

GlobBiz **MAG**

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Pakistan will be the next ASIAN TIGER

Financing structure of CPEC

CPEC is favorable for the prosperity of country.

PM Khan

The TOP 20 ECONOMIES in the World

Pak-China bilateral consensus on CPEC and international issues is notable:
Chinese media

PM decides to resume work on

CPEC PROJECTS

Pace of Saindak project under CPEC remains unaffected despite COVID-19 outbreak

Government is committed to timely Completion of CPEC:

Ambassador **NAGHMANA HASHMI**

Govt. approves 6 projects costing

Rs: 98 billion



EDITORIAL

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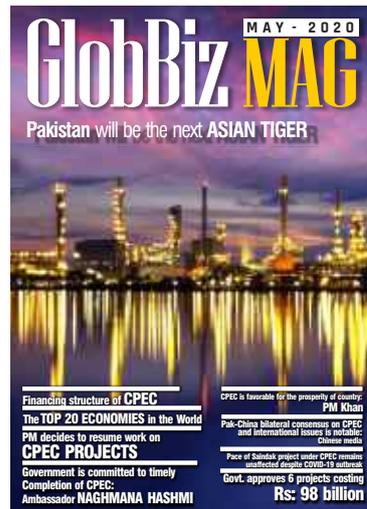
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Pakistan

Pakistan can manage to achieve the status of Asian Tiger by 2050



FEATURE

PAKISTAN WILL BE THE NEXT ASIAN TIGER



We cannot become Asian Tiger without undertaking the fundamental reforms

Pakistan has the potential to emerge as a great power over the next three decades. The problem of Pakistan is not scarcity of resources, but unwillingness on the part of policymakers to tap the same, properly utilize and manage their equitable distribution, absence of effective administrative and justice systems to check socio-economic injustice. We cannot become Asian Tiger without undertaking the fundamental reforms. Rapid economic growth is not possible without ensuring socio-economic justice for all, job opportunities for millions of young people, whose frustration is on the rise with every passing day as elites show apathy towards them and enjoy luxuries at the State's expense. Fulfillment of dream for becoming Asian Tiger cannot be achieved unless this unholy alliance is dismantled. By 2050, Pakistan had achieved a miracle. It had transformed itself from a poverty-ridden country to qualifying for High Income category by the World Bank and the top docile in both the Competitiveness index and Social Progress Index by 2050. Where once travel advisories warned people from visiting, it is now key destination for foreign investors, students, research and even tourism. Once a basket case seeking aid, now it has a large sovereign wealth fund. Once homeland of hordes on unemployed youth and an exporter of cheap labor today Pakistan is a center of higher learning, research and the 7th largest patent recipient in the world. CPEC is playing a great magnetic strength role to develop Pakistan as an Asian Tiger. CPEC is not only beneficial for Pakistan but for the whole region as well. A lot of energy projects have been developed under CPEC and some are under development. Beside energy projects CPEC is working on Infrastructure projects as well. List of some Infrastructure projects is below.

CPEC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

CPEC-Energy Priority Projects

Sr #	Project Name	MW	Estimated Cost (US\$ M)	Province	Progress Status
ROAD PROJECTS					
1	KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian Section)	118	1,315	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	To be completed by March 2020
2	Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section)	392	2,889	Punjab & Sindh	Completed
3	Khuzdar-Basima Road N-30 (110 km)	110	19.19 Billion Rupee	Balochistan	Work is under process
4	Upgradation of D.I.Khan (Yarik) - Zhob, N-50 Phase-I (210 km)	210		Balochistan & KPK	Land acquisition in Progress.
5	KKH Thakot-Raikot N35 remaining portion (136 Km)	136	8.15 Billion Rupee	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Procedural formalities to be completed shortly
RAIL SECTOR PROJECTS					
6	Expansion and reconstruction of existing Line ML-1	1,830	8,172	Karachi to Peshawar	Project will be completed in 2 phase
7	Havelian Dry port (450 M. Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units)		65	Havelian, District Haripur, KPK	Feasibility completed
8	Capacity Development of Pakistan Railways				Focus groups be established for effective training and capacity enhancement

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FINANCING STRUCTURE OF CPEC

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a \$62 billion multi-sector collaboration between Pakistan and China as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Over the last few years, CPEC has been a hot topic of discussion amongst policymakers and ordinary citizens. To enrich this discussion, the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) has produced descriptive statistics using data from \$19 billion worth of projects out of the total portfolio.



FINANCING INSTRUMENTS



CPEC is composed of four different types of financing instruments. The first type is called “Investment” where the Chinese firms that are undertaking the infrastructure projects borrow commercial loans with an interest rate between 4-5% the second category is called “Concessional Loans” which are given to the Government of Pakistan at an interest rate of 2-2.5% with a maturity period of 25-30 years. The third category is called “Interest-free loans” which constitute a small proportion of the overall financing and have zero interest payments. The last category is “Grants” which are aimed at improving state capacity.

CHINESE COMPANIES INVOLVED

The research has also shed light on the companies involved in different projects in CPEC. There are nine companies that dominate the portfolio. The companies are Chinese State-Owned Enterprises that have undertaken infrastructure projects in China and other countries in the past. China State Construction Engineering is the by far the biggest contributor to the portfolio and is being financed a total of around \$3 billion. The main aim of this research was to inform policymakers, key stakeholders and citizens about the basic structure of CPEC. It is virtually impossible to have an informed discussion around CPEC without knowing this basic structure. Hence, it is hoped that the original monograph, along with this article will enrich the policy discussions around CPEC and solidly anchor these discussions in evidence and data.

THE TOP 20 ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD

The different phases of economic cycles toss economies around the world. However, it's interesting to see that these top economies don't budge easily from the positions they hold. When compared to the top 20 economies of 1980, 17 are still present on the list, which means only three new entrants. The nominal GDP of the top 10 economies adds up to about 66% of the world's economy, while the top 20 economies contribute almost 79%.

1. United States



U.S. Nominal GDP: \$21.44 trillion U.S. GDP (PPP): \$21.44 trillion

The U.S. has retained its position of being the world's largest economy since 1871. The size of the U.S. economy was at \$20.58 trillion in 2018 in nominal terms and is expected to reach \$22.32 trillion in 2020.

Japanese economy and it's been a challenging time for its economy since then. When the economy was beginning to recover, it suffered a massive earthquake that hit the country socially and economically. While the economy has broken the deflationary spiral, economic growth remains muted. Its economy will get some stimulus with the 2020 Olympics keeping the investment flow strong, which is backed by a lax monetary policy by the Bank of Japan.

to more than 60% to its economy and accounting for 28% of employment. Although the contribution of its agricultural sector has declined to around 17%, it still is way higher in comparison to the western nations. The economy's strength lies in a limited dependence on exports, high saving rates, favorable demographics, and a rising middle class.

its GDP per capita of \$42,877.56. In recent years, the economic growth has slowed, resulting in unemployment that has placed immense pressure on the government to reboot the economy. In addition to tourism, which remains very important for its economy, France is a leading agricultural producer, accounting for about one-third of all agricultural land within the European Union.

10. Canada



Canada Nominal GDP: \$1.73 trillion Canada GDP (PPP): \$1.84 trillion

Canada displaced Russia to take the 10th spot in 2015 and has retained its position since then. Canada's nominal GDP is currently at \$1.71 trillion. The country has contained its level of unemployment and it's likely to further shrink. While services are the major sector, manufacturing is the cornerstone of the economy, with 68% of its exports constituting of merchandise exports. Canada is laying a lot of emphasis on manufacturing, which is crucial to its future economic growth.

2. China



China Nominal GDP: \$14.14 trillion China GDP (PPP): \$27.31 trillion

China has experienced exponential growth over the past few decades, breaking the barriers of a centrally-planned closed economy to evolve into a manufacturing and exporting hub of the world. China is often referred to as the "world's factory," given its huge manufacturing and export base. However, over the years, the role of services has gradually increased and that of manufacturing as a contributor to GDP has declined relatively.

4. Germany



Germany Nominal GDP: \$3.86 trillion Germany GDP (PPP): \$4.44 trillion

Germany is not just Europe's largest economy but also the strongest. On the global scale, it is the fourth-largest economy in terms of nominal GDP, with a \$4 trillion GDP. The size of its GDP in terms of purchasing power parity is \$4.44 trillion, while its GDP per capita is \$46,560 (18th place). Germany was the third-largest economy in nominal terms in 1980, with a GDP of \$850.47 billion.

6. United Kingdom



U.K. Nominal GDP: \$2.74 trillion U.K. GDP (PPP): \$3.04 trillion

The United Kingdom, with a \$2.83 trillion GDP is the sixth-largest economy in the world. Starting from 1992 until 2008, the economy of the U.K. witnessed an uptrend in each quarter. However, it witnessed a decline in its output for five consecutive quarters starting April 2008. The economy of the U.K. is primarily driven by the services sector, which contributes more than 75% of its GDP, with manufacturing the second prominent segment, followed by agriculture. Although agriculture is not a major contributor to its GDP, 60% of the U.K.'s food needs are produced domestically, even though less than 2% of its labor force is employed in the sector.

8. Italy



Italy Nominal GDP: \$1.99 trillion Italy GDP (PPP): \$2.40 trillion

With a nominal GDP of \$2.07 trillion, Italy is the world's eighth-largest economy. Its economy is expected to expand to \$2.26 trillion by 2023. Its unemployment rate continues to be in double-digits, while its public debt remains sticky at around 132% of GDP. On the positive side, exports and business investment are driving economic recovery.

11. Russia



Russia Nominal GDP: \$1.64 trillion Russia GDP (PPP): \$4.21 trillion

Russia, the largest country on Earth in terms of landmass, is the 11th-largest economy in the world. The 1990s were a rough period for its economy, since it inherited a devastated industrial and agricultural sector along with the fundamentals of a centrally planned economy.

3. Japan



Japan Nominal GDP: \$5.15 trillion Japan GDP (PPP): \$5.75 trillion

Japan is the third-largest economy in the world, with its GDP crossing the \$5 trillion mark in 2019. The financial crisis of 2008 rocked the

5. India



India Nominal GDP: \$2.94 trillion India GDP (PPP): \$10.51 trillion

India is the fastest-growing trillion-dollar economy in the world and the fifth-largest overall, with a nominal GDP of \$2.94 trillion. India has become the fifth-largest economy in 2019, overtaking the United Kingdom and France. India's post-independence journey began as an agrarian nation; however, over the years the manufacturing and services sector has emerged strongly. Today, its service sector is the fastest-growing sector in the world, contributing

7. France



France Nominal GDP: \$2.71 trillion France GDP (PPP): \$2.96 trillion

France, the most-visited country in the world, is the third-largest economy of Europe and the seventh-largest in the world. The country offers a high standard of living to its people as reflected in

9. Brazil



Brazil Nominal GDP: \$1.85 trillion Brazil GDP (PPP): \$3.37 trillion

Brazil is the largest and most populous nation in Latin America. With a nominal GDP of \$1.87 trillion, Brazil is the ninth-largest economy in the world. The nation that had been riding on the commodity wave suffered multiple setbacks with the end of the commodity super-cycle, in addition to internal problems of corruption and political uncertainty, which dampened the investment and business environment.

12. South Korea



South Korea Nominal GDP: \$1.63 trillion South Korea GDP (PPP): \$2.14 trillion

The South Korean economy, known for conglomerates like Samsung and Hyundai, is the



12th largest economy in the world, with a nominal GDP of \$1.62 trillion. The country has made incredible progress in the past couple of decades to establish itself as a hi-tech, industrialized nation. It is among the top exporters in the world and presents great investment opportunities, reflected in its ease of doing business ranking.

13. Spain



Spain Nominal GDP: \$1.4 trillion Spain GDP (PPP): \$1.86 trillion

The \$1.4 trillion Spanish economy is the 13th-largest in the world. Post-Brexit, Spain is the fourth-largest economy in the Eurozone. Spain replaced the United Kingdom to become the second most-visited country in the world, with a huge influx of inbound tourists. In terms of sectors, agriculture has traditionally played a crucial role. The country remains a major exporter of olive oil, pork, and wine. Some of the prominent industrial sectors are automobiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and industrial machinery.

14. Australia



Australia Nominal GDP: \$1.38 trillion Australia GDP (PPP): \$1.32 trillion

Australia is the 14th-largest economy, with a nominal GDP of \$1.42 trillion. The economy has grown at a healthy pace for the past two decades on the back of low unemployment, low public debt and inflation, robust exports, a strong service sector, and a stable financial system. Australia is also a land rich in natural resources, as well as a major exporter of energy and food.

15. Mexico



Mexico Nominal GDP: \$1.27 trillion Mexico GDP (PPP): \$2.57 trillion

Mexico, the second-largest economy in Latin America, is the 15th-largest economy in the world, with a nominal GDP of \$1.22 trillion. The share of agriculture in the Mexican economy has remained under 4% over the last two decades, while its industry and services contribute around 33% and 63% to its output. Automotive, oil, and electronics are among the developed industries, while financial services and tourism are prominent contributors within services.

16. Indonesia



Indonesia Nominal GDP: \$1.11 trillion Indonesia GDP (PPP): \$3.50 trillion

Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and the 16th-largest on the global map. The Indonesian economy has shown tremendous progress over the last two decades. The economy is now a part of the trillion-dollar club, with a nominal GDP of \$1.02 trillion.

17. Netherlands



Netherlands Nominal GDP: \$902.36 billion Netherlands GDP (PPP): \$969.23 billion

The Netherlands, the sixth largest economy in the

European Union, is the 17th-largest economy in the world. Today, the country has a nominal GDP of \$912.90 billion. The economy is backed by abundant natural resources, booming tourism, and sound industries like food processing, chemicals, electrical machinery, and petroleum refining. The Netherlands can boast of its highly mechanized, highly productive agricultural sector, which makes it among the top agricultural exporters globally. Despite its small landmass, the Netherlands is a major player in the world's trade.

18. Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia Nominal GDP: \$779.29 billion Saudi Arabia GDP (PPP): \$1.86 trillion

Saudi Arabia is predominantly an oil-based economy. The country possesses around 18% of the world's proven petroleum reserves. It ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, with the oil and gas sectors accounting for about 50% of its GDP and 70% of its export earnings. Saudi Arabia is rich in other natural resources like natural gas, iron ore, gold, and copper.

19. Turkey



Turkey Nominal GDP: \$743.71 billion Turkey GDP (PPP): \$2.29 trillion

Turkey, with its \$766.43 billion economy, is the 19th-largest economy in the world. The economy has been growing at an impressive pace since the 2000s, driven by both industry and services. Its economy witnessed macroeconomic and fiscal stability, while its employment and income levels witnessed an increase.

20. Switzerland



Switzerland Nominal GDP: \$715.36 billion Switzerland GDP (PPP): \$548.48 billion

Switzerland is one of the most stable market economies in the world. It is the 20th-largest economy in the world, with a nominal GDP of \$703.75 billion. The country offers a very high standard of living for its people. Switzerland has a booming tourism industry and a strong financial sector. Switzerland also has a long tradition of industry, especially the clock and watches industry and pharmaceuticals.



FEATURE

PM DECIDES TO RESUME WORK ON CPEC PROJECTS

Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered a relief package specifically for the construction industry and directed resumption of all China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related infrastructure and energy projects. The package for construction industry unveiled on 04 March, 2020. The premier also directed formation of a Codal Research Committee (CRC) for devising an action plan that would allow the center and provinces to jointly deal with Covid-19's brunt on the country's economy. During a meeting, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar apprised the prime minister about steps being taken for better coordination between provinces and the center to combat Covid-19, revival of construction industry, CPEC projects and food security. He added that the construction of road infrastructure will not pose any danger regarding spread of coronavirus. The PM further said a Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) was being devised about how the construction industry and its related sectors will work during lockdown. SOPs will also be made for the safety of the workers. The primer said the Ministry of Commerce has compiled a list of industries which will operate during countrywide lockdown. A Codal Research Committee (CRC) should be formed to give suggestions to the National Coordination Committee in its next meeting regarding different sectors and how these could perform during prevailing lockdown situation. The

prime minister expressed satisfaction over the government's arrangements to combat Covid-19. Chairing a meeting on energy, he directed the ministry concerned to accelerate reforms in the energy sector by removing systemic hurdles and effectively utilizing the limited resources for ensuring relief to the common man. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the medical equipment provided by China will greatly strengthen Pakistan's capacity to handle COVID-19 pandemic. Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, he expressed sincere gratitude to China for supporting Pakistan in helping contain COVID-19. China turns from fighting the virus domestically to helping the world. As new cases of COVID-19 in China appear to slow, Beijing offers support to other countries in their respective fights against coronavirus.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, he expressed sincere gratitude to China for supporting Pakistan in helping contain COVID-19



GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO TIMELY COMPLETION OF CPEC:

AMBASSADOR NAGHMANA HASHMI

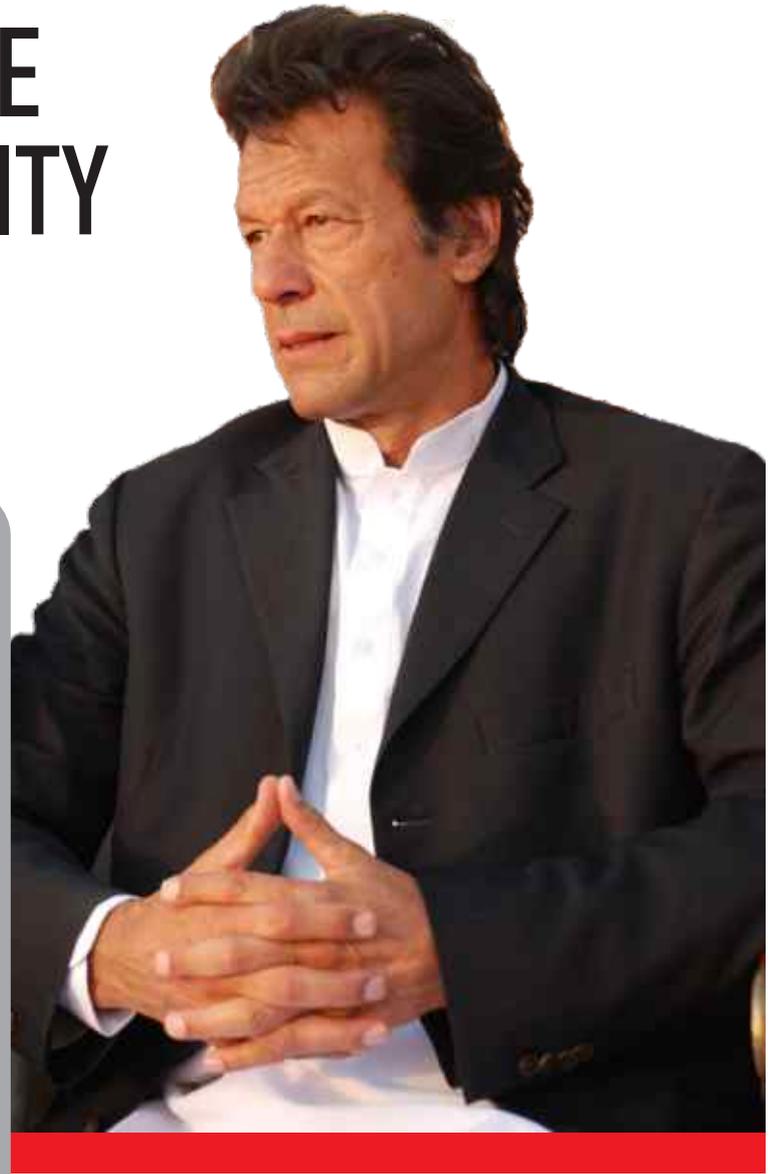
Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi has said that all the projects being completed under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework would meet their deadlines as all the preventives and control measures had been put in place against the spread of Covid-19. In consultation with the Chinese government and companies, we have put in place a double quarantine system for the Chinese workers returning to Pakistan after the New Year's vacations to ensure that other workers don't get infected. She informed that the first phase of CPEC was almost near to completion as 90 percent of projects were already commissioned and the remaining were only months away from the finishing point. When the novel coronavirus pandemic happened in China, the government of Pakistan didn't stop issuance of visa or impose any restriction on travelling between Pakistan and China to ensure that projects were continued and completed on time. The double quarantine system also worked 100 percent and as a result there was not a single case of coronavirus that went to Pakistan from China and the projects didn't stop. If we need to recover from our economies, it is even more important that this cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Special Economic and Industrial Zones doesn't stop under any circumstance, she said. About President Dr. Arif Alvi's recent visit to China during Covid-19 outbreak, she said that Pakistan and China were all weather friends.



A lot of our Chinese friends have promised for many more donations. We are very grateful to our Chinese brothers and sisters, she said. On temporary hospitals, she said that Pakistan had done exactly that China had done.

Two weeks ago, President Dr Arif Alvi visited China to express solidarity and show the world that both the countries were standing by each others in difficulties and challenges. About medical supplies recently airlifted to Pakistan to help combat Covid-19, she said that this was a combination of some crucial equipment's procured and purchased by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan but overwhelming tonnage of the equipment and supplies consisted of donations made by the Chinese companies and friends. It is a huge help and this is not only one flight that we are operating. A lot of our Chinese friends have promised for many more donations. We are very grateful to our Chinese brothers and sisters, she said. On temporary hospitals, she said that Pakistan had done exactly that China had done. For remote areas where 70 percent population existed, the government had even converted rail coaches into temporary isolation units. We are also converting a lot of our government buildings and schools to reduce the pressure on the hospitals. We have asked our retired doctors and nurses to come and work as volunteers. We are also trying to monitor residential areas and people as well to identify the patients. We are also converting a lot of our government buildings and schools to reduce the pressure on the hospitals. We have asked our retired doctors and nurses to come and work as volunteers. We are also trying to monitor residential areas and people as well to identify the patients.

CPEC IS FAVORABLE FOR THE PROSPERITY OF COUNTRY. PM KHAN



P rime Minister Imran Khan held a meeting to review the status of CPEC energy projects and asserted these projects will open a range of opportunities to boost the social development and economic growth of Pakistan. Highlighting the time tested partnership with China; PM said the fast progress of CPEC is favorable for the prosperity of country and stressed to make timely decisions to maintain the economic viability of projects under CPEC. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that projects being carried out under China Pakistan Economic Corridor are vital for the development of the country and will provide huge opportunities of employment, communication and economic prosperity. Chairing a briefing on the review status of CPEC Energy Projects, he said that Pakistan enjoys extreme goodwill with China that has been proven time and again during emergent situations. Emphasizing on the need for timely decisions to avoid cost-escalation on these projects, the Prime Minister said that fast-pace implementation is in the interest of the country. Chairman CPEC Authority, Asim Saleem Bajwa briefed the meeting in detail about progress on CPEC projects and said that there are a total of 22 projects in the CPEC's energy portfolio, among which 9 have already been commissioned.

To ensure the timely implementation of projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a total of 131 Chinese workers arrived back to Pakistan. They belong to a Chinese construction and engineering company working on the hydropower projects in Pakistan. Previously, they went to China on New Year holidays but stayed longer due to pandemic outbreak. Gezhouba Group, a Chinese construction and engineering company, sent 131 Chinese workers on a charter flight operated by China Southern Airlines to Pakistan in an effort to ensure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) proceed, the company's website said. The group has several hydropower station projects in Pakistan. The 131 staff had returned to China for the New Year Holidays and had become stuck due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The group gathered from around the nation in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to board the flight to Islamabad on the weekend. The workers must undergo 14-day quarantine on arrival.

The group gathered from around the nation in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to board the flight to Islamabad on the weekend.

Chinese workers arrive in Pakistan to continue the China Pakistan Economic Corridor



CHINESE WORKERS FOLLOWING A 'DOUBLE QUARANTINE' POLICY TO ENSURE THE SAFE EXECUTION OF CPEC PROJECTS

Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqi said China had extended significant relief assistance to Pakistan to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chinese government has provided support worth \$ 4 million for a separate hospital for Coronavirus patients. The spokesperson said private organizations in China such as the Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma foundation had donated 50 thousand test kits and 50 million face masks. Aisha Farooqi said since the outbreak of Covid-19, we are in close coordination with the Chinese government. The Chinese government is following a double quarantine policy for the officials of Chinese companies working on China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects in Pakistan, she said. Aisha Farooqi said the officials traveling to Pakistan spend fourteen days in quarantine in China before travelling to Pakistan and after reaching Pakistan. They remain in quarantine for fourteen more days.



Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma foundation had donated 50 thousand test kits and 50 million face masks.

Established medical procedures are also followed during the process. Coronavirus has now become a pandemic and international community is taking swift and aggressive measures to contain its spread. CPEC comprises long-term projects whose completion, in many a cases, is spread over many years, Aisha Farooqi said. Pakistan was quite confident that we will be able to complete CPEC projects in time and, going forward, the short-term impact of coronavirus will be counterbalanced by effective and swift mobilization of resources for timely completion of CPEC. She said that the Foreign Minister had a detailed telephone conversation with Secretary General Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, on this subject in which he highlighted that continued restrictions on communication and movement in held Kashmir were preventing unfettered supply of medicines and other essentials, as well as dissemination of information needed to combat the disease. All Pakistan missions had been instructed to provide assistance to our nationals abroad in these difficult times. This includes food, medicines, accommodation and extension of visas, in case of expiry of short-term visas.

CPEC AND BILATERAL TRADE TO BE CONTINUED AMID PANDEMIC OUTBREAK: FM QURESHI

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi while briefing media about his recent visit to China said both sides are determined to the execution of CPEC and pandemic outbreak will not have any long term impact on bilateral trade and the implementation of this flagship project. Pakistan has extended all kind of support to China amid in wake of pandemic outbreak while China had helped and shared its experience with Pakistan. Obviously, we have to be more careful. Some precautionary measures have been taken and that could slow things down for a period. But trade is ongoing. There has been no stoppage of that. We have maintained our transport and trade links with China. About impact of the epidemic on the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said, I don't think it'll have an impact in the long run. But in the short run, yes, there could be a slight slowdown.

But both sides are committed that we will go ahead with full speed. As soon as we are over the hump of dealing with the coronavirus, I think we'll be back on track. There's a temporary dip, but I think things will revive very quickly. He expressed the confidence that the future of the CPEC is very bright and very promising, not just for Pakistan and China. In fact, the entire region will get benefit from these projects. Regarding China's assistance in response to coronavirus cases in Pakistan, he said, China had helped and shared its experience with Pakistan. China had sent teams to assess the situation and provided testing kits in the thousands. About economic damage caused by the locust plague in Pakistan, he said the damages were being assessed and exact numbers would be calculated and shared with the government shortly. Regarding President Alvi's visit to China during this special time, he said, We chose this time in particular to show solidarity with the people of China. The bonds that we have with China are unique. Our relationship is a very special one. And the people of Pakistan want to physically demonstrate to the people of China that we are standing with you in these challenging times.

Commenting on China's measures to prevent and control the epidemic, he said China's measures were not only timely, they were very effective. The discipline the nation showed, the determination shown to people, and the country's leadership were being talked about all over the world today. It's a global challenge. You cannot link this virus to any particular area, region or people. It's a challenge that we all have to collectively fight and assist in. The WHO has issued guidelines, and they've also shown appreciation for what China has done. We have to take a global approach. We have to develop institutional links, and we have to ensure that there's no panic.





MEDIA REPORT

PAK-CHINA BILATERAL CONSENSUS ON CPEC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IS NOTABLE: CHINESE MEDIA

In the epic fight against “Covid-19 terror” offering the world new standards of resilience on the footsteps of China spirit, momentous meeting between President Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping have benchmarked “Iron-Clad Friendship”, allowing both Pakistan and China to make everyone sit up and take notice on regional and international landscape. The friendship is based on mutual trust, bilateral respect, equal-footed cooperation, cognizance on international issues especially new Afghan peace deal, Kashmir problem and deepest understanding on CPEC, signature project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), according to an article published by China Economic Net. In China, hundreds of people died; daily tally was on rise. However, China spirit, leadership will, national resolve and health SOPs nixed reign of terror. Now Wuhan once was worst-hit city came clean with zero registration of new coronavirus case. President Arif Alvi’s presence on the victory time cheered up Chinese leadership as well as all and sundry. No one but Pakistan was first country which cozied up Iron Friend in her jubilation. The Hunza region in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan donated 7,000 surgical masks to China. Zhang Heqing, cultural counselor of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, as well as director of the China

Cultural Center in Pakistan, accepted the donation and met the 12-person delegation headed by leaders of the Development Committee of the Overseas Chinese Association in Pakistan. Zhang expressed gratitude for the donation made by people in Hunza on behalf of Yao Jing, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan. Later Pakistan sent its military aircraft to China to deliver pandemic control materials. The two leaders exchanged in-depth views on the experience of epidemic prevention and control, coordination of epidemic response and socio-economic development, response to external economic and financial risks and deepening of major cooperation including the CPEC. The two sides also signed an MOU on the establishment of working groups specialized in science and technology as well as agriculture under the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee, and agreed to expand cooperation in related areas under the CPEC framework. It is believed that tested by the epidemics and other disasters, the iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China will grow stronger and deeper, which will inject even stronger impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.



MEDIA REPORT

CPEC JOINT WORKING GROUPS INCREASES TO TEN

Director of National Development and Reform Commission He Lifeng and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi signed the MoU on behalf of the two governments, according to China Economic Net. The two countries signed the memorandum at the Great Hall of the People at the conclusion of a bilateral meeting of President Dr. Arif Alvi's with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his recent two-day visit to China. Besides the two newly established joint working groups for agriculture and science and technology, there are eight working groups already functional in a range of areas including planning, energy, transport, Special Economic Zones, international cooperation, Gwadar, security, and socio-economic development.

THE NUMBER OF JOINT WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) EXTENDED TO TEN AFTER SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON ESTABLISHING JOINT WORKING GROUPS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE.



It may be mentioned here that during the visit, the countries maintained that the new phase of high-quality development of CPEC will promote industrialization and socio-economic development in Pakistan. They hoped that the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of CPEC, to be held soon, will further contribute to making CPEC a High-Quality Demonstration Project of BRI. Both sides stressed that the economic and social impact of CPEC on the region will be substantial and beneficial and hoped that the international community will support such efforts that underpin economic development.



CPEC- AN UNSTOPPABLE RISE TO COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY



INTRODUCTION

CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) has been heralded as a “game-changer” that promises to bring peace and prosperity to the Pakistan. It is a flagship project undergoing the leadership of the Chinese overarching One Belt One Road initiative. For Pakistan, it is a huge developmental boost. Apart from trade benefits, China can maintain its presence in Central Asia as it wants to be a global superpower. One of its ends is in the Xinjiang province of China and then it passes through the whole of Pakistan and ends at the Gwadar port

CPEC was originally valued at 46 billion USD but its worth keep on increasing as more and more investments swayed in. Currently it worth more than 62 billion USD. The CPEC project has the potential to bring regional economic integration and cooperation. It is a win situation for both beneficiaries of the project. The unique strategic advantage brought by this project is its unique effort to connect the vital link between Eurasian land routes and maritime silk routes, which was the vision of the OBOR initiative. Pakistan can serve as an international interchange enabling us a great strategic advantage to be the hub for international and integration of economies of Asia, Africa, Europe. This geostrategic advantage needs to be harnessed on the basis of mutuality of interest to translate into geo-economic gains. However, there are some challenges and obstacles to the success of this project. The new emerging power dynamic poses serious challenges to the CPES. If these challenges are effectively tackled, it may lead to economic interdependence which could be a milestone for peace and economic development for the region. Pakistan has

key strategic importance in the region. From the Eastern side, arch-rival India is situated. India having the biggest emerging market in the world. It is not in her best interest to let Pakistan peacefully have this piece of the economic pie.

History

The project has been in the plan for many decades. The talks of a corridor stretching from the Chinese border to Pakistan's deep-water ports on the Arabian Sea dates back to the 1950s. The first construction project was initiated in 1959 that led to the construction of the Karakoram Highway. In 2002 China began construction at the Gwadar port which was completed in 2006. However, further, development hit a standstill due to the political instabilities in Pakistan following the fall of General Pervez Musharraf and the leading conflicts at that time. A few years passed with minimal development. Then in 2013, Pakistani President communicated with China to enhance the mutual connectivity. Next year, the president visited China to further discuss the plans for an economic corridor in Pakistan. A few months later the Prime Minister met with Premier Li Keqiang in China to discuss further plans. This meeting resulted in the full scope of the project to be devised. In November 2014, the Chinese government announced its intentions to finance Chinese companies and projects in Pakistan as part of CPEC. Later during the state visit of Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, he made a heart-warming statement saying: “This will be my first trip to Pakistan, but I feel as if I am going to visit the home of my own brother.” Soon after that Pakistan and China signed an agreement to commence work on this multibillion-dollar agreement. The agreement at that time was made of worth 46 Billion USD, which was a whopping 20% of Pakistan's annual GDP.

PROJECT INITIATION

Envisaged in mid-2013 and launched in April 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a set of projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative, marks a new era of economic ties in a bilateral relationship historically defined by security cooperation. As per the agreement, the two countries will also cooperate in the field of space research. Later in September and October of 2015, the United Kingdom also jumped in on the project and give grants for the construction of roadways that are complementary to CPEC. In the very next month, China added CPEC into its five-year development plan. At the end of 2015, an investment of 1.5 billion dollars was made to set up an information and technology park. Next year a few deals of billion dollars were made to work in solar power and logistics and improvement of infrastructure. China further announced 8.5 Billion USD of investment in Pakistan to upgrade the main railway line from Karachi to Peshawar and to an LNG terminal and transmission lines to help reduce energy costs. Later a 20 billion dollar investment was made by the investment companies in KPK, Pakistan. As of 2017, more than 14 billion USD worth of projects were under construction. After the completion of energy projects, the focus will be geared towards hydropower projects.

BENEFITS-PAKISTAN ECONOMY

The CPEC project is a win situation for both of the participant countries. Pakistan is a developing country with a small per capita income and any boost to its GPA is appreciated. Currently, the GPA of Pakistan is at 284 Billion dollars which is not adequate to a country of this size. CPEC project is expected to initially add 6 to 8 billion dollars to that number. This is due to the toll tax that Pakistan can collect by providing its infrastructure and the tax collected from the industries that will flourish here under the CPEC initiative. Gawadar port will also provide a transshipment toll. It is a, one of its kind, a deep seaport that can serve as a hub to a lot of trade from China.

Energy projects under CPEC

Pakistan has always struggled in its energy department. Under the umbra of CPEC, many energy projects are undergoing in Pakistan. These projects are already helping the country to fulfill its ever-increasing energy needs. It is projected that energy consumption will increase by 41% by 2030. Commercial consumption is expected to increase by 414% and industrial by 136%. In the face of these upcoming crises, the CPEC energy projects can serve as a

backbone to meeting these needs.

Infrastructure under CPEC

Through the CPEC project, Pakistan is getting a bunch of infrastructural improvements throughout the country. Gawadar forms the crux of the CPEC project as it will be the link between the ambitious One Belt, One Road Project. There is more than 1 billion dollars worth of projects underway around the port of Gawadar. Many roadway and railway projects are underway that will improve Pakistan's infrastructure. Under the CPEC project, China has announced financing for 10.63 billion dollars' worth of transportation. Three corridors have been chosen for cargo transport.

Jobs and Employment

Although CPEC work is still in its infancy stages it has already helped Pakistan ascend the global competitiveness scale. According to a report by PWC, Pakistan will be the world's 20th largest economy by the year 2030 and CPEC will result in the creation of over 2.3 million new jobs. CPEC's energy projects have contributed \$250 million in taxes and provided 10,000 jobs by adding 14.5 percent of the total electricity output in the NTDC system so far.

BENEFITS-CHINA ECONOMY

We have seen the immense benefits that CPEC promises to provide to the Pakistan economy and boosting the local infrastructure. But all the multibillion-dollar investment has reasons more than simple altruism. China stands to get abundant benefits from this project. During my research, I have found three main overarching gains that will help China in its further growth. China is geographically a very broad country. Its west side is landlocked due to the presence of Pakistan. The Eastside has the China sea and the country has seven major seaports located on that side.

The main source of China's economy is her trade business which happens mostly through seaports. Owing to the locations of these ports, it makes economic sense to have the major factories and industries on the side closer to the ports to save a massive chunk of the local transportation by roads. The population density is shifted to the east side.

It is in China's best interest to redistribute the population throughout the country. For that, the country needs to generate greater work opportunities to provide an incentive to people to migrate to the less dense west side. The presence of Gawadar port on that side can be a major help to this initiative. The port can give China a direct link to the Arabian sea for her export and it can save the logistic costs of transportation.

Furthermore, the labor costs are still very cheap compared to the more developed west side. The industry located in say in Urumqi can be much cheaper due to the low minimum wage and the availability of Gawadar port in Pakistan. All of these incentives can help in the redistribution of the population to the west side.

GROWTH POTENTIAL TO THE WEST SIDE



Written by:
Bilal Hussain

The west side of China hasn't had the development that the east side is enjoying for the last three decades. As we already discussed the economic development of China is tied with the trading and the availability of ports. The west side hasn't had these perks and the population shifted away to the east, leaving fewer job opportunities on this less developed area. This all leads to low labor costs and more growth potential. Investors looking for more potential and quick growth can find this attractive. With the possibility of Gawader port coupled with the cheap labor costs will allow the trade business to take off. Thanks to the nearby Gawader port, this region will get access to cheap resources due to low transportation costs. It can get oil from Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Iran, Iraq, Oman etc. The gas can be obtained from Qatar. All in all, this region will get the most from this project and it will lead to economic equality in China. The redistribution of the population will come with greater economic stability which will bring greater prosperity to the country.

CHINA EXPORT TO WORLD A COMPARISON OF SHANGHAI, CHINA ROUTE WITH GAWADAR, PAKISTAN

The table shows the distance and travel duration from Urumqi to Shanghai and then from Shanghai to the destination, by using the conventional route and then the route via Gawadar under the CPEC project. It also shows the total saving in logistics costs in percentage compared to the conventional route. In the last column, I added the total export from China to the country under consideration.

	Urumqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to New York	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Kilometers	3981	25670	61.8	22.7	36.7 %	461.8
Nautical Miles		13861				
Days	4	57.8				
	Urumqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to New York	Total Days			
Kilometers	3082	16053	39.1			
Nautical Miles		8668				
Days	3	36.1				

	Urumqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to London	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Kilometers	3981	21857	61.8	31.1	50.3 %	5.6
Nautical Miles		11866				
Days	4	49.4				
	Urumqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to London	Total Days			
Kilometers	3082	12319	30.7			
Nautical Miles		6651				
Days	3	27.7				

	Urumqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Amsterdam	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Kilometers	3981	22287	54.1	22.7	41.9 %	67
Nautical Miles		12034				
Days	4	50.1				
	Urumqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Amsterdam	Total Days			
Kilometers	3082	12630	31.4			
Nautical Miles		6820				
Days	3	28.4				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Durban	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	15590	39.1	18.1	46.3 %	14.8
Nautical Miles		8418				
Days	4	35.1				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Durban	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	8012	21			
Nautical Miles		4326				
Days	3	18				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Jeddah	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	13596	34.6	22.7	65.6 %	14.8
Nautical Miles		7341				
Days	4	30.6				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Jeddah	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	3939	11.9			
Nautical Miles		2127				
Days	3	8.9				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Dubai	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	12273	31.6	26.6	84 %	52.65
Nautical Miles		6627				
Days	4	27.6				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Dubai	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	878	5			
Nautical Miles		474				
Days	3	2				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Doha, Qatar	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	12620	32.4	25.5	78.7 %	3.85
Nautical Miles		6814				
Days	4	28.4				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Doha, Qatar	Total Days			
Killometers	3082		6.9			
Nautical Miles		942				
Days	3	3.9				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Mombasa, Kenya	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	1745	33.1	19.8	59.8 %	5
Nautical Miles		6981				
Days	4	29.1				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Mombasa, Kenya	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	4563	13.3			
Nautical Miles		2464				
Days	3	10.3				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Muscat	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transportation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	11620	30.1	26.2	87 %	2.3
Nautical Miles		6274				
Days	4	26.1				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Muscat	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	385	3.9			
Nautical Miles		208				
Days	3	0.9				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Kuwait	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	13138	33.6	26.7	79.4 %	3.1
Nautical Miles		7094				
Days	4	29.6				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Kuwait	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	1744	6.9			
Nautical Miles		942				
Days	3	3.9				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Shahbahar, Iran	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	11534	29.9	26.6	88.9 %	18.5
Nautical Miles		6228				
Days	4	25.9				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Shahbahar, Iran	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	141	3.3			
Nautical Miles		76				
Days	3	0.3				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Alexandria, Egypt	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	15492	38.8	22.7	59.2 %	9.49
Nautical Miles		8365				
Days	4	34.8				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Alexandria, Egypt	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	5838	16.1			
Nautical Miles		3152				
Days	3	13.1				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to KBSP, Bahrain	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	12699	32.6	26.8	82.2 %	0.9
Nautical Miles		6857				
Days	4	28.6				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to KBSP, Bahrain	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	1304	5.8			
Nautical Miles		704				
Days	3	2.8				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Algiers, Algeria	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	18407	45.4	22.7	50 %	4.2
Nautical Miles		9939				
Days	4	41.4				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Algiers, Algeria	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	8751	22.7			
Nautical Miles		4725				
Days	3	19.7				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Tunis, Tunisia	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	17703	43.8	22.7	51.8 %	1.85
Nautical Miles		9559				
Days	4	39.8				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Tunis, Tunisia	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	8047	21.1			
Nautical Miles		4345				
Days	3	18.1				

	Urmaqi to Shanghai	Shanghai to Tripoli, Libya	Total Days	Less Days	Saving in Transporation cost	Export in Billion USD
Killometers	3981	17014	42.3	22.7	53.3 %	1.03
Nautical Miles		9187				
Days	4	38.3				
	Urmaqi to Gawadar	Gawadar to Tripoli, Libya	Total Days			
Killometers	3082	7358	19.6			
Nautical Miles		3973				
Days	3	16.6				

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PACE OF SAINDAK PROJECT UNDER CPEC REMAINS UNAFFECTED DESPITE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

BEIJING Managing Director of

Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd.

(MCC) Copper-Gold Saindak project said that despite enormous pressure in wake of combating COVID-19 all the Chinese staff is sticking to their posts and no one has asked to return to China. According to Gwadar Pro, currently, the project is running normally.



C COVID-19 epidemic could not obstruct construction of CPEC. MCC Saindak project is adjacent to Iran and Afghanistan. Thereby the company is facing great threat of COVID-19; however it has still guaranteed the robust production and construction to the maximum extent. Staff of MCC Saindak said that, the epidemic has brought various impacts to our project. In order to keep the construction of CPEC, we have taken a series of actions to cope with the outbreak, so that our project is still running normally. To prevent and control the epidemic, the company has distributed protective equipment such as mask and sanitizer. Meanwhile MCC has started working in three shifts for 24 hours. Offices, operation areas and vehicles of Saindak are also disinfected strictly every day. Besides, the company has implemented military style management to decrease infective risks for personnel. Saindak closed all entrances and exits of the project. Except necessary transportation of production and logistic supplies, all the entrances and exits of Saindak project are strictly restricted. The MCC's management has also taken a series of measures to ensure the normal production and operation of the project, such as: Suspending the leave of both Chinese and Pakistani employees to ensure that the personnel are able to meet the needs of onsite production. According to the production plan and the requirements of monthly

guarantees, operating the collection and selection system. Up to now, there are 178 Chinese personnel and 973 Pakistani employees in Saindak mining area, 7 Chinese personnel in the Karachi office. All of them are working in the production and construction of CPEC with good health and normal life.





MEDIA REPORT

GOVT APPROVES 6 PROJECTS COSTING RS98 BILLION

The federal government approved six projects at a cost of Rs98 billion, of which four of them had been revised repeatedly.

A project for the construction of Mandra-Chakwal road had been approved by Ecnec, led by Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, at a cost of Rs2.7 billion in 2012. Shaikh has now approved it at a revised cost of Rs11.9 billion, which was 348% higher. Former PM Ashraf gave the contract to the National Logistics Cell (NLC) in violation of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. The Islamabad High Court later struck down the award of the contract. However, in competitive bidding, NLC again won the contract by offering the lowest bid. The Irrigation Department of Balochistan will execute the project. Ecnec directed the government of Balochistan to ensure the completion of the project within the revised scope and cost. The Naulong Dam project, with the PC-I revised for the second time, was granted, in principle, approval to enable the Economic Affairs Division to start negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for finalizing details of project financing, according to the Ministry of Finance. The total cultivable command area of the project has been increased from the earlier proposed 9,900 acres to 47,000 acres while the proposed power generation capacity of the project has also been raised. The technical

appraisal section has asked several questions about the hydrology and seismic data of the area where the Naulong Dam is under construction. It endorsed the construction of National Electronic Complex of Pakistan, Phase-I in the H-9/1 sector of Islamabad at a revised cost of Rs16.1 billion. This project had been approved at a cost of Rs10.9 billion many years ago. The project will help in technology acquisition for the achievement of self-reliance in research, design and manufacturing in the information and communication technology sector. It will also help give early warning systems for disaster management and aid in electronic measures for the security of national assets, electronic exploration of natural resources on land/ sea and designing and fabrication of integrated circuits and systems on chips. It is expected that the project will be completed by June 2022. The National Programme for Enhancing the Command Area in Barani Areas of Pakistan was approved at a total cost of Rs25.4 billion. The project scope includes construction of 2,664 farm ponds for storing rainwater from various sources and installation of solar pumping systems on farm ponds for the operation of high-efficiency irrigation systems.



PAK-CHINA COOPERATION CONTINUES TO GROW:

AMBASSADOR NAGHMANA HASHMI

The friendship between Pakistan and China has grown stronger and stronger due to the difficult time that both the countries have gone through previously, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi. Quoting Chinese President Xi Jinping, she stated As gold becomes solid and shines when it goes through the fire, it [China] has withstood the test of time like a good neighbor, strategic cooperative partner and an iron brother. Pakistan has a gradient economy and 70% of it depends on agriculture, therefore, agricultural science and technology play a decisive role in the country's social and economic development, Hashmi said, adding that it is extremely important to bring these two sectors under efforts of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for poverty alleviation and development. She also expressed her views while talking about the two memorandums of understanding (MOUs), three exchanged certificates and one exchange of notes that were signed by the ambassador during the visit of President Dr Arif Alvi. We are looking forward to setting up a research center for pest control because the areas where we grow most of our staple crops are hot and humid in summer and this condition encourages different kinds of pests. Besides locust, research on mango and cotton pest outbreak would also be a good outcome of practical cooperation.

The ambassador added, we are now working on the vital sanitary requirements for the export of meat to China and are planning to establish a cold chain between Pakistan and China. We are hopeful that soon we will be able to get the quarantine certification for the export of meat to China, which will boost bilateral trade. Similarly, fishery market is another area where we really need to concentrate. According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, in the first seven months (Jul-Jan) of current fiscal year, Pakistan's frozen fish exports to China increased 83.70%, which is an item that contributes a lot to exports. However, Pakistan's overall exports to China increased only 1.80% while imports decreased 2.48%. Speaking about the impact of the global pandemic on the two countries' economies and trade, the ambassador said there is no need to worry about it. The first and second quarters will be affected, but we will make it up in the third and fourth quarters. She said, Infrastructural projects of the first phase of CPEC have now been completed. The energy shortage is a thing of the past. This is the time to put your heart, soul and efforts towards increasing bilateral investments, trade and setting up joint ventures. There is a huge era of opportunities between Pakistan and China. You must take advantage of the opportunities and possibilities which are now opening up in Pakistan.

The friendship between Pakistan and China has grown stronger and stronger due to the difficult time that both the countries have gone through previously, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi.

PUNJAB AUTHORITIES SUPPORT TIMELY COMPLETION OF ALLAMA IQBAL INDUSTRIAL CITY OF CPEC

Since government is committed to promote the industrialization and socio-economic development, Punjab administration has provided all kinds of facilities and support for early completion of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, a prioritized Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under CPEC. Divisional Commissioner Faisalabad Ishrat Ali said the city government would expedite to take back the possession of the lands from the local land grabbers and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. He said they would provide all necessary help to FIEDMC for early completions of its all projects and anti-encroachment move is underway to remove hurdles and other things from the surroundings of FIEDMC. Regional Police Officer Raja Riffat Mukhtar said a model police station in FIEDMC will further be strengthened for security and protection of the investors, industrialists and workers where a highly trained staff, also fluent in spoken English and Chinese languages, will be deployed. He said a monitoring system will also be set up in economic zones on the pattern of the safe city which will be linked with a central monitoring system of police. Furthermore, a service center will also be set up in the model police station which will screen the employees to avoid hiring people with previous criminal records. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the importance of this interchange is to enable convenience of commute. It would facilitate entry into and exit from FIEDMC's M-3 industrial city, given the estate's location between M-3 and M-4 motorways. This link road will further help manage incoming and outgoing traffic on the motorway, almost separating vehicles traveling to the industrial estates. Such an investment from the government will attract foreign and local financiers, whereby highlighting the importance of government support for the success of large scale national initiatives. He said Pakistan has offered a big incentive package to foreign investors in order to gear up its economy and attract FDI in a large volume. Investment incentives in Pakistan are diverse and highly business friendly.



MEDIA REPORT

MATIARI-LAHORE TRANSMISSION IS BEING COMPLETED ON FAST TRACK

More than eighty percent of overall work on the Matiari-Lahore transmission line under CPEC project has been completed while the construction work is being completed on fast track.



The transmission line will be used to pass on the power generated from indigenous Thar coal based power project. Major milestones like completion of 95 per cent tower foundations and 40 per cent of towers erection had already been achieved, besides the conductor stringing activity had been inaugurated. Spread over around 890 kilometers, he added, the transmission line was being developed under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Agreement having a great national importance. The mega transmission line project would evacuate 4000 Megawatts of Power from Coal Based Power Plants in Thar region and thermal power plants including nuclear power plants of Sindh to northern load centers of the country. This transmission facility would primarily be utilized to transmit power generated from indigenous Thar coal based power generation projects with an aim to enhance the share of indigenous fuel based generation and saving the significant amount of foreign exchange. The project was expected to formally start its commercial operation on March 01, 2021.



FEATURE

MANSEHRA – THAKOT SECTION OF THAKOT-HAVELIAN MOTORWAY IS ALMOST COMPLETED

Over 98 per cent physical progress on 79 km Mansehra – Thakot section of 118 km long Thakot-Havelian Motorway, one of the early harvest projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has been completed and soon it would become functional, told by an official of National Highway Authority (NHA). About 40 kilometer section from Shah Maqsood inter-change to Mansehra had been inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan in November last year, he added. He said work on Havelian-Thakot Motorway project started in September 2016 and it would cost Rs133 billion. Ninety percent of the project had been funded by China Exim Bank while the 10 percent was being funded by Government of Pakistan. The motorway will start from Havelian and will pass through Abbottabad, Mansehra and Shinkiari and ends at Thakot. The motorway has five tunnels, two at Abbottabad and one each at Battal, Karmong and Mansehra. Up to Mansehra, its 39 km portion has six-lane controlled access portion while the remaining 79 km would be four-lane highway.

GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE LOW-COST ENERGY SUPPLY TO RASHAKAI SEZ UNDER CPEC

Secretary Energy and Power, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohammad Zubair Khan has said that the provincial government would supply cheap electricity produced from the resources of the province to the industrial units of the Rashakai Economic Zone through wheeling charges.



He expressed these views while speaking in a progress review meeting on the energy sector projects initiated under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Beside, Coordinator of the provincial government for CPEC Kamal Khan and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), Engineer Naeem Khan, Additional Secretary Energy, Iftikhar Ahmad Marwat, Deputy Secretary Khaliq Dad Wazir and others attended the meeting.

The meeting was told that the revival of the industrial sector is the top priority of the incumbent provincial government and all available resources are being utilized for the purpose that would help economic stability and arrest of

unemployment in the province. Kamal Khan said that industrial estates are being established for the development of the industrial sector wherein cheap electricity would be sold to them through wheeling module. Kamal Khan said that industrial estates are being established for the development of the industrial sector wherein cheap electricity would be sold to them through wheeling module. The secretary energy further said that establishment of Transmission and Distribution Company in the province is in progress that would enable the province to supply its produced electricity to both domestic and industrial sector of the province.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES SEZs IN HUB AND BOSTAN

Balochistan Investment Board Chief Executive Farman Zarkoon has termed the federal government's approval of special economic zones in Hub and Bostan a significant step forward for Baluchistan's development on which work would be launched in July this year. These projects will provide employment for about 100,000 people.

Bostan Economic Zone would be set up on 200 acres of land in the first phase which would cost Rs500 million and provide employment for more than thirty thousand people in the fruit processing, agricultural machinery, mineral sectors of precious stones, cold storage, electrical appliances, motorcycle assembly, pharmaceuticals and halal food industries. The Hub Economic Zone, Farman Zarkoon said, would be set up on a total area of 406 acres, would cost Rs4 billion and would include the chemical, food, cement manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, power generation, oil lubricants, blending, marble, metal processing, mineral grinding and steel grinding industries. Engineering and other industries will be established as well, he said, adding that the initiative was being launched in accordance with the directives and vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani. Bostan Industrial Zone under second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) comprised of 1,000 acres of land on which various types of industries would be established. Balochistan government has decided to provide basic facilities to the area during the development of Bostan industrial zone. Infrastructure, including roads, street lights and other facilities would be provided by the government during the construction of the zone. According to official website of CPEC, 200 acres of the land allotted for the zone has been developed. The zone would connect to Quetta Airport at a distance of 23 kilometers. At a distance of 713 kilometers from the zone, the land connected to Karachi seaport and another 976 kilometer from the zone, Bostan Industrial Zone would connect to Gwadar. Quetta dry port would be at a distance of 32 kilometers from the zone while highway N-50 would be adjacent to the land, according to official details. Earlier, Balochistan Minister for Commerce and Industries Muhammad Utmanikhail had urged the federal government to expand its financial support for Baluchistan's SEZs to create and promote economic activities in the province.





MEDIA REPORT

PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS TO BE STIMULATED UNDER SEZS

Chairman of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) expressed hope that CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would stimulate the export base of Pakistan's industries.

Special economic zones (SEZs) could help Pakistan enhance its exports to around \$1-1.5 billion annually in the short run by ensuring effective planning. Mian Kashif Ashfaq, chairman of the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) said that investors from China, Turkey, Korea and Britain have pumped \$1.10 billion into SEZs and they are bringing in more investors from their countries to invest in Pakistan. He said these investors expressed their eagerness to explore the possibility of investment in diverse sectors of Pakistan, especially ceramics, chemicals, steel, food processing and automobiles. He stated that the FIEDMC, which is a successful example of public-private partnership and first-ever state of the art SEZ, would ultimately prove to be an economic engine of the country through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. He said, almost hundred per cent plots in M-3 Industrial Estate has been sold out while hundreds of units had become operational and playing their role in providing exportable surplus in addition to employing thousands of workers. Mian Kashif said the M-3 industrial city would house more than 400 people and units of textile, steel, pharmaceuticals, engineering, chemicals, food processing, plastic and agriculture appliances would provide jobs to nearly 250,000 workers. Faisalabad is strategically located in the heart of Pakistan and is flanked by two motorways passing from its eastern and western sides. This city has the unique privilege of contributing 60 per cent to textile exports and 45pc to total exports of the country. Faisalabad is not only known for its iconic textile industries but also brimming with hundreds of small and medium enterprises manufacturing chemicals, steel and food



processing products. A good sign is several Chinese industries have started investing in SEZs in Pakistan perhaps because the production cost in China has increased and the country is probably benefiting from the ongoing US-China trade war.

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GOVERNMENT RELEASES FUNDS FOR MAINLINE 1 (ML-1) UNDER CPEC

Under the federal government's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2019-20, the project was allocated funds of Rs1.8 billion which had been disbursed now. The total cost of the project is Rs10.64 billion and an amount of Rs5.172 had already been spent up to June 30 2019, according to a latest data released by the Planning Ministry. Overall, an amount of Rs10.7 billion has been released for various development projects of railway division out of total allocation of Rs13.47 billion. Similarly the government also released Rs 1 billion for procurement of 75 Diesel Electric Locomotives for which an amount of Rs1 billion was allocated during the year. For procurement of 820 high capacity bogie freight wagons and 230 passengers'

The govt has disbursed 100 percent development funds of Rs1.8 billion allocated for preliminary design for up-gradation and rehabilitation of main line (ML-1) and establishment of dry port near Havelian under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

coaches, the government has so far released Rs1.9 billion out of total allocation of Rs2.2 billion whereas for reconstruction of asset damaged during the floods 2010, an amount of Rs 1.11 billion for which Rs 1.4 billion were allocated during the current fiscal year. For track rehabilitation on Khanpur Lodhran section, Rs 330 million were disbursed out of total allocation of Rs 330 million whereas for up-gradation of railway stations to attract Sikh Tourism at Hassan Abdal, Nankana Sahib and Norowal, the government disbursed Rs 356 million for which an amount of Rs445 million was allocated. The government also disbursed Rs457 million for up-gradation of terminal facilities and dry ports out of total allocation of Rs571 million while Rs 404 million released for up-gradation and renovation of railway stations. In total, the government has so far disbursed Rs 466.7 billion for various development projects under the PSDP 2019-20 out of total allocation of Rs701 billion.



MEDIA TALK

CHINA HAS NO OBJECTION TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SEZs UNDER CPEC

China's Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing has said that Beijing would welcome investment into Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) from other countries.



He also said that the Chinese investors were showing keen interest to invest in these SEZs. The private businesses have come into joint ventures (JVs) of tyres, manufacturing of buses and trucks and textiles in the last six months. More Chinese investors are interested to come and invest in the SEZs. We welcome the participation of other countries into SEZs under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Ambassador Jing said that the second phase of CPEC would engage the private sector, local community and the society at large. He underlined that the current phase of CPEC would cover industrial cooperation, agriculture cooperation, social protection, poverty alleviation and cooperation in science and technology to boost the

The Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood, said that our strategy for the future of Pakistan is being prepared considering CPEC and SEZs being developed under CPEC. The adviser appreciated the efforts of exporters and businessmen for achieving this result and showed his gratitude for China for the phase II of the Free Trade Agreement, which is poised to further boost the growth in overall exports of Pakistan.

economy of Pakistan and to raise the the level of skills and living standards of the population. He added that the CPEC objectives are for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood, said that our strategy for the future of Pakistan is being prepared considering CPEC and SEZs being developed under CPEC. The adviser appreciated the efforts of exporters and businessmen for achieving this result and showed his gratitude for China for the phase II of the Free Trade Agreement, which is poised to further boost the growth in overall exports of Pakistan. Explaining the objective of Special Economic Zones under CPEC, Dawood said that the SEZs are open for businessmen from all countries and nationalities, as the lucrative incentives under SEZs are the same for everyone. He added that investments in various sectors have started to pour in and it will pick up pace in the coming days. He underscored that the second phase of CPEC was focused around industrial and agricultural cooperation, while the next phase would be about connectivity with regional and global markets, as a part of the overall Belt and Road Initiative. After the opening session and remarks by the distinguished guests, a session on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC was held comprising insights from different stakeholders. The concluding session covered SEZs and Industrial Cooperation Framework, which included panel discussions to generate debate on different policy issues.



MEDIA TALK

TURKEY IS WILLING TO EXPLORE SEZS UNDER CPEC

Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul Thursday said that his country wanted a sustainable and long-lasting Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Pakistan to achieve win-win results for both countries. He said that leadership of Turkey and Pakistan have an objective from FTA that it should boost bilateral trade eventually to \$5 billion and hoped that Pakistan would final its list of items for FTA this month for Turkey. Yurdakul said that Pak-Turkey existing bilateral trade of around \$800 million was far from potential keeping in view the fact that common market of both countries was billions of dollars. Turkish companies have invested around \$1.5 billion in Pakistan and more were willing to invest here, he added.



Speaking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador said that Turkish investors needed more knowledge and information about all aspects of CPEC including investment potential in its Special Economic Zones and projects to tap all untapped potential in this project. He said that economic power was moving towards East while Pakistan was a gateway for Asia and wished that Pakistan would emerge as a trade hub in the region, for which it should improve its infrastructure and connectivity. Yurdakul said that he was a business friendly Ambassador and assured that all genuine businessmen of Pakistan would be facilitated in visas for Turkey. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, President, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that Pakistan and Turkey should sign FTA as early as possible that would increase bilateral trade to US\$ 2 billion in a couple of years. He said that Turkey have achieved good economic growth and stressed that it should share its expertise and technology with Pakistan that would accelerate industrialization, exports and economic growth in Pakistan. Turkey was generating \$35-36 billion revenue annually from tourism while the current Government of Pakistan was determined to promote tourism, he added. Waheed urged the Turkey to cooperate with Pakistan in developing tourism industry that would bring multiple benefits to our economy.

OVER 600 LANDOWNERS GET PAYMENTS FOR THEIR LAND USED IN CPEC PROJECTS: NHA

The National Highway Authority (NHA) came forward to address the grievances of local's in Mansehra pertaining to land compensation. It is reported that the National Highway Authority (NHA) will release payments in phases. National Highway Authority (NHA) has started payments to over 600 landowners whose land was acquired for the Hazara Motorway and other projects being executed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the district. The district accounts office gave away cheques to landowners following director National Highway authority Syed Asif Shah transferred the money into its account. Mohammad Mushtaq Khan, the district account officer said that we have started payments to landowners after break of operation for four months. He said that during ongoing phase, an amount of Rs300 million would be distributed among landowners. As NHA clears more and more payments, we would ensure its disbursement without any further delay, he added.





PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CHINA THE PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CHINA IS TO ENSURE SOLIDARITY AMID CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says main purpose of our visit to China is to express solidarity with the people and Chinese leadership in wake of coronavirus pandemic. He said the world has lauded the China's efforts to fight the Corona virus with determination. He said China is a long-time friend of Pakistan and this visit will provide an opportunity to discuss a range of issues including bilateral relations, regional situation, Afghan peace process and situation in occupied Kashmir. The Minister said meeting with Chinese President and the Prime Minister will be held and MoUs will be signed on cooperation in the fields of agriculture and science and technology. He also thanked the Chinese leadership for taking care and supporting the Pakistani

students. He said China and Pakistan are committed to advance construction of the flagship project CPEC of Belt and Road Initiative. The impact of coronavirus would be very limited and expressed the confidence that all the projects being completed under CPEC would be completed on time. About peace agreement between the United States and Afghan Taliban, he said Pakistan has always been supporting the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan. About President Dr Arif Alvi's visit to China, he said it would further cement the historic bonds of trust and mutual support between the two all-weather friends and iron brothers. Pakistan will sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with China for the establishment of two new joint working groups for agriculture and science & technology under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC). The Federal Minister added that the MoU states that the governments of China and Pakistan believe that CPEC has entered in a new stage of enrichment & expansion with increasing cooperation areas, expanding cooperation scale and growing cooperation projects.

MEDIA TALK

PRESIDENT ALVI'S VISIT BECOME TOP TREND ON CHINESE MEDIA, WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

Chinese government and people of China appreciate Arif Alvi's visit to China. The title of article published by different Chinese news channel totally won the attention of more than 370,000 readers. Many news articles normally cannot expect such a real hit. General public of china expressed their gratitude to President Alvi for visiting China at this crucial time, and their best wishes for the Pakistan-China friendship. Many people express their gratitude through different comments like, We'd like to express our warmest welcome to President Alvi for coming to China. We cherish the friendship between China and Pakistan that has been passing on to generations and generations. What are the concerns of Pakistan are also ours, and vice versa. The iron brothers are united. Through joint efforts, China and Pakistan will defeat the COVID-19, and resume economic development. However the world changes, long live Pak-China friendship!

Plenty of positive remarks suggested that President Alvi's visit once again sparked a Chinese warm feeling for Pakistan, reflecting the unbreakable close relations between the two countries throughout history. The two countries also issued a joint statement on deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.



FEATURE

ARMY ASSURES GOVT OF ALL-OUT SUPPORT IN WAR AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Pakistan Army's chief spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar on briefed the media on the steps being taken by the armed forces to assist the civil administration in dealing with the coronavirus crisis as the nationwide COVID-19.

Addressing a press conference at the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) headquarters in Rawalpindi, Maj-Gen Iftikhar said that the country is facing serious challenge of novel coronavirus, which has



also wreaked havoc in the developed nations of the world. He said the army has been called in under Article-245 of the Constitution in aid of the civil administration across the country. Pakistan Army is fully aware of their duties and will extend their all-out support in coping with the coronavirus crisis said DG ISPR. He also said despite the heavy deployment of troops at western border and Line of Control (LoC), army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa dispatched all available troops and medical teams in aid of the civil administration to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Maj-Gen Iftikhar said as per the directives of the provincial governments, the public gatherings will not be allowed and all shopping malls, restaurants, swimming pools and other non-essential markets will remain close. However, he said, grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services will remain operational. We have closed all of our borders with neighboring countries but the real border is between human and coronavirus which we need to shut.



In the measures against the coronavirus outbreak, Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar approved the construction of a 900-bed field hospital and announced an estimated Rs8 billion in funds. Buzdar approved the hospital to be constructed at Expo Centre Lahore. The funds will be released to the provincial health department and the Pakistan Disaster Management Authority. CM Buzdar said that a committee has been constituted to aid the

CM PUNJAB APPROVES 900-BED HOSPITAL, ESTIMATED RS8BN FUNDS

Balochistan government, adding that Punjab will help the south-western province in every possible way. CM Buzdar paid tribute to the doctors fighting against the pandemic, referring to them as national heroes. He made an important announcement saying that the daily-wage workers will continue to get their wages and it will not be suspended. Highlighting further measures under the provincial government, the CM Punjab said that eight hotels in Lahore, with a capacity of total 880 beds, have been identified to assist in the process of quarantine. Buzdar also announced a chief minister emergency fund, asking the affluent to donate as much as they can.



The coronavirus pandemic is clearly "accelerating", the World Health Organization warned Monday, but said it was still possible to change its trajectory by going on the attack. The remarks came as the number of deaths soared past 15,000, with more than 341,000 people infected worldwide, according to a tally compiled by AFP from official sources. The pandemic is accelerating, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told. He said it took 67 days from the beginning of the outbreak in China in December for the virus to infect the first 100,000 people worldwide. In comparison, it took 11 days for the second 100,000 cases and just four days for the third 100,000 cases, he said. The number of officially recorded cases is believed to represent only a fraction of the true number of infections, with many countries only testing the most severe cases in need of hospitalization. We are not helpless bystanders. We can change the trajectory of this pandemic. Physical distancing could buy time by slowing down the spread, but they are defensive measures that will not help us to win. To win, we need to attack the virus with aggressive and targeted tactics testing every suspected case, isolating and caring for every confirmed case and tracing and quarantining every close contact. Despite wanting to go on the attack, the WHO chief acknowledged that a number of countries were struggling to take more aggressive measures due to a lack of resources and access to tests. Tedros praised the great energy being put into research and development to find a vaccine and of drugs to treat COVID-19. There is currently no treatment that has been proven to be effective against COVID-19, using untested medicines without the right evidence could raise false hope and even do more harm than good. Among other things, countries are looking at using antimalarial drugs as a treatment against the new coronavirus.



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC 'ACCELERATING': WHO

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MOEED YUSUF TELLS OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS NOT TO RETURN AMID CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr Moeed Yousuf advised overseas Pakistanis against returning to the country owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr Moeed Yousuf advised overseas Pakistanis against returning to the country owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Pakistan's airspace was close for international flights till April 4, 2020. He added stressing on the need to be cautious and vigilant in light of the growing coronavirus cases in the country. Some passengers who were in their travel to move to Pakistan were [stuck] in transit in some countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Thailand, and Turkey. Govt said at this occasion that they are our passengers; they make all arrangements and follow country's regulations, laws and advice. He said the government was working on a special screening system to make sure anyone arriving into Pakistan from abroad was safe from the virus and did not end up spreading it in the country. Yousuf said, I would request that it is not possible for the government to create a provision for those stuck in transit and please do not take a flight to Pakistan. We will take measures to ensure that virus does not travel through the airports due to which Pakistan's airspace was closed till 4th of April.

DRAP WARNS AGAINST HOARDING CHLOROQUINE



With the anti-malarial drug chloroquine phosphate touted as a potential cure to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) issued a stern warning to anyone hoarding stocks of the medicine.

It stated that reports had emerged that some people were hoarding stocks of chloroquine phosphate while drug stores across the country are reserving medicines containing the chemical. DRAP said that hoarding of drugs was against social values as well as Islamic teachings. It directed all pharmacies and chemists to ensure the provision of medicines prepared from the formula to those with prescriptions. Explaining guidelines, DRAP instructed that drugs containing chloroquine phosphate can only be sold at licensed drug stores and pharmacies and upon production of a prescription from a registered doctor. The drug stores have been instructed to devise records of all prescriptions as well.





THE STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN (SBP) HAS TAKEN SEVERAL MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE FINANCIAL CONSUMERS DURING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS INCLUDING PROVISION OF 'DISINFECTED CASH' AND ROUND-THE-CLOCK AVAILABILITY OF ATMS IN THE COUNTRY. BANKS WILL PROVIDE FIT, AUTHENTICATED AND DISINFECTED CASH. SBP WILL ENSURE TO CLEAN, DISINFECT, SEAL AND QUARANTINE ALL CASH BEING COLLECTED FROM HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AND TO BLOCK CIRCULATION OF SUCH CASH IN THE MARKET.

FEATURE

SBP TO ENSURE PROVISION OF 'DISINFECTED CASH' AVAILABILITY OF ATMS AMID VIRUS CRISIS

The central bank said in a statement issued following a meeting, chaired by SBP Governor Reza Baqir and attended by private bank's presidents and other officials. The SBP said arrangements are being made to provide disinfected cash to banks enabling them to issue fresh cash or the re-issuable cash that remained in quarantine for at least 15 days to their clients. Private Banks have been ensured that SBP has sufficient quantity of fresh cash to meet the demand. All critical functions and systems required to provide banking services, including Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) will remain available as usual even during the lock downs. The central bank said only those branches can remain closed where any member of staff is diagnosed with coronavirus or where requisite human resources are not available to avoid the congestion in the operative branches which is counterproductive for social distancing measures. continuous availability of ATMs will be ensured by keeping them up and running 24/7 by the banks. Banks' call centers and helplines must also be operative 24/7 and timely resolution of the complaints shall be ensured.



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CHINA THANKS PAKISTAN'S CIVIL-MILITARY DISTINGUISHED SUPPORT AMID PANDEMIC OUTBREAK: LIJIAN ZHAO

Amid a sharp surge in nationwide tally of COVID-19 patients, China has reassured Pakistan of full support in the fight against the coronavirus while praising the country's top civil and military leaders for standing with the Chinese people in their hour of need. I wish Pakistan could defeat COVID-19 as soon as possible, Lijian Zhao, the spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, said in a tweet on Sunday. Islamabad had extended full support to Beijing when it was battling the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, the central China city which had borne the brunt of the viral outbreak which has since been designated as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Arif Alvi along with senior minister visit to China was aimed at conveying Pakistan's strong support and solidarity towards the government and people of China in their battle against COVID-19. Pakistan PM Imran Khan and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa highly appreciated China as responsible and determined nation fighting COVID 19. Both asked Pakistanis to follow Chinese experience. The novel coronavirus has spread to all continents excluding Antarctica. The COVID-19 respiratory illness caused by the deadly contagion has so far killed thousands of people and infected tens of thousands of others across the globe. Though the deadly infestation has been contained by the Chinese government in Wuhan, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Europe as the new epicentre of the viral disease. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Pakistani government and people have offered strong support and assistance to China. We are deeply moved and would like to express our thanks again, Said Zhao. President Xi Jinping has also expressed profound gratitude for Pakistan's support to China at a critical time. Facts have proved once again that China and Pakistan are true friends and good brothers that share weal and woe.



Amid a sharp surge in nationwide tally of COVID-19 patients, China has reassured Pakistan of full support in the fight against the coronavirus while praising the country's top civil and military leaders for standing with the Chinese people in their hour of need



FEATURE

CHINA DIRECTS COMPANIES TO TREAT PAKISTAN AS A PREFERRED BUYER IN HEALTHCARE EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:

NDMA Chairman

While addressing media at a news briefing, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal said that Other than available 2200 ventilator in public sector, NDMA decided to achieve the target of acquiring more 10,000 ventilators to cope with recent pandemic outbreak

While addressing media at a news briefing, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal said that Other than available 2200 ventilator in public sector, NDMA decided to achieve the target of acquiring more 10,000 ventilators to cope with recent pandemic outbreak. Nothing is available anywhere except in China. NDMA is in coordination with NDRC (National Development and Reform Commission) and foreign ministry of China. They are issuing instructions to their factories to provide the material Pakistanis as a preferred buyer. Acquiring protective gear for doctors is government's first priority. Import of the healthcare equipment. The first batch of protective equipment arrived on March 25 to include one million masks, out of which 50,000 will be N-95 masks. Another cargo will arrive on Thursday including overall combination of 30,000 medical equipment. Moreover, 50,000 testing kits will arrive. The textile to prepare protective gear will also arrive for Lahore's manufacturer factor. Flight from Wuhan to carry 6-ton material comprised of around 16-17 ventilators and protection equipment. Arrival of another substantial number is also expected on this Friday flight to Beijing and Chengdu. There can be delay of a day or two due to procedural issues of international flight operations. Second batch arrived on March 28 through flight from Urumqi. Moreover, local investors and importers are requested to take advantage of this opportunity and assured assistance to them in booking and processing their orders. The government has contacted manufacturers of medical equipment and requested them to make investment. Moreover, assured to facilitate them under one window operation and took responsibility of clearance from the State bank, FIA, and Custom. Chairman NDMA added that we booked 6 orders in period of less than two months. Official also urged people to not to stimulate the sale of medical gears than storing them. Once crisis is over, things will be fine.

THE FIRST BATCH OF PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ARRIVED ON MARCH 25 TO INCLUDE ONE MILLION MASKS, OUT OF WHICH 50,000 WILL BE N-95 MASKS. ANOTHER CARGO WILL ARRIVE ON THURSDAY INCLUDING OVERALL COMBINATION OF 30,000 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. MOREOVER, 50,000 TESTING KITS WILL ARRIVE. THE TEXTILE TO PREPARE PROTECTIVE GEAR WILL ALSO ARRIVE FOR LAHORE'S MANUFACTURER FACTOR. FLIGHT FROM WUHAN TO CARRY 6-TON MATERIAL COMPRISED OF AROUND 16-17 VENTILATORS AND PROTECTION EQUIPMENT.



CHINESE MEDICAL EXPERTS ARE SET TO VISIT PAKISTAN TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19

While appreciating Pakistan's moral and tangible support amid pandemic outbreak, the National Health Commission of China has informed that a team of medical experts is set to leave for Pakistan to help combat COVID-19. China has already been guiding Pakistan to contain the epidemic by sharing its medical experiences and providing assistance including testing kits, protective suits, facial masks, and ventilators. In addition to that, China is ready to assist Pakistan on urgent basis and will help in setting up a temporary quarantine hospital in Pakistan.

China will send a team of medical experts to Pakistan to work closely with local health authorities and provide assistance and expertise in their fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic, said by Zeng Yixin, Vice Minister of China's National Health Commission. As required by Pakistani side, China is preparing a medical team to visit Pakistan and this team of experts will pay field trips to different localities in Pakistan. He said the team would have experience sharing and technology exchanges with Pakistani counterparts and also the Chinese team would be discussing with Pakistani side on other assistance and technology support. The Chinese vice minister said that in terms of medical technology, China shared with Pakistan immediately therapeutic and prevention protocols for Covid-19. We also shared with Pakistani friends through video-link China's experience in treatment and containment, he added. Zeng Yixin also said that the Chinese authorities also had a very good discussion on other issues of Pakistan in wake of the new coronavirus outbreak. Acknowledging Pakistan's support to China

against the coronavirus, Deng Boqing, Vice Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency said that as China was fighting the epidemic at home, Pakistan extended great support. Pakistan mobilized all possible medical supplies to support China and that measure had moved numerous Chinese people. He said at a moment, the two countries were facing the challenge and China was ready to share its experience with Pakistan and provide Pakistan with badly needed medical supplies. Deng said that so far, China had provided four batches of international assistance and added as a matter of fact, we have already provided four batches of assistance to Pakistan in terms of testing kits, protective suits, facial masks, ventilators and other medical supplies. The Chinese government has provided 83 countries and international organizations with emergency assistance to battle the novel coronavirus. The country has activity shared information about Covid-19, and enhanced the technological exchanges with international experts.

MEDIA REPORT

CHINA DONATES HEALTH PROTECTION GADGETS FOR MEDICAL STAFF OF PAKISTAN

A CHINESE COMPANY HAS DONATED 15,000 PROTECTION SUITS FOR MEDICAL STAFF IN PAKISTAN TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH THE EPIDEMIC. MEANWHILE, MANUFACTURING OF THESE PROTECTION SUITS BEGAN IN LAHORE.



Also, China sent twenty tons of medical goods and twenty ventilators set to Pakistan. Ms. Yan Chen, Managing Director, Challenge Group of Companies from China called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on March 26 and donated 15,000 Protection Suits to be used by Pakistani Doctors and Para-medical staff while dealing with COVID-19 cases. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Afzal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing were also present on the occasion. 20 ton medical goods and 20 ventilators will be reached in county from China. China also sent a eight member doctors team and medical good, said Chairman NDMA. Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing called on Prime Minister Imran Khan to express solidarity and prioritized support to Pakistan to tackle the menace of COVID-19. During conversation, PM Khan appreciated China's

valuable moral and tangible support. He underlined that China's unflinching support and medical assistance will build up Pakistan's capacity. China has delivered medical supplies to Pakistan via Khunjerab pass. Relevant authorities on both sides of China and Pakistan have prepared themselves and put great efforts to ensure the smooth delivery of medical goods amid cold weather. They have cleared roads to avoid any disruption in the delivery of medical supplies.

20 TON MEDICAL GOODS AND 20 VENTILATORS WILL BE REACHED IN COUNTY FROM CHINA.

MEDIA REPORT

NCC LIFTS BAN ON MOVEMENT OF GOODS TRANSPORT

PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF CORONA RELIEF TIGER FORCE AS HE SET UP A FUND TO SUPPORT DAILY WAGERS AND AN ACCOUNT FOR OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS TO HELP LIFT PRESSURE OFF THE RUPEE AS THE NUMBER OF CORONAVIRUS CASES CONTINUED TO RISE IN THE COUNTRY.



The premier also announced that all the four provinces and the governments of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) have decided to lift all restrictions imposed on the movement of goods transport across the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan was talking to media persons about his government's measures to control the spread of COVID-19 disease in the country after chairing a meeting of the newly formed National Coordination Committee (NCC) on coronavirus. Coronavirus has so far not spread as widely in Pakistan as in some western countries. The premier said there is no guarantee that COVID-19 cases will not rise rapidly in the country in coming weeks. The government is now preparing for the worst-case scenario. PM Khan launched the youth force, saying it will lead the fight against the coronavirus in Pakistan. While calling upon all volunteers to come forward. During the briefing, he said no one could say what would be the situation in the coming weeks. When a lockdown was imposed in Wuhan city of China, the premier said, the authorities delivered food to people's homes. He said Pakistani students in China recall that the Chinese government would send supplies straight to their hostels. Reminding that Pakistan has the world's second largest

youth population, Khan said the Corona Relief Tigers would be sent all over Pakistan to deliver essential supplies. Coronavirus relief fund is needed to be established to support daily wagers and poor segments of society who have been the most affected by the coronavirus. Apart from the donations by the public government also announced to provide cash to the poor under its Ehsaas Programme. The premier also said he would urge overseas Pakistani to deposit funds into the account that would be set up in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to help lift the pressure off the rupee and to counter a drop in remittances and foreign exchange reserves. Commenting on the steps to be taken to ensure that food industry remains functional, he said all four provinces are working to devise a mechanism to ensure food industries and industries linked with food production remain functional. The minister said enough wheat stocks are available to last till start of next harvesting season. He said 1.6 million tons of wheat is available and whatever gap is seen due to lockdowns would improve in the next couple of days. Where there is a shortage, the province will fulfill the demand. We have mapped out the country's transport needs for this, Bakhtiar said.



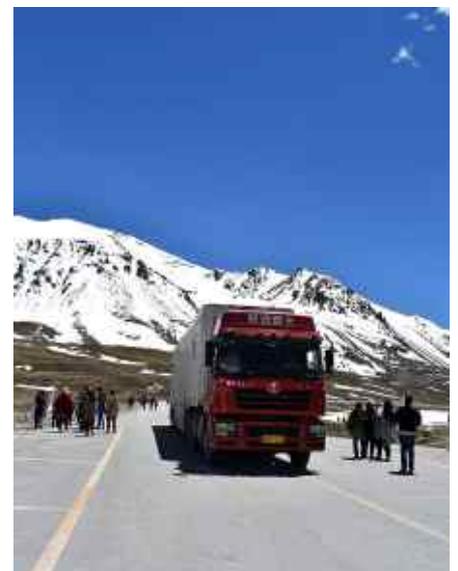
MEDIA REPORT

CHINA-PAKISTAN ENSURES DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES VIA KHUNJERAB PASS

RELEVANT AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE PREPARED THEMSELVES AND PUT GREAT EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH DELIVERY OF MEDICAL GOODS VIA KHUNJERAB PASS AMID COLD WEATHER.

China has delivered medical equipment including ventilators, N95 masks, face masks, testing kits, medical protective kits and other goods to Gilgit-Baltistan's government, received by GB Chief Minister on the Khunjerab pass. The Chinese government has handed over medical equipment and 10 tons of other goods to the Gilgit-Baltistan government to help it fight Covid-19. GB Chief Minister Hafeezur Rehman personally received the aid at Khunjerab border. China has already been guiding Pakistan to contain the epidemic by sharing its medical experiences and providing assistance. He said at a moment, the two countries were facing the challenge and China was ready to share its experience with Pakistan and provide Pakistan with badly needed medical supplies. According to the National Disaster Management Authority spokesperson, China sent another aircraft carrying at least 50,000 testing kits to Karachi. Chinese billionaire Jack Ma's Foundation and Alibaba Foundation sent a cargo plane carrying medical equipment to Pakistan. Governor Sindh Imran Ismail received medical goods and other equipment the second consignment sent by China. He expressed gratitude to China for

assisting in this difficult time. Governor Sindh Imran Ismail received the consignment at the Jinnah international Airport in Karachi. Ismail thanked the government and people of China and said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is monitoring the situation arising from coronavirus himself.



WE DEAL PROPERTIES IN:
GWADAR
KARACHI, LAHORE,
ISLAMABAD, MUREE,
SIALKOT,
KHARIAN

We Deal the Projects in



**PLOTS &
FORM HOUSES
IN LAHORE**

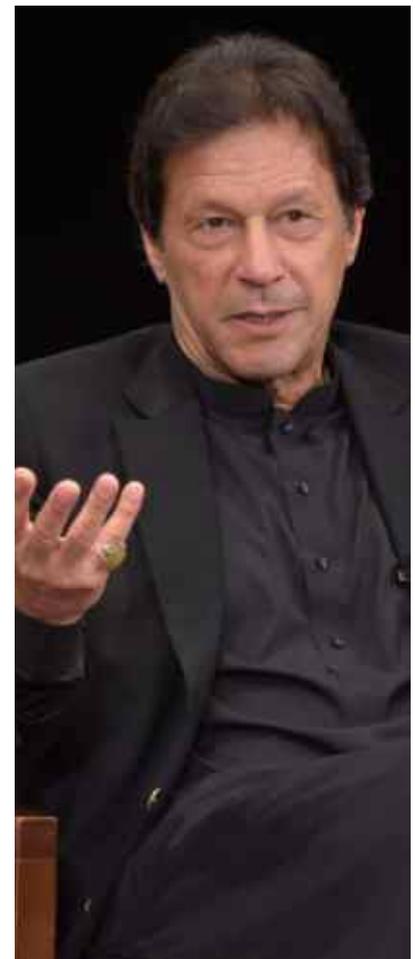
MEDIA REPORT

PM KHAN EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO CHINA OVER PRIORITIZED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY UHS VC, PROF JAVED AKRAM, PMA PRESIDENT, PROF MUHAMMAD ASHRAF NIZAMI, PSIM GENERAL SECRETARY, DR SOMIA IQTADAR, IPH DEAN, PROF ZARFASHAN TAHIR, UOE VC, PROF TALAT NASEER PASHA, PSFST GENERAL SECRETARY, DR MUHAMMAD NASIR, PPA PRESIDENT, PROF MASOOD SADIQ AND PAFP PRESIDENT, DR TARIQ MAHMOOD MIAN.

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY HAS CALLED FOR ADOPTING CHINESE MODEL CAREFULLY TO CONTROL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY.

The medical fraternity has called for adopting Chinese model carefully to control coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the country. In a joint declaration issued after a meeting here at the University of Health Sciences (UHS), representatives of eight organizations, including Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM), Institute of Public Health (IPH), University of Education (UoE), Pakistan Society of Food Scientists and Technologists (PSFST), Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA), Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), and UHS, pledged that prevention was the only solution to get out of prevalent global pandemic status. There are five levels of prevention: health education, personal protection by hygiene, social distancing, washing hands and equipment, self-isolation, safe distance, and avoidance of assemblies. The declaration also stressed the need of improving body immune system by incorporating high protein food items such as milk, chicken, meat, fish and eggs in our daily diet. The statement also called for ensuring a more significant role of



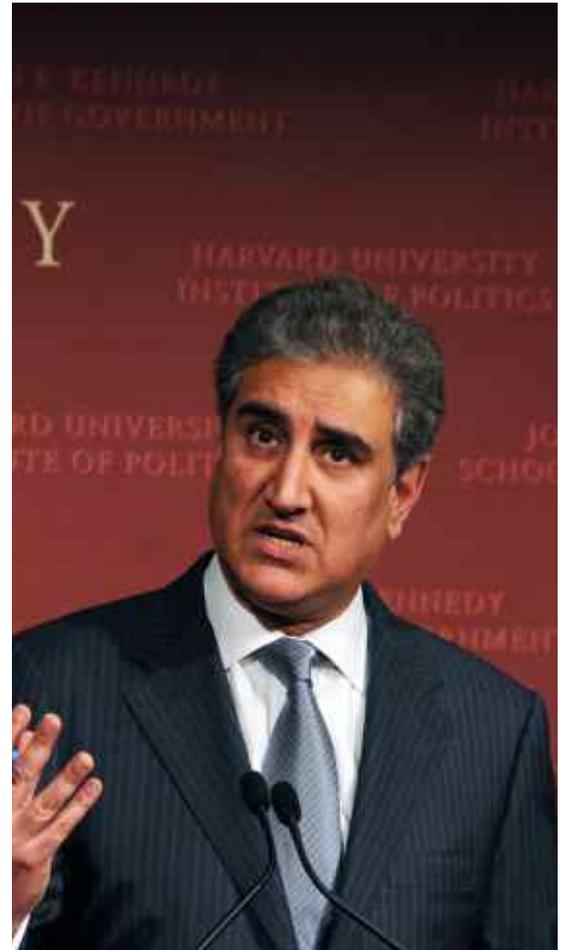
various scientific organizations in government policy making regarding disease management and rehabilitation strategies. The declaration was signed by UHS VC, Prof Javed Akram, PMA president, Prof Muhammad Ashraf Nizami, PSIM general secretary, Dr Somia Iqtadar, IPH dean, Prof Zarfashan Tahir, UoE VC, Prof Talat Naseer Pasha, PSFST general secretary, Dr Muhammad Nasir, PPA president, Prof Masood Sadiq and PAFP president, Dr Tariq Mahmood Mian. In late January, after a sluggish and problematic initial response, the government of mainland China put in place unprecedented containment and social distancing measures. But the restrictions seemed to have worked to contain the spread of Covid-19 in China: the number of new cases reported every day is now consistently much lower than it was a few weeks ago. He accepted that amid the crisis, and despite a second wave of infections in Asian countries, South Korea continued to lead the way in containing the spread of Covid-19, with one of the lowest casualty rates in the world. The reason is the Koreans acted fast to produce tests and the country now has enough to screen thousands of people a day. They made it all free and once they identified people, they put them into quarantine.



FEATURE

FM AND CHINESE AMBASSADOR WELCOME MEDICAL EXPERTS FROM CHINA AT ISLAMABAD AIRPORT

CHINA'S SPECIAL PLANE CARRYING RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS HAS ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD. THE SPECIAL FLIGHT HAS ALSO BROUGHT EIGHT CHINESE DOCTORS WHO ARE SPECIALISTS IN CORONAVIRUS. THESE CHINESE DOCTORS STAYED IN PAKISTAN FOR TWO WEEKS AND ADVISED OUR HEALTH CARE SPECIALISTS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS IN BATTLE COVID-19 IN CHINA.



Xinjiang government has also provided 50 thousand masks each to the Federal Capital as well as to Sindh government. A considerable amount of donation from private sources from China has also arrived in Pakistan. Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma foundation donated 50 thousand test kits and 50 million face masks. China also handed over two tons of masks, test kits, ventilators, medical protective clothes worth 67 million rupees through Khunjerab Pass. Pakistan China strategic cooperative relations have gained greater strength and depth under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Xi Jinping. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan and China stand with each other in difficult times, as he arrived at the Islamabad International Airport to receive a team of Chinese medical experts. Addressing the Chinese media, the foreign minister said China has once again shown the world their friendship with Pakistan. The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said two tons of supplies worth Rs67 million were delivered to Karachi, including face masks, test kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment. I was in China to express my solidarity with the Chinese people and today I'm here to receive the medical team. We are grateful, this is a unique relationship. And such times tell us how close we are to each other, the foreign minister said.



MEDIA REPORT

PAKISTANI DOCTORS SET TO LEARN FROM CHINESE EXPERTS TO FIGHT COVID-19

AMUN TARAQQI PARTY (ATP) CHAIRMAN, MUHAMMAD FAIQ SHAH, HAS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO CHINA FOR EXTENDING COOPERATION TO PAKISTAN IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME IN THE FORM OF SUPPLYING ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND SHARING EXPERTISE.



However, he stressed that Pakistan should take full advantage from the China expertise as well as indigenous technical skills that would help in producing number of medical instruments. While referring to the instructions of US President Donald Trump to his automobile companies to start preparing ventilators, the ATP chairman said the engineers and technical institutions running under the Pakistan Army have unmatched technical skills, having good capabilities to timely and prompt preparing protective gears or gadgets to tackle with any calamity situation. We need to enhance our own strength by focusing on indigenous skills and capabilities while keeping in view the prevalent circumstances and to prepare local ventilators and other necessary medical equipment's, like diagnosing, treatment and protective machines. The ATP chairman said that the Pakistan should take full advantage of the Chinese expertise as well as local skills that would help to produce number of medical instruments. He informed that besides, his party motto is to make Pakistan a true welfare Islamic state; it will also become a super power on economic, scientific and defense basis. He went on to say that the country's institutions are fully capable to meet with any challenging and difficult situations while Pakistan was also bestowed with abundant natural and mineral resources, which can be tapped effectively to make the country an economic giant in the entire world.



FEATURE

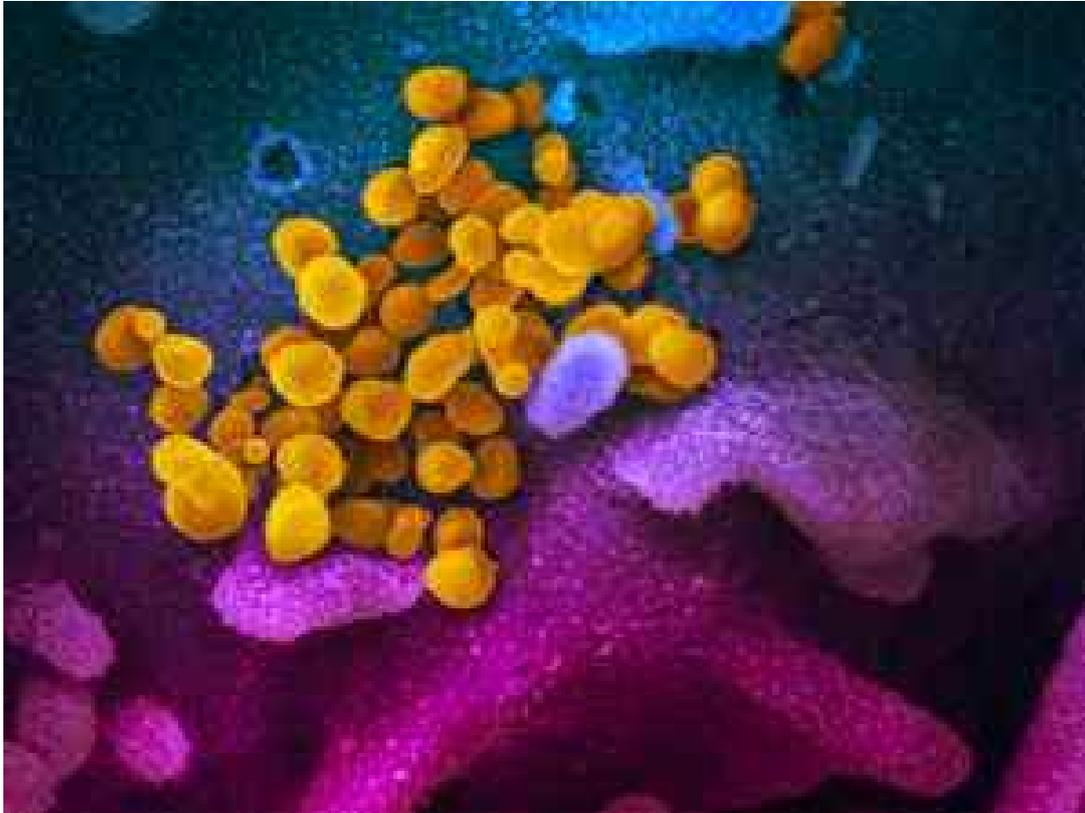
PAKISTAN IS NOT AS MUCH AT RISK FROM CORONAVIRUS AS IS BELIEVED: FM QURESHI



EVERY COUNTRY NEEDS TO COME UP WITH ITS OWN STRATEGY ACCORDING TO NEEDS, SAID QURESHI. THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE IS WORSE AS COMPARED TO PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN IS NOT AS MUCH AT RISK FROM CORONAVIRUS AS IS BELIEVED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID. QURESHI ADDED THAT A LOCKDOWN WAS NECESSARY TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES ALONG WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING TO CURB THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN SMOOTH SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS.

FM Qureshi said we are aggressively working to increase our testing capacity. Speaking about the lockdown in neighboring India, Qureshi said the 21-day lockdown was imposed without being given much thought. The government of Narendra Modi is now apologizing to its citizens after a serious migration problem developed there and the stock market was affected. He added the economic situation of developing countries was not stable enough to survive the crisis. This is why we need to reschedule loans. A proposal in this regard was presented in the G-20 meeting, which the United Nations has also agreed to. Prime Minister Imran Khan has repeatedly rejected the proposal of putting the entire country under lockdown, despite the provincial governments doing so. Sindh was the first to announce a complete lockdown for 15 days followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Pakistan cannot afford to impose a total lockdown. 25% of the people in the country live below the poverty line. What will happen to them if we go ahead with the lockdown? The premier had added that if the situation in the country had escalated as it had in Italy and China he would have thought about imposing a lockdown. A lockdown means putting a curfew and restricting people to their homes with the military on the streets. He had added that the virus could be curbed if people stopped attending gatherings and weddings and started staying at home to ensure the minimum spread of the virus.

FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

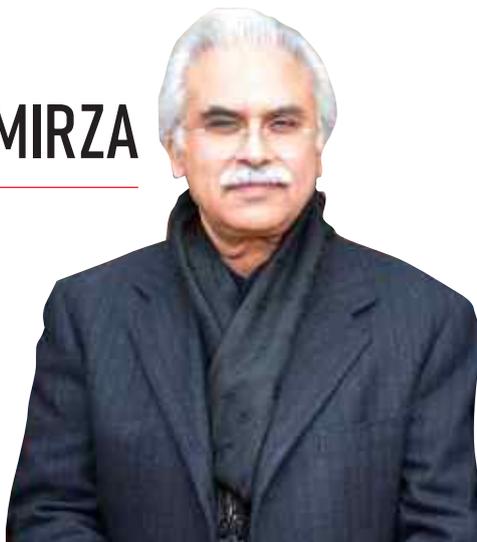


Special Assistant on National Health Services expressed gratitude to China for extending cooperation to Pakistan in this difficult time in the form of supplying essential medical supplies and sharing expertise.

FEATURE

CHINA SET PRECEDENT IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19: DR. ZAFAR MIRZA

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES DR. ZAFAR MIRZA HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PAKISTANI HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WILL LEARN FROM THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS TO STEM THE TIDE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS.



Briefing the team of Chinese doctors at National Institute of Health in Islamabad on Sunday, he said Pakistan is highly impressed with the way Chinese government dealt with Covid-19 by putting in place appropriate measures at appropriate time to contain the severity of the killer bug. He said spread of coronavirus and ensuing loss of life could have been very high in China, if it was not stemmed by hard efforts of Chinese health professionals. Dr Zafar Mirza said China has written a new chapter in history of public health by putting around 60 million people under quarantine. He said world has learnt a lot from China regarding the prevention and control of communicable diseases. Special Assistant on National Health Services

expressed gratitude to China for extending cooperation to Pakistan in this difficult time in the form of supplying essential medical supplies and sharing expertise. He said cases of coronavirus in Pakistan have surpassed the figure of 2000 and not even a single case came from China. This happened due to coordination and cooperation between the governments of Pakistan and China. Dr Zafar Mirza said the arrival of Chinese doctors is also important as Pakistan is just going to start training of healthcare professionals in critical care. He said Pakistan and China will continue cooperating with each other under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in the health sector too.

MEDIA REPORT

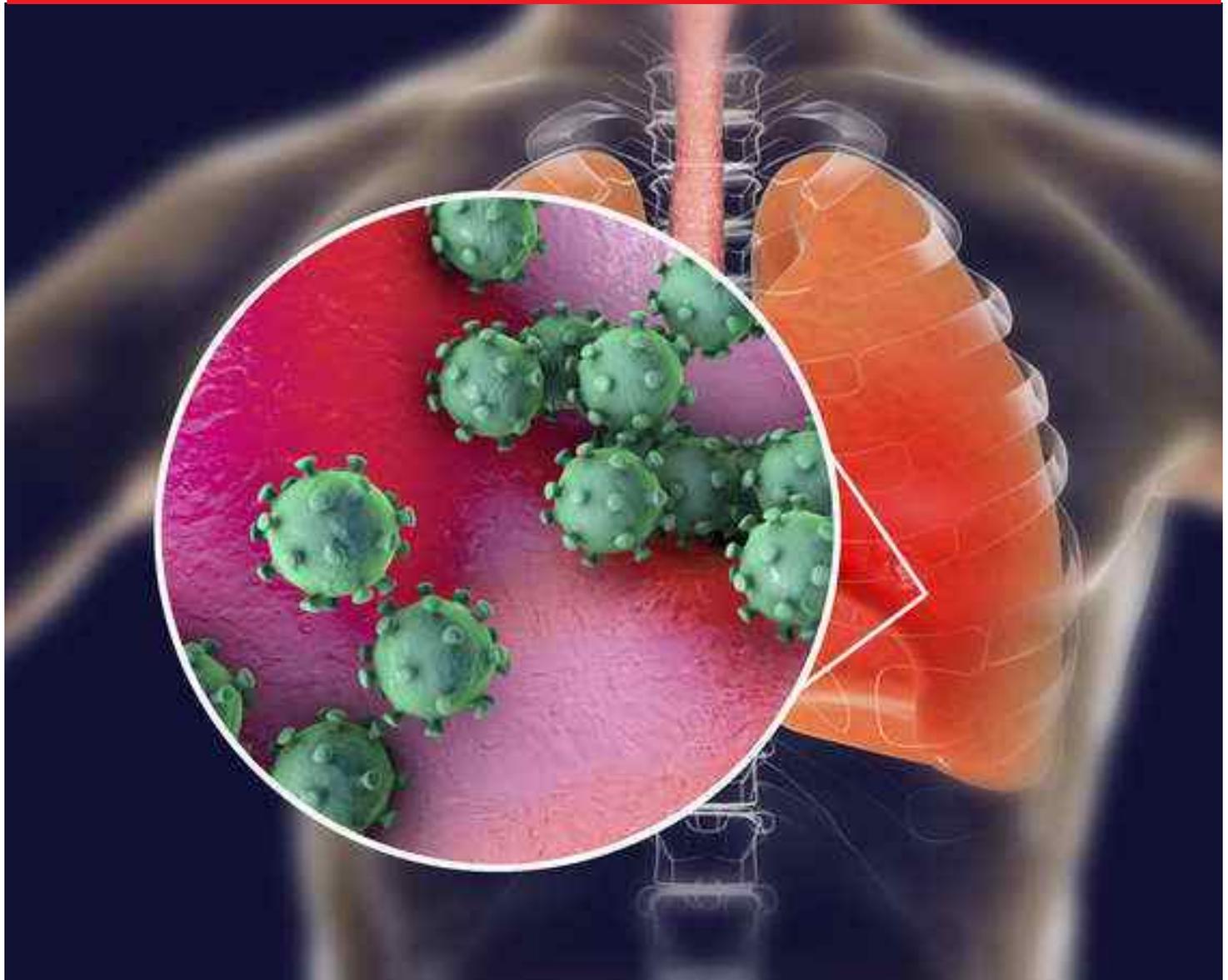
PAKISTAN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMID PANDEMIC OUTBREAK IS COMMENDABLE: FOREIGN MINISTRY OF CHINA

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESPERSON GENG SHUANG HAS EXPRESSED IMMENSE GRATITUDE FOR PAKISTAN TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DURING CRUCIAL TIME WHEN CHINA'S OWN MEDICAL SUPPLIES WERE LIMITED TO DEAL WITH THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK.

China has also supported Pakistan to address the COVID-19 in country and assured assistance to build an isolated hospital. During a regular news briefing, Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Geng Shuang said during the time when China's medical supplies were most scarce, a Pakistani special transport plane arrived in China and sent valuable medical supplies. He said after the outbreak in Pakistan, the Chinese government immediately assisted Pakistan with supplies such as testing reagents, masks, protective clothing, and will actively support the Pakistani side in building an isolated hospital.



COVID-19 ATTACKS



FEATURE

WHEN COVID-19 ATTACKS, PATIENT'S CELLS TURN INTO VIRUS FACTORIES

WHEN THE COVID-19 VIRUS ATTACKS, IT TURNS THE PATIENT'S OWN CELLS INTO VIRUS FACTORIES. IT STARTS AT THE SURFACE OF THE CELL, WHEN THE VIRUS LATCHES ON TO A PROTEIN THAT NORMALLY HELPS REGULATE THE PATIENT'S BLOOD PRESSURE.

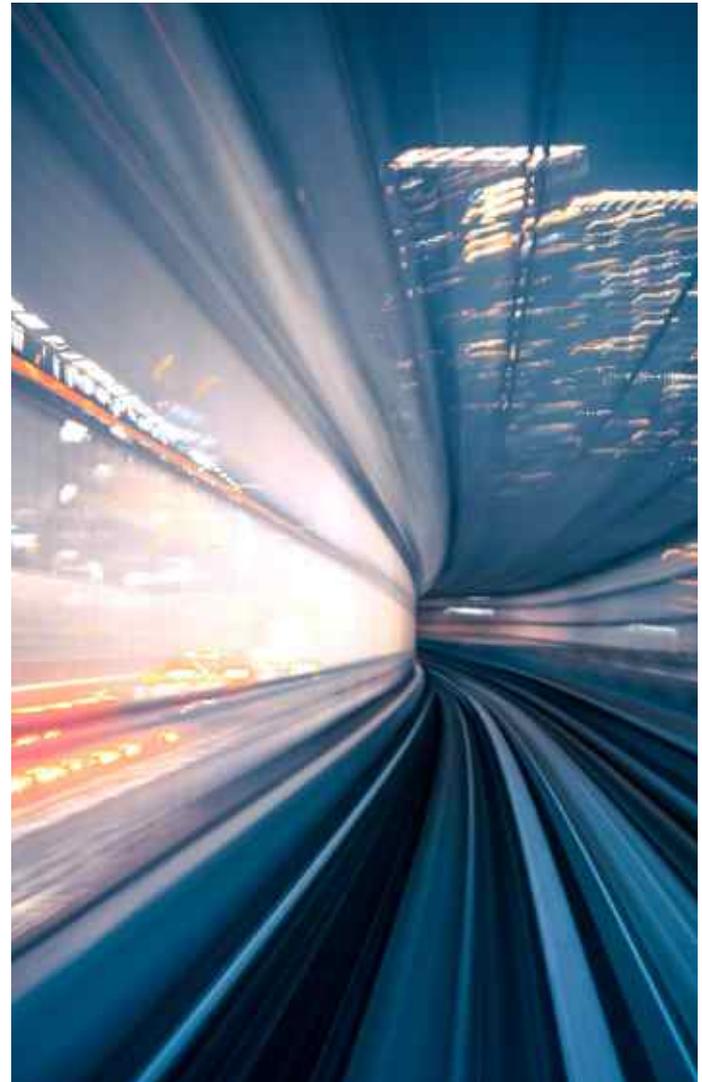
The cell unwittingly brings the virus inside, where the attacker unloads its cargo instructions for making more viruses. Having no equipment of its own, the virus commandeers the cell's machinery to make copies of its genetic code, manufacture more virus shells and deliver packaged germs to the cell surface, where they go on to infect more cells. Drugs already on pharmacists' shelves act on various parts of that machinery. Despite all the science behind drug development, scientists often don't know exactly how medications work. In a lot of cases, we don't know all their mechanisms of action, said University of Manitoba virologist Jason Kindrachuk.

Sometimes we actually find that there are effects that we didn't recognize initially. Sometimes the results are unwanted side effects. But sometimes they offer opportunities to treat entirely different conditions. His group is screening thousands of drugs to see if they work against the virus in a test tube. He hopes to have results in two or three months. Several teams are pursuing similar strategies, using robots to run large numbers of tests at once. It's very early stage research. Any drug that looks good in these tests would need to be tested on animals, and then on small groups of people, to be sure it does not do more harm than good.

MEDIA TALK

DON'T WORRY! PTA SAYS PAKISTAN HAS SUFFICIENT INTERNET CAPACITY FOR COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

THE PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (PTA) ON THURSDAY SAID THE COUNTRY HAD SUFFICIENT INTERNET CAPACITY FOR THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AFTER INTERNET USAGE ROSE 15% OVER A WEEK PEOPLE MOSTLY STAYED AT HOME



The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) said a net increase of around 15% in internet usage was witnessed since last week based on data from the telecom operators as the nation fights coronavirus. The increase has been observed due to increased online activities by educational institutions and businesses and, work from home policy adopted by individuals and organizations, it said. There is sufficient internet capacity available in the

country to meet the growing demands of the future. PTA has been closely monitoring the internet usage patterns so as to ensure that fast & efficient telecom services remain available to the consumers in this difficult time. The PTA further noted that mobile phone companies have sent 13 million awareness messages about Coronavirus to their subscribers. Separately, it said the coronavirus awareness message, which has replaced the





FEATURE

WHATSAPP ANNOUNCES NEW FEATURES TO COMBAT FAKE NEWS AMID CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

INSTANT-MESSAGING APPLICATION
 WHATSAPP ANNOUNCED TWO NEW FEATURES THROUGH WHICH IT AIMS TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE MISINFORMATION ACCOMPANYING IT THAT IS

To reduce the spread of rumours, the app announced WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub — an initiative in partnership with the WHO, UNICEF and UNDP — to offer simple, actionable guidance, general tips, and resources on the infection. WhatsApp said it was also working with WHO and UNICEF to provide messaging hotlines for people around the globe to use. It was not clear when the hotlines will be ready to use but they will provide information and will be listed on the WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub. The messaging app said it was donating \$1 million to the Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and the fund will help in fact-checking for the Corona Virus Facts Alliance. We are also pleased to be able to partner with the Poynter Institute to help grow the amount of fact-checking organizations on WhatsApp and to support their life saving work to debunk rumors. We will also continue to work directly with health ministries around the world for them to provide updates right within WhatsApp.

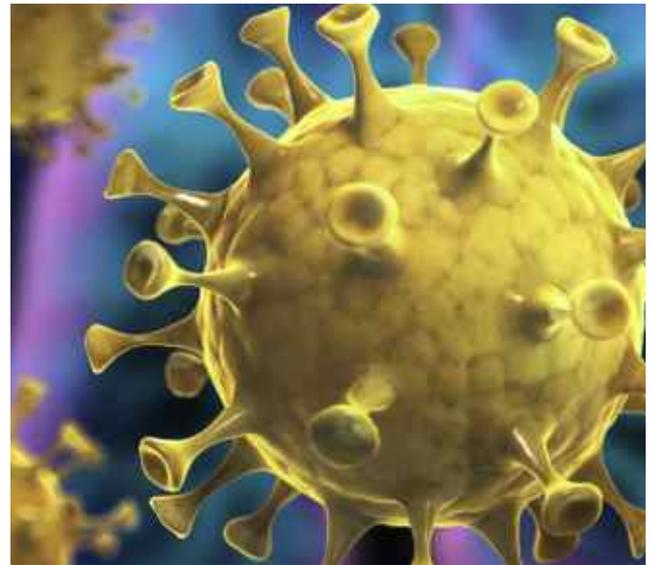
MEDIA REPORT

US CONGRESS APPROVES HISTORY'S LARGEST AID PACKAGE TO HELP FIGHT CORONAVIRUS

The US House of Representatives passed a historic \$2 trillion rescue package that injects cash into the pockets of struggling Americans and fortifies an economy so ravaged by coronavirus that it is sliding toward recession. After clearing the Senate, and as the United States became the new global epicenter of the pandemic with up to 92,000 confirmed cases of infection, Republicans and Democrats united to green light the nation's largest ever economic relief plan.

The bill will pump \$100 billion into hospitals and health facilities in critical need of medical gear like personal protective equipment and ventilators, create a \$500 billion loan reserve for large corporations including airlines, and provide \$377 billion in grants to suffering small businesses. We are laying the foundation for a rapid economic recovery, said top House Republican Kevin McCarthy, as several others hailed the measure as a critical lifeline for workers and small businesses. The vote was notable on multiple levels, including for the implementation of social distancing rules that prevented too many lawmakers from gathering on the floor and led to the unprecedented scene of members sitting in the upper galleries to allow for sufficient spacing. But Republican Thomas Massie, who opposed the bill, threatened to stall the measure, prompting hundreds of lawmakers to rush to Washington if needed for a roll call vote. One congresswoman, Democrat Haley Stevens, wore pink latex gloves as she addressed the chamber, raising her voice and waving her hands dramatically as she urged Americans to support health care workers. To our doctors and nurses, I wear these latex gloves to tell every American, do not be afraid, she said. We must advance a fourth bill to address continued needs.





FEATURE

WORLD NEEDS TO FOLLOW PRECEDENTIAL LEADERSHIP OF CHINA TO FIGHT THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

THE ACADEMY OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA AND WORLD STUDIES HAS ORGANIZED AN INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK WEBINAR ON COMBATING COVID-19. SPEAKERS FROM BRAZIL, EGYPT FRANCE, CHINA, SPAIN AND PAKISTAN PARTICIPATED IN WEB CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS COVID-19, ITS IMPLICATIONS AND JOINT INTERNATIONAL

From Pakistan, Executive Director of Pakistan China Institute (PCI) Mustafa Syed joined the discussion. Speaking at the conference, Mustafa Syed said Pakistan is forefront on war against COVID -19. With reference to national governance and societal economy, he said the Communist Party of China (CPC), a biggest political party in the world with over 90 million members, has shown precedential leadership in this time of crisis in China. Chinese people, state, and large enterprises like Ali Baba became united to confront this crisis. Their unity amid a difficult time is commendable. There is a lot to learn from China, he added. The pandemic outbreak among 1.5 billion people was the highest risk globally and the disease could have the most adverse impact on China. But China has tackled this menace in the most efficient manner. Flying in 20,000 medical professionals in Wuhan and then containing it and ultimately eliminating it is a case study which think tanks can undertake and learn from and also replicate that in their own countries that are not familiar with the gravity of situation and still struggling to contain this virus. He stressed to look at the contemporary situation from globalization's perspective. Countries have been reaping the dividend and benefits of globalization but ignored the responsibility that comes with this very perspective. States and civil society members together needs to exercise the greater responsibility that comes with the benefits of globalization. They need to understand that globalization has multiplied the impact of COVID-19. He underlined the significance of humanity and empathy and suggested to look at the problem from humanitarian side. Everyone is equally vulnerable to the COVID-19 irrespective of their race, religion and nationality. This is a time to put political interest aside and come together to win the war against the epidemic. He further said that think tanks can play a crucial role to deal with the current situation. They can mobilize the civil society. For instance, in China, the situation was tackled not by state only but the people played a commendable role in fight against the pandemic. Therefore, mobilizing people and resources of individuals of private sector is very important. Also, a global network of think tanks to address issues like COVID-19 is the need of the hour. He suggested that a task force of think tanks from different countries should immediately start working on coordinated research and webinars. The global proactive coordinated approach is no choice but the necessity of this situation. Moreover, crisis management techniques are needed in some of the counties. This is a time when the regular governance structure has to be rebutted. That has been done in China. In collaboration with China, sharing their knowledge and medical expertise as they came out a winner in the fight against COVID-19, will be of immense help to the rest of the world including Pakistan.

PAKISTAN CAN'T AFFORD A POLITICAL CRISIS DURING A PANDEMIC

NO MATTER HOW RICH OR POOR THE ECONOMY, PRESENTLY EACH VIRUS AFFLICTED COUNTRY HAS REGARDED THE PANDEMIC AS A NATIONAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, A SITUATION THAT DEMANDS COORDINATION AND CONSENSUS AMONG LEADING POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONNEL. AKIN TO NATIONAL WARFARE, A STATE IN AN EMERGENCY SUBJUGATES ITS INTERNAL STRIFE AND GEARS ALL ITS RESOURCES AGAINST THE ENEMY.

This is the iron law of politics during outbreaks, a law that the center in Islamabad is unable to abide by. Given the explosion of positive cases at a breakneck speed, currently the center has no enemy but the virus itself a fact best recognized and actualized by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). At this stage, besides a timely development of a medical infrastructure, what warrants recognition is PPP's unwavering insistence on national and political unity. For any progress on a lockdown strategy, the prime minister's concerns do become key spoilers. Prime Minister Imran Khan and PTI officials have chosen to speak for the 25% of the population that lives below the poverty line. This is the primary consideration, a rather narrow spotlight that impedes a political consensus on a complete lockdown. While the parliamentarian Robin Hood continue to oppose prompt, radical measures, correspondingly, the contagion virus continues to steepen the country's alarmingly combustible trajectory. The question of the nation's poor, as well as the economic costs of shutting down the country is an important one. Sindh Minister for Education and Labor Saeed Ghani, did address the prime minister's concerns, arguing that Pakistan will also have to bear a hefty but necessary economic cost to avoid a greater economic disaster. He highlighted the global economic condition that has taken a sharp downturn.

How will the local economy increase during a slump? This is an important question because unlike PTI's politics, the national economy does not operate in a vacuum. Daily wage laborers, who constitute a large chunk of the country's labor force, would be hit hard in a lockdown situation. Also, as estimated by the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan may incur a minimum loss of \$5 billion due to the coronavirus. Although the prime minister's rationale for opposing a lockdown is well-founded, it does seemingly observe the crisis through a monochromatic, narrow vision. Lately, Imran Khan's office and party notables have been communicating his call for political unity, but it seems to be a poor example of following a political fad after all when in Rome, one does as the Romans do. At large, in keeping with his popular image, the premier's recent conduct has revealed an unrelenting, unyielding attitude and Pakistan, at a critical junction of its COVID-19 trajectory, cannot afford this. Communication and flexibility are crucial to consensus politics.





NO₂ is mainly produced by vehicles, industrial sites and thermal power stations. A striking reduction has also been observed by the ESA in northern Italy, which has been locked down to fight a spread of the novel coronavirus, which causes COVID-19. The European Environment Agency (EEA) reports a similar change in Barcelona and Madrid. NO₂ is a short-lived pollutant, with a lifetime in the atmosphere of about one day, said Vincent-Henri Peuch, from the EU earth surveillance programme Copernicus. As a result, this pollutant stays near the emissions sources and can be used as a proxy of the intensity of activity in different sectors. Fei Liu, an air quality researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, noted the change in China, saying: This is the first time I have seen such a dramatic drop-off over such a wide area for a specific event. Even during the economic crisis more than a decade ago, the decrease in NO₂ levels was more continuous in time, according to EEA air quality specialist Alberto Gonzalez Ortiz. The air in Paris was also rated as moderately polluted owing to the presence of fine particles and NO₂ even though the population had already been confined at home for three days. Less pollution is always good. Confinement measures thus protect in two ways, by reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection and by easing pollution from road traffic, according to a group of French doctors known as Air-Sante-climate. It is nonetheless hard to know how much benefit the world's population will actually experience because, according to the health experts.

FEATURE

AIR QUALITY AT A RECORD LOW IN QUARANTINED COUNTRIES

WHILE THE WORLD IS BATTLING AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BY SHUTTING FACTORIES AND CONFINING PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES, AIR QUALITY IS IMPROVING. THE CONCENTRATION OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂) FELL DRAMATICALLY IN WUHAN, CHINA.



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