began in the fourth quarter of last year, achieving year-on-year growth for five consecutive months. Exports of certain products like automobiles, home appliances and ships saw significant increases, said Lyu Daliang, director of the GAC's Department of Statistics and Analysis. As for the composition of exports, GAC data showed that electromechanical products constituted nearly 60 percent during the January-February period, with automatic data processing equipment, integrated circuits and automobile exports recording substantial growth rates. In addition to witnessing a growing trade volume with major trade partners like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the United States and South Korea in the first two months, China's foreign trade with other economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative amounted to 3.13 trillion yuan, up 9 percent year-on-year, according to GAC data. Experts said the better-than-expected results were driven by factors including the rapid growth in emerging markets and acceleration in the development of "new quality productive forces", which became key buzzwords during this year's two sessions. According to the latest Government Work Report, the country will move faster to develop new quality productive forces. The report noted that while facing new difficulties from a more complicated external environment, the country still enjoys favorable conditions and factors to stabilize foreign trade and investment, including its continued efforts to expand high-standard opening-up, its enormous market and complete industrial chains, and its bilateral and multilateral economic and trade cooperation with BRI countries.

Other factors include the acceleration in new forms of foreign trade such as cross-border e-commerce and stronger efforts made to attract and utilize foreign investment in key fields. Despite facing pressures from deglobalization sentiment, China and the ASEAN "still have much room for further enhancement of trade and economic ties", said Ong Tee Keat, president of Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia Pacific based in Malaysia. While dismissing some pessimistic views on the Chinese economy propagated by some Western organizations, Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, said, "China's growth has not been as fast as it was in the past 40 years, but it is still progressing very fast. "After years of development, China now boasts a huge market for foreign companies and has become a leader of innovation in high-tech development, especially in emerging fields like EVs, climate change, cyberspace and artificial intelligence, he said. He further noted the marked shift in China's exports, saying the country is now exporting more high-tech products. Referring to moves by some countries to seek "de-risking" or decoupling from China, Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele, South African ambassador to China, said: "No one can afford to ignore the growing importance of the Chinese economy, the world's second-largest economy. "With a very open economy, China is fully embracing globalization. I don't think any smart economic agent or businessman will ever do that (decouple from China) It is very unlikely that any country can successfully do that." Looking ahead, he said he sees huge growth potential in economic and trade cooperation between South Africa and China, especially in the fields of e-commerce, scientific innovation and green development.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0318/c90000-20145980.html>

Xinhua Net

Chinese volunteers spread joy and hope to underprivileged children in Pakistan

Misbah Saba Malik

On a crisp spring morning, the sun cast its golden rays, painting the outskirts of Islamabad with a warm glow as it illuminated the scene of children frolicking joyfully on receiving gift bags from Chinese volunteers as a token of friendship and goodwill.

The laughter of over 100 little boys and girls at a makeshift school in the slums of the Pakistani capital echoed through the air as they leaped and clapped with happiness, giving the onlookers a perfect sight to behold the power of kindness and generosity, brightening the early hours of the day. A group of a dozen Chinese and Pakistani volunteers associated with the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, and Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation visited two schools and delivered about 200 donation bags to children and women there.

The kids at the schools are from underprivileged families, with some being orphans, others homeless, and many the offspring of disabled parents. All of them are very familiar with the Chinese people who frequently visit their homes and schools with bags full of not just material goods, but immeasurable happiness.

The children eagerly anticipated the arrival of the Chinese friends, with their faces lighting up with excitement at the prospect of spending time with those who have brought warmth and kindness into their lives.

"I wait for their visit, and a rush of happiness floods over me when I see them entering the school gate ... they are always very nice to us and embrace us with love and kindness," Muhammad Ullah, a student in grade five, told Xinhua. Last week, the Chinese volunteers, mostly students at various universities in Islamabad, brought food and toys for the kids, and this weekend, they came with ration bags filled with flour, rice, and cooking oil to make the ongoing Islamic fasting month of Ramadan easier for them and their families.

Talking to Xinhua about his volunteer work, Yuan Wenhao, a Chinese student studying at International Islamic University Islamabad, said that to make Ramadan easy for the kids' families, they bought food items from the market and hand-packed them for the children. "The underprivileged children need our kindness and support, my heart feels at ease when I visit here, and my eyes are filled with joy when I see smiles on their faces when they receive gifts.

All these kids deserve to be happy and live a good life, and I am just playing a small part in bringing love from China to Pakistan," Yuan said.

Faryal Shah, a teacher at one of the two schools receiving the donations, said Chinese volunteers always take care of the children's educational needs and provide them with stationery, books, and other necessities.

"These children are impoverished, they live in shacks and their parents do not even have resources to feed them ... For them, Chinese volunteers are like angels, bringing smiles to their faces," Shah told Xinhua.

The women and children who received the gift bags said they think the heartwarming efforts by Chinese volunteers represent a beacon of hope and compassion for underprivileged families, demonstrating that individual efforts could make the world a better place for all. Children receive bags of gifts given by Chinese and Pakistani volunteers at a slum in Islamabad, Pakistan, on March 17, 2024. A group of a dozen Chinese and Pakistani volunteers associated with the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, and Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation visited two schools and delivered about 200 donation bags of gifts to children and women. A boy smiles as he receives a bag of gifts from Chinese and Pakistani volunteers at a slum in Islamabad, Pakistan, on March 17, 2024. A group of a dozen Chinese and Pakistani volunteers associated with the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, and Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation visited two schools and delivered about 200 donation bags of gifts to children and women.

<https://english.news.cn/20240318/6cf76f63f84e446f81815c29bbf33ecd/c.html>

March 20, 2024

Global Times

The China-Pakistan relationship remains a source of peace and stability in the region and beyond the ambassador

Xie Wenting and Liu Xuanzun

Pakistan takes "immense pride" in its unique and "time-tested friendship" with China. The two countries are not only connected by land, rivers, and mountains, but also by a heart corridor, founded on the shared values of mutual respect, trust, solidarity, and support, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi. Hashmi also stressed that as Ambassador of Pakistan to China, he and his team are committed to "implementing the consensus reached between the two countries leadership to fortify the strategic trust between the two countries, strengthen ties across multiple domains, and build an even stronger China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era. The Pakistani diplomat made the remarks during an event to celebrate the 84th National Day of Pakistan hosted by the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing on Monday. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong was also present at the event. "China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners, and good brothers. The ironclad friendship between the two countries, deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples, remains rock solid and keeps growing from strength to strength," Sun said. "China is glad to see that Pakistan's general election was smoothly held, and a new government has been formed. We sincerely hope that Pakistan will enjoy social stability and economic growth and open up a new prospect for national development," he noted. According to Hashmi, Pakistan and China and the peoples of the two countries have overcome hardships and celebrated triumphs, standing shoulder to shoulder in good and difficult times, in the true spirit of the Iron Brotherhood. "Our relationship remains a source of peace and stability in the region and beyond. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a crown jewel of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), stands as a shining testament of win-win cooperation," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Hashmi also paid great tribute to Pakistan's Founding Fathers, especially Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Underscoring the significant strides, the country has made over the decades across multiple fields, the ambassador highlighted the resilience and ability of Pakistan to bounce back stronger in the face of challenges. He also recalled the groundbreaking diplomatic initiatives undertaken by Pakistan on the international stage for the promotion of peace, harmony, and development. The ambassador lauded the contribution of the Pakistani community in the promotion of China-Pakistan ties, while calling for further expansion of business and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The event attracted several senior Chinese officials, resident ambassadors, diplomats, Pakistani community members, representatives of Chinese state-owned and private enterprises, intelligentsia, and leading media figures. Pakistan is the fifth-most populous country with a population of 240 million people, and a rich and diverse cultural heritage spanning over five millennia. Some glimpses of this heritage were on display at the event.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309216.shtml>

China opens ten nuclear technology research facilities to the world to enhance international cooperation

Fan Wei and Leng Shumei

China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has opened ten of its nuclear technology research facilities and testing platforms, including China's new-generation "artificial sun" Huanliu-3 (HL-3) tokamak, to the world for the first time. The move will further enhance China's influence in nuclear science and technology globally, injecting strong "nuclear power" into promoting win-win cooperation worldwide, the Global Times learned from CNNC at a press conference on March 19 in Beijing during the 17th China International Nuclear Industry Exhibition. This batch of facilities also include the world's highest-energy compact proton cyclotron accelerator the Beijing Radioactive Ion-beam Facility (BRIF), one of the "world's six major neutron sources" China Advanced Research Reactor, the Beishan Underground Research Laboratory (Beishan URL) located 560 meters underground, and the Minjiang Test Reactor for medical isotope research, among others. Many of these facilities have reached world-class level and even lead the industry globally, showcasing the hard work of Chinese researchers and demonstrating the "hardcore strength" of China's nuclear industry innovation. The HL-3 tokamak, China's largest and most advanced tokamak, is designed to support the operation of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and the development of future fusion reactors. The Beishan URL in Northwest China's Gansu Province, China, is the country's first large underground research facility used for the safe disposal of high-level radioactive waste. It is an important research facility for the International Atomic Energy Agency and the China Atomic Energy Authority, playing a crucial role in China's nuclear fuel closed-loop technology innovation system. The BRIF, the only operational online isotope separation radioactive ion beam facility in Asia, can produce over 60 stable nuclear beams and 55 radioactive nuclear beams. It fills the technological gap in China's medium-energy high-current proton cyclotron accelerator and high-resolution isotope separator, reaching an advanced level internationally. The BRIF conducts research in nuclear physics basics, nuclear physics applications, and nuclear data, promoting basic research and application transformation, achieving a number of high-level scientific achievements. Researchers from the facility have cooperated with teams from more than ten countries including Russia, the US, Germany, Japan, and Poland, attracting many top international scientists to come to China to conduct cutting-edge research. The opening of these research facilities and testing platforms by China to the world is expected to promote the development of nuclear technology worldwide. Sumair N. Khan, Science and Technology Counselor at the Pakistani Embassy in China, told the Global Times that these open research facilities are crucial for developing countries, especially for countries like Pakistan. "Developing countries may not have the research conditions similar to China but are eager to utilize Chinese research facilities to train researchers and receive support for their research work," Zhang Libo, vice president of the China Institute of Atomic Energy, under CNNC, told the Global Times. He emphasized the importance of international cooperation in nuclear science and technology for mutual benefit and scientific progress.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309178.shtml>

March 21, 2024

Global Times

Pakistan: Embassy hosts an event in Beijing to celebrate the 84th National Day

On Monday, the Pakistan Embassy in China hosted an event in Beijing to celebrate Pakistan's 84th National Day.

The event was attended by senior Chinese officials, diplomats from various countries, Pakistani nationals in China, representatives from Chinese enterprises, and media representatives.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Sun Weidong, attended the event as the chief guest from the Chinese side. "China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners, and good brothers.

The ironclad friendship between the two countries, deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples, remains rock solid and keeps growing from strength to strength," Sun said.

"The two sides have maintained interactions at all levels, jointly pursued high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and achieved fruitful results in promoting exchanges and cooperation in economy and trade, defense, security, people-to-people exchanges, and other areas.

Facing changes unseen in a century, China and Pakistan have worked together to address risks and challenges, and to defend the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries and international fairness and justice," he noted.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi stated that the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, reflecting the choice of history and the people.

He also acknowledged the contributions of Pakistani nationals in China to promoting bilateral relations and expressed hope for further deepening of commercial exchanges and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

"Our relationship remains a source of peace and stability in the region and beyond. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a crown jewel of BRI, stands as a shining testament of win-win cooperation," Hashmi said during the ceremony.

"As Ambassador of Pakistan to China, my team and I are committed to implementing the consensus reached between our leadership to fortify the strategic trust between our two countries, strengthen our ties across multiple domains, and build an even stronger China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era," he added. A troupe of Chinese and Pakistani children jointly performs at the event, showcasing the cultural exchanges between the two countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309274.shtml>

March 22, 2024

People Daily News

Pakistani youngster promotes China-Pakistan cultural, and Educational Exchanges

Since the 1970s, six of Ammar Muhammad's family members have studied at the Beijing Institute of Technology of China. Nowadays, the 37-year-old Pakistani remains engaged in the education sector, particularly in promoting bilateral exchanges. "Our family gatherings resemble alumni reunions of Beijing Institute of Technology," he said. Ammar Muhammad's family connection with China began with a magazine. Decades ago, his grandfather picked up a copy of China Pictorial, which was distributed by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, and brought it home. The magazine series exposed Ammar Muhammad's father, Ikram Ul Haq, to Chinese architecture and construction, opera, martial arts, and films. Ammar Muhammad recalled that his father had observed the passion and efforts of the Chinese people in building their nation. "My father said Pakistanis also aspired to develop their nation, so he wanted to go to China and take a look," he said. After learning about an opportunity to study in China, Ikram Ul Haq, driven by curiosity and affinity, submitted an application and began his studies in Beijing in the 1970s. Ammar Muhammad said his father had not only seen China but also accessed Chinese wisdom such as "linking theory with practice," and was optimistic about China's future. "My father would often tell us about his time in China, which naturally led us to consider studying there," said Ammar Muhammad, adding that both and his two sisters had studied in China. Currently, Ammar Muhammad serves as secretary general of a China-Pakistan industry and education cooperation alliance. He said the organization has introduced more than 200 technical and vocational education and training disciplines of China into Pakistan, benefitting over 10,000 Pakistani young people every year, and has facilitated Chinese enterprises' investment in Pakistan. In Ammar Muhammad's eyes, over 2,000 years ago, China and Pakistan established friendship through the ancient Silk Road, while nowadays the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) serves as a bridge to strengthen closer people-to-people ties and economic cooperation among partner countries. "BRI has opened a door for more young Pakistani people," he said. This year, Ammar Muhammad will go to Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, to participate in a series of short video creation and communication activities. "I have been to Xinjiang before and was impressed," he said, adding that he is looking forward to the upcoming journey. "Xinjiang is geographically close to Pakistan, and has beautiful scenery, rich products, and modernized infrastructure." "Multiple cultures blend with each other and multi-ethnic groups coexist harmoniously in Xinjiang," he said. According to Ammar Muhammad, Xinjiang's open, safe, and civilized society offers a Chinese approach to achieving modernization in regions with diverse ethnic groups and religions. "I encourage friends from all over the world to visit Xinjiang and experience it firsthand," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0322/c90000-20148301.html>

Xinhua Net

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<https://english.news.cn/20240322/440bba08b8ea44a492e33d7a34b486f4/c.html>

March 24, 2024

Global Times

PLA honors Pakistan

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Guard of Honor escorts the Chinese national flag while marching across the avenue and shouting "Long live Pakistan-China friendship" in Urdu in response to the audience's warm applause in Islamabad on March 23, 2024. At the invitation of the Pakistani military, the 36-member PLA Guard of Honor participated in the military parade celebrating the 84th Pakistan Day. Photo: CFP

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309410.shtml>

Shanghai Daily

Chinese PLA Guard of Honor attends Pakistan Day parade

At the invitation of the Pakistani military, the Guard of Honor of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) participated in a military parade here on Saturday, celebrating the 84th Pakistan Day. During the event at Shakarparian Parade Avenue, the 36-member PLA Guard of Honor escorted the Chinese national flag while marching across the avenue and shouted "Long live Pakistan-China friendship" in Urdu in response to the audience's warm applause. "Seeing the PLA's participation in the Pakistan Day parade made me proud as a friend of China," Umair Khan, a Pakistani student of defense and strategic studies, told Xinhua. Pakistan Day commemorates the historic Lahore Resolution passed on March 23, 1940, following which a united struggle for an independent homeland for the Muslims of the region was launched, culminating in the independence of Pakistan in 1947.

<https://www.shine.cn/news/nation/2403243435/>

March 27, 2024

Xinhua Net

**Attempts to undermine China-Pakistan cooperation will not succeed:
Chinese FM**

China and Pakistan have the determination and ability to make terrorists pay the price for their actions, and any attempt to undermine China-Pakistan cooperation will not succeed, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday. Lin made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a terrorist attack that killed five Chinese nationals in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday. "We strongly condemn this terrorist attack, express deep sympathy for the victims, and extend sincere condolences to the bereaved families," Lin said. Noting that some other countries have also condemned the attack and expressed sympathy for the Chinese victims, Lin said China is grateful for that. He said that immediately after the incident, China's foreign ministry and the Chinese embassy in Pakistan triggered an emergency response mechanism. They have maintained close contact with the Pakistani side in Beijing and Islamabad, requesting that Pakistan accelerate the hunt

for and subsequent punishment of the terrorists, seek justice for the victims, and take concrete measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. The Pakistani side pledged that it would investigate the attack thoroughly, provide the Chinese side with timely updates on the progress of the investigation, and take further, comprehensive measures to improve the security of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan, Lin said. He reiterated China's stance on terrorism: Terrorism is the common enemy of all human beings, and it is the shared responsibility of the international community to combat terrorism and prevent the recurrence of such tragedies. China firmly supports Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts, Lin said. China will continue to support Pakistan's economic development, social development, and the improvement of its people's livelihoods, he added, and it will undertake firm cooperation with Pakistan in various fields to bring benefits to the two peoples.

<https://english.news.cn/20240327/cfa9946d2c29451f9ed4e6c862cf979c/c.html>

March 30, 2024

Global Times

China's cross-departmental joint working group and embassy mourn deceased compatriots in Pakistan

Members of a Chinese cross-departmental joint working group and Chinese diplomats in Pakistan on Friday mourned the five Chinese nationals killed in a terrorist attack while visiting a hospital here. Laying flowers to their portraits, the head of the joint working group Bai Tian, and the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong led all the personnel to stand in silence and bow three times. Ma Mingwei, head of a working group from Energy China and China Gezhouba Group Corporation, said that the five demised compatriots are excellent representatives of the company's overseas projects and witnesses of China-Pakistan friendship. Their sacrifice has enriched the deep China-Pakistan friendship. Bai, also chief of the Department of External Security Affairs of the Chinese foreign ministry, and Jiang conveyed the care and solicitude of the Chinese government to the company's workers, encouraging them to work together to overcome the difficulties. Five Chinese and one Pakistani national were killed on Tuesday in a terrorist attack on the way to the Dasu Hydropower Project in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from Islamabad.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309803.shtml>